

**MARCH 11, 2020
BUSINESS MEETING**

The Business 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 and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer. Also present were Ted Rodman, Township Engineer; Don Whitmore, DPW Foreman; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra 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: Spoke about his phone conferences with the White House and the State regarding Corona Virus. It will be monitored closely in the coming days and these calls will be held every few days in order to discuss how to handle the pandemic moving forward.

Committeeman Christopher John Kruk: Reported that the HVFD will be part of the Hackettstown St. Patrick's Day Parade (pending the outcome of Corona Virus if the parade goes off).

Deputy Mayor Urfer: Mr. Urfer requested that Mr. Whitmore provide a written report for the Township Committee meetings in order to keep up on what projects are completed/ongoing. Mr. Urfer also asked that Mrs. Belstra put the old generator on Municibid.

Also gave an update on the White Township Warehouse Project.

Brielle Walsh: Distributed packets she had put together regarding the way that Township sanctioned events will be handled. All events will report to her with budgets and purchase requests. With the advent of P-cards on the horizon, the Township is getting more regimented at the CFO's request in how monies are handled for these events.

Ms. Walsh also inquired about use of the Community Center for a Paint and Sip as a fundraiser. The Township Committee gave permission for her to do so and will need to rescind the alcohol Ordinance for that date when it is ascertained.

Farmer's Market – scaling back this year. May be held on Friday nights at the Community Center (close off Walnut Street).

Don Whitmore: Reported that the backhoe broke while clearing out Russian olive. He is in the process of fixing it. New blower was delivered and Osmun Road is being cut back.

Tax Collector's Report: February collections: \$465,079.15; YTD \$1,538,199.09.

Fire Department Report: Total number of calls month of February 12, 94.48 Man hours. Work Night Man Hours – 96. Special Detail – 28 man hours. Total man hours for the month of February 218.48.

Health Department: No report filed with Clerk.

Township Engineer Report: Cemetery Road's paperwork is done. Mayor McDonough will sign the voucher/change order this evening to close out the file. The DOT has put enough information in their files in the event that Cemetery Road has issues and the material fails before its useful like that they will act to fix it accordingly.

Hope Center – Not paving the center of town at intersection. Bill Gleba asked for a formal letter to be written to the Warren County Engineering Department stating same. Mr. Urfer made a motion that a letter be written; Mr. Kruk seconded. All in favor.

Warren County Planning Board will be holding a meeting on March 30, 2020 at 7:30 PM to discuss issues effecting Warren County. All invited to attend (Ted will be in attendance.)

Willow Court Sign – Warren County asked us to move the sign back as the post is too close to the guiderail. Don Whitmore will move the sign back.

Locust Lake Guiderail – Mr. Urfer asked Mr. Whitmore to purchase the guiderail pieces needed in order to fix the damage done by an accident. Insurance company is in process of processing claim due to an accident that occurred there and damaged the guiderail.

Payment of Bills: March bills totaled \$652,008.76. Receipts for January 2020 \$12,157.27. On a motion made by Mr. Kruk and seconded by Mr. Urfer, the bills were approved for payment. Roll Call vote: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-25

RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2020-003 THAT WAS REDEEMED

WHEREAS, the property owned by E Skirtin Estate c/o Theresa Ziarnowski known as block 1100 lot 1100 located at 12 Kostenbader Road had unpaid 2019 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on 30 January 2020 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 2019 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$690.17 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2020-003; and

WHEREAS, Theresa Ziarnowski, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$1,430.81 on 27 February 2020 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate and subsequent taxes:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 11th day of March 2020 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Donna Marie in the amount of \$1,430.81 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2020-003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the satisfied executed Tax Sale Certificate 2020-003 be returned to Theresa Ziarnowski of 86 Marble Hill Road in Great Meadows, NJ 07838.

Motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk to pass Resolution No. 2020-25. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

2020-26
RESERVE TRANSFER RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that there are insufficient funds to meet the demands necessary for the 2019 Reserve Balances in Revenue Administration O/E, Engineering Services O/E, Road Maintenance O/E, and Maintenance of Parks O/E.

WHEREAS, the following accounts have sufficient excess funds to meet such demands: Legal Services O/E, Planning Board O/E, Municipal Prosecutor S/W, Electricity, Gas (Natural or Propane), and General Administration O/E.

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40A:4-59 the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to make the following transfers:

To:	Revenue Administration O/E	100.00
	Engineering Services O/E	1,100.00
	Road Maintenance O/E	8,000.00
	Maintenance of Parks O/E	<u>2,200.00</u>
		\$11,400.00
From:	Legal Services O/E	2,200.00
	Planning Board O/E	2,300.00
	Municipal Prosecutor S/W	2,700.00
	Electricity	1,600.00
	Gas (Natural or Propane)	1,800.00
	General Administration O/E	<u>800.00</u>
		\$11,400

Motion made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer to pass Resolution No. 2020-26. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

RESOLUTION 2020-27

TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
A RESOLUTION DECLARING HOPE TOWNSHIP A SECOND AMENDMENT/ LAWFUL
GUN OWNER TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope is a rural municipality that provides substantial areas of open space and forest utilized by law abiding residents and non-residents that enjoy hunting and other recreational shooting-related activities; and,

WHEREAS, the right to lawfully own and use firearms is an important individual right secured by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution; and,

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey was the first State to ratify the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution; including Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms; and,

WHEREAS, the Legislation is regularly introduced in the United States Congress and New Jersey State Legislature that could have the effect of unconstitutionally restricting Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens of Warren County and the State of New Jersey to keep and bear arms; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope maintains its commitment and support of the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens of Hope Township, Warren County and State of New Jersey to keep and bear arms; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope opposes any Legislation with provisions that could be interpreted as infringing the rights of law-abiding citizens of Hope Township guaranteed by the Second Amendment and the decisions of the US Supreme Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey on this 11th day of March 2020 as follows:

1. Hope Township supports the Second Amendment rights of its residents and all law-abiding citizens to enjoy the privileges of lawful gun ownership and urges the Legislature and the Governor not to enact laws that infringe upon the Second Amendment rights of the residents of Hope Township.
2. Certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey, Hope Township's elected representatives in the New Jersey Legislature and the New Jersey League of Municipalities

Motion made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer to pass Resolution No. 2020-27 (subject to Paragraph 1. under the Now, therefore, being removed). Roll call: Mr. Urfer- yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough - yes.

PROCLAMATION:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Congress designated the third full week in March to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) in 1961 and since then this week has helped to raise national awareness of the dangers of potentially dangerous medicines, household products and chemicals, environmental contaminants, and other substances; and

WHEREAS, poison centers across the country will focus the public's attention on the free, lifesaving services provided by poison centers, as well as, educating the public on ways to prevent poisoning exposures; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Poison Control Center, a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School provides 24/7 expert poisoning treatment advice, drug information, and prevention education at no cost to the public accessing center services through the Poison Help number at 1-800-222-1222, chat (www.njpies.org), or text 973-339-0712; and

WHEREAS, specialized medical professionals (doctors, pharmacists, and nurses) provide accessible, free, and confidential healthcare to all; and

WHEREAS, poison center services save healthcare dollars by eliminating thousands of unnecessary emergency department/room visits and decreasing lengths of stays for patients hospitalized for poisoning through telemedicine services/capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the poison center is instrumental in the surveillance and management of poisoning exposures across the state, including the use, misuse, and abuse of; medications, legal and illicit drugs, environmental contaminants, bioterrorism agents, and common household products and chemicals; and

WHEREAS, the state's poison control center is involved in New Jersey's efforts in homeland defense, counterterrorism, emergency preparedness and response, and biosurveillance; and

WHEREAS, unintentional poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in New Jersey outnumbering deaths by motor vehicles and firearms; and

WHEREAS, a poison is defined as anything that can cause harm if taken in the wrong amount, in the wrong way or by the wrong person; and

WHEREAS, although most reported poison exposures involve children five (5) years old and younger; most poisoning deaths occur in adults aged 20 to 59; and

WHEREAS, overdose deaths from prescription opioids, over-the-counter medications, and illegal drugs remain at epidemic proportions for both New Jersey and the United States; and

WHEREAS, lead exposure and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning remain major public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, vaping and e-cigarette devices pose a serious risk of nicotine poisoning, as well as serious potentially deadly vaping associated lung illnesses, also referred to as EVALI; and

WHEREAS, poison center experts encourage the public not to guess, wait for symptoms, or waste time looking up medical information online when potential poisoning exposures occur; and

WHEREAS, all residents should save the Poison Control Center's number, 1-800-222-1222, in their cell, home, and office phones because a fast response can make all the difference in preventing serious injury and saving lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy McDonough, Mayor of Hope Township, do hereby proclaim the week of March 15-21, 2020 as National Poison Prevention Week in New Jersey and encourage all citizens to pledge their commitment to ensuring the safety of themselves, their families, and their community.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, we honor the thousands of men and women who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces; and,

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War, also known as the Second Indochina War, was a conflict in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia that began November 1, 1955 and ended with the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, with U.S. involvement ending in 1973; and,

WHEREAS, all residents of Hope Township should recognize the honorable service of the 119,910 men and women from New Jersey who served in the Southeast Asiatic Theater of Operation and memorialize the 1,556 New Jerseyans who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam conflict; and,

WHEREAS, when the heroic soldiers, Marines, sailors, airmen and coast guard members returned home from Vietnam to a polarized and divided society, all New Jerseyans should be united in bestowing the respect and honor these service members deserve; and,

WHEREAS, we must remain vigilant to assist those Vietnam Veterans who need medical treatment, not only for their physical wounds but also the unspoken effects from post-traumatic stress disorder, specifically mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders; and,

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey will partner with all citizens of this great Town to remember and honor our Vietnam Veterans, as well as their families, for their courage, sacrifices and resolve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy C. McDonough, Mayor of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

**THE MONTH OF MARCH AS
VIETNAM WAR VETERAN'S MONTH**

Old Business: Mrs. Keggan brought the Township Committee up to speed on the upgraded computers needed for the office. Jean Paul Reece will be providing the computes and Microsoft Windows 10, as well as the anti-virus programs. MSI will provide the server and battery back-up. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk it was voted to purchase the required upgrades. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

New Business:

Mr. Kruk requested that the Township Committee adopt a Proclamation in honor of Vietnam Veterans and their return home. Mrs. Keggan has a Proclamation typed up that will be used for this. The Township Committee unanimously agreed to pass this Proclamation on a motion made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer. All in favor. Proclamation is made a part of these Minutes.

Community Center Water Bill: Mr. Stephans provided the Township Committee with a bill for all the work performed for the Community Center; Benbrook; Stephans. A party must be responsible for the maintenance of this system (i.e., water softener system). Licensed entity must be the responsible party for maintenance of any water system. Service contract will need to be drawn up between all the parties. Perhaps a grant can be obtained to help pay for this. Mrs. Keggan will ask the CFO how best to handle the \$12,215.94

Use of Facilities:

Keeping It Reel/Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs: Representatives from this group attended to ask permission from the Township Committee to use Swayze Mill Park for a group of roughly 32 children that fish various parks/lakes/rivers in the area. They are part of a State program run through the Pequest Fish Hatchery. The Township Committee gave permission for them to use the park subject to approval of three dates (one per month) that Mr. Kruk will discuss with them. The members that attended on behalf of Keeping It Reel offered to volunteer time at Swayze Mill park and to offer their fishing program to the residents/children of Hope Township. A Use of Facilities Request form will be forthcoming and made part of their request.

Discussion:

Hope Volunteer Fire Department: Mike Marino, Chad Koonz and Steve Gorski were in attendance to discuss the possibility of purchasing a used 2012 fire truck from a facility in Texas. The approximate cost of the truck is \$159,000 with approximately \$8,000 shipping charge. The truck is worth roughly (in today's dollars) \$1.2 million. The truck is deeply discounted due to its color (green). Drawings of the truck were provided to the Township Committee for their review. Currently, the Township is setting aside \$75,000 per year (capital budget) for the purchase of a new fire truck. This would be a tremendous savings to the Township. The Fire Department has spoken to Frelinghuysen about help in further

outfitting the truck with equipment in 2021 (approximately \$30,000). The fire truck does need new rear tires. A full maintenance workup will be done on the truck. It has an 8-man cab (currently crash truck has 5 man). The Township Committee, on a motion made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer, voted to purchase this truck pending a trip by the Fire Department to Texas to look at the truck. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Get Out the Count: Resolutions from the State Assembly were distributed to the Township Committee in light of getting the word out about how important the Census 2020 is.

Public Participation:

Rob Caputo – attended on behalf of the Lady Panthers Softball team to thank the Township Committee for their support of his softball program over the past several years. The program is now defunct. As there was an \$804.00 balance left over from their registration fees over the years, Mr. Caputo graciously donated those excess funds to the Township Recreation Program for use by the current softball program.

Member of a Second Amendment Group was in attendance to ask for the Township Committee's support in passing a Resolution backing the Second Amendment rights of New Jersey citizens. The Township Committee acknowledged that this item was up for discussion/passage this evening.

Mr. Ayers was in attendance regarding Old Union Brick Road. Mr. Urfer reported that he has spoken to Attorney Selvaggi regarding this matter and that a letter/agreement will be drawn up in order to allow the Township to perform the necessary drainage work needed to be done on his property. Mr. Urfer asked that Mr. Ayers contact Mr. Selvaggi to set up an appointment for the three of them to prepare said letter/agreement. Mr. Ayers was in agreeance of this. Mr. Ayers also voiced his opinion in opposition of the Second Amendment Resolution that the Township Committee is considering adopting.

Deb Snyder- spoke to the Township Committee regarding Mayfair and needing start-up monies (budget) to help this to go off. However, with the Corona Virus risk, it is uncertain what events will be able to be held or not at this point. Will be monitored in the coming weeks. Also discussed the Pavilion that is being entertained for Swayze Mill. She has a friend on the Lion's Club in Belvidere that can come and speak to the Township Committee regarding the work necessary to install one.

Monica Sobon: Spoke about the upcoming Green Fair and what the Corona Virus may mean to it being held. Will need to monitor it closely to determine if this event will be able to be held April 4. Also spoke about obtaining an Open Space Inventory and purchasing a small parcel of land that is adjacent to a piece owned by the Ridge & Valley Conservancy.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of February 11, 2020 business meeting; February 26, 2020 work meeting and February 26, 2020 budget meeting 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