

FEBRUARY 22, 2018

A Budget 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, Deputy Mayor Christopher Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were DPW Don Whitmore, Municipal Clerk Judith Fisher, Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Reinalda. Also present were members from the Blirstown Ambulance Corp.

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 2018 Local Municipal Budget

Paul McNamara, Treasurer for the Blirstown Ambulance Corp was present along with Laurie also from the Ambulance Corp. The calls for 2017 were reviewed noting that they were up from 2016 by 19.58%. Hope's calls for 2017 were 226, 24 of these calls to the Hope Barracks and 40 calls on Route 80. There was 1356 man hours and 6630 traveled miles. Active members are 41, 26 EMT's with two members from Hope. Mr. McNamara talked about their emergency vehicles noted that they will be refurbishing one of the rigs hopefully this year. Mr. McNamara noted that to keep everything running, the Corp. needs about \$210,000; breaking it down to 72.5%/27.5%. The 27.5% is from donations like from Hope Township. The last year's donation to the Ambulance Corp. was \$13,950 and the Committee is hoping the keep it the same for 2018.

The Committee thanked the Corp volunteers and the great respond that we get when they are called out.

The Township is in good shape this year according to the Auditor. The Township's surplus is at \$513,000, the only debt that they had was paid off this year. A suggestion was made that there should be some thought of putting funds into the Capital Improvement line this year.

The Committee reviewed wish list requests from the various departments.

There was an active discussion on Recreation along with the pros and cons of forming a Booster Club again. The Township several years ago did away with this, but maybe it's time to restart it.

Mayor McDonough asked that we schedule time for the Court with Judge Mennen to review their needs and request. Tentative date of March 8 at 4:30 was discussed. The Clerk will check if this would work for them. The Mayor's from White and Hardwick will also be invited to this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 P.M. on a motion made by Committeeman Kruk, seconded by Committeeman Urfer. The motion was carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Fisher, RMC
Municipal Clerk