

**OCTOBER 12, 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; Patti Whitmore, Assistant Event Coordinator and Brielle Whitmore, Event Coordinator.

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 \$399,989.00.

Reports:

Tax Collector: Month Ending September 2022 - \$88,862.99 Y-T-D for 2022 \$4,826,370.25

Mayor Tim McDonough: See remarks below on Truck Traffic and Internet Updates. Mayor McDonough also noted that JCP&L will be in town to make a sweep before winter comes here to manage ash trees.

Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk: spoke briefly about his support for the Resolution passed by the County this evening regarding traffic calming measures and the forward progress that we all hope will be made from this point.

Committeeman Urfer: Spoke about the stormwater runoff concerns on Smith and Ridgeway in the Silver Lake area of town. A plan is being put together to implement some of the recommendations made by our Township engineer’s stormwater expert. Also spoke about obtaining radar signs for use around town and possibly paying for them out of ARPA monies. Mayor McDonough noted that he is currently working with the State Police and County Prosecutor to secure funding to purchase these and asked that we wait a little while longer to see what they can get to us. Mr. Urfer also noted that he’d like to use some of the ARPA funds to purchase LED lights for the firetrucks at a cost of approximately \$3,000. That idea will be considered and decided upon at a later time. Mr. Urfer also noted that he’d like to invite members of the County (a list to be put together) to receive invitations to attend the Moravian Lantern Tour evening compliments of the municipality.

Township Engineer: Not in attendance – provided correspondence for clerk to read to the public.

Events Coordinator: Gave updates on Halloween and Christmas Craft Market. Everything is proceeding smoothly and we have received permission to use Benbrook’s parking lot after they are done with work for the evening for Halloween night. Shuttles are booked for the Christmas Craft Market and the spots are pretty much filled for vendors.

DPW: Hissim Road is scheduled to be paved at the end of October; mowing Swayze around trees; finished up the drainage work on Union Brick Road; dragging baseball fields; fire inspector scheduled to visit in the next week; cleaning up trees, especially ash limbs; continuation of cleaning out storm drains.

Environmental Commission: Ms. Sobon gave updates on Sustainable Jersey – we are certified for another 3 years and had 170 approved points; also discussed climate resiliency needing to be implemented and made a part of the Master Plan; goose control at Swayze Mill by planting native plantings along the shoreline as a buffer and asked for permission to begin this with input from Mr. Whitmore (the Committee was in agreeance) and read a statement regarding the salt shed stating that the Environment Commission is in full support of getting rid of ours in the yard and using the County's. Mr. Kruk stated he has been speaking with Emily Hammer of the County and she is in the process of getting the SOPs to him for Mr. Whitmore to take a look at so that an educated decision can be made regarding this.

Old Business:

Traffic Study – Mayor McDonough reported on this as he, Mr. Kruk and Mr. Urfer had just attended the Warren County Commissioner's meeting prior to our meeting this evening. The County passed a Resolution stating that they are looking into traffic calming measures and doing an engineering study in order to implement those measures on CR 519/521. The County is hopeful and has the ultimate goal of implementing a Truck Traffic Plan that would require trucks of a certain weight limit to use State and Federal highways in accordance with the NJDOT regulations. All three committeemen viewed this Resolution as a step in the right direction and thanked the commissioners for their efforts.

Internet/CenturyLink – Mayor McDonough reported that he had communicated with his contact at Optimum via email regarding the Locust Lake area of the township and some misinformation that was given to a resident from one of their customer service representatives. He also stated that he sent pictures of all of the signs going up around town regarding Planet Network to them, stating that he hoped this would prompt them to work more quickly to help residents obtain the high-speed internet they are looking for.

Tacos Chicas – McKitrick Chabot was in attendance to discuss the venture she brought to the municipality at the last meeting (and the use of either the Community Center or Grange kitchen). She updated everyone on the fact that the Grange is not a certified kitchen according to the Health Department. In order for her to use the Grange, the County engineer would need to do a full report on the well and septic systems considering the age of the building. Therefore, she will not be able to use any of our buildings for her catering business.

New Business:

Use of Facilities – Warren County Crush – for use of Community Center for the 2022/2023 winter. Motioned by Mr. Urfer; Seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor. Fee Waived.

Minutes: The minutes of September 14, 2022 Business and Executive meetings and September 28, 2022 work meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

Public Participation:

Moravian Lantern Tour – Ann Rhinesmith spoke about several requests regarding this event. Requested a permanent light fixture in front of the facility; the date to move the luminaries out of the Community Center is November 12, 2022; will have fliers at the Christmas Craft Market doors; Wi-Fi at all the buildings and rewire the circuit in the Distillery so a heater can run.

Warren County History Trail – Is on November 6, 2022 in Hope Township. \$500 grants being given to each municipality for signage to use on buildings. A motion was made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr.

Urfer and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes to pay for the signs if necessary and get reimbursement from the County.

Patti and Brielle Whitmore spoke about the premium payments made to some employees and their views on that. The Committeemen stated they would take their comments under advisement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 8:38 PM.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P. L 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - A. Litigation

As nearly as can be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

Time In: 8:38 PM

Present: Deputy Mayor Kruk, Committeeman Urfer, Mayor McDonough

Also Present: Robin Keggan, Municipal Clerk

Time Out: 8:43 PM on a motion made by Committeeman Urfer; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Kruk.
All in favor.

Motion made at 8:43 PM to re-open to the public on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – all in favor. No official action was taken.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:44 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk