

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2021
BUSINESS MEETING**

The Work Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 6:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Don Whitmore, DPW Foreman; Brielle Whitmore Public Events Coordinator; George Boesze, Zoning Official; Michael Selvaggi, Esq, Township Attorney and Ted Rodman, Township Engineer.

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 Express Times NJ Edition and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Web and Bulletin Boards.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present

Mr. Kruk – present

Mayor McDonough- present

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 6:05 PM.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Pubic 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. 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: 6:05 PM

Present: Committeeman Kruk, Committeeman Urfer, Mayor McDonough, Michael Selvaggi, Esq., Township attorney; George Boesze, Zoning Official, Alan DeCarolis, ACO; Zondra Belstra, Deputy Clerk.

Also Present: Robin Keggan, Municipal Clerk

Time Out: 6:49 PM

A motion made by Committeeman Urfer, seconded by Committeeman Kruk and carried to return to regular session. No Official Actions were taken.

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor to re-open the meeting to the public at 6:50 p.m.

Payment of Bills: Receipts received for August 2021 \$6,752.00

Bills totaling \$369,677.76 for the month of September. On a motion made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough, bill were authorized to be paid with the exception of Ch. No. 14043 (made payable to Mr. Urfer). A separate motion was made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mayor McDonough – roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – abstain; Mayor McDonough – yes to pay Ch. No. 14043.

Reports:

Tax Collector: \$1,427,468.83 August 2021 collections \$4,711,419.90 Y-T-D collections.

Hope Volunteer Fire Department: Reports for June, July and August 2021 are on file in the clerk's office.

NW Municipal Court: July 2021 financial report was provided by the Court Administrator. On file in the clerk's office.

Committeeman Urfer:

Mosquito commission is spraying area homes due to the mosquito infestations. Also mentioned that the Committee needs to start looking at giving the Zoning official more hours due to his workload. Updated the Committee on the bid package for the Community Center grant. Hoping to have the package in hand by September's end.

Deputy Mayor John Kruk:

Reminded everyone that the 9/11 memorial service is at 10 am at the HVFD. Also that Sunday at the Township Picnic the HVFD will be serving free beer. Goose hunting will be done for two day (to be determined) during the month of September. Swayze Mill park will be closed down for a few hours early morning on those dates. Motion was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk all in favor to allow this to occur.

Mayor Timothy McDonough:

Updated the public regarding the truck traffic. A meeting is being put together with Commissioner Kern; Mayor of White Township; Mayor of Hope Township; NJDOT; David Dech; State Police and the County Administrator to discuss this on-going issue and to try to determine ways in which to help Hope Township with this problem.

Township Engineer Report: Ridgeway Avenue is set to begin being paved the week of September 21, 2021. Submittal of the second part of Hissim Road (Section 2 and guiderails) will be done once the Resolution is approved at this evening's meeting. Heller Hill was fog sealed in an effort to fix the paving problems ongoing on that road. It was noted that the road was opened too early and that the tar from the sealing was driven through and brought out onto Route 521. Core samples were taken from Heller Hill and they turned out OK. Stop bars still need to be paved. Yellow striping needs to be looked at again if the tar is still lifting and being tracked.

DPW/Road Dept:

Mr. Whitmore gave an update on what has been accomplished since the last meeting. Some of the items that have been accomplished are: finishing FEMA paperwork with the clerk for Storm Orlena; sitting with the clerk and insurance carrier to go over insurance renewal (DPW equipment/municipally owned buildings); repair of fencing at school and Swayze Park; prep work for Ridgeway Avenue paving; moving of millings from Swayze Park; repairs to Old Union Brick Road.

Brielle Whitmore/Public Events Coordinator: Gave an update on the picnic event scheduled for September 12, 2021. Noted that the Lion’s Club from Belvidere has offered to help set up and break down.

Ordinances – Public Session and Adoption:

Motioned by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk to open to the public for discussion. All in favor.
No comments made by the public.

Motioned by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk to close to the public for discussion. All in favor.

Motioned by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk to adopt the 2021 Salary Ordinance. Roll called: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

2021-08

**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 2021**

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 2021, retroactive to January 1, 2021 at the amounts set forth herein below:

A. Mayor	\$ 3,115.00 per annum
B. Committeeman (not serving as Mayor)	\$ 2,750.00 per annum
C. Municipal Clerk/Registrar	\$65,025.00 per annum
D. Deputy Municipal Clerk/Registrar	\$ 19.58 per hour
E. Chief Financial Officer	\$13,330.00 per annum
F. Treasurer	\$ 5,917.00 per annum
G. Qualified Purchasing Agent	\$ 1.00 per annum
H. Collector of Taxes	\$25,875.00 per annum
I. Deputy Tax Collector	\$ 2,481.00 per annum
J. Tax Search Officer	\$ 3,404.00 per annum
K. Assessor of Taxes	\$19,363.00 per annum
L. Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 1,725.00 per annum
M. Public Works Foreman	\$ 30.89 per hour
N. DPW Laborer	\$ 20.01 per hour
O. Equipment Operator PT/Seasonal	\$ 19.72 per hour
P. Code Enforcement Officer	\$10,404.00 per annum
Q. Christmas Market/Public Events Coordinator	\$ 9,276.00 per annum
R. Assistant Public Events Coordinator	\$ 14.50 per hour
S. Animal Control Officer	\$ 7,205.00 per annum
	\$ 24.03 per hour/court
T. Dog Licensing Clerk	\$ 721.00 per annum
U. Temporary Clerical Assistant	\$ 15.92 per hour

V. Custodian	\$ 14.50 per hour
W. Secretary to the Planning Board	\$13,000.00 per annum
	\$ 173.00 per meeting
X. Secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$ 4,750.00 per annum
	\$ 173.00 per meeting
Y. Secretary to the Historic Preservation Commission	\$ 1,567.00 per annum
Z. Secretary to the Environmental Commission	\$ 1,537.00 per annum
AA. Sports Director	
(a) Soccer Director	\$ 3,243.00 per annum
(b) Basketball Director	\$ 3,934.00 per annum
(c) Baseball/Softball Director	\$ 4,724.00 per annum
BB. Court Administrator	\$50,000.00 per annum (eff. 3/24/2021)
	\$ 63.25 per call out
CC. Deputy Court Administrator/Violations Clerk	\$ 24.52 per hour
DD. Court Reporter	\$ 24.52 per hour
EE. Violations Clerk:	\$ 18.30 per hour
FF. Municipal Court Prosecutor	\$ 511.00 per session
GG. Municipal Court Judge	\$29,822.00 per annum
HH. Municipal Court Treasurer	\$ 4,186.00 per annum
II. Municipal Court Officer – Level I	\$ 136.00 per session
JJ. Municipal Court Officer – Level II	\$ 28.28 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 August 11 at 7:00 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 September 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.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

RESOLUTIONS

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC ALLIANCE INSURANCE COVERAGE FUND
RESOLUTION FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-50**

WHEREAS, the Hope Township hereafter referred to as "**Public Entity**" is a member of the Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Fund, hereinafter referred to as "**Fund**"; and

WHEREAS, said renewal membership terminates as of January 1, 2022 at 12:01 a.m. standard time, unless earlier renewed by agreement between the **Public Entity** and the **Fund**; and

WHEREAS, the **Public Entity** is afforded the following types of coverages:

- Workers' Compensation
- Package (property, boiler & machinery, crime, auto & general liability, including Police Professional)
- Public Officials Liability
- Excess Liability
 - Auto & General Liability (including Police Professional)
 - Public Officials Liability
- Environmental Impairment Liability

WHEREAS, the **Public Entity** desires to renew said membership.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The **Public Entity** agrees to renew its membership in the **Fund** for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2022, and ending January 1, 2025 at 12:01 a.m. eastern standard time, and to be subject to the coverages, operating procedures, bylaws, and other organizational and operational documents of the **Fund** presently existing or as from time to time amended by the **Fund** and/or the Department of Banking and Insurance.
2. The **Public Entity** agrees that as a member of the Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Fund the **Public Entity** must purchase all types of coverages offered by the **Fund** which are applicable to the **Public Entity**.
3. The **Public Entity** hereby appoints Terry Urfer, Committeeman, as the **Public Entity's** Fund Commissioner and is authorized to execute the renewal Indemnity and Trust Agreement thereby evidencing annexed hereto and made a part hereof and to deliver same to the **Fund** the **Public Entity's** renewal of its membership.

This Resolution agreed to the 8th day of September 2021, by a vote of:

Kruk:	Aye <u> x </u>	Nay <u> </u>	Abstain <u> </u>
Urfer:	Aye <u> x </u>	Nay <u> </u>	Abstain <u> </u>
McDonough:	Aye <u> x </u>	Nay <u> </u>	Abstain <u> </u>

HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH
THE NJDOT FOR THE OVERLAY OF HISSIM ROAD, SECTION 2 P ROJECT
RESOLUTION 2021-51

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Hope formally approves the grant application for the above-stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as LAIF-2022 – OVERLAY OF HISSIM ROAD, SECTION 2-00006, to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Hope Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Hope Township and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

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

CERTIFICATION

I, Robin L. Keggan, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Hope Township Committee on September 8, 2021.

Old Business:

Internet – Planet Networks will be running line through Hope Township in the near future.

Traffic Study – Ad hoc committee attended the meeting to discuss their upcoming Public Hearing at the Community Center to inform the public of ideas that can be done to help deter the truck traffic coming through the center of Hope.

Trailer Ordinance – Tabled.

New Business:

The Township Committee rescinded the Township Ordinance banning alcoholic beverages on Township-owned properties for the day of the Township Picnic ONLY at Swayze Mill Park. (September 12, 2021). Motioned by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor.

The same Ordinance was also rescinded for the Hope Historic Society to hold a wine and cheese meeting in October at the Community Center. Motioned by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor.

Historic Preservation Commission – Will be in attendance at an upcoming meeting t/b/d.

Members of Public:

Members of the public were in the audience to discuss the activities occurring at 525 Blairstown Road. The Township attorney gave advice relative to what the residents can do on their own to help their situations regarding the noise, etc.

Old Union Brick Road was discussed and Mr. Ayers was present in the audience. A plan is being put together to rectify the wash-out situation at that property. Blirstown Township and the State DOT are also aware of the situation and working on their ends to help fix the situation as well. Mr. Rodman will need to be involved in this to ensure that the drainage repairs being looked into are adequate and proper for the situation.

Mr. Koski from the Planning Board was present to discuss taking certain approved uses out of the POP Zone and to read to the Committee the new definition(s) being put in place for the use they would like to see allowed. Money will also be set aside in the 2022 budget for POP review on allowable uses with the planner. The Committee agreed on a motion from Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor to forward the new verbiage onto the Township attorney for review.

Ann Rhinesmith (Ridgeway Avenue) asked the Committee for an update on speed bumps due to speeders on that road. The Committee gave directive to the Deputy Clerk to look into temporary speed bumps (costs). It was also decided to investigate the cost of painting "25 MPH" on the newly paved road once completed. Mr. Rodman was directed to look into that cost.

Approval of Minutes: The August 11, 2021 meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:51 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk