

MAY 10, 2023
BUSINESS MEETING

The Work Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 6:03 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 Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Patti Whitmore, Events Coordinator and Donald Whitmore, DPW Foreman.

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 Express Times New Jersey Edition 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

Payment of Bills: Bills in the amount of \$379,296.14 were approved on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called: Mr. Kruk yes; Mr. Urfer yes; Mayor McDonough yes

Reports:

Tax Collector: No report given

Environmental Commission: Mrs. Sobon was present to give an update on the Green Fair which was very successful. Also let the Committee know that an education trailer from NJ Fish & Wildlife will be at the Township picnic and she will be working with Patti Whitmore and Don Whitmore on the placement of that the day of the picnic.

Mayor Tim McDonough: Reported that the NJDOT and the County are looking to phase in the prohibition of 102 trucks on County Routes 519 and 521. The DOT commissioner and State Police have both made phone calls to Tilcon asking them to please use Exit 4 for all the dump truck traffic running through town to fill in the Tilcon quarry since it is being decommissioned. Mayor McDonough also reported that the Grand Opening of La Providencia over the past weekend was wonderful, recommended that everyone go see Cinderella at the Thomas Planer Hall before it stops running, and announced that the annual Tea with Tim and Tayte is being held on May 24 at Dunkin' and invites to the Seniors in town were mailed out already.

Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer: Mr. Urfer discussed the status of the Hissim Road paving project and what we should do in reference to paying for the balance owed on the paving. Mayor McDonough stated he spoke with DOT and they are advising that we do not pay for the paving at this point. They are in receipt of a copy of the letter from the Morris County Co-Op listing all of the complaints regarding South State and are looking into that right now. Drainage work will need to be done for Hissim Road as well. Requested that the speed bumps purchased by the Township be installed. Commended Mr. Whitmore on all of his work at Swayze Mill Park. Requested that the roadside mowing process be sped up as much as possible. Spoke to Ms. Keggan and Mr. Whitmore regarding moving Ted Rodman, P.E.'s records from the attic of the Thomas Planer to maintain the integrity of those files. Discussed the Planning Board and his intentions to have the subcommittee get together to work on various ordinances in an effort to start working on the Master Plan and have their work reviewed at the July 2023 Planning Board meeting. He also asked that the Clerk pass along to the Zoning Official that he should look into the Imperial Billiards building and pursue it for vacant and abandoned property fees.

Committeeman John Kruk: Mr. Kruk spoke about the NW Municipal Court and the balance owed to the municipality by White Township. Mayor McDonough noted that a meeting will take place with the

auditor, the Judge, a member of White Township’s Committee and a member(s) of the Hope Township Committee to reach a satisfactory conclusion on this. He also complimented the hard work undertaken at the Grange in updating its appearance and reported that Hope Township has a new Fire Inspector, Dave Bori. He has disposed of any outstanding violations as they were not pertinent to our Township buildings.

DPW: Mr. Whitmore gave his update and status of projects that he has been working on, including mowing, setting up oil and stone for Camp Hope Lane and Swayze Mill Park for June; getting estimates for tree removal at Westbrook Park; quotes for painting the Community Center; set up Right-to-Know for Tuesday, May 16; APS alarm inspections were all done this week; worked on the backstop at Swayze Mill Park and requested that a bonfire permit be obtained to dispose of refuse at Swayze Mill Park. Mr. Kruk will obtain the permit necessary for the municipality to do so.

Events Coordinator: Mrs. Whitmore was in attendance to discuss various new ideas she is looking into for the Township residents, such as bus trips to Longwood Gardens (approximately \$65-\$75 per person) and movie nights coupled with classic car shows. She updated the Committee on the number of applications she’s already received for the 2023 Christmas Craft Market as well. She asked for a status update on the applicant who applied for the Assistant to the Public Events Coordinator, Lacey DiTondo. Discussion took place regarding this position regarding the nepotism policy in the Personnel Handbook. Ms. Keggan noted that she had spoken to the Township attorney on this position, as well as other issues pertaining to this position. Ultimately, Mayor McDonough called for a vote on this in order to get passed this agenda item. He entertained a motion on the hiring (or not) of Lacey DiTondo as the Assistant to the Public Events coordinator. Mr. Kruk abstained from that vote citing that he would like the Township attorney to be present for guidance as it pertains to his vote; Mr. Urfer voted no. Mayor McDonough abstained. With that Ms. DiTondo was not hired for the position. She did, however, address the committee and members of the public with facts relating to her prior involvement with the municipality in a strictly voluntary manner in years’ past.

RESOLUTIONS:

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
LATE BUDGET INTRODUCTION
RESOLUTION-#2023-26**

WHEREAS, under provisions of N.J.S.A.250A:25-5, a municipality shall introduce the Local Municipal Budget no later than March 31 of the fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope has delayed the introduction of the 2023 Municipal Budget past the statutory deadline; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, Warren County, New Jersey, that the Township of Hope hereby petitions the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to allow a delayed introduction of the 2023 Hope Township Municipal Budget; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 803, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0803.

Motion: Mr. Urfer
Second: Mr. Kruk

Committee Polled: Mr. Kruk – yes

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

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

**SPECIAL ITEMS OF GENERAL REVENUE ANTICIPATED WITH PRIOR WRITTEN
CONSENT OF DIRECTOR OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – INTERLOCAL
MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS OFFSET WITH APPROPRIATIONS
RESOLUTION #2023-27**

WHEREAS, the 2023 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 10th day of May, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, during the fiscal year 2023 the Township of Hope will receive revenue for Inter-Local Agreements in the amount of \$102,264.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that petition be made herewith to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2023 Local Municipal Budget include a special item of revenue under the heading of "**Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services- Interlocal Municipal Service Agreements Offset With Appropriations:**

North Warren Municipal Court Revenue **\$ 87,777**

\$ 87,777

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Committee Polled: Mr. Kruk – yes

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

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

**SPECIAL ITEMS OF GENERAL REVENUE ANTICIPATED WITH PRIOR WRITTEN
CONSENT OF DIRECTOR OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
REVENUES OFFSET WITH APPROPRIATIONS**

RESOLUTION #2023-28

WHEREAS, the 2023 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 10th day of May, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, during the fiscal year 2023 the Township of Hope has been allocated a state grant for various programs in the amount of \$282,627.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that petition be made herewith to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2023 Local Municipal Budget include a special item of revenue under the heading of "**Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services-Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:**"

Recycling Tonnage Grant

\$ 1,228.00

Recycling Tonnage Grant – PY Unappropriated	942.00
Drunk Driving Enforcement	\$ 2,685.00
Municipal Alliance	2,504.00
NJ DOT Grant – Ridgeway Ave. Sec 2	160,630.00
CHHP Grant – County Historical Partnership	2,500.00
Highlands Plan Conformance	5,000.00
Community Center Grant	99,750.00
Clean Communities	<u>7,388.00</u>
	\$ <u>282,627.00</u>

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Committee Polled: Mr. Kruk – yes

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
2023 HOPE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET
RESOLUTION-#2023-29**

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope is holding a meeting on May 10, 2023, for the purpose of introducing the 2023 Municipal Budget and conducting other matters; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, Warren County, New Jersey, that the Township of Hope hereby petitions the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2023 Local Municipal Budget be introduced and approved on May 10, 2023.

2023 HOPE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Surplus anticipated general revenues	\$ 246,162.00
Total Miscellaneous revenue	600,689.00
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	25,000.00
Local Property Taxes	<u>859,924.00</u>
Total General Revenues	<u>\$1,731,775.00</u>
Salaries and Wages	\$ 557,922.00
Total Operations	773,184.00
Capital Improvements	255,630.00
Reserve for Delinquent Taxes	<u>145,039.00</u>
Total 2023 Municipal Budget	<u>\$1,731,775.00</u>
Municipal Tax Rate	(Estimated)
\$0.39162	

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Committee Polled: Mr. Kruk – yes

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
2023 OPEN SPACE TAX RATE
RESOLUTION #2023-30**

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Township of Hope’s open space ordinance allows the township committee to set the open space tax rate annually within a specified range; and,

WHEREAS, the township committee desires to set municipal open space tax rate at **\$0.0225** per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2023 calendar year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that election be made to set the municipal open space tax rate at **\$0.0225** per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2023 calendar year.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Committee Polled: Mr. Kruk – yes Mr. Urfer – yes Mayor McDonough – yes

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH
THE NJDOT FOR THE OVERLAY OF RIDGEWAY AVENUE - DISCRETIONARY FUNDING
RESOLUTION 2023-31**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Hope formally approves the grant application for the above-stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as **LTPF-2023-RIDGEWAY AVENUE – DISCRETIONARY FUNDING – 00135**, to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Hope Township for discretionary funding in the amount of \$122,452.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Hope Township and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes Mr. Urfer – yes Mayor McDonough – yes

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-32 – Tabled until next meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS – MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mayor McDonough and the Committee noted that May is Older Americans Month and highlighted the Proclamation honoring them.

Unfinished Business:

Internet – Mayor McDonough and Committeeman Kruk spoke to members of the public who reside at 55 Locust Lake Road about the ongoing push to get internet upgrades on their roads. Optimum and Planet Networks are the two providers in the area, but we have been having ongoing issues with Optimum in that area of town. It was recommended that they fill out the Planet Network survey on their website and also noted that they should let their neighbors know to do the same as the more interest there is, the better the odds are of getting installation. The Committee continues to push for all residents to get their internet upgrades.

New Business:

Summer Hours – this matter was tabled for discussion at next meeting.

2022 Group Affidavit – Audit – tabled until next meeting in order for all committeemen to look over the audit.

Community Center Grant – Architect’s Recommendation – the re-bid for the Community Center windows occurred on May 4, 2023 at the Municipal Building. One bid was received in the amount of \$306,000. This is still over budget. The architect recommended accepting this bid with the municipality coming up with the additional funding. Mr. Urfer has been speaking with the architect regarding this matter and is going to see if we can do a few windows at a time instead of the entire project as the municipality is not in a position to fund any shortfall due to the cost of the project overrunning the grants we received to-date.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 26 Work/Budget meeting and Executive Session and the April 27 Budget meetings were approved on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor

Public Participation:

Members of the public at 55 Locust Lake Road questioned internet service installation at their residence. See notes under internet updates.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk