

**JULY 9, 2019**  
**BUSINESS MEETING**

The work meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 7:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer, Don Whitmore and Ted Rodman. Also present was Municipal Clerk, Judith Fisher, RMC, Deputy Clerk Robin Keggan.

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.

**Reports:**

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** .

**Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk:** Made note of the mess left behind on residents' lawns by JCP&L and their tree trimming efforts throughout the township. He will be in contact with JCP&L to discuss.

**Committeeman Urfer:** Terry made note of the ongoing projects going on in the yard of the DPW and items he'd like to get accomplished. Made note that the stop signs are up on Shiloh Road and the speed limit signs are up on Hissim Road. Made a request for a no engine braking sign to be installed at the top of Jenny Jump Mountain. Also noted was the fact that since the budget was approved, the cost to repair the mason dump is up another \$2,000 due to the price of steel and the cost for the new blower is up approximately \$1,300.

Also discussed a Grow Warren initiative to get directional signs (green and gold) installed the help farmers out who are off the main roadways. The farmer will be responsible for purchasing the sign and a yearly maintenance fee. Mr. Kruk motioned to accept this request; Mr. Urfer seconded. All in favor.

**Township Engineer Report:** Cemetery Road state aid – he has submitted the paperwork and Tilcon is preliminarily thinking that the end of July will be the start date for paving. Mr. Rodman will let the Clerk know so that posting to the residents can be made. 2020 state aid will be submitted for Hope Center (Due on 7/16/19). Looking into finding out if village designation can be used to consider Hope center as "one road". Ridgeway (ends of each side of the road) – aid being looked into for that now.

Campbell Foundry Soil Importation has been halted. The DEP is now involved so the Township and the Zoning Official will bow out for now and let the DEP handle it.

Verizon cell tower is ready to go. Preconstruction meeting and preconstruction escrow will be forthcoming. Information was sent to the developer and zoning officer. Waiting for permits to be issued and then rent can start to be charged at that time.

Old Union Brick Road – jurisdictional issue being sorted out. Mayor McDonough will speak to Mr. Berry (Surveyor) for background history on the road and Mr. Urfer will speak to Michael Selvaggi regarding a title search on the road to determine in whose township the road lies.

North Locust Lake paving – Ted measured an area of the road approximately 1310 feet (including the cul-de-sac) which comes out to a cost of approximately \$35,000 not including catch basins, etc. Mr. Whitmore handed out an estimate to repair the portion of the road that was agreed upon in earlier Township Committee meetings at a cost of \$4,650. This is the route the Committee is taking (fixing the portion of the road that was discussed in earlier sessions).

**Payment of Bills:** \$347,286.75 – total bills for July 9, 2019. Mr. Kruk motioned to approve; Mr. Urfer seconded. Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes. Receipts for June 2019 - \$19,570.08.

**Warren County Health Department:** No report given for April due to retirement of Tracy Hess from the Health Department.

**Tax Collector:** June Report: Month \$47,952.25 YTD \$3,076,719.52.

**Fire Department:** June Report – Total number of calls -19; Man hours 108.2; Four work nights; Work Night Man hours 96; Special Details – 2; Total man hours – 24 Total Man hours for June 2019 – 228.2

**Brielle Walsh/Patti Whitmore and 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Update:** Gave an update on the 250<sup>th</sup> picnic making sure to note that it is only 73 days out and stressing that things need to get done/decisions need to be made. There will be one picnic (Saturday) and there will be an ice cream social at Swayze Mill on Sunday evening for Hope Township residents (past and current). Luminaries may be floated on the lake. Patti discussed possibility of a hot air balloon release as well. Food will be provided by individuals (i.e., food trucks) and shuttle buses will be running from the parking area (Land of Make Believe) to various places in town. Mr. Kruk is getting a hold harmless agreement from Mr. Zorn for use of his field during the parade. The 55 Plus Club will be running the breakfast at the Grange on Sunday morning. 250<sup>th</sup> banners are being put up this week. It was noted that a Resolution will need to be done in order to repeal the no alcohol on township property ordinance for the day of the picnic. Mr. Kruk will obtain a copy from a neighboring town for use by the Clerk.

**ORDINANCE 2019-06: Introduction and First Reading:**

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to introduce Ordinance 2019-06 for first reading.

**2019-06 AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID AND BENEFITS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, New Jersey as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The salaries, wages or compensation of the following officers and employees of the Township of Hope are hereby fixed and determined for the calendar year 2019, retroactive to January 1, 2019 at the amounts set forth herein below:

Mayor	\$ 2,994.00 per annum
Committeeman (not serving as Mayor)	\$ 2,642.00 per annum
Municipal Clerk/Registrar	\$48,224.00 per annum
Deputy Municipal Clerk/Registrar	\$ 18.82 per hour
Chief Financial Officer	\$12,813.00 per annum
Treasurer	\$ 5,687.00 per annum
Qualified Purchasing Agent	\$ 1.00 per annum
Collector of Taxes	\$24,870.00 per annum
Deputy Tax Collector	\$ 2,384.00 per annum
Tax Search Officer	\$ 3,272.00 per annum
Assessor of Taxes	\$18,611.00 per annum
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 1,658.00 per annum
Public Works Foreman	\$ 29.68 per hour
DPW Laborer	\$ 19.23 per hour
Equipment Operator PT/Seasonal	\$ 18.95 per hour
Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 7,258.00 per annum
<b>as of 06/01/2019</b>	\$10,000.00 per annum
Christmas Market/Public Relations Coordinator	\$ 8,916.00 per annum
Animal Control Officer	\$ 6,925.00 per annum
	\$ 23.10 per hour/court
Dog Licensing Clerk	\$ 693.00 per annum

Temporary Clerical Assistant	\$ 15.30 per hour
Custodian	\$ 13.93 per hour
Secretary to the Planning Board	\$12,494.00 per annum
	\$ 167.00 per meeting
Secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$ 4,566.00 per annum
	\$ 167.00 per meeting
Secretary to the Historic Preservation Commission	\$ 1,506.00 per annum
Secretary to the Environmental Commission	\$ 1,477.00 per annum
<b>Sports Director</b>	
Soccer Director	\$ 3,117.00 per annum
Basketball Director	\$ 3,781.00 per annum
Baseball/Softball Director	\$ 4,540.00 per annum
Court Administrator	\$ 24.04 per hour
	\$ 61.00 per call out
Deputy Court Administrator/Violations Clerk	\$ 17.95 per hour
Court Reporter	\$ 17.95 per hour
Municipal Court Prosecutor	\$ 491.00 per session
Municipal Court Judge	\$28,752.00 per annum
Municipal Court Treasurer	\$ 4,006.00 per annum
Municipal Court Officer – Level I	\$ 130.00 per session
Municipal Court Officer – Level II	\$ 27.19 per hour

**SECTION II:** If any selection, clause, sentence, or other part of this Ordinance shall, for any reason, be adjudged by the Court of Competent Jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance.

**SECTION III.** All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency, only.

**SECTION IV.** This Ordinance shall take effect and shall become operative twenty (20) days after publication thereof, after final adoption; unless within said twenty (20) days a petition signed by voters of the Township equal in number to at least five (5) percent of the registered voters of said Hope Township, protesting against the adoption of this Ordinance be presented to the Hope Township Committee, in which case the provisions of Section I of this Ordinance, which provides for increased salaries, wages or compensations of the elected officials, shall remain inoperative unless and until a proposition for the ratification of such portions of this Ordinance shall be adopted at an election by a majority of voters voting on said proposition.

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hope held on July 9, 2019, and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Committee to be held on August 14, 2019 at 7:00p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 407 County Route 611, P.O. Box 284, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE 2019-07: Introduction and First Reading:**

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to introduce Ordinance 2019-07 for first reading

**2019-07 An Ordinance Of the Township of HOPE, county of warren, state of new jersey, AMENDING the Hope Township Municipal code, Section 2-1.9A entitled “TAX LIENS ON fire DAMAGED PROPERTIES”**

**WHEREAS,** New Jersey statutes permit municipalities to enact an ordinance preventing insurance companies from issuing payment on claims in excess of certain dollar amounts unless certain requirements have been met; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hope Township Committee enacted such an ordinance in 1995 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:36-9; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hope Township Committee now believes that is in the best interest of the Township to amend the subject ordinance so that it is consistent with certain changes in the law. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, Warren County, New Jersey, as follows:

**Section 1**

The title to Chapter 2-1.9A of the Hope Township Municipal Code entitled "Tax Liens on Fire Damaged Properties" be amended to read as follows:

"Fire Insurance Claims"

**Section 2**

Chapter 2-1.9A of the Municipal Code of the Township of Hope is hereby amended to read as follows:

**§ 2-1.9A(a) Purpose.** Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:36-9, the Township may, by ordinance, prohibit the payment to a claimant by an insurance company on any claim in excess of \$2,500 for fire damages on any real property located within the municipality prior to satisfaction of certain statutory requirements.

**§ 2-1.9A(b) Payment of Fire Insurance Claims Restricted.** No insurance company authorized to issue fire insurance policies in the State of New Jersey shall pay an insured any claim in excess of \$2,500 for fire damages on any real property located within the municipality prior to satisfaction of certain statutory requirements.

(1) All taxes and assessments and all other municipal liens or charges due and payable appearing on an official "certificate of search for municipal liens" pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 54:5-12, shall have been paid either by the owner of such real property or by the insurance company; or

(2) The Township submits to the insurance company a copy of a resolution adopted pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 17:36-11 (installment payments), provided that if an appeal is taken on the amount of any lien or charge, other than an appeal on the assessed valuation of real property, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 54:3-21, the insurance company shall withhold 75 percent of the full amount of the lien or charge being contested pending termination of all proceedings.

**§ 2-1.9A(c) Agreement with Owner; Restoration of Property.** The Township Committee may, by resolution, enter into an agreement with the owner of any fire damaged property situated in the Township to pay in full all delinquent taxes, assessments or other municipal liens by installments, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 54:5-19, or for the redemption of a tax sale lien by installments, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 54:5-7, if the Township Committee is satisfied that the claim for fire damages is to be used to restore or improve the fire damaged property.

In the event of such resolution, a certified copy of the resolution shall be sent to the insurance company authorizing the insurance company to make full payment on the claim to the insured.

**§ 2-1.9A(d) Mortgagee as Named Insured.** Notwithstanding the provision of this Section, an insurance company may pay proceeds of a fire insurance policy to a mortgagee of a fire damaged real property where the fire insurance policy, at the time of the loss, listed the mortgagee as a named insured; provided the payment may not be in an amount which exceeds that due and payable to the mortgagee under the mortgage contract.

**Section 3**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately after passage.

**Section 4**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the Township of Hope inconsistent herewith are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency

**Section 5**

The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**NOTICE**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Township of Hope held on July 9, 2019 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Committee to be held on August 14, 2019, at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the Township

Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, County Route 611, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

**RESOLUTION 2019-37: Tabled until further notice. (Path to Progress)**  
**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PATH TO PROGRESS RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**MADE BY NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC AND FISCAL**  
**POLICY WORKGROUP**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey faces a daunting financial crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, for two decades, while county and municipal governments made the proper pension payments, New Jersey governors from both parties severely underfunded the pension system for teachers and State government workers; and

**WHEREAS**, while the government pension systems are funded at the national average, the State's unfunded liability for pension and retiree health benefits now tops \$150 billion – four times the size of the State budget; and

**WHEREAS**, actuaries project the State will have to increase its contribution from \$3.2 billion in this year's budget to \$6.7 billion to reach the Actuarially Required Contribution (ARC) by FY 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, health care costs continue to rise, and New Jersey and its local governments cannot sustain the unparalleled platinum-level benefits that they provide to their employees; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State has held municipal aid flat, moved the Energy Tax Receipts out of the Property Tax Relief Fund, and with the sunseting of Chapter 78 relief and the 2% arbitration cap; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State must bring pension and health care costs under control in order to hold down property taxes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Hope Township in the County of Warren expresses its support for the recommendation of the Path to Progress report issued by the New Jersey Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Congressman Josh Gottheimer, State Senator Robert Menendez, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Paul Sarlo, Senator Steve Oroho, Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor-Martin, Senator Tony Bucco, Senator Troy Singleton, Senator Dawn Addiego, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Association of Counties and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

**RESOLUTION 2019-40:**

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt Resolution 2019-40.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough - yes.

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2019 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948)**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount, thereof, was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township Hope, County of Warren, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2019 in the sum of \$60,000.00, 2019 Municipal Aid Program for the Cemetery Road Overlay Project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a like sum of \$60,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption "Municipal Aid Program".

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, Judith M. Fisher, clerk of the Township of Hope, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Hope Township Committee at a Business Meeting held on July 9, 2019.

**RESOLUTION 2019-41:**

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt Resolution 2019-41.  
Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

**Award of Contract for Road Resurfacing**

**WHEREAS**, The Township of Hope is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize the contract for Road Resurfacing for Resurfacing of Cemetery Road; and

**WHEREAS**, Tilcon New York, Inc., Wharton, NJ has been awarded Contract #6 for Road Resurfacing through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the township of Hope is an active participant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that road resurfacing services for Cemetery Road, is awarded to Tilcon New York, Inc., 625 Mt. Hope Road, Wharton, New Jersey 07885, in the amount not to exceed \$50,350.50.

Date: July 12, 2019

**CERTIFICATION:**

It is hereby certified that this is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, Warren County, NJ at a Regular meeting held on July 9, 2019.

**Old Business:**

Purchase of the new North Warren Court recording system was approved on a motion from Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Purchase of a new shredder (purchased from Freedom Business Machines) was approved on a motion by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk in the amount of \$2,234.00. The Clerk recommended a one-year maintenance agreement be purchased along with it. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough –yes.

**New Business:**

Hope Volunteer Fire Department: Holding a raffle on September 22, 2019 (giving away \$1000 worth of gift cards). Motion was made by Mr. Urfer to approve the raffle; seconded by Mayor McDonough. All in favor (Mr. Kruk abstained from vote).

**Approval of Minutes:** Approval of Minutes of May 30, 2019; June 12, 2019 and June 12, 2019 Executive Session minutes. Motion to approve made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor.

### **Public Participation:**

Audrey Planer and Ann Rhinesmith were in attendance to thank the Township Committee and Mr. Whitmore for their help in getting the American Flags obtained through the Grange from a grant hung throughout the township. Mrs. Whitmore was also thanked for her help and participation in helping to organize the people who donated money to purchase a flag and get their names put up on the pole. It was determined to leave the flags up from Memorial Day through Veteran's Day.

Chris Maier requested that the Township Committee make a motion to create a Resolution regarding the warehouse project proposed in White Township. The Resolution should outline the unintended consequences of what a project of that magnitude would do to our Township and the surrounding communities. After much discussion and the determination that Mr. Maier would help Mr. Kruk put into the words the language of the Resolution, Mr. Kruk made a motion to introduce a Resolution showing opposition to large development programs in our area that will affect us and make the alternate truck route mandatory. Seconded by Mr. Urfer. All in favor.

Hope Historical Society requested a donation from the Township to get an app put together for a walking tour of Hope. A letter will be forthcoming.

### **Use of Facilities:**

Shelly Peters appeared before the Committee to ask for permission to use either the Grange or the Community Center to host a fundraiser (Yoga with Kittens) for PAL (non-profit animal agency). This is a one-time event with a limit of 25-30 people, no alcohol. Dates being looked at for the fundraiser are 8/7/19 or 8/8/19. Mr. Urfer made a motion to allow the usage of the buildings, Mr. Kruk seconded. All in favor. Fee waived. Paperwork will be forthcoming from Mrs. Peters.

Erin Costa has requested use of the Swayze Mill field for a soccer clinic with a date of 7/29/19-8/2/19. The Township Committee approved this request with the fee waived for the field usage.

### **RESOLUTION**

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer at 8:59 PM; seconded by Mr. Kruk to go into Executive Session for Personnel reasons. All in favor. No official action was taken while in Session.

### **Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 8:59 PM.

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public 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 – Department of Public Works, New Employee

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:** 8:59 PM

Present: Mr. Urfer, Mr. Kruk and Mayor McDonough

Also Present:

**Time Out:** 9:08 PM

A motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to return to regular session.

Copies of the minutes will be made available at such time as the Committee determines that there is no harm to the public interest.

Upon commencement of the open public session, it was determined that new full time employee Josh Miller would be entitled to health benefits effective immediately.

Also discussed was the fact that interviewing for the Deputy Clerk position (30-hour position) will commence in the coming weeks.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 9:14 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC  
Municipal Clerk