

**SEPTEMBER 9, 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. 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.

Under the provisions of the “Open Public Meetings Act”, adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in The Star Gazette and The New Jersey Herald and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present

Mr. Kruk – present

Mayor McDonough- present

Reports:

Mayor Tim McDonough: Mayor McDonough updated on the status of the North Warren Municipal Court and courts that are looking to join it. Frelinghuysen has decided to join Belvidere. However, Blairstown has expressed interest in joining NW Municipal Court. This is being looked into and to be determined at a later date.

Committeeman Christopher John Kruk: Made note that Hope Volunteer Fire Department is sending on of their firetrucks to Liberty Park on Friday, 9/11/2020, to have pictures taken while the Light Tribute is taking place for the 19th anniversary of 9/11 .

Deputy Mayor Urfer: Discussed the 9/11 Memorial Service that will take place at First Hope Bank the morning of 9/11. All are invited to attend. Pastor Carla will say a prayer and then attendees are invited to say a few words if they choose. There will also be a 9/11 remembrance at the Warren County Public Safety Complex in Franklin Township.

Mr. Urfer also discussed garbage cans being left out in town center for extended periods of time. He asked that a list be compiled of residents who are leaving garbage cans out and he will address this issue with the resident.

Tax Collector’s Report: No report given, however, the Clerk read into the minutes a survey that the Tax Collector completed to the TCTANJ comparing last year’s YTD collection rate to 2020’s YTD collection rate (comparing collection rates due to COVID-19). It was noted that the August 2019 YTD figure was \$1,551,226.20 (94.20%) and the August 2020 YTD figure is \$1,631,431.62 (95.20%).

Health Department: No report filed with Clerk.

Hope Volunteer Fire Department Report: August 2020 – 25 call – Man Hours 164.16; Work Nights – 4 – Man Hours – 24; Special Details – 2 – Total Man Hours 59. Total Man Hours for August 2020 247.16.

Township Engineer Report: Reported that Hope Town Center paving project was completed and coring sampling came back good. Tilcon will be installing bicycle grates and is looking into the Eco-guards (cost). Striping and stop bars still need to be painted. Mr. Whitmore will provide a sketch of the striping that will need to be painted. Mr. Urfer asked for a cost assessment of the town center paving project to ascertain if there are any monies left in the grant. Heller Hill was paved and striping needs to be done

(double yellow line only). Will coordinate with Blairstown for striping purposes. A portable speed bump will possibly be purchased for a road in town center due to a resident's complaint. A catch basin on Washington Street needs repairs. To be determined whether this will be paid for by the town or by Tilcon.

Payment of Bills: September bills totaled \$380,716.13. Receipts for August were \$7,060.46. On a motion made by Mr. Kruk and seconded by Mr. Urfer, the bills were approved for payment. Roll Call vote: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

RESOLUTIONS:

**RESOLUTION 2020-54
RESOLUTION OF THE HOPE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY BY
PLANET NETWORKS, INC.**

WHEREAS, Planet Networks Inc. ("Planet Networks") is a provider of telecommunications services that is authorized by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to provide local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout New Jersey; and,

WHEREAS, Planet Networks has petitioned the municipality for consent to use the public rights-of-way to place its telecommunication facilities aerially on existing and new utility poles and/or in underground conduit; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission has held that that "an effective prohibition [under the Telecommunications Act of 1996] occurs where a state or local legal requirement materially inhibits a provider's ability to engage in any of a variety of activities related to its provision of a covered service ... not only by rendering a service provider unable to provide an existing service in a new geographic area or by restricting the entry of a new provider in providing service in a particular area, but also by materially inhibiting the introduction of new services or the improvement of existing services." Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order, WT Docket No. 17-79; WC Docket No. 17-84, FCC-18-133A1, at para. 36, p. 15-16; and

WHEREAS, Planet Networks has or will enter into agreements with the utility companies for the use of their poles; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 48:3-19 provides that "[t]he consent of the municipality shall be obtained for the use by a person of the poles of '-another person unless each person has a lawful right to maintain poles in such street, highway or other public place;" and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 27:16-6 provides, in part that "[t]he Board of Chosen Freeholders shall not grant an easement, right of way, or use in, under or over, any portion of a county road in a municipality, unless the governing body of the municipality ... shall consent thereto;" and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 46:17-8 provides that "[a]ny telegraph or telephone company organized under the laws of this or any other State, or of the United States may erect, construct and maintain the necessary poles, wires, conduits, and other fixtures for its lines, in, upon, along, over or under any public street, road or highway, upon first obtaining the consent in writing of the owner of the soil to the erection of such poles, and through, across or under any of the waters within this State and upon, through or over any other land, subject to the right of the owners thereof to full compensation for the same."; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:30A-124(a) provides that a municipality may not impose any fees, taxes, levies or assessments in the nature of a local franchise, right of way, or gross receipts fee, tax, levy or assessment against telecommunications companies but that a municipality may impose reasonable fees for actual services made by any municipal agency; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the municipality and its citizens to grant consent to Planet Networks.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1) That the governing body does hereby grant permission and authority to Planet Networks, Inc. to install fiber optic cables and related facilities on existing utility poles within the public right-of-way and to install new utility poles, upon the following terms and conditions:

- a) Planet Networks shall adhere to all applicable federal, State, and local laws in connection with its use of the public right-of-way.
- b) Planet Networks shall obtain any applicable permits in connection with the installation of its facilities;
- c) Planet Networks shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the municipality, its officials, agents, and employees, from and against any claim of liability, damages or loss resulting in bodily injury or property damage arising out of Planet Network's use of the public right-of-way, except to the extent such loss, injury or property damage resulting from the acts or omissions of the municipality.
- d) Planet Networks shall procure and maintain, at its cost and expense, commercial general liability insurance with limits not less than \$1,000,000 for injury to or death of one or more persons in any one occurrence and \$500,000 for damage or destruction to property in any one occurrence and shall include the municipality as an additional insured on said insurance policy.
- e) Planet Networks shall be responsible for the repair of any damage to pavement or any structure arising from its construction, installation or maintenance of its facilities.
- f) Notwithstanding any provision contained herein, neither the municipality nor Planet Networks shall be liable to the other for consequential, incidental, exemplary, or punitive damages on account of any activity pursuant to this consent.
- g) That the Hope Township Committee is hereby authorized to execute and the Clerk to attest to any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

STATEMENT: This Resolution authorizes and consents to Planet Networks, Inc.'s installation of fiber optic cables and related facilities on new and existing utility poles and conduits within the public rights-of-way.

On a motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer and all in favor, this Resolution was moved to pass.

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
APPROVING HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
CLUB LICENSE NO. 2111-31-005-001
RESOLUTION 2020-58**

WHEREAS, the Hope Volunteer Fire Department Association, Inc. holds a Club License #2111-31-005-001; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Volunteer Fire Department 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 have been filed with the Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope does not object to the application, has no special conditions for and knows of no local ordinance or other reason which would prevent an application from being approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren State of New Jersey that the Club License No. 2111-31-005-001 be renewed by the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, for the Hope Volunteer Fire Department Association, Inc. for the 2020/2021 license term.

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

Dated: September 9, 2020

RESOLUTION 2020-60

HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Warren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Hope Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2021 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$474.00
Cash Match	\$119.00
In-Kind	\$355.00

2. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

On a motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer and Roll Call Vote as follows: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, this motion was moved to pass.

RESOLUTION 2020-61

TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY A RESOLUTION OF THE, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a) ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, the Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a) authorizes the sale by municipalities of any real property, capital improvements or personal property or interest therein, not needed for public use by open public sale at auction to the highest bidder after the required newspaper advertisements; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope is the owner of certain real property not needed for public use and the Township Committee has determined that it is in the best interest of the Township to sell the property in an effort to put it back on the active tax rolls; and,

WHEREAS, there shall be no minimum bid, however, the Township reserves the right to reject all bids.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the property set forth in the Schedule “A” annexed hereto shall be offered for sale by open public sale at auction to the highest bidder, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a). Said public auction shall be conducted on October 6, 2020 at 5 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 407 County Route 611, Hope, New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subject property shall be offered for public bidding as set forth below and shall be sold pursuant to the further expressed conditions enumerated below:

1. Each bid is subject to the rejection or acceptance by the Township Committee which shall occur no later than at its second regular meeting following the auction sale. The Township Committee reserves the right to reject all bids. If no action is taken by the Township Committee by the second regular meeting, then the bid shall be deemed to be rejected.
2. The successful bidder, as indicated by the highest bid, shall be required to deposit 10 percent (10%) of his or her bid with the Township at the time of the auction. This deposit shall be made by either a certified check, money order or cash in an amount equal to at least 10 percent (10%) of the winning bid. The deposit is broken down as follows: Five percent (5%) non-refundable, due at completion

of the auction and five percent (5%) when all approvals have been granted by the Hope Township Planning or Zoning Board and/or Hope Township Committee. If no approvals are required, then the remaining 5% shall be due within thirty (30) days or at closing, whichever occurs earlier. All monies to received will be credited toward the total sale price.

3. The deposit made by the purchaser is non-refundable, except where the Township is unable to convey marketable title as indicated in paragraph 13 below. The risk of loss is in the purchaser.
4. Bidders are required to register for the auction by completing the form in Schedule "B" and including a letter or line of credit. All bidders must appear in person at the auction and upon becoming the successful bidder must present identifying credentials in compliance with the auction rules stated below:
 - a. The Township Attorney/Assessor will start with the auction by reading these auction rules.
 - b. Each registered bidder will receive a bidder number. In order to make a bid, a bidder raises their number in the air. The Township Attorney/Assessor/ will record each bidder's number and bid amount. A bid indication is considered a contractual obligation.
 - c. Bidders may not communicate with each other in any manner.
 - d. The Township Committee has set the **minimum starting bid of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000.00) in U.S. Dollars** after consulting with the Tax Assessor on the property's value.
 - e. **The minimum bid increment is FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) in U.S. Dollars.**
 - f. A person bidding on behalf of a corporation, upon becoming the successful bidder must present a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation and a resolution authorizing that person to bid on behalf of the corporation.
 - g. A person bidding on behalf of a partnership or using a trade name upon becoming the successful bidder, must submit a copy of the Certificate of Trade Name (partnership and a letter of authorization from the other partner(s)).
 - h. No other bidder may submit a bid on behalf of another, except that a husband or wife may be on behalf of both.
 - i. The winning bid will be decided when the highest bid has no counter-bids made after three (3) requests.
5. The successful bidder shall not sell or otherwise transfer title to the premises, or any part thereof, to a non-profit or nontaxable organization for a period of five (5) years from the date of closing on the property.

6. The successful bidder(s) shall be required to pay at time of closing of title the cost of legal advertising of the sale of this property which is the subject of this auction plus their proportionate cost of the transcript, if applicable.
7. The successful bidder(s) shall bear the cost of recording the deed(s) and agree that the deed(s) shall be recorded on behalf of the purchaser by the Township Attorney. The successful bidder, prior to closing of title, will not be permitted to assign his or her bid or any right, title or interest in the property on which the bid was made.
8. Prior to closing, the burden shall be on the successful bidder to obtain any variances and/or approvals from the Planning or Zoning Board of the Township of Hope and to apply for and receive a building permit from the appropriate municipal agency to construct a single-family home on the property. The successful bidder shall be afforded six months in which to do so. Failure to do so shall result in a rejection of the bid although the Township Committee may afford the successful bidder an additional three months if the requisite applications have been filed but not yet acted upon by the appropriate land use board or agency.
9. Title is to close within ninety (90) calendar days of confirmation of the bid by the Township Committee at the Township Attorney's office or within thirty (30) days of the issuance of a building permit, whichever is later, unless otherwise extended in the sole discretion of the Township Committee, but if the last day for closing of title falls on a Saturday/Sunday, or legal holiday, then title shall close on the following day. Time is of the essence. NO POSTPONEMENT OF CLOSING IS PERMITTED UNLESS:
 - a. The Township's title is unmarketable, in which event the Township shall be allowed a reasonable time to provide clear title and to close. If the unmarketability of title relates to a valid encumbrance against the property, the Township, after being timely notified of this defect by the purchaser, will endeavor to obtain within a reasonable time after such notification a release or discharge or such lien. If the Township is not successful in this regard, then part of the consideration to be paid by the purchaser for his said property shall be in the form of a certified check payable to the lienor for the amount to be paid for such release of discharge.
 - b. There is a written request, containing the reasons therefore, made by the purchaser within fifteen (15) calendar days after the confirmation of the sale by the Township Committee and

the Township Attorney grants a one-time postponement which is not to exceed thirty (30) days.

10. All conveyances shall be by deed of bargain and sale from the Township of Hope to the successful bidder, to be dated on the date of closing of title.
11. The sale price, as may result from this auction sale, may not be used before any County Board of Taxation, State Tax Court or in any other court of this State to challenge the assessment with respect to the subject property nor may same be used as a comparable sale to challenge assessment with regard to other properties.
12. This sale is also subject to further conditions that if the State of New Jersey or any upland owner has any rights or claim to the land being sold herein by reason of a riparian interest or otherwise, any charges levied or so levied by the State of New Jersey of upland owner for said riparian interest or otherwise are to be borne by the purchaser, in addition to the sale price bid for said property.
13. All successful bidders are required to conduct all desired title searches at their expenses prior to the date of closing. If the title to this property shall prove to be unmarketable, the liability of the Township shall be limited to the repayment to the purchaser of the amount of his or her deposit and any portion of the purchase price paid without any further cost, expense, damage or claim. Notice of any alleged defect in title or claim or unmarketability shall be given to the Township in writing no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the date of confirmation of the sale by the governing body of the Township of Hope. Failure to give such notice shall be deemed conclusive evidence that the purchaser accepts title in its then present condition.
14. All prospective purchasers are put on notice that no employee, agent or officer of the Township of Hope has authority to waive, modify or amend any of the conditions of sale.
15. If the successful bidder was the sole or part owner of the property to be sold at the time the Township acquired title by a tax foreclosure, said bidder may not reacquire the property directly or indirectly without complying with the following condition: The successful bidder of any property at this auction, by making such bid, thereby agrees to pay the Township at closing of title the difference, if any, between the total amount of taxes, plus interest and penalties due at the time of the judgment of foreclosure was entered and the amount of the successful bid.
16. It is conclusively presumed that a bidder prior to taking his or her bid has done the following:

- a. Checked the exact location, including the correct street address and lot size of the property on the Official Tax Maps that are available at the Assessor's Office.
 - b. Checked the zoning restrictions to ascertain the legal use of the property. This information can be obtained from the Township Zoning Office. 908-459-5011 x3.
 - c. Made a personal inspection of the property prior to the bidding on a piece of property by contacting the Township Clerk, Monday – Friday, between 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., telephone number (908) 459-5011 x1.
 - d. Responsibility for failure to comply with the above-mentioned conditions and guidelines will be fully assumed by the purchaser.
17. A failure by the purchaser to fully comply with the terms, conditions, requirements and regulations of sale as herein contained shall be considered, at the option of the Township of Hope, as a material breach of the conditions of sale whereupon the Township of Hope may declare said contract or purchase terminated and at an end. All monies paid on behalf of the purchase price, by way of deposit or otherwise, may be retained by the Township as its liquidated damages and it may thereafter resell the said property and/or pursue such other and further legal and/or equitable remedies as it may have and the defaulting purchaser shall continue to remain liable for all damages and losses sustained by the Township of Hope by reason of any such default.
18. Any descriptions of the properties published by the Township are intended as a general guide only and may not be accurate. **NO REPRESENTATIONS OF ANY KIND ARE MADE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE AS TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE PROPERTY, SAID PREMISES AND BUILDINGS ARE BEING SOLD IN THEIR PRESENT CONDITION "AS IS".**
19. The sale is made subject to such state of facts as an accurate survey may disclose, existing tenancies, rights of persons in possession, easements, conditions, covenants and restrictions and any other encumbrances of title which the Township Committee may impose on any parcel at the time of the sale, including but not limited to, restrictions on the use to be made of such real property, capital improvements of personal property and any conditions of sale as to buildings or structures, or as to the type, size or other specifications of building or structures to be constructed thereon, or as to demolition, repair or reconstruction of buildings or structures, and the time within such conditions shall be operative, or any other conditions of sale in like manner and to the same extent as by any other vendor. All properties and buildings are being sold "AS IS".
20. The sale is made subject to all applicable laws and ordinances of the State of New Jersey and the Township of Hope.

21. Successful bidders agree to the following conditions:
 - a. To pay prorated property taxes for the balance of the current year as of the date of closing.
 - b. To abide by appropriate zoning, subdivision, health and building regulations and codes and stipulations that this sale will not be used as grounds to support a challenge of the existing assessment of the subject property, nor shall the purchase price be used as a comparable sale to challenge assessments with regard to other properties.
 - c. That the failure to close title as agreed shall forfeit to the Township of Hope any and all money deposited with the Township.
22. If any section or provision of this Resolution shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect the other sections or provisions of this Resolution, except so far as the section of the provision to declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

On a motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer and Roll Call Vote as follows: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, this motion was moved to pass subject to a date and time being inserted into the Resolution on Page 1.

ORDINANCES: Introduction and First Reading

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 alerted the public to a meeting being held this same evening by the Warren County Freeholders. They will be discussing/approving a traffic study for road weight limits from Route 46 to the town center (Route 519) and then 521 to Route 80. They are also going to be introducing their Countywide Transportation Master Plan. Mayor McDonough also met with the DOT Commissioner regarding the truck traffic through Town Center. She is currently reviewing the traffic study done by Tom Bodolsky.

Internet: Please see Planet Networks under New Business.

New Business:

Planet Networks: Mr. Boyle, CEO of Planet Networks, was on our Zoom call to discuss who Planet Networks is and the services they are trying to provide for Hope Township and surrounding areas. He discussed at length how their system works (fiber optic) and their plan for eventually running fiber optic line to Hope Township. He is hopeful that this will be accomplished by the end of 2021. However, to run optic to Hope Township, it needs to be done contiguously with other municipalities. Planet Networks is currently working out a plan to run the fiber optic down Route 94, which is one way that may eventually allow Hope Township to be connected. Another option is through Green Township and down 517/519. They are regulated by NJ BPU which means they are allowed access to power poles owned by telephone and power companies. In order to run the fiber optic, each municipality must give permission for the fiber optic to be run in the right-of-way. Damages that may occur would be covered by Planet Networks. Once the municipality gives approval by Resolution, Planet Networks can then apply for permits, etc. in order to begin their work. Mr. Boyle made note that the slowest speed is 175 x 175 and would cost \$64.95 per month. Mr. Boyle also made mention that in order to help our residents, they are willing to run cable from their current provider (i.e., Service Electric) at a reduced rate until they are able to run their fiber optics. He did note that they are in no way affiliated with these other companies and that they are solely stepping up to help out Hope's residents.

The Clerk discussed a proposal that will be received in the coming days for a security/camera system for use by the North Warren Municipal Court employees. It will also serve to allow for Hope Township to have a mail-in ballot drop box installed in the municipal building courtyard. Once this proposal is received, the Clerk will send out to the Committee and CEO for feedback and to hopefully get the ball rolling on the installation of the system.

Public Participation:

Several residents were on the call regarding their concerns over a farm at 525 Blairstown Road and the activities that have been witnessed going on. The Township Committee relayed to the public that they are well aware of these issues and have been working with several other authorities (i.e., DEP, Health Department, State Police). It was noted that this investigation will take time to put together and to

determine what authorities are responsible for what issues. Also noted was a resident's concern regarding the driveway opening and a 6' fence that was installed very close to the road. The driveway opening has sight distance issues. A letter was sent to the Warren County Engineer's Department regarding this and is in the process of being dealt with.

Approval of Minutes: None

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:23 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk