

**NOVEMBER 8, 2021
BUSINESS MEETING**

The Work 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 Christopher John Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Don Whitmore, DPW Foreman and Ted Rodman, Township Engineer.

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 Express Times NJ Edition 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: Receipts received for October 2021 \$12,235.59

Bills totaling \$777,941.53 for the month of November. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough, bills were authorized to be paid.

Reports:

Tax Collector: \$401,974.70 October 2021 collections \$5,214,523.07 Y-T-D collections.

NW Municipal Court: September 2021 financial report was provided by the Court Administrator. On file in the clerk's office.

Committeeman Urfer: Mentioned perhaps doing a letter in support of blue and red lines being painted on roads in front of police stations and fire departments and sending to legislators. Perhaps allowing for surrounding municipalities to jump on board as well. Mayor McDonough will check with the DOT to ensure that there are no regulations regarding this. Residents on Old Union Brick Road are currently working with the DOT and Blairstown to ascertain the best way to fix/re-route the water currently flowing onto their property and causing damage. Shiloh Road also is being undermined by a current situation with a resident who has opened a driveway opening without permission which needs to be built with. Weight limits also discussed for this road. In 2008 the DOT allowed for municipalities to place signage on their municipal roads without their needing to sign off. Mr. Urfer also asked about the status of the POP Zone Ordinance amendment. The clerk responded that she had received instruction/direction from the Planning Board Chair that this was not being done at this time.

Deputy Mayor John Kruk: Mentioned the banner that is currently over CR 521 that is "jumbled up" and in need of being taken down. Mr. Whitmore is waiting to borrow a bucket truck from Wires to take that one down and put up the Christmas Craft Market banner. Also mentioned that the new barber shop in town is having a Grand Opening on Saturday, 11/13/21 with a ribbon cutting. The clerks will reach out to Margo Biblin to have this put on the calendar so that residents know about it. A member of the HVFD has asked about using the Community Center for softball lessons with wiffle balls. The Township Committee approved this, fee waived, as long as the paperwork is turned into the clerk and the person wanting to use it understands that they are responsible for break down and set up of the 55 Plus Club tables that are currently set up in the Community Center. Once the Community Center is re-done from the grant monies Hope Township received, these events will no longer be permitted in that building.

Township Engineer Report: Mr. Rodman noted that the striping on Ridgeway Avenue was completed as of November 8. Stop bars, MPH painted signs and guiderails still need to be finished, however. Mr. Rodman will consult with Mr. Urfer on the MPH signs to be painted on the roadway as to verbiage. These will be painted on either end of the road away from any houses. A yield sign will be placed at the “y” intersection on Silver Lake Marksboro Road as you approach the intersection of Ridgeway from the Frelinghuysen side. Mr. Whitmore noted that the catch basin risers still need to be installed on Ridgeway by South State.

Mr. Rodman also noted that French & Perillo did the maps for Hardwick on the updated C1 Streams that the DEP has just updated. Mr. Kruk noted that most of this information is available for free online and he will look into getting this information/maps from online sources before the municipality pays approximately \$3,000 for them to be done by the engineer.

DPW/Road Dept: Mr. Whitmore reported that he is working on all the items that need to be addressed for the fire marshal’s upcoming re-inspection. He has for the most part fixed everything in the Grange building and will be moving on to the Community Center. He has also placed a call to All Terrain Excavating to find out the start date of the work on Union Brick Road that the Committee approved. Lake Just-It is also on the list to address.

Ordinances – Introduction/First Reading by Title Only:

2021-08a

2021-08a

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. The salaries, wages or compensation of the following officers and employees of the Township of Hope are hereby fixed and determined for the calendar year 2021, retroactive to January 1, 2021 at the amounts set forth herein below:

A. Mayor	\$ 3,115.00 per annum
B. Committeeman (not serving as Mayor)	\$ 2,750.00 per annum
C. Municipal Clerk/Registrar	\$65,025.00 per annum
D. Deputy Municipal Clerk/Registrar	\$ 19.58 per hour
E. Chief Financial Officer	\$13,330.00 per annum
F. Treasurer	\$ 5,917.00 per annum
G. Qualified Purchasing Agent	\$ 1.00 per annum
H. Collector of Taxes	\$25,875.00 per annum
I. Deputy Tax Collector	\$ 2,481.00 per annum
J. Tax Search Officer	\$ 3,404.00 per annum
K. Assessor of Taxes	\$19,363.00 per annum
L. Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 1,725.00 per annum
M. Public Works Foreman	\$ 30.89 per hour

N. DPW Laborer	\$ 20.01 per hour
O. Equipment Operator PT/Seasonal	\$ 19.72 per hour
P. Code Enforcement Officer	\$10,404.00 per annum
Q. Christmas Market/Public Events Coordinator	\$ 9,276.00 per annum
R. Assistant Public Events Coordinator	\$ 14.50 per hour
S. Animal Control Officer	\$ 7,205.00 per annum
	\$ 24.03 per hour/court
T. Dog Licensing Clerk	\$ 721.00 per annum
U. Temporary Clerical Assistant	\$ 15.92 per hour
V. Custodian	\$ 14.50 per hour
W. Secretary to the Planning Board	\$13,000.00 per annum
	\$ 173.00 per meeting
X. Secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$ 4,750.00 per annum
	\$ 173.00 per meeting
Y. Secretary to the Historic Preservation Commission	\$ 1,567.00 per annum
Z. Secretary to the Environmental Commission	\$ 1,537.00 per annum
AA. Sports Director	
(a) Soccer Director	\$ 3,243.00 per annum
(b) Basketball Director	\$ 3,934.00 per annum
(c) Baseball/Softball Director	\$ 4,724.00 per annum
BB. Court Administrator	\$50,000.00 per annum (eff. 3/24/2021)
	\$ 63.25 per call out
CC. Deputy Court Administrator/Violations Clerk	\$ 25.00 per hour
DD. Court Reporter	\$ 24.52 per hour
EE. Violations Clerk:	\$ 18.30 per hour
FF. Municipal Court Prosecutor	\$ 511.00 per session
GG. Municipal Court Judge	\$29,822.00 per annum
HH. Municipal Court Treasurer	\$ 4,186.00 per annum
II. Municipal Court Officer – Level I	\$ 136.00 per session
JJ. Municipal Court Officer – Level II	\$ 28.28 per hour

SECTION II: If any selection, clause, sentence, or other part of this Ordinance shall, for any reason, be adjudged by the Court of Competent Jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance.

SECTION III. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency, only.

SECTION IV. This Ordinance shall take effect and shall become operative twenty (20) days after publication thereof, after final adoption; unless within said twenty (20) days a petition signed by voters of the Township equal in number to at least five (5) percent of the registered voters of said Hope Township, protesting against the adoption of this Ordinance be presented to the Hope Township Committee, in which case the provisions of Section I of this Ordinance, which provides for increased salaries, wages or compensations of the elected officials, shall remain inoperative unless and until a proposition for the ratification of such portions of this Ordinance shall be adopted at an election by a majority of voters voting on said proposition.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced for first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hope held on November 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting of the Township Committee to be held on December 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 407 Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor to introduce this Ordinance amendment.

Ordinance – Public Session/Adoption

Ordinance No. 2021-09 - TABLED

On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk, all in favor, this Ordinance was opened to the public for comment.

Mr. Kruk noted that this Ordinance should be revised to allow for the Hope Township Volunteer Fire Department and the Blairstown Emergency Squad only to be allowed to fundraise on the county road.

Motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – all in favor, to close this Ordinance to input from the public.

Motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes to table this Ordinance for the revision noted above. The clerk will send to the Township attorney for input on this revision.

2021-10

ORDINANCE # 2021-10

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE HOPE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 7 SECTION 14 ENTITLED “PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES ON CERTAIN STREETS” TO INCLUDE THE PROHIBITION ON PARKING ON BOTH SIDES OF COUNTY ROUTE 521, STARTING AT ROUTE 80 NORTH UNTIL TO THE END OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

WHEREAS, The Township Committee for the Township of Hope, County of Warren, in the State of New Jersey has determined that parking should be prohibited on both sides of County Route 521, starting at Route 80 North to the end of the Township property; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee believes that it is in the best interest of the Township to amend its Township Code to ensure that no parking occurs on both sides of the specified County Route.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, Warren County, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1

Chapter 7 Section 14 of the Hope Township Municipal Code entitled “Parking Prohibited at All Times on Certain Streets” shall be amended to include the prohibition on parking on both sides of County Route 521, also known as Hope Blairstown Road, beginning at Route 80 North and ending at the municipal boundary line with Blairstown Township.

Section 2

This ordinance shall take effect immediately after passage.

Section 3

All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the Township of Hope inconsistent herewith are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency

Section 4

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 to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Township of Hope held on October 13, 2021 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Committee to be held on November 10, at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, County Route 611, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Open to the public on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – all in favor.

No public comment.

Closed to the public on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – all in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor, this Ordinance was approved for adoption.

RESOLUTIONS

HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY RESOLUTION REFUNDING 2021 HOMESTEAD BENEFIT BLOCK 600, LOT 1800 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-55

WHEREAS, the property known as 55 Locust Lake Road was sold on March 25, 2021 by Cynthia J McDonald and James Connelly to Michael D Marrash and Julia L Manzi; and,

WHEREAS, McDonald and Connelly were granted a 2017 homestead benefit of \$326.73 which was credited second quarter 2021 property taxes. The new owners, Marrash and Manzi, received the benefit of the credit; and,

WHEREAS, McDonald and Connelly, the former owners of the property, have requested a refund of their 2017 homestead benefit.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 8th day of November 2021 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check in the amount of \$326.73 payable to Cynthia J McDonald and James Connelly of 2250 Vassar Lane in The Villages, FL 32162 to refund the overpayment.

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 – this Resolution was adopted.

HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2021-003 THAT WAS REDEEMED RESOLUTION NO. 2021-56

WHEREAS, the property owned by Boulevard Investments, LLC as block 4600 lot 1100 located at 54 Lakeview Avenue had unpaid 2020 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on 28 January 2021 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and,

WHEREAS, LSG TL Holdings, LLC of 1985 Cedar Bridge Avenue, Suite 1 located in Lakewood, NJ 08701 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2020 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$6,035.15 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2021-003; and,

WHEREAS, 1st Rate Title & Settlement Services, LLC, agent for the supposed buyer of the property, paid \$10,804.53 on 21 October 2021 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate, subsequent taxes, and delinquent taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 10th day of November 2021 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to LSG TL Holdings, LLC in the amount of \$9,402.39 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2021-003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to LSG TL Holdings, LLC in the amount of \$1,000.00 to return a Premium paid at Tax Sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the satisfied executed Tax Sale Certificate 2021-003 be returned to Edward McCloud at 1st Rate Title & Settlement Services, LLC of 115 Route 46 West, Suite F in Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046.

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 – this Resolution was adopted.

Old Business:

Traffic Study – Mayor McDonough noted that Commissioner Sarnoski is in the process of putting together a meeting with the Mayors of White, Hope and Knowlton to discuss the truck traffic issue. Commissioner Sarnoski is in agreeance that trucks be prohibited from turning onto/off of 519 and 521 and has agreed to look into the speed limits on CR 519 south of the Hope intersection.

Trailer Ordinance – tabled until the Zoning Official can attend the meeting to discuss with the Committee.

New Business:

Christmas Tree Lighting – much discussion took place regarding the venue for this since the trees that the Township used to light at the firehouse have been taken down and replaced with a much smaller tree. A tree was planted in front of the Community Center and that was anticipated to be the new site of the tree lighting. However, it was ultimately decided to leave the Township Tree Lighting at the HVFD this year.

Mr. Urfer asked Ms. Marie to have a discussion with the Agricultural Advisory Committee regarding the 2022 budget and what will need to be budgeted for Open Space.

Approval of Minutes: The October 13, 2021 and October 27, 2021 meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk