

**MARCH 10 ,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, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk (via Zoom) and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer (via Zoom). Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Ted Rodman, Township Engineer (Zoom).

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.

ELECTRONIC MEETING STATEMENT

In addition, as a result of the State of Emergency issued by Governor Murphy, the Township has provided the pertinent information for residents to participate in, or listen to, this meeting via Zoom. The public will be muted for the meeting but will be able to participate meeting by raising their hand with the use of the appropriate button to do so on their electronic device during the public session portion of the meeting. Questions may also be submitted to the Municipal Clerk by 12 PM up to one day **PRIOR** to the meeting to be read into the record. The public is obligated to disclose their full name, residence address and email address in any question/statement sent to the Municipal Clerk. Any question not meeting the above-described timeframe will be handled at the next available Township Committee meeting.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present

Mr. Kruk – present

Mayor McDonough- present

Payment of Bills: Receipts received for February 2021 \$6,425.40

Bills totaling \$390,892.11 for the month of March. 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: \$1,495,802.82 February 2021 collections \$1,057,844.09 Y-T-D collections.

Mayor Tim McDonough: Mayor McDonough spoke about the money that Hope Township is to receive under the American Rescue Plan (stimulus bill passed by the Biden Administration). We are to receive \$184,417 in aid. More details on any restrictions on spending this money to follow from the Governor’s office. It is to arrive in two payments and the first half of the payment must be spent before the second half of the monies are sent to the municipality.

Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk: Touched briefly on the marijuana legalization bill recently passed by the State and its implications on the municipality. Further discussions will be forthcoming and involve public input. We must pass our Ordinance by August 2021 or the municipality is automatically opted in for five years.

Committeeman Urfer: Mr. Urfer made quick mention of his electricity bill and stated that he is saving an average of 11 percent through the energy aggregate. IDT’s rates are .0869 and JCP&L’s rates are .097. The reason residents’ bills have been so high is due to estimated meter reads (weather related). Now that actuals are being read, that is why the increases are being seen as the estimates were low.

Township Engineer Report: Mr. Rodman discussed the “oddball” grate in Hope center that needs to be put in place before the grant can be closed out. Discussion took place as to whether it is something that

the DPW can work on getting into place. Also discussed was the Ridgeway Avenue paving project and the gap in monies between the grant we requested (\$208,000) and the grant monies received (\$151,000). Mayor McDonough noted that the grant is in the process of being re-worked to see if we can get any additional monies for the paving project. Short of that happening, the Committee will need to decide how to move forward with the project and payment of the monies not included in the state grant. Mr. Rodman noted that we have received our 12 points for the Stormwater permit through the DEP. Also of note and brought up by Mr. Urfer in this discussion was the Heller Hill paving project (bad pavement on part of the road, not state grant money project). Mr. Urfer will set up a meeting with Tilcon and ask for a 2 year guarantee on the road in writing. After that, the Township Committee will vote on payment for the paving job.

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE # 2021-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE HOPE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 20, SUB PART 8 ENTITLED "PRETEEN AND FAMILY AMUSEMENT PARK ZONE"

WHEREAS, the Township Committee for the Township of Hope, County of Warren, in the State of New Jersey has determined that the Township's Preteen and Family Amusement Park Zone is too narrow and does not reflect the reality of the uses within that zoning district which are not limited to preteens; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee believes that the ordinance should be amended to properly describe the type of uses in the zoning district and to further modify a particular aspect of the ordinance to afford flexibility in the use and development of family amusement parks in the zone district.

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

Section 1

Chapter 20, subsection 8 of the Hope Township Municipal Code entitled "Preteen and Family Amusement Park Zone" be amended to read "Family Amusement Park Zone."

Section 2

Chapter 20-8, subparts (a), (b), (c)(5) are amended to delete any reference to "Preteen" and otherwise to identify amusement parks as being "Family Amusement Parks."

Section 3

Chapter 20-8 (c)(3) is amended to reflect that maximum permitted height for amusement rides shall be no more than 100 feet.

Section 4

This ordinance shall take effect immediately after passage.

Section 5

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

Section 6

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 to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Township of Hope held on March 10, 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 April 14, 2021, 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 and/or electronically via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Motion to Introduce: Mr. Urfer
Second: Mr. Kruk
All in favor

ORDINANCE # 2021-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE HOPE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 9 ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE" TO ADD SECTION 9-2.5 ENTITLED "REMOVAL OF TRASH OR DISPOSAL CANS AND GARBAGE"

WHEREAS, The Township Commitment for the Township of Hope, County of Warren, in the State of New Jersey has determined that trash or disposal cans and garbage receptacles that remain within the public right-of-way or on the public sidewalks pose a hazard to motorists and pedestrians traveling along those public roads and sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee believes that those trash or disposal cans and garbage receptacles should only remain within the public right-of-way or on public for the briefest intervals of time before and after they are emptied; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee believes that it is in the best interest of the Township to amend its Property Maintenance Ordinances to ensure that residents in the municipality do not leave their trash or disposal cans and garbage receptacles on the public sidewalks or within the public rights-of-way for any longer than necessary.

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

Section 1

Chapter 9 of the Hope Township Municipal Code entitled “Property and Maintenance” be amended to include section 9-2.5 entitled “Removal of Trash or Disposal Cans and Garbage Receptacles”.

Section 2

Chapter 9-2.5 of the Municipal Code of the Township of Hope shall read as follows:

§ 9-2.5 Removal of Trash Cans, Toter Cans and Disposal Carts.

Residents in the municipality shall maintain and keep all trash or disposal cans and/or disposal carts on their respective lots and outside the public right-of-way and off any public sidewalks. Residents may only place their trash or disposal cans and garbage receptacles within the public right-of-way or on public sidewalks sixteen hours before the scheduled pick up by their waste hauler. Once emptied, the resident must return the trash or disposal cans or garbage receptacles to the interior of their property outside of the public right of way and off the public sidewalk within sixteen hours. Any person violating this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 9.2-4 above. However, an additional 24 hours shall be extended for placement for pickup of trash or disposal cans or garbage receptacles and 24 hours for their return on weeks when the scheduled pickup time is interrupted by a holiday.

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.

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Motion to Introduce: Mr. Kruk

Second: Mr. Urfer

All in favor

Resolutions:

TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION 2021-25

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MASTER PUBLIC WORKS SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR SHARING PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE AND COUNTY OF WARREN

WHEREAS, Hope Township may be desirous of utilizing public works equipment and public works employees provided by the County of Warren to provide public works services, general maintenance and related services; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren is desirous of providing those services to the Township of Hope in accordance with the terms of an agreement, a copy which is on file with the Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hope; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services & Consolidation Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.) empowers the County of Warren and the Township of Hope to enter into such an agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Hope of the County of Warren does hereby authorize the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute agreements to provide the services to the Township of Hope as described in said agreements.

Dated: March 10, 2021

Motion was made by Committeeman Urfer, **seconded** by Committeeman Kruk and carried to authorize the Mayor and Township Clerk to executive said agreement with the County of Warren. Motion carried

Roll Call:

Committeeman Kruk – Yes, Committeeman Urfer – Yes, Mayor McDonough - Yes

HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-26

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO MAKE COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABLE TO THE TEACHERS AND STAFF OF WARREN COUNTY’S SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, providing COVID-19 vaccination to teachers and other school staff will help protect the health of the students, school staff and families of Warren County’s school districts; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America Joseph Biden has made it a national goal that “every educator, school staff member, child care worker receive at least one shot by the end of the month of March”; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren has surveyed it’s public schools and found that over 1500 public school staff are willing to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, the superintendents of Warren County’s school districts have agreed to work with the Warren County Health Department to vaccinate their staff as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren and its health department are willing to work with any community partners to help meet the President’ school vaccination goal in Warren County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Commissioners requests New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Commissioner of Health Judith Persichilli to allocate sufficient COVID-19 Vaccine to the County of Warren so that initial vaccination of all eligible and interested school staff can be completed by end of March 2021.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer; Yes; Mayor McDonough - yes

Old Business:

Internet – Mayor McDonough reported on a meeting had with Warren and Sussex County Mayors and Josh Gottheimer along with the top individual from the National Telecommunications Information Association (NTIA). Money is becoming available to expand broadband in the area. Commissioner Kern suggested that the County be the lead with this and that all the municipalities join together to work on this. The County and NTIA are the lead on the grant application being put together.

Traffic Study – Moving along, a work in progress.

New Business:

The Township Committee discussed a memorandum from the Zoning Officer regarding a house fire in Hope Township and the homeowners' insurance company requesting permission to put a trailer on the property for the family to live in while they are displaced. In light of the fact that Hope Township does not have a trailer ordinance, the Township Committee voted to allow a trailer to be placed on the residents' property on a motion made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer. All in favor.

Public Participation:

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of re-opening the municipal building to the public, most importantly for meetings. It will be discussed further and a date determined.

Mrs. Sobon thanked the committee for the approval of a Resolution allowing her to apply for a grant (for technical assistance, not money) to help ascertain energy usage/savings in the municipality. She reported that the Green Fair is now April 23 and will be drive-thru. Mr. Urfer will help her with set-up with tables and tents.

Mr. Moore discussed internet services in our area with Mayor McDonough. Mayor McDonough stated he will phone Mr. Moore at a later time to discuss certain aspects of internet service.

Approval of Minutes: The January 27, 2021 business meeting and February 24, 2021 budget 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 8:03 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk