

**OCTOBER 14, 2020
BUSINESS MEETING**

The Business Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk (Via Zoom) and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer (Via Zoom). Also present were DPW Foreman Donald Whitmore; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Ted Rodman, Township Engineer (Zoom) and Brielle Walsh, Events Coordinator/Sports Director.

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 Star Gazette and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Web and 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.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present

Mr. Kruk – present

Mayor McDonough- present

Reports:

Mayor Tim McDonough:

Committeeman Christopher John Kruk: Noted that a grant was received by the Environmental Commission to improve technologies for the Township. Several individuals are working on this to perhaps improve the Township website and make it more user-friendly as well as looking into an electronic sign for noticing residents about upcoming events/information.

Deputy Mayor Urfer:

Tax Collector's Report: September 2020 - \$42,851.16; YTD \$4,897,209.71

Health Department: No report filed with Clerk.

Hope Volunteer Fire Department Report: No report filed with Clerk.

Township Engineer Report: Mr. Rodman reported that Hope Center coring came back good. Waiting on striping/stop bars (pre-construction meeting being held 10/15/2020 with Ted Rodman, Terry Urfer and Don Whitmore, as well as representative from Denville Striping). Backstops, catch basins and bicycle grates all still need to be installed as well. Should be enough money left in the grant for Tilcon to do this work. Heller Hill was discussed. A cost for the paving will need to be negotiated as the coring came back bad on one side of the road. Mr. Urfer will take the lead on that and work out with Tilcon the penalties, etc.

George Boesze: The Zoning Officer was in attendance and discussed with the Committee and member of the public the possibilities of noise/nuisance ordinances and what they would entail. Noise ordinances from other towns will be looked at for possible implementation in Hope Township. Mr. Kruk asked Mr. Boesze if he would be willing to go out and investigate noise complaints when they occur, to which Mr. Boesze answered in the affirmative but mentioned that he is not in close proximity of the Township. He

suggested perhaps appointing some other Township employees to be able to do the same. This will need to be checked out by the Township attorney. Mr. Urfer asked Mr. Boesze to look into the driveway opening that has been made at the farm on Hope-Blairstown Road. Mr. Boesze noted that that is the County Engineer's jurisdiction and that they need to take the lead on that. They need to acknowledge the driveway opening before he can take any action on a municipal level.

Payment of Bills: Receipts – September \$17,829.73. Bills for the month of October totaled \$620,388.05. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and a Roll call vote: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, payment of bills was approved with the exception of Ch. No. 13429 (Tilcon in the amount of \$12,216.21 – to be negotiated).

RESOLUTIONS:

#2020-63

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, 2020 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.

Motioned - Mr. Urfer; Seconded – Mr. Kruk. All in Favor.

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF WARREN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-64**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE
OF A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,225 FROM THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY FUND TO REIMBURSE
FOR COVID-19 RELATED EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES
DURING THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 30, 2020**

WHEREAS, the State of NJ, Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services has awarded Warren County \$13,225 from the Local Government Emergency fund; and,

WHEREAS, the grant will be to reimburse for necessary and unexpected expenditures necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the grant covers the period of March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hope Township Committee and Chief Financial Officer are authorized to execute the grant agreement and other required documents.

1st: Mr. Kruk
2nd: Mr. Urfer

Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes Mr. Kruk – yes Mayor McDonough – yes

RESOLUTION 2020-65

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY REQUESTING THE IMPOSITION OF WEIGHT RESTRICTION ON COUNTY
ROUTES 519 AND 521 BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope is bisected by County Route 521 otherwise known as Hope Blairstown Road and County Route 519 otherwise known as Hope Bridgeville Road; and

WHEREAS, these two roadways are used by residents and visitors to gain access to and from Interstate Highway Route 80; and

WHEREAS, these two roadways are also used by semi-tractor-trailer and large dump trucks; and

WHEREAS, these semi-tractor-trailer and large dump trucks pose a safety hazard to motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians who also travel along these roadways, and

WHEREAS, these semi-tractor-trailer and large dump trucks severely diminish the quality of life for the residents and visitors to Hope Township through an increase in traffic, noise, and pollution; and

WHEREAS, the governing body for the Township of Hope believes that the imposition of a weight restriction on these roadways would serve to promote the public health, safety, and welfare by forcing semi-tractor-trailer and large dump trucks to use the alternate route previously designated by the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation that can better accommodate these types of vehicles

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee to the Township of Hope submits to the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation, this Resolution in support of the imposition of a weight restriction on County Routes 519 and 521 at the point of intersection in the Township of Hope northward to the interchange of U.S. Interstate Highway Route 80 and southbound to the intersection of Route 46 in the Township of White.

Motioned – Mr. Kruk; Seconded – Mr. Urfer. All in favor.

ORDINANCES: Second Reading and Public Hearing

Mr. Kruk motioned to open this Ordinance up for comment to the general public; Mr. Urfer seconded. All in favor.

Hearing no comments, Mr. Kruk motioned to close general public comment session; Mr. Urfer seconded. All in favor.

Motion to move and adopt 2020-06 was made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

2020-06

AN ORDINANCE 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 2020

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 2020, retroactive to January 1, 2020 at the amounts set forth herein below:

A. Mayor

\$ 3,054.00 per annum

B. Committeeman (not serving as Mayor)	\$ 2,695.00 per annum
C. Municipal Clerk/Registrar	\$63,750.00 per annum
D. Deputy Municipal Clerk/Registrar	\$ 19.20 per hour
E. Chief Financial Officer	\$13,069.00 per annum
F. Treasurer	\$ 5,801.00 per annum
G. Qualified Purchasing Agent	\$ 1.00 per annum
H. Collector of Taxes	\$25,368.00 per annum
I. Deputy Tax Collector	\$ 2,432.00 per annum
J. Tax Search Officer	\$ 3,337.00 per annum
K. Assessor of Taxes	\$18,983.00 per annum
L. Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 1,691.00 per annum
M. Public Works Foreman	\$ 30.28 per hour
N. DPW Laborer	\$ 19.62 per hour
O. Equipment Operator PT/Seasonal	\$ 19.33 per hour
P. Code Enforcement Officer	\$10,200.00 per annum
Q. Christmas Market/Public Relations Coordinator	\$ 9,094.00 per annum
R. Animal Control Officer	\$ 7,064.00 per annum
	\$ 23.56 per hour/court
S. Dog Licensing Clerk	\$ 707.00 per annum
T. Temporary Clerical Assistant	\$ 15.61 per hour
U. Custodian	\$ 14.21 per hour
V. Secretary to the Planning Board	\$12,744.00 per annum
	\$ 170.00 per meeting
W. Secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$ 4,657.00 per annum
	\$ 170.00 per meeting
X. Secretary to the Historic Preservation Commission	\$ 1,536.00 per annum
Y. Secretary to the Environmental Commission	\$ 1,507.00 per annum
Z. Sports Director	
(a) Soccer Director	\$ 3,179.00 per annum
(b) Basketball Director	\$ 3,857.00 per annum
(c) Baseball/Softball Director	\$ 4,631.00 per annum
AA. Court Administrator	\$ 24.52 per hour
	\$ 62.00 per call out
BB. Deputy Court Administrator/Violations Clerk	\$ 18.31 per hour
CC. Court Reporter	\$ 18.31 per hour
DD. Violations Clerk:	\$35,000.00 per annum
EE. Municipal Court Prosecutor	\$ 501.00 per session
FF. Municipal Court Judge	\$29,237.00 per annum
GG. Municipal Court Treasurer	\$ 4,086.00 per annum
HH. Municipal Court Officer – Level I	\$ 133.00 per session
II. Municipal Court Officer – Level II	\$ 27.73 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 September 9, 2020 at 4:00 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 October 14, 2020 at 4:00P.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.

Old Business:

Traffic Update: Mayor McDonough noted that things are progressing and he has been working with the DOT on the truck traffic through Town Center. He pointed to the Resolution that was passed at this meeting (2020-65) as part of the ongoing work taking place.

Internet: Still in negotiations with Altice. Trying to ensure that the surrounding municipalities are all receiving the best services possible and are all treated fairly/equally before signing anything. No franchise agreement will be signed until satisfactory revisions are made to the Agreement. Mr. Kruk noted that when calling Service Electric (Altice bought them out, but the number is still found under Service Electric) their message still states you are calling Service Electric. Question was raised as to when Altice “officially” takes over. Mayor McDonough noted that any households that are in need of hooking up from the street to their home need to call the municipal building and get information to Mrs. Belstra.

Halloween: Moving forward at this point with trunk or treat and shutting down/decorating of Walnut Street. More details will be being made public in the coming days.

New Business:

Best Practices: Mayor McDonough noted that Best Practices is due November 3 and that he and Mrs. Keggan have been working on it. This helps the municipality to obtain state aid/grants.

Municipal Court: Talks are ongoing regarding Blairstown joining the NW Municipal Court.

9/11 Memorial – Mr. Urfer noted that the memorial was finally able to be removed from the old Tramontin building and, on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk, all in favor, it was passed to move ownership of the 9/11 Memorial from the Town to the Hope Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Stroud (All Terrain) was instrumental in removing the granite towers from the Tramontin Building.

Official Hope Township Facebook Page: Still in the works. Will be informational only. No commenting will be allowed on this page.

10 Oakland Avenue – Township owned piece of property was offered via certified and regular mail sent by the Municipal Clerk to adjacent property owners. One bid was received and accepted for \$100.00. Motion made by Mr. Urfer; Seconded by Mr. Kruk. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer- yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes. This motion was made subject to this property being deed restricted (no residence may be built on this property).

Sandy Urgo/SADC: A memo was sent to the municipal clerk regarding a farm that is going into preservation. The Township Committee was asked to approve the offer price of \$4,000 per acre (total cost to the Township of \$33,823 to be paid from Open Space). Mr. Urfer motioned to approve this offer subject to the property owner accepting this offer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer - yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Public.

Several members of the public called in to voice their concerns regarding a farm on Hope-Blairstown Road. Noise and traffic are a main concern. Mr. Boesze asked residents if they could ask for police reports if they call in complaints to the State Police. These will be paramount in helping the Township should this end up going to Court. Mayor McDonough noted that the WC Board of Health; DEP; NJ State Police; WC Soil Conservation and WC Engineer's office are all involved in the investigation of this property and the activities that have been ongoing. It will take some time to put together, but the Committee is pushing hard to get some action taken as soon as possible for relief to the residents in the area and elsewhere that are concerned with this ongoing situation.

Approval of Minutes: None

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk