

**OCTOBER 28, 2020  
WORK MEETING**

The Work 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 and Patti Whitmore, 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 meeting by raising their hand with the use of the appropriate button to do so on their electronic device during the public session portion of the meeting. Questions may also be submitted to the Municipal Clerk by 12 PM up to one day **PRIOR** to the meeting to be read into the record. The public is obligated to disclose their full name, residence address and email address in any question/statement sent to the Municipal Clerk. Any question not meeting the above-described timeframe will be handled at the next available Township Committee meeting .

**Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present**

**Mr. Kruk – present**

**Mayor McDonough- present**

**Reports:**

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** Mayor McDonough reported that 525 Blairstown Road situation is still being .

**Committeeman Christopher John Kruk:** spoke about the playground that was installed at Swayze Mill with the help of volunteers. Only thing left to do is put down mulch. This playground was fundraised for with assistance from Miss Walsh and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Girl Scouts. Mayor McDonough stated that they can use some of the funds received from Wal-Mart to help pay for the mulch. Also made note that the Beatty Field Dedication took place at Swayze Mill on October 24 and went over well.

**Deputy Mayor Urfer:** requested the proceeds from the auction of 6 Walnut Street be earmarked for the DPW to help clean up the DPW yard.

**DPW:** Reported having a hard time finding new Christmas tree lights for the tree lighting. He is still working on finding replacements.

**Township Engineer Report:** reported that a meeting with Tilcon for the line striping was taking place October 28. Also line striping will be done on Foundry and Heller Hill Road at the same time. The Ecoguards and bicycle grates were ordered through Tilcon.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL  
PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP  
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-66**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee previously authorized the auction of properties owned by the Township and no longer needed for public use; and,

**WHEREAS**, on October 6, 2020 the Township held a public auction for 6 Walnut Street. Said auction was properly noticed and run for two (2) consecutive weeks in the Official Newspaper of the Township of Hope, the auction being held at the Municipal Building and conducted by the Hope Township Tax Assessor; and,

**WHEREAS**, at the October 14, 2020 Township Committee meeting, a sealed bid was opened that was received for the purchase of 10 Oakland Avenue. The Municipal clerk sent out letters, regular mail and certified return receipt requested, to adjacent property owners with the offer to receive sealed bids at the municipal office and stated that at the Township Committee meeting held on October 14, 2020, any bids would be opened; and,

**WHEREAS**, the following bidders were the high bidders:

<b><u>Bidder</u></b>	<b><u>Property</u></b>	<b><u>Block/Lot</u></b>	<b><u>Bid Amount</u></b>
Robert C. May	6 Walnut Street	2400/200	\$30,000.00
John Mikesh	10 Oakland Avenue	4200/500	\$ 100.00

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee desires to accept the bids and authorize the transfer of property upon receipt of aforementioned considerations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee, Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that all of the above-referenced bids are accepted and the Township Attorney is hereby directed to prepare any and all documents necessary to effectuate the closing and transfer of title and the Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to sign any documents necessary to effectuate the transfer.

Motioned to accept by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer. Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING STANDARD PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS  
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT MADE DURING REMOTE PUBLIC MEETINGS,  
AS WELL AS PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED IN WRITING AHEAD  
OF THE REMOTE PUBLIC MEETING  
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-67**

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of P.L. 2020, c. 34 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-18.11) expressly permits a local public body to conduct a meeting remotely by electronic means during a state of emergency, so long as reasonable public notice and provision for public input is made under the circumstances; and,

**WHEREAS**, the new rules are adopted on an emergency basis and were effective upon acceptance for filing by the Office of Administrative Law (see N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4(c.), as implemented by N.J.A.C. 1:30-6.5(b)). Concurrently; and,

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 et seq. establishes the purpose of these emergency adopted and concurrently proposed rules, namely to allow public bodies to conduct public business in an open and transparent manner when circumstances of a declared emergency reasonably prevent a public meeting from safely being held in a physical location; defines the key terms used in this chapter; permits a local body to hold a remote public meeting if a declared emergency prevents a local public body from conducting business at a meeting where the public can physically attend; establishes minimum technological and procedural requirements for remote public meetings; generally requires remote public meetings to be noticed both by “adequate notice” and “electronic notice”; states that a public body entering into executive or closed session shall ensure that all audio/video of the session cannot be accessed, except by those individuals authorized to do so and establishes requirements for land use boards holding public hearings on development applications through remote public meetings; and,

**WHEREAS**, all meetings are normally held at 407 Hope Great Meadows Road, Hope, NJ 07844. Due to the Governor’s mandates/Executive Order for the State of Emergency (Public Health), members of the public are invited to attend the Township Committee meetings via the Zoom virtual meeting service. Please contact the Clerk by email at [townclerk@hopetwp-nj.us](mailto:townclerk@hopetwp-nj.us), check the township website at [hopetownship.com](http://hopetownship.com) or call 908-459-5011 x 1 for instructions on how to access the meeting. Members of the public will be given the opportunity to provide comments during Public Session by raising their hand in the Zoom app. When members of the public sign into the meeting, they will be muted by the host and unmuted if commenting/asking a question. Members of the public may also send written questions to the above email address to be read into the record during business and work meetings; and,

**WHEREAS**, meetings are to continue being held virtually through the Zoom app until the Governor’s Executive Order(s) have been lifted and at which time the public is again permitted to be in the building. The decision to hold this meeting via electronic means has been made in compliance with P.L. 2020, c.11

given the current circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 health situation, the limitations imposed under the Governor's Executive Orders 104 and 107, the physical limitations of the chambers and the importance of social distancing. Official Action may be taken; and,

**WHEREAS**, as described above, members of the public will be admitted into the virtual (Zoom) meeting and immediately placed on mute by the host. Once the Township Committee calls for or allows public comments/questions, members of the public wishing to speak must raise their "hand" using the appropriate function on their electronic device which allows them to raise their hand. Each member will be allowed to speak/ask their question, with a reasonable time for same allowed, and allow the appropriate member(s) of the Committee to respond. If a member of the public becomes disruptive during a remote public meeting, including during any period for public comment, the member of the local public body charged with running the remote public meeting shall mute or continue muting, or direct appropriate staff to mute or continue muting, the disruptive member of the public and warn that continued disruption may result in their being prevented from speaking during the remote public meeting or removed from the remote public meeting. Disruptive conduct includes sustained inappropriate behaviors, such as, but not necessarily limited to, shouting, interruption, and use of profanity; and,

**WHEREAS**, a member of the public who continues to act in a disruptive manner after receiving an initial warning may be muted while other members of the public are allowed to proceed with their questions or comments. If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to make their comment. Should the person remain disruptive, the individual may be muted or kept on mute for the remainder of the remote public meeting, or removed from the remote public meeting; and,

**WHEREAS**, any questions received in writing ahead of the scheduled Township Committee meeting will be read into the record and responded to during the public comment session. Any person submitting a question ahead of the meeting will be obligated to submit their full name, physical address and email address in order to have that question read and heard by the Township Committee; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that these are the guidelines/protocols that the Hope Township Committee will implement during the time that the Township Committee meetings will be held virtually until such time as the Municipal Building is once again open to the public for public meetings.

Motioned to accept by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer. All in favor.

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF WARREN  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN  
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-68**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION  
FOR GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY FUND (CRF) GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, as the public health emergency associated with COVID-19 pandemic continues, the most significant negative financial impacts faced by county and municipal governments through New Jersey result from extreme economic contraction, deficits in tax and fee revenues, and extraordinary increases in public safety and health and human services expenditures; and,

**WHEREAS**, severe fiscal stress limits the ability of counties and municipalities to maintain essential services and take the steps necessary to fight COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, without substantial federal assistance, residential taxpayers would absorb the primary impact of meeting these extraordinary needs and closing any associated operating deficits; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”), through the Division of Local Government Services (“DLGS” OR “Division”), has been deemed the lead agency for the distribution of the Local Government Emergency Fund (the “LGEF” or “Program”), provided through an allocation of the State of New Jersey CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF Funds); and,

**WHEREAS**, counties and municipalities excluded from the federal government’s direct CRF allocation plan, as well as those counties and municipalities that are currently the most impacted by COVID-19 in comparison to their available resources, are eligible for LGEF funds pursuant to a maximum distribution determined by formula; and,

**WHEREAS**, a total of \$60 million is currently being made available under the Program, with a potential \$60 million more to be allocated; and,

**WHEREAS**, LGEF Grants exist to support costs incurred as part of a local unit’s response to COVID-19.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of Hope, that the Township of Hope will apply for a LGEF Grant in the amount of \$13,225.

1<sup>st</sup>: Mr. Kruk  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Urfer

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

**Old Business:**

**Internet** – Mayor McDonough spoke about the Ordinance the Township had received from Altice/Service Electric. Mr. Selvaggi has already looked over the Ordinance and provided a copy to the Township for their review. Mayor McDonough stated there are still some things that need to be tightened up and he will be continuing to work on it.

**Traffic Study** – attended via conference call on 10/26 with Warren County (Dave Dech) regarding a Light Industrial Assessment Plan that was put together. It determines the impact of development on towns. It is something that should be studied by the Planning Board (with no professionals involved). There is a meeting being set up with the DOT, State Police, Warren County and Hope Township regarding the weight limits on 519/521.

**Tilcon** – Mr. Urfer will put a meeting together with Mr. Rodman, Mr. Whitmore and Tilcon so that a negotiated price can be struck for the paving of Heller Hill. Heller Hill will be getting striped when Blairstown does their portion. It is a very small portion of striping plus a stop bar.

**Halloween** – Festivities will begin at 5:30 and end at 9. Walnut Street will be closed by 2 pm so that it can be decorated for evening. Parade with social distancing will take place. Donuts and hot chocolate will be available.

**New Business:**

**Ordinance** – Altice/Service Electric Ordinance is being reviewed by Mayor McDonough for additional changes. The firehouse, school and municipal building should all be added into the ordinance. One change that was noted was the number of houses per mile being lowered from 25 to 20 (Section 8). In Section 7 “Primary Service Area” should come out and “entire town” should be put in its place. Section 17 the senior discount rate needs to be addressed. Also a public channel for Hope Township. The Mayor read a list of the roads that need to be addressed in the agreement.

**Public Participation:**

Members of the public spoke about the internet issues ongoing in the Township, particularly members from Lake Just-It Road, Nightingale Road and the area of Koeck/Delaware Road. The Committee impressed on members of the public that they are working diligently to get things moving.

A member of the public spoke about surveys she did pertaining to the town with Sustainable Jersey and requested further information from the municipality to ensure that the information she gives them will be the most helpful to the municipality.

A member of the public requested use of a Township building for wrestling practices. The Committee has asked that she submit her Covid cleaning protocols for review as well as a Use of Facilities request before determining if this is something the Township is interested in doing.

**Approval of Minutes:** September 23, 2020 work meeting and October 14, 2020 business minutes were approved on a motion from Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer and all in favor.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Municipal Clerk