

**MARCH 23, 2022
WORK MEETING**

The Business 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 John Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Don Whitmore, DPW Foreman and several members of the public.

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 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

Mayor Tim McDonough: Made note that CR 611 (Hope-Great Meadows Road) construction work will be on or about April 1, 2022. In speaking with the County, they stated that they anticipate no disruption to traffic for the Land of Make Believe.

Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk: Spoke briefly regarding the ARP funds that the municipality is receiving and made note that if the municipality takes their monies as “lost revenues” since we are receiving under \$10 million dollars we will have more flexibility in spending it.

Committeeman Urfer: In support of bail coming back. Asked the Clerk to find a Resolution regarding support of bail as it pertains to the municipal courts.

DPW: Received quotes for oil and stone of Old Union Brick Road (\$6,800 – 2 coats). Also Beaver – (\$2,800 - 2 coats) and Sandy (\$3,000 – 2 coats). The Township Committee gave their approval for these roads to be done this year. Potholes are in the process of being filled. Permits for the salt shed need to be applied for.

RESOLUTIONS:

2022-25

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM
MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR
3/24/2022-3/23/2023**

RESOLUTION #2022-25

WHEREAS, Ms. Kayleigh Keggan was hired on March 24, 2021 as the North Warren Municipal Court of hope Municipal Court Administrator; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Kayleigh Keggan is currently considered an Interim Municipal Court Administrator pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-11(e) since she was hired March 24, 2021 and does not hold a municipal court administrator certificate; and,

WHEREAS, the statute allows the governing body to appoint a person as Municipal Court Administrator that is not a certified Municipal Court Administrator, on an interim basis, for a period not to exceed one (1) year commencing on the date of the appointment (March 24, 2021); and,

WHEREAS, the statute further states, “Any person so appointed may, in consultation with the judge of the municipal court, be reappointed as a municipal court administrator, on an interim basis, for two (2) subsequent one-year terms. The municipal court administrator appointed on an interim basis may be reappointed for a fourth, and if necessary, a fifth additional one-year term, provided the municipal court administrator is currently enrolled in the certification program and need additional time to complete that program.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, Warren County, State of New Jersey, that it hereby appointed Kayleigh Keggan as Interim Municipal Court Administrator for a one-year term commencing March 24, 2022 and ending March 23, 2023.

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

2022-26

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION OF THE HOPE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING A CHANGE IN
SIGNATORS ON THE NORTH WARREN MUNICIPAL COURT BANK ACCOUNTS FALLING
UNDER
THE UMBRELLA OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HOPE**

RESOLUTION #2022-26

WHEREAS, the Court Administrator is authorized by Hope Township to execute certain financial documents related to the banking activity with its depository, the First Hope Bank; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey that the First Hope Bank is authorized and directed to add Kayleigh Keggan as an authorized signer on the following accounts or other financial access effective this date:

- 1) Bank Accounts – First Hope Bank – Account Nos. 522074 and 522066 (Bail Account); 902942 (Hardwick) and 902934 (Hardwick – Bail Account). Valley National Bank – Account Nos. 119001212 and 119001345 (White Township – Bail Account).
- 2) Please remove the following name(s) from all of the North Warren Municipal Court Accounts as signatures:
 - a. Kathryn Eger – retired and no longer the Court Administrator of North Warren Municipal Court.
- 3) Carol Oleszek is to remain a signatory on the above-listed accounts.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this action to the First Hope Bank and the Hope Township Chief Financial Officer.

Motion: Mr. Urfer
Second: Mr. Kruk

Committee polled: Kruk - yes Urfer - yes McDonough - yes

Old Business:

Traffic Study – Mayor McDonough spoke with Township Engineer Bill Gleba. Mr. Gleba is working on the 11-item list NJDOT submitted to Warren County. Date is forthcoming for a meeting with the DOT Commissioner.

Community Center Grant – the legal notice was run in the NJ Herald for bids to be received by architects who have been vetted and approved to do the historic work that the Community Center entails. Mr. Margulies is the person reviewing the bids. A pre-bid conference will be held on April 13, 2022 at 2 p.m. so that interested bidders may see the building and the work being requested in the bid. The bid opening is May 5, 2022 at 2 p.m. at the Hope Township Municipal Building.

New Business:

Mr. Kevin Newman was in attendance to discuss the school's 2022 budget. He made note of several items regarding their budget, including the cost per child of those children who remain in Hope Township vs those who go to Ridge & Valley Charter School, etc. He also noted that no staff cuts or program cuts were made this year and, in fact, they were able to budget for a special education teacher. Their budget came in at 3% increase (5.5 cent tax levy which equates to approximately \$136 per year for the average homeowner). 130 students are enrolled in the school currently.

Mrs. Sobon discussed EV Charging Stations and presented a Power Point to the Committee on grants that are out there. Some investigation work needs to be done in order to ascertain if EV Charging stations in certain areas of Hope Township make sense and/or if the electrical lines can handle the voltage needed for them in certain areas. Ms. Sobon also updated the Committee on the Green Fair that is upcoming for April 30, 2022. Township Committee agreed to let Ms. Sobon use the Grange if need be for Green Fair activities.

Hope Preservation Commission – Mrs. Beatty was appointed on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor. Melissa Debiak will be in attendance at our April 13, 2022 meeting to be appointed.

Public Participation:

Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Shaw inquired about the status of the fill that was brought into Hope Township at 525 and 549 Hope Blairstown Road. The Committee informed her that letters were sent to several people at the DEP as well as the WC Health Department. Awaiting a response from both. It was inquired whether an LSRP could be brought in at the property owners' expense. Mr. Urfer will reach out to the Township attorney to discuss.

Minutes: Minutes for February 9, 2022 Business – motioned by Mr. Urfer; Seconded by Mayor McDonough for approval – Mr. Kruk abstained as he was absent that meeting; March 9, 2022 Business; March 9, 2022 Executive Session – 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 5:30 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk