

**NOVEMBER 10, 2022
BUSINESS MEETING**

The Business Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 7:00 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; Donald Whitmore, DPW Foreman; and Zondra Belstra, Deputy Clerk.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present

Mr. Kruk – present

Mayor McDonough- present

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.

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 the bills totaling \$850,936.98.

Reports:

Tax Collector: Month Ending October 2022 - \$1,001,317.30 Y-T-D for 2022 \$5,827,687.55

Mayor Tim McDonough: Mayor McDonough gave an update regarding the Truck Traffic situation. He was on a conference call with the NJDOT, County Commissioners and NJSP on November 10. The County has several projects that they are looking for funding from the NJDOT for. Most of these projects are along the CR 519 corridor. The County is putting together a Truck Traffic “Master Plan” that they hope to have a draft of in the coming weeks. It is the ultimate goal to have trucks travel on State and Federal highways only. The next step will be to have a meeting with the Mayors of Hope, Blairstown, White and Knowlton, together with the NJDOT, NJSP and County Commissioners to discuss this “Master Plan” and how it will affect each municipality. Mayor McDonough also thanked the clerk and the CFO for their hard work and filling out the Best Practices Inventory for 2022.

Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk: Thanked the event team, Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Miller for their work in putting together the Halloween parade. Also noted that Hissim Road looks great (paving), the play Annie is running at the Grange and encouraged residents to go see it and questioned whether or not the Township should start a bus trip into the city again. Also noted that Knowlton has their own fire inspector and requested that Mayor McDonough find out if we are under contractual obligation to the DCA for fire inspectors. If not, Hope Township may want to get their own Fire Inspector.

Committeeman Urfer: Gave a brief update on the Community Center grant. It looks like we will be receiving a second round of funding in December from the County - \$99,750.00. Also discussed wanting to obtain a plan from Don within the next 30-60 days for what he wants the DPW yard to look like. Basketball hoops in the Community Center should be put on Municibid. This will be looked into in the coming weeks (price to start bidding, pictures for website). Made note that we will need to know what road the Committee would like to apply to the DOT for a paving grant in 2024 by the spring as material estimates will need to be given to the co-op by July. Also mentioned lead inspection legislation quickly. This is a topic that needs more research to ascertain how to implement this. Spoke briefly about the noise ordinance and making some changes in wording to that.

Township Engineer: Not in attendance.

DPW: Gave his report for the past few weeks. Has been busy cleaning leaves from storm drains; prepping Hissim Road for paving; setting up and breaking down for Halloween parade; working on the soffit/gutters at the municipal building; putting up sandbags on Smith Street to see how effective they are at diverting water from flooding people's yards.

Environmental Commission: Ms. Sobon spoke about the Environmental Commission/Green Team doing a roadside cleanup in the coming weeks. She asked for the DPW foreman's input as to the best road for them to do. Kostenbader Road was the road decided upon. She also spoke about a Speaker Series in the Community Center, but noted that stable wifi and audio-visual equipment would be needed. Mr. Urfer suggested she talk to Ms. Marie regarding grants that she is looking into for this purpose. The Committee also approved, on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer -yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, a paper shredding truck to be at the Green Fair for 2023. Absolute Shredding is the paper shredding service that was approved for up to 4 hours at the Green Fair 2023.

Resolutions:

HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#2022-47

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HOPE TOWNSHIP'S ANNUAL APPLICATION RENEWAL TO THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE'S MUNICIPAL PLANNING INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee has developed a comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan for the Township, which identifies land meeting the criteria for farmland preservation in accordance with the requirements of the State and County's farmland preservation programs; and

WHEREAS, the pressures from development continue to pose a threat of imminent change of land use from productive agriculture to nonagricultural uses; and

WHEREAS, the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) has funding available to assist the Township in acquiring farmland preservation easements, in partnership with the County of Warren via the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant program (Muni-PIG); and

WHEREAS, farmland preservation encourages the survivability of agricultural production, the rural character of the Township and the Township's agrarian history; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined that it is in the best interests of Hope Township to maintain a robust farmland preservation program, to continue to access funds from the SADC's Muni-PIG program, and any other programs that offer funding for farmland preservation, and to acquire as many farmland preservation easements from eligible farms, in partnership with the SADC and the County of Warren, as possible; and

WHEREAS, Hope Township's Agriculture Advisory Board recommends that the Township continue to participate in the SADC's Muni-PIG program;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that it hereby authorizes ongoing participation in the SADC's Municipal Planning Incentive Grant program, as follows:

- 1) The Township approves the Muni-PIG renewal letter with attachments and authorizes the Agricultural Advisory Board and its consultant to submit the renewal application to SADC

in advance of the December 15, 2022 deadline and to continue to work with farmland owners in the Township to develop applications to the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that it hereby authorizes the Municipal Clerk, the Agriculture Advisory Board and The Land Conservancy of New Jersey to sign documents and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the intent and purpose of this Resolution.

Unfinished Business:

Traffic Study – See Mayor McDonough’s report above.

Internet/CenturyLink – The Committee was provided with a list of roads that are already built out by Optimum. Locust Lake is scheduled to be up and running by December 2022.

PB/ZB Secretary – Ms. Schemm is retiring as of December 31, 2022. The township is actively looking for her replacement.

Land Use Board Formation – The Committee is actively discussing combining the Planning Board and Zoning Board. Mayor McDonough is making phone calls to all current board members to ask for their input/interest in staying on should we form a Land Use Board.

2022-2023 Snow Plowing – The municipality received two quotes. They will be reviewing both of these in greater detail and will make the award at an upcoming meeting.

New Business:

Planer Driveway Waiver - A motion was made by Mr. Kruk to provide a waiver to the Planers for the new residence being built on CR 519 pertaining to the grade and pavement of their driveway. Mr. Urfer seconded, all in favor. Mr. Kruk noted that the County has already signed off on their portion of that driveway. Mr. Urfer made note that he is fine with the waiver as long as the Planers understand the risks involved with not paving the driveway as it pertains to emergency vehicles and possible stormwater runoff in their own driveway/yard.

PTA Raffle 2022-10 – The Committee approved the request for a PTA Raffle on January 13, 2023 on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Warren County Christmas Tree Contest – Mayor McDonough noted that the County is sponsoring a Christmas Tree Contest in Belvidere this year. Each municipality is invited to purchase a Christmas tree from a participating tree farm (grant of up to \$200 given to each municipality) and decorate it. Hope Township needs to decide if we will participate and, if so, who will be decorating it. Mr. Urfer will follow up with Ms. Brown.

Distillery Alarm Quote – Wire’s Electric provided a quote for the installation of an alarm system in the Distillery. Mr. Kruk noted that he will obtain a second quote from AB Code out of Sussex County as well. Award to be determined after receiving second quote.

Minutes: October 12, Business and Executive and October 26 Business and Executive minutes were all approved on a motion by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

Public Participation:

Ms. Rhinesmith asked about the Christmas tree found at the Distillery and what the town wanted to do with it. Mr. Urfer asked Mr. Whitmore to have Mrs. Whitmore look at it and determine if it is something she'd like to use for the Craft Market.

Ms. Donohue discussed the History Trail and using social media more for Historical Society. A piece of historical equipment (thrasher) was found in a barn in Stillwater and the town was asked if they were interested in it. It is quite sizeable and there is really no place to store or display it. May be offering it to some residents who have expressed interest in it.

Mrs. Pennucci was present to request that Silver Lake be made "catch and release" for fisherman much like Swayze Mill is. The Township Committee cannot do this as it is not a township owned lake, it is owned by residents. She was advised to reach out to Fish and Game due to her concerns of bow fishing near her property.

Mrs. Hoffman questioned the findings of Campbell Foundry's LSRP/fill analysis report that she had read. The Committee has already signed off on this as our LSRP from French & Parrello concurred with the LSPR for Campbell Foundry out of PEAK Environmental and deemed the fill to be clean. However, in an effort to further satisfy neighboring residents, Mayor McDonough will reach out to the DEP and ask that the test the water of Beaver Brook (now a C-1 stream) below where the fill was brought in.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:46 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk