

**MAY 26, 2021
WORK MEETING**

The Work 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 Christopher John Kruk, Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were DPW Foreman Donald Whitmore; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra.

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 if they do not attend in person. The public will be muted for the meeting but will be able to participate 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 4 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. Kruk- present

Mr. Urfer – present

Mayor McDonough- present

Reports:

Mr. Urfer: Inquired about performance reviews for employees. The clerk will put together some dates for these to start occurring. Also inquired if anyone had heard anything further on the Covid relief monies – to date there is no new information. Mentioned perhaps doing a letter to the PCFA regarding no solid waste allowed to be trucked through town. Mayor McDonough suggested talking to the Commissioner liaison regarding this to ascertain whether or not language is still in the agreement regarding this.

Discussion also took place regarding talking to the County over swapping two roads (Foundry would go to County; Dogwood would go to Hope Township). Mr. Urfer will reach out to the Commissioners to discuss this first before a formal meeting is requested with the County engineer on this. A motion was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – all in favor to allow Mr. Urfer to move forward with this matter.

A meeting was held with Mr. Whitmore, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Urfer and an employee of Tilcon regarding the inferior paving job done on Heller Hill Road. Discussion took place regarding sealing the road and repainting the lines. Mr. Urfer stated he is still awaiting a determination on this as to whether it is the manner in which we will be moving forward with the situation.

Lastly, Mr. Urfer asked the clerk to distribute a memorandum explaining how a Zoning Board and Planning Board are combined into a Land Use Board. Discussion will take place at an upcoming meeting once all have read this.

Mayor McDonough: Noted that the municipal building will re-open on June 1, 2021 and that all meeting will resume “live” again (no Zoom).

Mr. Whitmore: Discussed repairs to the 2005 large plow truck. Currently at Cory Trucking with a rough estimate of repair for \$11,000. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – roll

called: Mr. Kruk -yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough -yes it was decided that these repairs needed to be done and approved to do so.

Resolutions:

2021-37

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT
2021-37**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2020 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and,

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and,

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations, and,

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations”, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and,

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and,

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Committee of the Township of Hope, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

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

2021-38

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
APPROVING INN AT MILLRACE POND PLENARY RETAIL
CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 2111-33-004-004
RESOLUTION 2021-38**

WHEREAS, The Inn at Millrace Pond holds a Plenary Retail Consumption License #2111-33-004-004;
and

WHEREAS, the Inn at Millrace Pond 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 Consumption License be renewed
for The Inn at Millrace Pond for the 2021/2022 license term.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mr. Kruk – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

2021-39

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
APPROVING HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
CLUB LICENSE NO. 2111-31-005-001
RESOLUTION 2021-39**

WHEREAS, the Hope Volunteer Fire Department Association, Inc. holds a Club License #2111-31-005-
001; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Volunteer Fire Department 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 have been
filed with the Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope does not object to the application, has no special conditions for and knows of no local ordinance or other reason which would prevent an application from being approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren State of New Jersey that the Club License No. 2111-31-005-001 be renewed by the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, for the Hope Volunteer Fire Department Association, Inc. for the 2021/2022 license term.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mayor McDonough

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

Old Business:

Internet – Mayor McDonough spoke about the speech he gave in the presence of many elected officials at Gottheimer’s office. Governor Murphy was in attendance and stated he would be working with Warren and Sussex Counties to get broadband services by using the Covid relief monies being given to the State.

Traffic Study – A work in progress. Mr. Bodolsky spoke to the Committee regarding the truck traffic and weight limits on county roads as it pertains to the residents North of Route 46 that he questioned regarding their stance on no truck traffic from Hope Township South to Route 46 and North of 46 to Route 80. The vast majority of residents he polled (White Township residents) are for the weight limits being put into place.

Peace and Good Order (Noise) Ordinance – Discussion centered around a draft that was given to the Township Committee by the Township attorney. The main determining factor on whether this Ordinance can be used is if it is truly an enforceable one. The clerk was directed to give copies to Alfia Schemm for her distribution to the Planning Board and to George Boesze for his input as Zoning Official.

New Business:

Requisition Forms – the clerk and the Township CFO have been working together to keep a tighter control on spending. It was determined that the use of a requisition form would be instrumental in doing so. The Township Committee could set a threshold at which a requisition form would need to be given to the clerk for any spending to occur. The clerk would then forward on to the CFO for a PO to be assigned. After discussion, it was determined that we would try the threshold at \$1,000 for now.

4th of July Fireworks – The Blairstown Rotary called the municipal building to inquire about the Township donating money towards the fireworks held annually. It was discussed and determined that the Township would give a donation in the same amount as the year prior provided Hope Township is put on the sign as one of the donators. A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk – roll called: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes to send \$600.00 to the Blairstown Rotary for Hope’s donation. A discussion was also had about donating to the Blairstown American Legion for a parade donation in the amount of \$250.00. Mr. Urfer motioned; Mr. Kruk seconded. Roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Public Participation:

Member of the public spoke about the warehousing project/traffic due to warehousing and its impact on our town. It was decided that a letter would be drafted by the clerk and sent to the Commissioners asking for clarification on who (County of DOT) asked that other municipalities (Knowlton/Blairstown/White) agree to the weight restrictions by passing their own Resolutions. Motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded

by Mr. Kruk – all in favor to allow the clerk to draft a letter for review by the Township Committee. Mayor McDonough will ask for a memo from the DOT regarding the Resolutions being passed by other municipalities and who requested that that be the manner by which the weight limit restrictions would be put in place or not.

Mrs. Sobon mentioned a new forestry management legislation that is being looked at. Mayor McDonough stated he would talk to the NJLM regarding this to get more information.

A member of the public was present and noted that many members of the community were present at the Cannabis Public Hearing on May 18 that did not want to speak out against the cannabis legislation the township is deciding on.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:24 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk