

MAY 7, 2019
BUDGET MEETING

A Budget Work meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:30 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk, and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Kathleen Reinalda, CFO; Anthony Ardito, Township Auditor, Deputy Clerk Robin Keggan and Municipal Clerk Judith Fisher were also present.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in the New Jersey Herald by posting notice in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards and the Township Web Site.

Preparation of the 2019 Local Municipal Budget

Discussion took place with Mr. Ardito regarding lowering the Open Space Tax down .0025, making the new Open Space Tax 2.25. Also discussed lowering the budget down .0050, using money from the Township surplus to accomplish this. Township surplus stands at approximately \$740,000.00 as of this point. Half cent decrease in budget is equal to approximately \$11,000.00, making the tax savings for the average taxpayer on a home with a \$300,000 property approximately \$15.00 for the year.

Earmarking approximately \$105,000 for capital improvements for the 2019 year (\$75,000 being designated and put aside towards a new fire truck (to be accomplished over approximately 4 years); \$15,000 for a blower and new dump truck bed for the DPW department and approximately \$15,000 for paving of North Locust Lake Road (Ordinance will need to be introduced and adopted for this).

Will introduce budget at May 8, 2019 meeting as long as Mr. Ardito can provide the necessary Resolutions to the Township in time.

Municipal Court budget was revised to incorporate the need for a new recording system (approximately \$5,000) and a shredder (approximately \$3,500) to be shared between all the municipalities that are a part of the NW Municipal Court.

Money in the budget for a new full-time DPW hire as of June.

Recreation Department and the handling of their finances was discussed and a plan put in place to try to accomplish financial reporting.

Salary Ordinance will be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 P.M. on a motion made by Committeeman Urfer, seconded by Committeeman Kruk. The motion was carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Fisher, RMC
Municipal Clerk