

JULY 8, 2020
BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer. Also present were Don Whitmore, DPW Foreman; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Ted Rodman, Township Enginee (Zoom) and Brielle Walsh, Events Coordinator/Sports Director.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in The Star Gazette and The New Jersey Herald and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present

Mr. Kruk – present

Mayor McDonough- present

Reports:

Mayor Tim McDonough: Discussed the Township's COAH obligation. The Township just received their mid-point review from Heyer, Gruel (Township Planners). The five things that the Township had to be in compliance with have been met. Hope Township received its Conditional Judgment of Compliance and Response ("JOR") through July 1, 2025. We do not have to comply with number of units determined by the State as we do not have the infrastructure (sewer/water) necessary. Mr. Urfer suggested that the Committee have a meeting/put on an agenda in September/October the topic of COAH fees.

Committeeman Christopher John Kruk: Made note that the firetruck is enroute to the Township. It left Texas on July 8, 2020. Also spoke about the Hope Township Re-Opening Zoom meeting he was on and how well things went. The majority of parents polled in the Township want their children to attend the school 5 days per week/full day sessions which is highly doable due to the small student population in our district. This Committee will be meeting every week as a plan needs to be put in place 4 weeks before school is scheduled to re-open in September. They are shooting for August 1, 2020 to have their plan in place. The topic of bussing came up and whether or not that would be an issue due to the pandemic and social distancing. Again, due to the small student population, it will not be.

Deputy Mayor Urfer: Spoke about the Road Department and the need that will be forthcoming to purchase high-dollar items, such as a backhoe and a pick-up truck. Mr. Urfer suggested that the Committee meet with DPW personnel sometime in September possibly to go over the equipment and what will be needed. Also discussed the need for the DPW to clean-up low-lying branches on Cemetery Road and Locust Lake Road. A complaint was received regarding Lake Just-It Road and tar/chip as well as signs. Mr. Whitmore took the tar/chip signs down and scraped the shoulders of the road again. He priced out the cost of one line down the center of the road (2,815 feet) to a cost of about \$1,000. Mr. Rodman made note that single-lines painted on roads are not recognized by the DOT. The Heller Hill and Lake Just-It Road problems that the Township attorney wrote to those residents about are currently being worked on by the homeowners. The Township will keep up-to-date with this to determine whether the Township attorney will need to be further involved.

Don Whitmore: Discussed with the Committee the issues with the backhoe and the high costs of parts due to the fact that they are becoming obsolete. Also made note that he had work done by Wire's Electric at the Community Center and the Grange recently on the emergency lighting as it was not working and we will be due for our fire inspection soon. Mr. Kruk would like to be present for the inspection.

Tax Collector's Report: June collections: \$84,430.88. YTD \$3,166,422.14

Health Department: No report filed with Clerk.

Hope Volunteer Fire Department Report: No report filed.

Township Engineer Report: The DOT approved the grant for the paving of Hope Center. Tilcon was contacted and made aware so that we can be put on their schedule. Mr. Rodman will alert the Committee of when the pre-construction meeting is scheduled. Mr. Urfer asked Mr. Rodman to obtain estimates (material and cost of installation) for ADA compliant pads at crosswalks to determine if it is something we can institute during the project. Waiting to hear the status of the Ridgeway Avenue grant that was submitted. Mr. Rodman will make the Mr. Urfer and Mr. Whitmore aware of the pre-construction meeting for the paving of CR 611 as soon as he obtains the information.

Payment of Bills: July bills totaled \$356,732.20. Receipts for May 2020 \$9,857.00. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer and seconded by Mr. Kruk, the bills were approved for payment. Roll Call vote: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

RESOLUTIONS:

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FIREFIGHTERS
CARRYING EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTOR DEVICES**

RESOLUTION 2020-50

WHEREAS, insect and food allergies are the leading cause of anaphylaxis, a life-threatening condition that is easily treatable with epinephrine, a medication only available via prescription; and,

WHEREAS, individuals who are known to be at risk of anaphylaxis may carry emergency doses of epinephrine with them at all times in the form of an epinephrine auto-injector device; and,

WHEREAS, epinephrine auto-injector devices, which safely deliver a pre-measured dose of epinephrine using a spring-loaded injection mechanism, are a useful tool in administering epinephrine in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, because of their usefulness, many people at risk of a food or insect allergy keep epinephrine auto-injector devices on their person and in their homes, workplaces, and schools. Often, people will acquire a number of devices at one time to ensure they are readily available in case of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has enacted a number of laws authorizing persons who complete certain training requirements, including emergency medical technicians, school personnel, and members of the general public, to acquire, maintain, and administer epinephrine using auto-injector devices in various settings, including schools and youth camps; and

WHEREAS, many first responders in New Jersey are not authorized to carry and administer epinephrine;
and

Whereas, many rural areas of the state have lengthy response times from EMS (BLS and ALS); and

WHEREAS, without timely administration of epinephrine, our residents are at risk of death or serious
bodily harm

WHEREAS, oftentimes the first responder arriving to render aid to a patient in our area is not an EMT, but
is a police officer or firefighter.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Hope that:

1. The State of NJ should authorize firefighters and police officers to carry and administer epinephrine for use on patients requiring this life saving drug.

Copies of this Resolution will be shared with Senator Steven Oroho, Assemblyman Parker Space, Assemblyman Hal Wirth, Freeholder James Kern III, Freeholder Richard D. Gardner, Freeholder Jason Sarnoski, Governor Phil Murphy, Conference of Mayors and New Jersey League of Municipalities.

On a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk, all in favor, this Resolution was passed.

Old Business:

Internet – Mayor McDonough made note that the BPU approved the buyout of Service Electric by Altice last week. The surrounding municipalities’ mayors (including Hope) have submitted requests for additional roads to receive services. The BPU has made note that Altice is on the record as stating that they will sit down the the municipalities to address these concerns.

Traffic Study – Citizens for Sustainable Development will be holding a rally at the intersections of Route 46 and 519 on Friday, July 10. They also asked permission to hold a rally at the main intersection in Hope Township (4 way blinking light), but Mayor McDonough has concerns about them holding a rally at this location due to traffic congestion and the small size of the intersection. He also made note that the State Police would have the same concerns.

New Business:

The Land Conservancy Agreement is due to be signed for the year July 2020 – July 2021. Mr. Urfer asked that the Clerk reach out to the Conservancy and have them phone him as he would like to negotiate the Agreement/costs. He will set up a meeting with them and then make a recommendation to the Committee.

The Hope Township School PTA will be holding the Tricky Tray on the rescheduled date of August 1, 2020 with social distancing measures in place. The license numbers are the same with the exception of an “A” added after the license number to stand for Amended. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk – all in favor this was approved by the Committee.

Public Participation:

Monica Sobon, Chairperson of the Environmental Commission, spoke about several projects she wants to undertake. Those projects include looking into building a pavilion at Swayze Mill Park, a plant exchange, and the use of Dunkin' coffee grounds as compost. She will also schedule a meeting with Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Urfer to discuss applying for a grant for an electric truck and a charging station (Volkswagen Grant).

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 4:52 PM.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Pubic Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P. L 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - A. Personnel
 - B. Contract

As nearly as can be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

Time In: 4:52 PM

Present: Committeeman Kruk, Committeeman Urfer and Committeeman McDonough

Also Present: Robin Keggan, Municipal Clerk

Time Out: 5:10 PM

A motion made by Committeeman Urfer, seconded by Committeeman Kruk and carried to return to regular session. No Official Actions were taken.

Approval of Minutes: None.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:11 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk