

FEBRUARY 28, 2018

The monthly workshop meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 7:00 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, Judith Fisher, RMC; Township Engineer, Ted Rodman, P.E.; Don Whitmore, CPWM Supervisor

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.

7:00 p.m.: Fred Kessler – Discussion of Peddler's License: Mr. Kessler spoke about bringing his Edward Jones practice to the area (NW area). He is applying for a permit to knock on doors in Hope, has applied in Knowlton and will be applying in Blairstown. No hard sell, just giving out information to the public. Mayor McDonough spoke about minimizing interruption to our residents and how the history has been to frown upon peddler's soliciting door-to-door and how Hope Township historically has not approved these permits. Mr. Urfer offered two options: Chamber of Commerce (publicity) and Hope's Goings On on Facebook. Or ask the Committee to rent one of the buildings one evening. Mr. Kruk spoke about public events where he may be viewed by the public. Mayor McDonough thanked Mr. Kessler for attending the meeting. Mr. Kessler thanked Judy Fisher for all her help. Mr. Kruk stated an email would be sent to him regarding some of the information relayed to him. Mr. Urfer made motion to deny motion. Kruk seconded. Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes. Mr. Kruk – yes. Mr. McDonough – yes.

George Boesze – Zoning Officer: Mr. Boesze spoke about correspondence sent to the Committee from him for their input on a letter to be sent to Michael Lerner and the fact that he hasn't heard input from them. Schedule A is missing from our Hope Township Ordinance. Frelinghuysen's Ordinance is more clear and perhaps Hope should model their Ordinance afterward. Mr. Urfer questioned Mr. Lerner about his farming activities and how it matches up to our Ordinance the way it is currently written. Mr. Lerner has a right to farm and cannot plant trees where rocks are. Mr. Lerner should be "grandfathered" in as the ordinance is incomplete at this point. Mr. McDonough spoke to Mr. Lerner about the noise complaint from his neighbors and that being what led to the complaint. Mr. Lerner stated that he is just surface rock picking and has asked his neighbors for input on hours that work for them as far as the noise and is working with them to make everyone happy. Mr. Urfer spoke about County soil conversation program that he need to adhere to. Mr. Boesze spoke about the phone calls he's received being more noise based then soil being brought out onto the road. Three residents have been complaining as well as Mr. McDonough receiving a call from the Mayor of Frelinghuysen. Mr. Belstra spoke about his practice of farming through the years and rock "picking". Mr. Belstra spoke about the rock picking being a source of income for farmers as a way of getting money back for fixing machinery that rocks have broken. Mr. McDonough asked Mr. Boesze if he had enough direction moving forward as to how to handle the situation to which Mr. Boesze answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Boesze also spoke about 153 North Locust Lake and the issues going on there with vehicles parked on the Township right-of-way (some licensed and registered, a boat, truck, etc.). Upon reviewing the Ordinance he found some challenges as to potential violations. One is a pool with deck attachment that never received permits. The vehicles are another problem to which Mr. Boesze referenced his memo to the Township Committee with his recommendations/findings. Mr. McDonough spoke about approaching the residents personally since he knows them before Mr. Boesze pursues things further.

Mr. McDonough spoke about 4 Prospect and the individual has been warned that the house will be padlocked. After he is out, the property will be cleaned up and the cats will be taken care of. The house will need to have an established value and then go to auction. Mr. Urfer spoke about the property and all the health hazards with 4 Prospect and the house by the Community Center.

Township Engineer Report: Ted Rodman, P.E.

34 Ridgeway Ave: Problem with communication and understanding the owner as he doesn't speak good English. Kevin found out that the site where the soil is coming from has determined by the DEP that it is clean. (site certified as clean). Owner has all 43 tickets from purchasing the soil from this site. Soil importation still needs to be dealt with – owner needs a permit.

Verizon Nodes: Nothing new

Bob Benbrook/Fred Stephens – Well situation: Nothing new

Osmun Road: We will still be short for paving. We are getting \$115,000 grant, we are \$11,000 short. We may need to contribute towards the costs. Value of \$7,000 was assigned to striping. DEP complimented Mr. Whitmore on his record keeping.

Moravian Grange Propane Tank & Generator: Township wants to own the tank (we would not get automatic refills – we need to monitor it). Suburban Propane has 100 gal tank there. They will lease a 500 gal tank to us for \$75.00 a year for three years. After that we can purchase it, but we will need to fill through Suburban only. No purchase price was given to Mr. Rodman. Installation is \$375.00 – current price is \$2.99 per gallon. Amerigas tank cost is \$1,685.40 (\$500 to install above ground. Monitor is \$4.25 plus \$11-\$15 per month). Current price is \$1.40 per gallon through Morris County Co-Op. We need to buy ourselves a tank. Mr. Kruk stated he'd do the research to purchase one. Mr. Rodman will wait to hear from Mr. Kruk on same. We cannot do installation of generator until we have tank – needs to be done by August.

Salt Shed: Mr. Urfer spoke about a salt sheds that are similar to what we are looking for on Route 94 and in Harmony Township. Budget number needs to be determined.

Discussion:

Cell Tower, Lease Agreement w/ Verizon Wireless: Moving forward with this. Different lease agreements were given to Committee for their review. When lease comes in we will need a motion and second for Mr. McDonough to sign it. Percentage on co-locators was one of the questions we needed to have answered.

New Business:

WC Mosquito Extermination Commission: Aerial Spraying – Giving permission to do aerial spraying. Environmental Commission has no objection to this. Mr. Urfer motioned, Mr. Kruk seconded. All in favor. Mayor McDonough will sign this before he leaves this evening.

Recreation/Booster Club: Tricky tray asked for one donation of one free sports registration for a Hope resident. Mr. Urfer motioned yes, Mr. Kruk seconded. All in favor.

Miscellaneous Items: Kathy Reed spoke about all the gunshots going off near her residence. Stated we need an Ordinance put in place to take care of this issue. Mr. Urfer recommended we write a letter to the Governor to allow use of silencers. Nuisance ordinance was spoken about by Mr. Kruk as it relates to the shooting going on and timeframes considered reasonable for that decibel level of noise. Mr. McDonough will speak to the Station Commander at the Barracks regarding this issue. Mr. Kruk asked Shaun Patton to reach out to these people doing the shooting to make them aware.

DEP spoke to Mr. McDonough regarding a file that needs to be closed out that's been open since 1989. No file has been found in the municipal building. DEP came out of nowhere with this and in speaking with them they did say that their records are not as complete as they should be either. We need to hire an LSRP to straighten out this situation.

Public Participation: Sean Patton spoke about animal ordinance for smaller parcels of land because he wants to get some chickens. This ordinance is being worked on with the Planning Board. Mr. McDonough suggested he Patton use his best judgment on this until the ordinance is reworked.

Mr. Urfer spoke about Donna Marie joining the Agricultural Board. Mr. McDonough was in agreement that she should join it. Mr. Urfer made motion providing there is an opening to appoint Donna Marie. Mr. Kruk seconded. Mrs. Rusin spoke about researching grants for extra OEM radios and information she passed along to Mr. Kruk.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer. Seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC
Municipal Clerk