

February 19, 2019
BUDGET MEETING

A Budget Work meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 1:10 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. Jim Perry was in attendance as liaison to the Court. Also present were Municipal Clerk Judith Fisher.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in the New Jersey Herald by posting notice in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards and the Township Web Site.

Preparation of the 2019 Local Municipal Budget

Paul McNamara from Blairstown Ambulance was in attendance. Presented the Committee with their call report from the past year. Borrowed \$800,000 to build their building. 39 current active members, 28 are EMTS, 3 members from Hope Township. No pay, all volunteers. Issue with Rig 98, needs to be refurbished this year. 2018 chassis is currently being put under the 2001 ambulance which is half the cost of purchasing a new ambulance. Spending a lot more on training over the past few years. Budget is basically the same as it was last year. 75/25 budget (they raise 75% and they go to towns they service for other 25% based off number of calls). Funding the way, it is great. Would be happy if the funding was left as-is from Hope Township. Mr. Urfer recommended the budget be kept the same as last year. Mr. Kruk agreed.

Court budget will be discussed at another time when the Judge can be present. Ordinance was discussed. Township attorneys are looking into it. The Ordinance should be passed onto the League for their sponsorship.

Jim Perry mentioned grant information/assistance from the Federal government for faster internet. Computers need to be upgraded, make sure there is something in your budget for the expense. Windows 7 is going to be obsolete, everything being written for Windows 10.

Budget received so far from the Planning Board. COAH expense will be a Township expense, not a Planning Board expense as it is all administrative from this point on. Master Plan expenses for this year will be Ordinances for COAH. Environmental Commission budget request was reviewed. Groups for roadside cleanups will be determined by the Township Committee from here forward.

Basketball and Baseball/Softball budgets were discussed. Waiting on soccer budget.

Zoning Official's budget was received and talked about.

DPW budget discussed. Putting another person on will be discussed during next budget meeting. Ages of equipment/target dates put in place for replacement of some of the machinery.

Motion by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor and carried to take a short break at 2:38 P.M.

Meeting resumed at 2:39 P.M.

Discussion took place regarding fire truck purchase and the timeframe for doing same (approximately 4 years).

Dates discussed for next budget meetings (after 4:30 P.M. so that Kathleen Reinalda can attend). March 5, 11, 12, 14 tentative dates. March 12 at 4:30 was the date determined for meeting. The Committee discussed starting this meeting March 12 at 3:00pm with a closed session to discuss personnel. The Clerk will advertise this closed session.

Township Committee gave Mrs. Fisher parameters for advertising for DPW position.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 P.M. on a motion made by Committeeman Urfer, seconded by Committeeman Kruk. The motion was carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Fisher, RMC
Municipal Clerk