

**JUNE 9, 2021  
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. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra and Ted Rodman, Township Engineer.

**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. Urfer- present**

**Mr. Kruk – present**

**Mayor McDonough- present**

**Payment of Bills:** Receipts received for May 2021 \$25,533.76

Bills totaling \$391,475.19 for the month of June. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes the bills were approved for payment.

**Reports:**

**Tax Collector:** \$1,025,432.76 May 2021 collections                      \$3,053,856.94 Y-T-D collections.

The Municipal Clerk also stated that a letter from the Hope Chamber of Commerce was received in her office with their opinion on the legalization of cannabis in the State of New Jersey and allowing licenses in Hope Township. A copy of that letter is available at the office should anyone want to obtain one.

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** Noted that the sponsors of the Forestry Management Bill that is being discussed in New Jersey has agreed to opt-in/opt-out language for each municipality. He will verify this information.

**Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk:** . Noted that the standpipe at Swayze Mill that the HVFD uses needs to be fixed. Mr. Whitmore will dig the trench once all the parts are in and a pipefitter will install the correct piping at the correct angles. He also made note that an emergency contact person is needed for CenturyLink in case of emergencies (i.e., downed lines, fire calls, etc.). Mayor McDonough will get him that information.

**Committeeman Urfer:** Mr. Urfer distributed plans for the new Community Center windows to the Committee and anyone in the public who wanted to look at them. He believes this will be going out to bid soon. Also discussed the possibility of going from a Planning Board/Zoning Board to a Land Use Board and the Committee will be looking into that. Made note that Flag Day there will be a short ceremony at the First Hope Bank monument.

**Township Engineer Report:** Hope Center paving grant has been closed out. Ridgeway Avenue grant is short approximately \$17,000. Mayor McDonough stated he believes there is a good possibility that he will be able to secure more grant monies and will follow-up in coming weeks. Mr. Whitmore will fix the drain near the Ridgeway Avenue Route 80 overpass before paving starts. He hopes to have this accomplished by the end of July. Mr. Whitmore will also look into portable speed bumps per a resident's request. Mr. Rodman stated that Hissim will be the road that the Township applies for a grant for next year. He believes it will come in at around \$150,000 (2,400 feet approximately – roughly 42% of the road).

DPW: Mr. Whitmore reported that he is getting caught up on roadside mowing and fixing potholes.

**Ordinances – Introduction and Read by Title Only:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-06**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN ITS GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES AND AMENDED CHAPTER 20 “ZONING,” ARTICLE IV “GENERAL REGULATIONS,” SECTION 14 “PROHIBITED USES,” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE TO ADD CANNABIS BUSINESSES TO THE LIST OF PROHIBITED USES**

**WHEREAS**, in 2020 New Jersey voters approved Public Question No. 1, which amended the New Jersey Constitution to allow for the legalization of a controlled form of marijuana called “cannabis” for adults at least 21 years of age; and,

**WHEREAS**, on February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c. 16, known as the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act” (the “Act”), which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana by adults 21 years of age or older, and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial recreational (adult use) cannabis operations, use and possession; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Act establishes six marketplace classes of licensed businesses, including:

- Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator license, for facilities involved in growing and cultivating cannabis.
- Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer license, for facilities involved in the manufacturing, preparation, and packaging of cannabis items.
- Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler license, for facilities involved in obtaining and selling cannabis items for later resale by other licensees.
- Class 4 Cannabis Distributer license, for businesses involved in transporting cannabis plants in bulk from on licensed cultivator to another licensed cultivator, or cannabis items in bulk from any type of licensed cannabis business to another.
- Class 5 Cannabis Retailer license for locations at which cannabis items and related supplies are sold to consumers; and,
- Class 6 Cannabis Delivery license, for businesses providing courier services for consumer purchases that are fulfilled by a licensed cannabis retailer in order to make deliveries of the purchased items to a consumer, and which service would include the ability of a consumer to make a purchase directly through the cannabis delivery service which would be presented by the delivery service for fulfillment by a retailer and then delivered to a consumer.

**WHEREAS**, section 31a of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to adopt regulations governing the number of cannabis establishments (defined in section 3 of the Act as “a cannabis cultivator, a cannabis manufacturer, a cannabis wholesaler, or a cannabis retailer”), cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services allowed to operate within their boundaries, as well as the location manner and times operation of such establishments, distributors or delivery services, and establishing civil penalties for the violation of any such regulations; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 31b of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to prohibit the operation of any one or more classes of cannabis establishments, distributors, or delivery services anywhere in the municipality; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 31b of the Act also stipulates, however, that any municipal regulation or prohibition must be adopted within 180 days of the effective date of the Act (*i.e.*, by August 22, 2021); and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 31b of the Act, the failure to do so shall mean that for a period of five years thereafter, the growing, cultivating, manufacturing, selling and reselling of cannabis and cannabis items shall be permitted uses in all industrial zones, and the retail selling of cannabis items to consumers shall be a conditional use in all commercial and retail zones; and

**WHEREAS**, at the conclusion of the initial and any subsequent five-year period following a failure to enact local regulations or prohibitions, the municipality shall again have 180 days to adopt an ordinance regulating or prohibiting cannabis businesses, but any such ordinance would be prospective only and would not apply to any cannabis business already operating within the municipality; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope has determined that, due to present uncertainties regarding the potential future impacts that allowing one or more classes of cannabis business might have on New Jersey municipalities in general, and on the Township of Hope in particular, it is at this time necessary and appropriate, and in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the Township of Hope’s residents and members of the public who visit, travel, or conduct business in the Township of Hope, to amend the Township of Hope’s zoning regulations to prohibit all manner of marijuana-related land use and development within the geographic boundaries of the Township of Hope; and,

**WHEREAS**, officials from two prominent non-profit organizations that have been established for the purpose of advising New Jersey municipalities on legal matters such as have been presented by the Act (those organizations being the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys) have strongly urged that, due to the complexity and novelty of the Act; the many areas of municipal law that are or may be implicated in decisions as to whether or to what extent cannabis or medical cannabis should be permitted for land use purposes or otherwise regulated in any particular municipality; and the relatively short duration in which the Act would allow such decisions to be made before imposing an automatic authorization of such uses in specified zoning districts subject to unspecified conditions, the most prudent course of action for all municipalities, whether or not generally in favor of cannabis or medical cannabis land development and uses, would be to prohibit all such uses within the Act’s 180-day period in order to ensure sufficient time to carefully review all aspects of the Act and its impacts;

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

1. Pursuant to section 31b of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act (P.L. 2021, c. 16), all cannabis establishments, cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services are hereby prohibited from operating anywhere in the Township of Hope, except for the delivery of cannabis items and related supplies by a delivery service.

2. Chapter 20 “Zoning,” Article IV “General Regulations”, Section 14 “Prohibited Uses,” of the Code of the Township of Hope is hereby amended by adding to the list of prohibited uses, the following: “All classes of cannabis establishments or cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services as said terms are defined in section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 16, but not the delivery of cannabis items and related supplies by a delivery service.”

3. Any article, section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or other provision of the Code of the Township of Hope inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

4. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

5. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication, and as otherwise provided for by law.

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Township of Hope held on June 9, 2021 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 July 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 407 Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

**Mayor McDonough called for a motion to be made to introduce this Ordinance. Mr. Urfer motioned; Mr. Kruk seconded. Roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.**

#### **BUDGET:**

Mayor McDonough gave key highlights to the public for the new budget being adopted this year. Also made note that we were holding public session on the budget as adopted on May 12, 2021, but that the budget was amended due to a few line items with the Court and will be finally adopted on June 23, 2021 at which time another public session will be held for the amended line items only. **Mayor McDonough asked for a motion to open to the public for comments on the budget and Mr. Urfer motioned; Mr. Kruk seconded. Roll call: Mr. Kruk -yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough - yes.** A few residents made comments regarding the Township Committee’s hard work in putting the budget together. **Mayor McDonough asked for a motion to close to the public and Mr. Urfer motioned; Mr. Kruk seconded. Roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.**

#### **Resolutions:**

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2021-002  
THAT WAS REDEEMED  
RESOLUTION 2021-36**

WHEREAS, the property owned by Sara D. May known as Block 3200, Lot 5608 located at 120 Ridgeway Avenue had unpaid 2020 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on 28 January 2021 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and,

WHEREAS, Donna Marie of 375 Johnsonburg Road located in Blirstown, NJ 07825 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2020 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$153.79 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2021-002; and,

WHEREAS, Sara D. May, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$498.96 on 10 May 2021 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate and delinquent taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 09<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Donna Marie in the amount of \$225.86 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2021-002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the satisfied executed Tax Sale Certificate 2021-002 be returned to Sara D. May of 120 Ridgeway Avenue in Blirstown, NJ 07825.

Stephen J Lance  
Tax Collector  
11 May 2021

Mr. Urfer made a motion to accept this Resolution; Mr. Kruk seconded. Roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE  
2020-2021 TERM LIQUOR LICENSE FOR  
PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE  
NUMBER 2111-44-001-006  
HOPE COUNTRY LIQUORS, LLC  
RESOLUTION 2021-40**

**WHEREAS**, Hope Country Liquors, LLC t/a County Liquor Store holds a Plenary Distribution License #2111-44-001-006; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Hope Country Liquors, LLC. has filed an application to renew said license for the 2021-2022 license term; and,

**WHEREAS**, the application, fees and New Jersey Division of Taxation Clearance Certificate has been filed with the Municipal Clerk.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Plenary Retail Distribution License be renewed for Hope Country Liquors, LLC for the 2021-2022 license term.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mr. Kruk – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
 CALCULATION FOR INTERLOCAL COURT REVENUE  
 ANTICIPATED TO EQUAL THE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE  
 RESOLUTION 2021-41**

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 12th day May; and,

**WHEREAS**, provision Section 1 of P.L. 2020, c.74 amended N.J.S.A 40A:4-26 permits the 2021 budgeted revenue to be based on a three-year average of the line item revenues realized for the previous three years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the average court revenue for the last three years is \$118,314.

Three Year Average	
2018	\$113,425
2019	130,547
2020	<u>110,969</u>
Total	354,941

Annual Average (Total divided by 3)     \$118,314

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that petition be made to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2021 Local Municipal Budget include a calculation for interlocal court revenue anticipated to equal the three-year average of \$118,314.

Mr. Urfer made a motion to adopt this Resolution; Mr. Kruk seconded. Roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
 AMENDMENT OF 2021 BUDGET  
 RESOLUTION 2021-42**

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 Local Municipal Budget for the year 2021 was approved on the day of May 12, 2021; and,

**WHEREAS**, the public hearing on said Budget has been held as advertised; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is desired to amend said approved Budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, that the following amendments to the approved budget of 2021 be made:

<b>Recorded Vote:</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Abstained</b>	<b>Absent</b>
	Mr. Kruk Mr. Urfer Mayor McDonough	None	None	None

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
1. Surplus Anticipated	266,242.00	246,162.00
<b>Total Surplus Anticipated</b>	<u>266,242.00</u>	<u>246,162.00</u>
3. Miscellaneous Revenues - Section D: Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated With Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services-Interlocal Municipal Service Agreements Offset With Appropriations: Court Revenue	85,441.00	118,314.00
<b>Total Section D: Interlocal Service Agreements</b>	<u>85,441.00</u>	<u>118,314.00</u>
	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF REVENUE</b>		
1. Surplus Anticipated	266,242.00	246,162.00
3. Miscellaneous Revenues: <b>Total Section D: Interlocal Service Agreements</b>	85,441.00	118,314.00
<b>Total Miscellaneous Revenues</b>	<u>581,425.00</u>	<u>614,298.00</u>
5. Subtotal General Revenues	<u>872,667.00</u>	<u>885,460.00</u>
6. Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget: a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	824,243.00	824,306.00
7. <b>Total General Revenues</b>	<u><b>1,696,910.00</b></u>	<u><b>1,709,766.00</b></u>
8. <b>GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<b>(A) Operations within "CAPS"</b>		
Public Works Other Expense	111,000.00	85,055.00
Municipal Court Other Expense	-	43,686.00
<b>Total Operations {Item 8(A)} within "CAPS"</b>	<u>930,433.00</u>	<u>948,174.00</u>
<b>Total Operations Including Contingent-within "CAPS"</b>	<u>930,433.00</u>	<u>948,174.00</u>
<b>Detail:</b>		
<b>Other Expenses (Including Contingent)</b>	<u><b>529,981.00</b></u>	<u><b>547,722.00</b></u>
<b>(E) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures- Municipal within "CAPS"</b>		
<b>(1) DEFERRED CHARGES</b>		
Trust Fund Deficit - Public Defender	-	18,800.00
<b>(H-1) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes within "CAPS"</b>	<u>1,009,099.00</u>	<u>1,045,640.00</u>
<b>(A) Operations-Excluded from "CAPS"</b>		
Declared State of Emergency costs for Snow Removal: N.J.S.A. (40A:4-45.45(b))	-	20,000.00
Municipal Court: Salaries and Wages	120,000.00	118,314.00

Other Expenses	42,000.00	-
	-	-
<b>Total Other Operations Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	<u>287,299.00</u>	<u>263,613.00</u>
<b>Total Operations-Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	<u>287,299.00</u>	<u>263,613.00</u>
<b>Detail:</b>		
Salaries and Wages	120,000.00	118,314.00
Other Expenses	<u>167,299.00</u>	<u>145,299.00</u>
<b>(H-2) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	<u>543,999.00</u>	<u>520,313.00</u>
<b>(L) Subtotal General Appropriations</b>	1,553,098.00	1,565,953.00
<b>(M) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes</b>	<u>143,812.00</u>	<u>143,813.00</u>
<b>9. Total General Appropriations</b>	<u><u>1,696,910.00</u></u>	<u><u>1,709,766.00</u></u>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that two (2) certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of Local Government Services for his certification of the local municipal budget so amended.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this complete amendment, in accordance with provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-9, be published in "**The Express-Times, Warren**" in the issue of **June 17, 2021**, and that said publication contain notice of **public hearing on said amendment** to be held at the Municipal Building on **June 23, 2021** at **4:00 o'clock P.M.**

**It is hereby certified that this is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution amending the Budget, adopted by the governing body of the Township of Hope at a regular meeting held on June 9, 2021.**

**Old Business:**

**Internet** – Streets are in the process of being built out by Optimum. The list of roads in the Township in need of internet is being updated. The customer service engagement number for Optimum is being posted on the website.

**Traffic Study** – still a work in progress. The Committee is asking for the public to write letters with their personal experiences with the truck traffic to the County Commissioners. Addresses will be posted on the Township website.

**New Business:**

The Land Conservancy Agreement for the period July 15, 2021 – July 14, 2022 in the amount of \$8,000.00 was approved by the Committee on a motion made by Mr. Ufer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Ufer – yes; Mayor McDonough - yes.

A reminder about the letter that the Township Committee wants inserted into the tax bill was given by the Clerk. Should have this letter ready to go no later than first week in July.

Dates for the Township Picnic were discussed. The 9/11 Memorial is targeted by the HVFD to be unveiled on September 11, 2021. Discussion took place about making this and the picnic a whole day event. Food vendors and a DJ are needed for the picnic. Brielle Whitmore and Patti Whitmore will start working on lining things up. Tentative date of 9/11/2021 was decided.

Discussion regarding venue for the July 14, 2021 business meeting was brought up. It was determined to leave it at the municipal building.



**Public Participation:**

25 MPH speed limit signs were requested by residents on Lake Just-It Road and a “No Trucks” sign was requested for Hickory in the center of town.

An Eagle Scout presented her idea to the Township Committee to install a bird house and some butterfly bushes at Swayze Mill Park as her project. She also wants to put sand along part of the shoreline of the lake. She hopes to start in August and will begin fundraising for her project soon. The Township Committee gave their permission for this project to commence as long as the Environmental Commission is on board with the project as well.

**Approval of Minutes:** The May 12, 2021 business and May 26, 2021 work meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Municipal Clerk