

**May 7, 2020**  
**BUDGET MEETING**

The Budget Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 2:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough (via Zoom), Committeeman Christopher John Kruk (via Zoom) and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer (municipal building). Also present were Kathleen Reinalda, CFO; Anthony Ardito (Auditor); Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; DPW Foreman Donald Whitmore and Brielle Walsh, Events Coordinator/Sports Director.

Under the provisions of the “Open Public Meetings Act”, adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in The Star Gazette and The New Jersey Herald and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township 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. The public will be muted for the meeting but will be able to participate via a dialogue (chat) box during the public session portion of the meeting. In addition, residents were encouraged to submit their comments via email. Those emails will be read into the record during the public portion.

**Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present**

**Mr. Kruk – present**

**Mayor McDonough- present**

General discussion took place regarding the budget for 2020. Due to the pandemic, the State has pushed back their budget to September 2020. Hope Township has decided to be proactive and try to get as much of the municipal budget work accomplished as they can put in place ahead of the adoption of the State budget with the understanding that changes may become necessary to the municipal budget after receiving the State budget.

Ms. Reinalda reviewed the information we had discussed as far as numbers from the April 14, 2020 budget meeting. \$2500 was earmarked for a traffic study. Ms. Reinalda will be putting that under Planning Board’s line.

The Township Committee’s goal is to keep the tax rate flat if possible, especially in light of the school’s newly passed budget.

A discussion of the NW Municipal Court took place. Mr. Ardito reported his numbers per his audit of this year. There was a loss of approximately \$108,000 overall. Losses equated per Township as follows: Hope - \$67,000; Hardwick \$7,000; White \$28,000. We are anticipating much lower revenues this year due to the pandemic. Hardwick has not paid any of their court costs since 2018. They owe us approximately \$21,000 for 2019 and will need to send an estimated amount for 2020 court costs as well.

The DPW budget was discussed. Mr. Whitmore provided his budget as follows: \$55,000 for salt; \$21,000 for parts, tires, oil, plow parts; equipment repair; \$20,000 for cold patch; \$5,000 for tree trimming/removal; \$6,000 for tools, paint and repairs of garage; \$5,000 oil and stone. Discussion took place of capital projects that will be handled within the next 3-5 years. The Township will need to purchase a new F350 Pickup within the next 1-2 years and a new backhoe within 3-5. Total capital expenditures currently on the radar are about \$180,000.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Municipal Clerk