

March 14, 2018

The monthly business 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.

Payment of Bills:

Receipts were read by Mr. Terry Urfer. \$13,719.74 total receipts.

A **motion** made Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to pay the March bills, \$376,248.50. Motion carried

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Urfer, yes, Mr. Kruk, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes

Reports:

Tax Collector: month ending February 2018 \$582,172.00; Y-T-D \$1,684,276.00

Warren County Health Department: 119 Nightingale – no change; 329 High Street – no change; 34 Ridgeway – no change; 252 Shiloh Road – no change. Hope Market and Hope Liquors LLC inspected and both satisfactory. One dog bite, dog quarantined 10 days and released; Kennels no activity; Recreational Bathing – no activity; Youth camps – no activity and campgrounds – no activity. Septic/Wells – one septic alteration was approved; one septic alteration was installed.

Mayor Tim McDonough: Mr. McDonough reported on the rough week weather wise that the residents had and commended Mr. Whitmore, Mr. Fisher and Drake Landscaping for their hard work.

Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk: Kim Tighe asked if t-ballers can practice in the Community Center and it was decided that would be OK; also Mrs. Tighe asked about the fundraising funds and we are working on getting an accounting on that. A meeting will be held regarding possibility of starting the Booster Club again. Also wants to hold a meeting for the 250th Celebration of Hope Township in April. Kim Tighe asked about starting a separate account for baseball/softball. Approval from the State is needed to do so.

Committeeman Urfer: Met with Court re: possibility of using credit cards. A series of costs are involved (\$259.00 for machine; \$7.50 per month; \$99.00 per year charge; .15 per transaction charge and 3% charge based upon what card is used). He is concerned about losing money on this.

Township Engineer Report: Ted Rodman, P.E.

Salt Shed: Mr. Urfer reported on options he has investigated thus far. On our pad, with cement blocks plus \$30,000.00 (plus labor). Done through a contractor is \$76,000.00. Mr. Urfer is working on a more

Moravian Grange Generator/Propane Tank: Mr. Rodman reported on Amerigas (goes through the Morris County Co-op); Suburban; Fairclough (he would just provide the tank – not the propane). Tank will be \$1700.00 (500 gallon tank installed). Suburban only leases it for 3 years. Mr. Kruk reported on Thrifty Propane (refurbished for \$800; new for \$1500.00). Mr. Kruk will check on refurbished tanks (if they need re-inspection); otherwise we will go for the \$1700.00 new tank through Fairclough. No decisions can be made until we find out if there is money in the budget for the tank.

34 Ridgeway Avenue: Contractor spoke about the fill and where it came from. GPS tracking system is on his truck so that he can show the materials went from Point A to Point B. Tracking reports were provided to the Township Committee. Kevin from the Health Department spoke on this subject as well. Stated our Soil Importation Ordinance is well written. Samples of soil were tested in October. Discussion took place about the

soil samples from the site soil was removed from vs. soil samples taken on Ridgeway Avenue. Warren County Health Department has no jurisdiction over the operation going on here on Ridgeway.

RESOLUTION 2018-21:

A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to approve Resolution 2018-21. A voice vote of the Committee was unanimous.

2018-21 Opposing NJDOT Route 80 Rock Mitigation Project Through The Delaware Water Gap

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) intends to build a series of high industrial fences and a 60-foot concrete pyramid called a “rockfall berm” along Route 80 through the Delaware Water Gap; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Route 80 Rockfall Mitigation will be built on lands located in Knowlton and Hardwick Townships and the Delaware National Water Gap Park; and

WHEREAS, stakeholders Knowlton Township and Hardwick Township have formally opposed the project, and have not given their permission for this project within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Route 80 fence is slated to begin in 2020, may last two years, and will cost between \$55 and \$58 million dollars according to NJDOT estimates; and

WHEREAS, the stated intent of the fence and concrete berm is to prevent rockfall; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT’s Concept Development Report acknowledges that “NJDOT provided limited rockfall event data, and the actual frequency of rock activity is unknown” for this project; and

WHEREAS, there are no documented rockfall events nor any recollections of significant rockfall events over the last ten years within Area “D” portion of the project where the concrete pyramid is to be placed; and

WHEREAS, there are 70 to 80 motor vehicle accidents on Route 80 in this section of Route 80 annually due to speed and poor road conditions yet this project involves no road improvements; and

WHEREAS, two years of construction on Route 80 will have significant negative impact on residents and on emergency personnel’s ability to get to nearby hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Water Gap is a nationally prominent scenic wonder and a gateway to the one of the most widely used National Parks in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will directly impact the viewshed of the Appalachian Trail, which has an entrance at the Delaware Water Gap Park; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, 3.7 million visitors to the Delaware National Water Gap park spent \$126.3 million in communities within 60 miles of the park and supported 1887 jobs*; and

WHEREAS, tourism to the Delaware Water Gap and the scenic value of Northwest New Jersey will likely be negatively impacted by the proposed fence; and

WHEREAS, the millions of dollars appropriated for this non-essential project could be better directed to creating a safe passageway on Route 80 itself through the Delaware Water Gap.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED on this 14 day of March, 2018, the Township of Hope opposes the current NJDOT Route 80 Rockfall Mitigation Project and requests the assistance of the following elected representatives in halting the current NJDOT project.

- 1) U.S. Congressman Josh Gottheimer
- 2) U.S. Senator Cory Booker
- 3) U.S. Senator Bob Menendez
- 4) State Senator Steven Oroho
- 5) State Assemblyman Parker Space
- 6) State Assemblyman Harold Wirths
- 7) Warren County Freeholders Ed Smith, Jason Sarnoski, and Rick Gardner

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Warren County Governing Officials Association encourages the NJDOT to continue Route 80 rock mitigation under the conditions that:

- a) Rock mitigation occurs in a manner that does not harm the viewsheds of the nationally recognized Delaware Water Gap and Appalachian Trail; and
- b) The project includes measures that address the speeding and/or dangerous road conditions causing far more accidents annually than rockfall.

RESOLUTION 2018-22: Reserve Transfer

A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to approve Resolution 2018-22.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Urfer, yes, Mr. Kruk, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes

BE IT RESOLVED by the township committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that there are insufficient funds to meet the demands necessary for the 2017 Reserve Balances in General Administration O/E, Tax Assessment O/E, Engineering Services O/E, Planning Board O/E, Maintenance of Parks O/E, Telephone O/E, and Gasoline O/E.

WHEREAS, the following accounts have sufficient excess funds to meet such demands: Road Maintenance O/E.

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40A:4-59 the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to make the following transfers:

To:	General Administration O/E	274.00
	Tax Assessment O/E	12.00
	Engineering Services O/E	825.00
	Planning Board O/E	926.00
	Maintenance of Parks O/E	1,500.00
	Telephone O/E	471.00
	Gasoline O/E	<u>68.00</u>
		4,076.00
From:	Road Maintenance O/E	4,076.00

Old Business:

4 Prospect: Mr. McDonough visited; locks will go on house per the Township attorney. If the squatter trespasses he will be arrested once the locks are on. The State Police will need to go with Mr. Whitmore to be a witness on if there are any animals in the residence before it is locked up.

North Locust Lake complaint: Mayor McDonough spoke to the Contis regarding the situation with their vehicles being parked on the right-of-way. Conti voiced a complaint about the snowplowing job done per a phone call to Robin Keggan after Mr. McDonough had spoken to them about the situation going on. Mr. McDonough is currently working with George Boesze, Zoning Officer, on the situation.

Overlay Osmun Road: Received \$115,000.00 – Requested \$139,000. Revised estimate is \$126,000. Takes the overlay to the Knowlton Township line. Line and catch basins listed in the estimate (that are not needed) will make up the difference in the price.

Stop sign: Copies of Ordinance given to Terry to review.

Affordable Housing: April 19, 2018 court date. Mr. McDonough will go to the Court date to present the Agreement to the Judge.

New Business:

Professional Services Contract – Attorney Michael Selvaggi: For the year 2018 \$1,000 retainer; billing rate is the same.

A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, second by Mr. Kruk and carried to approve the Professional Services Contract Mr. Michael Selvaggi, Township Attorney.

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

Budget Meeting with Township Auditor Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 7 pm

Ted Rodman's Contract – There was a brief discussion about Mr. Rodman's request for a 2% increase. A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to approve Mr. Rodman's contract as long as it is not more than the 2%.

Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes Mr. Kruk – yes Mayor McDonough – yes

Agricultural Board: Mr. Urfer spoke about the fact they have to make a presentation to the State re: monies they want to have allocated.

Miscellaneous Items:

Don Whitmore spoke about resident dumping his garbage at the Swayze Mill dumpster (found his address on mail in top of the dumpster). Mr. Kruk stated the resident should be approached first before issuing a violation through the municipal court. Mr. McDonough stated he would call the resident and speak to him/her about it. Mr. Whitmore spoke about damage at Silver Lake (power lines). He reported on deep craters on the private lanes that would make it nearly impossible for fire trucks, power trucks etc. to access the residences on these lanes. Mr. Whitmore suggested that some rock be purchased by the Township to fill in the deep holes. Mr. McDonough reported that our attorney has advised us against getting involved on these private lanes unless it pertains to emergency situations. Will only fill those holes that are considered safety issues for emergency situations.

Public Participation: This portion of the meeting was opened to the public for any questions or concerns. Discussion took place about storm related issues as things are being commented on on Facebook. (Warming center issue brought up as to why our Municipal Building wasn't open; NIXEL system; outreach to senior citizens.)

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC
Municipal Clerk