

**OCTOBER 26, 2022
WORK MEETING**

The Business 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, Deputy Mayor John Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Donald Whitmore, DPW Foreman and several members of the public.

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.

Executive Session:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 2:01 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. Personnel Matters
 - B. Potential 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: 2:01 PM

Present: Deputy Mayor Kruk, Committeeman Urfer, Mayor McDonough; Donald Whitmore (2:00-2:15); Josh Miller (2:15-2:35); Zondra Belstra and Robin Keggan (2:35-3:00).

Personnel Matters

3:00 – 3:11 was dedicated to potential litigation matters with only the Township Committee and Municipal Clerk present.

Time Out: 3:11 PM on a motion made by Committeeman Urfer; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Kruk. All in favor.

Motion made at 3:11 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.

After Executive Session ended, the Committee and the DPW Foreman toured the DPW garage and the Grange Building to discuss projects/grounds updates and lay out a plan for capital expenditures for equipment that needed to be replaced.

The Township Committee and DPW Foreman were back at the municipal building at 4 PM and the regular work session promptly began.

Mr. Urfer spoke about 549 Blirstown Road which was discussed in Executive Session and now able to be disclosed. It was noted that the Committee accepted the opinions of the LSRP from French & Parrello (the Township's LSRP) and the LSRP from PEAK Environmental (549 Blirstown Road's LSRP) that the soil imported to the site of 549 Blirstown Road was deemed clean and that this issue is now closed as far as the Township is concerned. It was also noted though that if 549 Blirstown Road decided to import more soil, they would need to come before the Zoning Board/Committee for a soil import permit.

Committeeman Kruk: Mr. Kruk made mention that there were many upcoming events in Hope Township and the surrounding area and asked that everyone get the word out.

Committeeman Urfer: Mr. Urfer discussed the speed bumps and signage for same. He and Mr. Whitmore will discuss the installation of them (possible installation on Cedar Street for 30 days before snow season starts); also discussed the ARPA monies and using \$3,000 of it to purchase LED lights for the Township-owned fire truck. Mr. Urfer made a motion to purchase these lights at a cost of up to \$3,000 and Mr. Kruk seconded. Roll called Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes. A swale needs to be made on Smith Street and a discussion took place with the DPW foreman about this. Mr. Urfer and Mr. Whitmore will meet to discuss how to implement this. Mr. Urfer mentioned that the State Fire Inspector inspected our buildings (particularly the Grange) and needs a quote within 30 days for new fire doors.

Mr. Urfer also made mention of an air quality test that Mayor Starrs is having done in Knowlton should also be done here in Hope Township. Mayor McDonough will look into this. He also asked for an update on the status of using the County salt shed. Mr. Kruk stated he had not obtained a definitive answer yet.

Community Center grant is going well.

Mayor McDonough: Noted that a meeting with the NJDOT, NJSP, County and Hope Township will be held on November 10, 2022 to iron out a final plan for truck traffic on CR 519. Also noted that Bright Speed received BPU permission last Friday to take over CenturyLink for cabling and phone lines. Mr. Kruk noted that areas that already have choices should not be cabled by Bright Speed before areas that have no choices are. Mayor McDonough will give Mr. Kruk contact information for Bright Speed so that they are able to have a conversation regarding the need for certain areas of Hope Township to be cabled.

Resolutions:

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION 2022-46**

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN
THE 2022 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948)**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount, thereof, was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

WHEREAS, the director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township Hope, County of Warren, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sum of \$97,184.76, which is available from the American Rescue Plan Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$97,184.76 is hereby appropriated under the caption “American Rescue Plan Act”.

New Business:

Planning Board/Zoning Board of Adjustment Secretary: Ms. Schemm handed in her letter of resignation and will be retiring as of December 31. The municipality will be actively looking for an new secretary.

Planning Board Recommendation: The Planning Board sent a memo to the Clerk that they are making the recommendation of changing the POP Zone to the Commercial Zone and including the lot that contains the old Tramontin Motorcycle Building in that zone. This recommendation will be noted and will be compiled with the ongoing work the Planning Board is doing leading up to the Master Plan Re-Exam in 2026.

Best Practices: The Clerk and Mayor discussed Best Practices Inventory for 2022. The questions that need to be answered are ready for submittal to the State and the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed and certified them.

Public Participation:

Monica Sobon spoke about the calendar for 2023. The calendar is going to go to print as soon as possible with the hopes that it will be available at the Christmas Craft Market. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, Ms. Sobon was given permission to order 200 calendars at a cost of \$1,190.00 (\$5.95 each).

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.

After adjourning, the Township Committee announced quickly to the public in attendance that they would be entering back into an Executive Session. Motion was made by Mr. Urfer and seconded by Mr. Kruk, all in favor, to re-open the meeting and re-enter into Executive Session at 4:55 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 4:55 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:

3. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting
4. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - C. Contract Negotiations

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: 4:55 PM

Present: Deputy Mayor Kruk, Committeeman Urfer, Mayor McDonough.

Also Present: Robin Keggan, Municipal Clerk

Time Out: 5:35 PM on a motion made by Committeeman Urfer; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Kruk.
All in favor.

Motion made at 5:35 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.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting for the evening at 5:36 PM by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk