

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2020  
BUSINESS MEETING**

The Business Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:10 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer. 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 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:** Mayor McDonough noted that the State Budget is to be passed on 9/24/2020. Clean Communities money will stay the same; Municipal Aid is staying flat and Contra Aid is staying flat. All good news. Mayor McDonough also noted that the Blairstown Police Department has approached him about becoming part of our Court. Those discussions will be ongoing. Mr. Urfer and Mr. Kruk were both on board with them joining NW Municipal Court if the court personnel are of like mindset.

**Committeeman Christopher John Kruk:** Mr. Kruk asked that the DPW provide written summary of work that was done throughout the course of the week so that any residents with questions can be kept up to date. Mr. Whitmore stated he had done that in the past, and has no issue with providing it again.

**Deputy Mayor Urfer:** Welcomed Mr. Whitmore back to work (out on worker's compensation due to an injury). Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Urfer noted that they are looking into containers for placement in the DPW yard to take the place of the shed that is currently there and poses a hazard. \$2,150 for a small one; \$2,350 for a large one (40' long). The longer one can be incorporated into helping to form the salt shed. Mr. Urfer mentioned that he is in the process of obtaining information regarding garbage cans in the center of town and possibly putting an ordinance in place. Mrs. Belstra will send the copy of another town's ordinance she located to the HPC for comment.

DPW: Mr. Whitmore reported that he was able to fix the backhoe, but that a new one must be thought about. He has begun looking into leasing one. Also noted that a pick-up truck needs to be purchased. Mrs. Keggan made mention that if a pick-up truck is purchased through the co-op, no bids will be required to be obtained. The mason dump truck injectors need to be replaced (\$3,000). It was decided to hold on that repair as the truck is still in running condition.

**Tax Collector's Report:** August - \$1,049,059.15 Y-T-D \$4,854,358.55

**Township Engineer Report:** Hope Center coring was done, no penalties. Still waiting for striping to be done. Mr. Rodman has a call into Denville Line Painting. Mr. Urfer and Mr. Whitmore asked to be part of the pre-construction meeting for the line painting. The Eco-Guards and bicycle grates (\$188 each through the co-op) are being looked into. Mr. Rodman is putting together numbers to let the Township Committee know what amount of the grant for paving Town Center has been used so they may ascertain if they have enough to purchase the grates and backstops in the grant. Mr. Whitmore will double check the amount of grates and backstops that need to be ordered (6 or 8). Heller Hill Road was paved (Hope Township portion). Coring came back with one good result and one bad result (2 samples taken). Mr. Urfer asked for confirmation of which coring hole was the good versus the bad one so that a meeting/conversation can take place with Tilcon regarding the cost of the job.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN  
RESOLUTION CANCELLING CEMETERY ROAD OVERLAY  
PROJECT GRANT MONIES UNUSED**

**RESOLUTION 2020-59**

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed the Grant Receivables and Appropriation Reserves and finds that there are balances which are no longer valid and may be cancelled to Operations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that the following unexpended and dedicated balances be cancelled to **OPERATIONS**:

<b><u>Grant Description</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Cemetery Road DOT Receivable	\$13,094.63
Appropriated Reserve – Cemetery Road	\$13,094.63

On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and motioned to pass by roll call vote as follows: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
APPROVING INN AT MILLRACE POND PLENARY RETAIL  
CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 2111-33-004-004  
RESOLUTION 2020-62**

**WHEREAS**, The Inn at Millrace Pond holds a Plenary Retail Consumption License #2111-33-004-004; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inn at Millrace Pond has filed an application to renew said license for the 2020/2021 license term; and

**WHEREAS**, the application, fees and New Jersey Division of Taxation Clearance Certificate has been filed with the Municipal Clerk.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Plenary Retail Consumption License be renewed for The Inn at Millrace Pond for the 2020/2021 license term.

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

### **Old Business:**

**Internet** – Planet Networks is in the process of getting funding together to start running cable at the end of Delaware Road where it meets Koeck Road to help the customers at the end of town. Mayor McDonough reported that he, Mayor Starrs (Knowlton), First Hope Bank and NJEDA are in the process of setting up a meeting regarding this.

A new contract was sent by Altice (bought out Service Electric) for the municipalities to sign. Mayor McDonough reported that there were not enough concessions in the contract for the municipalities to sign yet and that Altice needs to do better.

**Traffic Study** – Mayor McDonough spoke to Freeholder Kern regarding the traffic studies. Mr. Kern asked that a Mayor McDonough reach out to the NJDOT to set up a meeting with the Commissioner. The Commissioner is in the process of setting up a meeting within the next few weeks with the County Administrator, County Engineer and the NJ State Police along with various other representatives.

### **New Business:**

**Trout Alley** – Received a quote for \$900.00 for repairing the rotted out stairs in Trout Alley. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll call – Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes the motion was moved to pass and approve this repair/quote. A snow plowing bid was also received from Drake's Landscaping which was not discussed in lieu of waiting for another quote to be obtained. Note was made that Mr. Lytle and Mr. Skow are also available to help with snow plowing (they are already employees of the Township). One more quote for \$1600 was received for putting millings down at Swayze Mill Park for a base. Next year the Township will tar and chip the road. Motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – Roll call: Mr. Urfer- yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes. Motion passed to allow work to be done.

**Security System** – The municipal clerk received three quotes for a security system and camera for the outside (courtyard). This need is of high priority for the safety for the Court personnel and also to allow a voter ballot box to be placed in the courtyard by the Board of Elections. Mr. Duffy spoke to the clerk regarding interest in having a box placed in Hope Township. The Township Committee was positive in their response to wanting one, as well as the clerk. However, that necessitated having a camera available to monitor the box at all times. The winning quote was provided by Contral Security at a cost to be split amongst the three courts that are housed in the North Warren Municipal Court (White, Hardwick and Hope). The approximate cost of the system (barring any upgraded items) is \$3,784.00. Motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

**Hope Resident Letter** – A letter is being put together by the Township Committee/Municipal Clerk for inclusion in the tax bills to be sent out to the Hope Township residents giving them a brief update on things around town and involving the municipality.

**Auction of 6 Walnut Street** – The auction will take place on October 6, 2020 at 5 pm at the Hope Township Municipal Building. Rich Motyka will be auctioning off the property on behalf of the Township. Resolution No. 2020-61 was passed at the September 9, 2020 Business meeting setting forth all of the guidelines and description of how the auction will proceed. A point of clarification in that Resolution was made by Mayor McDonough regarding Condition 8. The current wording in the Resolution states that the successful bidder obtains any variances and/or approvals to apply for a building permit "... to construct a single-family home on the property". Mayor McDonough clarified that to mean that the Township wishes the successful bidder to be able to "repair, renovate or restore the current residence on the property, or to obtain any variances and/or approvals to construct a single-family residence on said property, at bidder's option". The Township Committee were all in agreement with this clarification.

**Halloween** – Halloween is still going on as planned. Brielle and Patti are putting plans in place to close and decorate the entirety of Walnut Street as the event will be held totally outside this year. The parade will take place. A hayride for the younger children is being discussed as a possibility. Trunk-or-Treat will also be taking place.

**Beatty Field Dedication** – Will be held at Swayze on October 24 sometime between 9 am and 1 pm (time to be ascertained according to soccer schedule/games). Mr. Whitmore asked for the positioning of the sign to be put in as soon as possible so that he can make preparations for that to be installed. Brielle will be getting apple cider and apple cider donuts for the public that attends.

**Public Participation:**

Members of the public spoke about the internet issues ongoing in the Township. Please see Internet under Old Business for further details.

Mrs. Sobon discussed ordering calendars for Hope Township with the Committee. Mr. Urfer suggested 250 be ordered. Also discussed was the rain barrel that the Environmental Commission has ordered and its placement. The PIE grant that the Environmental Commission has applied for was also discussed.

**Approval of Minutes:**

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