

**JUNE 23, 2021  
WORK MEETING**

The Work 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, Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk, Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were DPW Foreman Donald Whitmore; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra and Anthony Arditor, Auditor (via phone).

**FLAG SALUTE AND SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

Under the provisions of the “Open Public Meetings Act”, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by publishing notice in the New Jersey Herald and the Star Gazette and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Web and Bulletin Boards.

**Roll call: Mr. Kruk- present**

**Mr. Urfer – present**

**Mayor McDonough- present**

**Reports:**

The Township Engineer sent his report via email and noted that he had received 9 comments from the NJDOT regarding the Ridgeway Avenue paving grant. He responded to all of the comments and resubmitted the application. Once approved, he can award through the Morris County Co-Op. He is also getting paperwork together to submit a grant for 2022 to repave Hissim Road. He originally set the paving job at a cap of \$150,000 (to apply for the grant at this amount). This would have allowed roughly 3,000 feet from the intersection of Route 611 and Hissim Road to be paved. The Township Committee asked him to revamp the application to ask for a mile of Hissim to be paved. Mr. Rodman will do so.

**Mr. Urfer:**

Discussed ordering the DPW pick-up truck now that the budget has been officially approved. The clerk will work with the CFO to write an ordinance in order to purchase the pick-up truck (\$39,558). Also discussed Union Brick Road and the ongoing issues there. Asked the clerk to write to the township attorney to find out if Blairstown has any responsibility to help fix the damage being done in the Hope Township section of the road. Potholes will be patched on Union Brick at this point. Mentioned that the overlook on CR 611 needs to be cut back. Mr. Kruk made mentioned that the State Park Department did it the last time and will most likely be doing it again. Waiting on Tilcon to decide if they are going to re-seal Heller Hill Road so that we can be done and pay for that project.

**Mayor McDonough:** See remarks under internet and traffic study.

**Mr. Whitmore:** Went through an extensive report of all of the work performed by the DPW since the last meeting, some examples of which are roadside mowing continuing all summer; potholes patched and that work will continue as well; repair of backhoe; repair of garage roof damage; installation of swing set at Swayze Mill; “private road” street signs installed in Silver Lake area. Also discussed the standpipe that needs to be repaired at Swayze Mill. The standpipe has already been dug out and a safety fence installed around it. Parts will be ordered and installed and then the DPW can backfill. Estimated time of repair is hopefully within one month.

**2021 Amended Budget:**

Discussion took place regarding the 2021 amended budget. Mr. Urfer motioned to open for public comment; Mr. Kruk seconded. All in favor. No public comments were made. Mr. Urfer motioned to close to the public; Mr. Kruk seconded. All in favor. Mayor McDonough then called for a roll call vote



**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Green Knight Capital, LLC in the amount of \$20,060.51 which includes \$13,060.51 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2019-001 and the return of a \$7,000.00 premium paid at the tax sale.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the satisfied executed Tax Sale Certificate 2019-001 be returned to Sunrise Title Services, Inc of 319 Water Street in Belvidere, NJ 07823.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mayor McDonough - yes

### **Old Business:**

**Internet** – Optimum is still working the Township stringing the line and getting residents hooked up. Mr. Kruk noted that residents in the northern part of the municipality and the areas north of Hope Township seem to have sporadic outages with their internet. Optimum

**Traffic Study** – Still an ongoing effort. Over the past couple of weeks the State Police have set up a temporary scale in Hope Township to monitor the truck traffic coming through town. Every truck that has come through the village has been overweight. The temporary scale being in place drastically reduces the truck traffic for a few hours. Mayor McDonough sent an email to the County Commissioners regarding all of the overweight and speeding trucks. Mr. Urfer suggested reaching out to the Mayor of Harmony regarding all of the overweight trucks that are at the gravel pits in Harmony and having the municipality address this as part of their permit issuing process. Discussion took place regarding filming footage of tractor trailers trying to navigate the four-way intersection in town.

### **New Business:**

**Wire's Electric:** A quote was received by the DPW Foreman and the Clerk for yearly service on the Township's three back-up generators. This was originally a request made by the Fire Marshall during one of his visits to the municipality. The Committee agreed that this was a good idea and awarded the contract to Wire's Electric. It will be \$495 per generator yearly plus \$125 per generator if a new battery is needed. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; second by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes this motion was passed.

**HVFD Raffle Application No. 2021-008:** The Township Committee approved the Hope Volunteer Fire Department's Raffle license application for a Disney vacation package raffle in October 2021. Motion was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

### **Public Participation:**

Members of the public weighed in on possible uses for the Covid (ARP) grant money that the Township will receive. Also discussed spraying around guardrails after they are cut back as well as cutting under the guardrails. Our DPW will reach out to the Blirstown DPW to find out about a shared service for spraying around guardrails until one of Hope Township's DPW personnel can be licensed to do so. Discussion about purchasing giveaways (reusable bags) for the Township Picnic and Appreciation Dinner took place with the Chairman of the Environmental Commission.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Municipal Clerk