

**JANUARY 23, 2019**  
**WORK MEETING**

The work 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, Don Whitmore and Ted Rodman. Also present was Municipal Clerk, Judith Fisher, RMC.

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.

**Payment of Bills:** Total of bills to be paid: \$924,026.03.

Motion made to pay bills by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried

Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes. (Ch. No. 12006 for \$137.70 was pulled due to double payment.)

**Reports:**

Stan Prader was in attendance regarding the work that was done for power restoration to Hope Township residents. He thanked Hope Township for their role in the restoration efforts. Ash tree removal discussion took place as well. Terry Urfer will work on coordinating efforts with him. Discussion of repaving of center of Hope and new lighting that we want to put in, need to work with County, DCA and Township Engineer.

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** Attended Energy aggregate meeting this afternoon. Big turnout. Another postcard will be going out. Mailer was already sent out. 0.886 savings – goes into effect March 1, 2019.

**Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk:** Questioned insurance quote status.

**Committeeman Urfer:** Got file cabinets from Marvin Fish. Alfia Schemm is going through files to determine what can be cleaned out so she can put her files into the new file cabinets. Would like to work on an Abandoned Property Maintenance Agreement in the near future. Dog licensing memo needs to be in bigger print. Hours on the door/bulletin board need to be posted.

**Mrs. Fisher, Township Clerk:** Nothing at this time

**Township Engineer Report:** Osmun Road – guardrails have been measured. Extending one of the guardrails to use extra money. Roadside Safety is coming up to let us know if we have to finish the end section. Birch Ridge Road – grates and closures are ordered and will complete that project. Amendment to Contract was done and Sarah will send the final version to Judy. 36 Smith Street – drainage problem inspected and resident was informed to attend meeting. Swayze Mill trail – Laura Brill did original wetlands permit and is sending copy to Ted. Forwarded photos of problem area to Laura to get her recommendations as to putting pipes in or not for water issue. Suggested we go on record with DEP and alert them as to what is going on. Mayor McDonough spoke about his reservations to involve the DEP and do a corrective plan of action as this past season was unusually wet and not the normal. Ted was asked to put this on hold and was also asked to call Laura and tell her not to call the DEP. Ridgeway Avenue – fence on Route 80. Email was sent, no response yet. Re-emailed it to Anthony. Streetlights discussed (Trout Alley style, put in center of town. Need to start planning how to approach the beginning of the project). Grant monies were used for Trout Alley, will have to look into that.

**RESOLUTION 2019-17**  
**AMUSEMENT GAMES LICENSE**

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt Resolution 2019-17.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough - yes

**WHEREAS**, Christopher Maier, t/a Land of Make Believe has filed applications for the following arcade and amusement games licenses:

2019-003 Arcade, Certificate # 2000  
2019-004 Gobble-Up Game, Certificate #1016  
2019-005 Duck Pond, Certificate #3001  
2019-006 Dog Pounder Certificate #4044  
2019-007 Stop and Go, Certificate # 5001  
2019-008 Top Glo Game, Certificate # 4023  
2019-009 Basketball Game, Certificate #1003

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing applications are complete and in conformance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Hope.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the foregoing applications be approved and that the appropriate licenses be issued by the Legalized games of Chance Control Commission in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs.

**Reorganization Meeting: Additional Appointments** - Animal Control Officer/Animal Cruelty Investigator– The Committee discussed doing a 3-month appointment at this time. The Mayor noted that he has been talking with other Township about this position in their township’s. Talks are continuing with no solutions. A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to appoint Alan DeCarolis as the Animal Control Officer/Animal Cruelty Investigator for three-month term. A voice vote was unanimous. Committee will need to address this again in April.

**Boards: Vacant Openings – Deputy Court Administrator** – 2 applicants. Waiting on dates from the AOC for interview panel. Representative from Hope, Hardwick and White will be invited to attend the interview process.

**Vacancies on Environmental Commission** – memo received by Commission to recommend the appointment of Deb Billow Snyder and Rich Snyder.

Mr. Urfer made motion to appoint Deb Billow Snyder as Alternate 1; Rich Snyder as Alternate 2 to the Environmental Commission, seconded by Mr. Mr. Kruk and carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Zoning Board of Adjustment vacancy – Alternate #2 is still open.

**Old Business:**

Benbrook & Stevens: Easement at the Distillery: No change in status, nothing new.

Service Electric & CenturyLink Updates: Nothing new; no change in status

Ted Rodman – Professional Services Contract – Engineer for 2019 – Mr. Rodman’s contract was amended and the Clerk’s is waiting for the new contract with the amendment from the Township Attorney. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Josh Miller is interested in applying for part-time snowplowing list. He will be filling out application and it will be reviewed by Don Whitmore. Plans for DPW in the future are unknown, will be determined during budget season.

Snowplowing – need quotes to go out for 2019 year.

**New Business:**

North Warren Court Prosecutor: Recommendation from the Judge William Mennen for Charles Caro from Phillipsburg to be appointed as an Alternate Municipal Prosecutor. Mr. Skoog will be staying on until a resignation letter is received.

A motion was then made by Mr. Kruk to appoint Mr. Charles Carro as the Alternate Municipal Prosecutor for the North Warren Municipal Court, seconded by Mr. Urfer. Motion carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

**COAH:** Letter received memorializing settlement. Page 5 is most important page. Mr. Selvaggi suggested that Mr. Heyer, himself, the Planning Board and the Township Committee meet and decide how to attack the list of five items recommended that need to be done. An Ordinance will need to be done to collect the fees that goes into the COAH account (which will need to be put in place). One of the units that may be considered for COAH is the house across from the Community Center – could be one of the 9 units Township needs.

Mayor McDonough met with the DEP on the landfill and oil spill at garage. Will have more information once he gets his notes in order.

Appreciation Dinner – list was looked over and approved. The date is Saturday, March 2 with a snow date if need of March 9<sup>th</sup>, place is the Hope Firehouse at 6:00PM

**Discussion:**

Ash tree removal for resident discussed further. Will be looking into it further.

Snow Plowing/Salting: The Township will be requesting quotes for additional help plowing from Contractors. Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Urfer will work on the specifics of what will be needed.

Mr. Urfer is also working with the Planning Board secretary on cleaning on the file cabinets and records.

The Committee also discussion a Maintenance Ordinance for Abandoned/Vacant Property. The Committee is working with the Township Attorney and Zoning Officer on this. They might have a draft ordinance by the next meeting. Mayor McDonough noted that there might be information on this coming from the State/League in the very near future.

**Public Participation:** Nothing additional from the public at this time.

The Committee briefly talked about signs on Route 519, Dog License and employee hours listed on the front door and bulletin board at the corner of the Municipal Building.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC  
Municipal Clerk