

**MAY 26, 2022**  
**WORK MEETING**

The Work Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 1:00 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; Donald Whitmore, DPW Foreman; the Hope Elementary School Student Government 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 Express Times New Jersey edition and 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**

**Payment of Bills:** A motion was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and committee polled as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes to pay monthly bills with exceptions being Check Nos. 14489 (Lavery, etc. – Mayor McDonough to follow up on) and 14478 (French & Parrello – Terry Urfer to follow up on).

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** See truck and internet reports.

**Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk:** Discussed the possibility of donating/lending the scoreboard that was purchased several years ago for softball/baseball to BHS. He asked the student government what they thought about that. The response given was that they could perhaps borrow the scoreboard, but that it should be returned to the municipality upon completion of their season. No firm decision has been made yet as to whether this will occur for next year’s (2023) season at the high school. This will be followed up by Mr. Kruk with the resident who requested the donation to the high school be made.

Also mentioned was the deterioration of the Community Center steps. Mayor McDonough noted that he has requested a quote in addition to Mr. Kruk’s request of a contractor to do the same.

**Committeeman Urfer:** Discussed the upcoming Fishing Derby and the signage he put out for them. The Fishing Derby is being held May 29. All the food and prizes were purchased and came in under the \$800 budget.

Mr. Urfer also noted that a letter to a landowner on Hope Blairstown Road has been sent out by the Township engineer requesting testing of the soil on the property due to fill that was brought in at an earlier date and at the request of neighboring residents.

**DPW:** Mr. Whitmore gave an update as to the work completed since the last meeting, such as roadside mowing, spraying of guardrails (noted that Josh Miller has received his 40 hours of mentor time and is now able to take the test to be licensed for spraying), met with Dan from South State regarding paving of Hope Township portion of Union Brick. Meeting scheduled for June 1, 2022 in Blairstown for discussion of paving of Hissim and Union Brick Road. The timeline of paving of Union Brick moved up substantially from what was anticipated. It is now anticipated to be paved by July. The Committee discussed the plan to pave with the ARP monies (second tranche to be received by July). If necessary, a capital ordinance can be done and monies needed to pay for the paving can be taken from capital. On a motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer and committee polled: Kruk – yes; Urfer -yes; McDonough – yes, the decision was made to move forward with paving at the earlier date.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**APPROVING HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**CLUB LICENSE NO. 2111-31-005-001**  
**RESOLUTION 2022-34**

**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 2022/2023 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 2022/2023 license term.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mayor McDonough

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

## **ORDINANCES: FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION**

### **2022-05**

#### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT SECTION 20-3 ENTITLED “DEFINITIONS,” TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT SECTION 20-14.3 ENTITLED “CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED USES,” AND TO DELETE IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACE SECTION 20-22.11 ENTITLED “AUTOMOBILE SERVICE STATIONS” OF THE ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey believes that Automobile Service Stations should no longer be considered conditional permitted uses in the Township given the environmental issues posed by such a use; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee believes that amending the Township Code to include the definition of Automobile Repair Facility is in the Township’s best interest as said use is more keeping with rural nature of the Township; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Hope believes that these amendments will dispel any confusion in connection with the type of use allowed in the Conditionally Permitted Use section of the Township Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the Hope Township Zone Ordinance, Sections 20-3 and 20-14.3 be amended and supplemented, and Section 20-22.11 be removed in its entirety and replaced as follows:

#### **Section 1:**

Automobile Service Station and the accompanying definition thereto is hereby removed and replaced as follows:

§ 20-3 – Definitions.

#### **Automobile Service Station**

~~Shall mean a building or place of business where gasoline, oil and grease, batteries, tires and automobile accessories are supplied and dispensed directly to the motor vehicle trade, at retail, and where minor repair service is rendered. Leasing of trailers, trucks or autos shall not be a use of an automobile service station.~~

### **Automobile Repair Facility**

Shall mean a building or place of business where motor oil and associated automotive fluids, batteries, tires, towing and vehicle recovery, and automobile repair services are rendered, at retail. Dispensing of gasoline and other fuels is not permitted. Accordingly, electric vehicle charging stations could be located at such an establishment.

### **Section 2:**

Section 20-14.3(d) is hereby removed and replaced as follows:

§ 20-14.3 – Conditionally Permitted Uses

- ~~(d). — Automobile Service Stations~~
- (d). Automobile Repair Facilities.

### **Section 3:**

Section 20-22.11 is deleted in its entirety and is replaced as follows:

§ 20-22.11 – Automobile Repair Facilities.

Automobile repair facilities shall meet the following minimum requirements:

- a. Minimum tract size: 60,000 square feet.
- b. Minimum frontage on public streets or road: two hundred fifty (250') feet.
- c. There shall be no revolving signs or revolving lights used on the premises. Not more than three "A" frame signs three (3') feet wide by five (5') feet high advertising services or products may be used on the site.
- d. An evergreen planting five (5') feet deep to form a visual screen shall be provided within a depth of twenty (20') feet between any automobile repair facility and abutting residential property or district.
- e. No disabled vehicles or wrecks shall be maintained on unscreened premises in the open.

### **Section 4:**

Severability. 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 unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

### **Section 5:**

Repealer. Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

### **Section 6:**

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication.

On a motion made by Mr. Urfer to introduce Ordinance 2022-05 subject to the minor revision of Automobile Service Stations being replaced with Automobile Repair Facilities in Section 3 second line, seconded by Mr. Kruk, all in favor, this Ordinance passed for introduction. Public Session and Final Adoption will occur at the July 13, 2022 meeting.

### **Old Business:**

**Traffic Study** – Mayor McDonough noted that he will be meeting with the DOT Commissioner on June 13 to discuss the ongoing issues with truck traffic and how best to approach them. A meeting with the County pertaining to traffic calming measures is expected to take place after this meeting occurs.

**Internet/CenturyLink** – Mayor McDonough noted that CenturyLink is slated to begin running fiber in the municipality. The municipality has been asked to submit a letter to the BPU urging them to quickly address prompt approval of CenturyLink/Brightspeed transaction and to release the funding necessary for the billions of dollars that were allocated to states for broadband funding under ARP. Altice has also reiterated their intentions to be done running cable by July or August 2022.

**New Business:**

**Blairstown Rotary:** Mr. Shoemaker was present to request a donation from Hope Township to help offset the costs of the annual fireworks in Blairstown. These normally run around \$13,000 and four municipalities contribute to this – Frelinghuysen, Blairstown, Knowlton and Hope. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and committee polled: Kruk – yes; Urfer – yes; McDonough – yes the Committee approved \$550 donation be made. Mr. Shoemaker also noted that he was happy to see the student government taking an active interest in how government works.

**Public Participation:**

Ms. Sobon was in attendance and welcomed the members of the Student Government to join the Environmental Commission's Green Team.

Betsy Peterson spoke about a minor change in wording that needed to take place to the Ordinance introduced by the Committee at today's meeting.

The meeting was turned over to the Student Government at 1:50 pm. They conducted their own meeting and at the conclusion of this, a question and answer forum between the committee and student government took place surrounding current country happenings, the goals they'd like to achieve during next year's school year, and their interest in holding a government position someday.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Municipal Clerk