

MARCH 12, 2014

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 George Beatty and Committeeman John Koonz. Also present were Municipal Clerk Mary Pat Quinn and Township Engineer Ted Rodman.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in The Express Times and The Star Gazette and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards all on February 14, 2014 and February 21, 2014.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following minutes were approved on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

- Business meeting, February 12, 2014
- Work meeting, February 26, 2014
- Budget meeting, February 26, 2014
- Budget meeting, March 4, 2014

RECEIPTS

The receipts list was read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts during February, 2014 were \$1,097,301.83.

BILLS

The bill list was read by Beatty, who also noted those amounts over \$100.00. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty ordering the payment of the bills. The total bills as of the date of the meeting were \$340,599.67. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

DISCUSS NON-DOMESTICATED PETS ON SMALL LOTS

Alan DeCarolis, the Animal Control Officer, was present to discuss the problem of non-domesticated pets on small lots in the Township. Ordinances from Blairstown and Independence were reviewed and discussed. A subcommittee consisting of DeCarolis, Beatty, and the Zoning Officer, Glenn Carter, will be formed to review options that may be available to abate the problem. The matter was tabled pending that review and recommendation.

REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer

The Township Committee continues to work with a Temporary Budget.

Zoning Officer

Nothing to report.

Warren County Health Department

Complaints:

416 Main Street – Garbage on the lawn and in the storage shed at the bank-owned property. A reinspection is scheduled.

Food Establishment – No activity.

Rabies – One cat bite reported. Cat was quarantined and released after the required 10-day period.

Kennels – No activity.

Childcare Centers – No activity.

Recreational Bathing – No activity.

Youth Camps – No activity.

Campgrounds – No activity.

Septics/Wells – One septic alteration was installed. One well alteration application was approved.

Township Engineer

Rodman reported that he is working on the rationale to lower the speed limit on Ridgeway Avenue from 35 MPH to 25 MPH.

Road Department

The Public Works Foreman submits weekly reports, which are on file in the Clerk's office.

Fire Department

No report submitted.

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

No report submitted.

Tax Assessor

No report submitted.

Tax Collector

Tax Collection during February, 2014:

Current Year Taxes	\$1,071,747.87	\$1,362,136.90 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes-2013	9,488.15	18,215.14
Cost of Sale Fees	205.58	337.41
NSF Check Fees	.00	25.00
Interest and Costs	652.97	1,143.47
Total Receipts	<u>\$1,082,094.57</u>	<u>\$ 1,381,857.92</u>

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

February 2014 to February 2013	+\$ 51,709.72
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2013	+\$ 16,349.72
February 2014 to February 2012	+\$202,799.88
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$149,887.57

February 6, 2014 Tax Sale Results:

- 10 properties originally advertised totaling \$18,617.23.
- 0 properties sold to outside buyers.
- 1 property struck off to the Township for \$122.16.

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during February 2014: 3-Building; 5-Plumbing; 3-Electrical; 3-Fire for a total income of \$803.00.

Mayor McDonough

McDonough reported that COAH is resurfacing, and there may be action required. He will report back with any new information.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty referred to a recent issue that occurred on the unpaved portion of Jenny Jump Road. That section of the road will be closed to traffic during the winter months.

Committeeman Koonz

Koonz reported that the building/shed that was recently built on the Sousa (formerly Sauck) property was done so with a Zoning Permit and a Building Permit.

Koonz discussed with the Hope Volunteer Fire Department the recent Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement. The members of the HVFD have concerns about the financial impact that certain parts of the agreement will have on their organization. Koonz asked the Township Committee to revisit the matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. Richard Cushing, Esq. to Michael Lavery, Esq. Re: Service Electric Franchise. Hope, Hardwick and Frelinghuysen were provided with the same information.
2. Liberty Township. Re: Resolution urging the Legislature to implement a water usage tax.
3. N.J. Division of Taxation. Re: Table of Equalized Valuations.
4. Christine M. Beatty. Re: Letter of resignation from the Environmental Commission for personal matters. A copy was given to the Environmental Commission.
5. Frelinghuysen Township. Re: Notice of an amendment to the speed limit in State Park Road to 25 MPH. This corresponds with the speed limit on Shiloh Road in Hope Township, which is also 25 MPH. A copy of the information was given to the Township Engineer.
6. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: January 2014 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
7. N.J. Administrative Office of the Courts. Re: Improvements to the Municipal Court Information Technology.
8. Warren County Department of Public Safety. Re: OPRA requests for emergency operations plans. A copy of the information was forwarded to the Township Attorney.
9. Liberty Township. Re: Notice of a public hearing on a Liberty Township zoning ordinance. A copy was given to the Hope Township Planning Board
10. Warren County Board of Taxation. Re: Preliminary Equalization Table for CY 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss Cable Television Franchise Renewal

McDonough reported that Hardwick Township is opening up the matter again.

Status of Water Supply at the Hope Community Center

Koonz reported that the owner of the well, Fred Stephans, has hired a well driller to drill a new well. They have already gone down 820 feet. Koonz suggested that the Township Committee consider a storage tank at the Community Center.

Status of Proposed Identification Marker Ordinance

No change in status.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduce Ordinance #14-04, Amend Speed Limit on Ridgeway Avenue

The following Ordinance was introduced and passed first reading on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND, REVISE AND REPLACE SECTION 7-26 OF THE HOPE TOWNSHIP CODE TO REVISE THE SPEED LIMIT FOR RIDGEWAY AVENUE

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee have determined that the present speed limit on Ridgeway Avenue located in Hope Township is excessive and presents a danger to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Engineer has provided a certification under his seal as a licensed professional engineer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 38:4-98 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, desires to amend, revise and replace Section 7-26 of the code of the Township of Hope to reduce the speed limit on entire length of Ridgeway Avenue to 25 mph; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the Hope Township Development Regulations Ordinance is hereby amended to delete Section 7-26 and replace it with the following:

7-26 SPEED LIMITS.

The following speed limits shall be established on the following streets or parts of streets:

<i>Name of Street</i>	<i>Direction</i>	<i>Speed</i>	<i>Location</i>
Foundry Road	Both	35 mph	From CR 655 to CR 521
Heller Hill Road		35 mph	From Blairstown/Hope boundary to CR 521
Osmun Road	Both	30 mph	From Hope Township/

			Knowlton Township corporate line to Honey Run Road
Ridgeway Avenue	Both	25 mph	Entire length
Union Brick Road		35 mph	From Blairstown/Hope boundary to CR 655
Shiloh Road	Both	25 mph	Entire length

Section 2:

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3. Repealer.

Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication.

Resolution #14-20, Transfer Reserve Appropriations

The following Resolution was adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

2014-20
RESERVE Transfer Resolution

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 2013 Reserve Balances in Legal Services O/E, Road Maintenance O/E, Fuel Oil and Municipal Court O/E.

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

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:	Legal Services O/E	\$2,827.96
	Road Maintenance O/E	\$2,783.57
	Fuel Oil	\$1,333.80
	Municipal Court O/E	<u>\$707.85</u>
		\$7,653.18

From: Road Maintenance S/W

7,653.18

Resolution #14-21, Professional Service for Municipal Public Defender

The following Resolution was adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

RESOLUTION #14-21

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A
NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
FROM KENNETH KRAUSE, ESQ.

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope has a need to acquire professional services from Kenneth Krause, Esq. with offices at P.O. Box 366 (329 High Street), Hope, NJ 07844 as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will not exceed \$13,000.00 for general legal services; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is twelve (12) months; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Krause, Esq. has submitted a proposal dated January 1, 2014 indicating he will provide the professional services for the amount of \$300.00 per court appearance; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Krause, Esq. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Kenneth Krause, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Hope in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Kenneth Krause, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Hope has provided certification of the availability of funds in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hope authorizes the Mayor, Timothy C. McDonough to enter into a contract with Kenneth Krause, Esq. as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kenneth Krause, Esq. agrees to incorporate into this contract the mandatory language of subsection 3.4(a) of the Regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time and the contractor or subcontractor agrees to comply with the terms, provisions and obligations of said subsection 3.4 (a) provided that said subsection shall be applied subject to the terms of subsection 3.4 (d) of said Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this contract agree to incorporate into this contract the mandatory language of section 5.3 of the Regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127 as

amended and supplemented from time to time and the contractor or subcontractor agrees to comply with the terms, provisions and obligations of said section 5.3.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is directed to publish notice of this action in the legal section of The Star Gazette.

Resolution #14-22, Support the Preservation of Beaver Brook Farm

The following Resolution was adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

RESOLUTION #14-22

RESOLUTION GRANTING APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A
DEVELOPMENT EASEMENT ON THE BEAVER BROOK FARM BLOCK 3200
LOT 300 IN HOPE TOWNSHIP AND BLOCK 701 LOTS 1 & 1.03 IN
FRELINHUYSEN TOWNSHIP CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 140.92
ACRES

WHEREAS, the Warren County Agriculture Development Board (WCADB) has determined that the property known as the Beaver Brook Farm, owned by The Land Conservancy of New Jersey located on Block 3400 Lots 400 & 1400 and Block 3401 Lot 400 in Hope Township, consisting of approximately 140.92 acres, has available for purchase a development easement in accordance with the requirements of the farmland preservation program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.9A(b) on October 4, 2013 it was determined by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) that the application for the sale of a development easement was complete and accurate and satisfied the criteria contained in N.J.A.C. 2:76-17A.9(a); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17A.11, on January 23, 2014 the State Agricultural Development Committee has certified a development easement value of \$3,979 per acre based on zoning and environmental regulations in place as of 1/1/04 and \$3,979 per acre based on zoning and environmental regulations in place as of the current valuation date of November 27, 2013 with an estimated total value of \$560,720.68; and

WHEREAS, the property is part of the approved Warren County Planning Incentive Grant application and is funded by the Warren County Open Space, Farmland, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the tract would encourage the survivability of production agriculture in Hope Township, and said tract falls within a predetermined County Agricultural Development Area and is in the North West Project Area and property is located in the Highlands Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of the development easement on the property will encourage the survivability of the productive agriculture in Hope and Township and Warren County; and

WHEREAS, the pressures from development have significantly heightened the degree of imminence of change of land use from productive agriculture to non-agriculture uses; and

WHEREAS, preliminary approval for the purchase of development rights on this farm has been granted by the State Agricultural Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, the SADC is expected to grant final approval for funding amount on said application at its March 27, 2014 meeting; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.13 on February 20, 2014, the Warren County Agriculture Development Board is expected to approve the funding for the development easement with estimated cost share with no cost share contribution by Hope Township as follows: SADC \$392,800.41, Warren County \$167,920.27; and

WHEREAS, the WCADB approval will include the following conditions:

- a. No existing dwellings or structures on premises
- b. No existing agriculture labor housing on premises
- c. Two exception areas
 - 1) One non-severable exception of .65 acre for conversion of existing barn to single family residence restricted to one residential unit
 - 2) One non-severable exception of 1 acre for future single family residence restricted to one residential unit
- e. No Residual Dwelling Site Opportunities (RDSO's)
- f. No preexisting non-agricultural uses on premises
- g. Access easements to be determined by title search
- h. No proposed trails
- i. Warren County is requesting SADC funding for a 3% buffer on the final surveyed acreage

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of Hope as follows:

The Township Committee of Hope hereby grants permission for the purchase of the development easement by the County of Warren under the Farmland Preservation Act as set forth above and will not be participating in cost share.

Resolution #14-23, Revise Title of "Christmas Market Trust Dedication by Rider"

The following Resolution was adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

RESOLUTION #14-23

RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO REVISE THE TITLE OF THE "HOPE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT MARKET" DEDICATED TRUST BY RIDER, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:50-29

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey, established via Resolution #2009-25 on April 8, 2009 the "Hope Township Annual Christmas Craft Market" Dedicated Trust by Rider; and

WHEREAS, the municipality conducts the Annual Christmas Craft Market and other cultural events for residents for which the Township of Hope receives revenues that are not subject to reasonable accurate estimates in advance; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:50-29 allows municipalities to receive amounts for costs incurred for "Celebration of Public Events"; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve expenditures of monies by Dedication by Rider;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Mayor and Township Committee hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to authorize that the title, "Hope Township Annual Christmas Craft Market Dedication Trust by Rider" be revised to "Hope Township Celebration of Public Events Dedication Trust by Rider";
2. The Mayor and Township Committee hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures for the "Hope Township Celebration of Public Events Dedication Trust by Rider" as per N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-39.
3. The Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hope is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Environmental Commission and Green Team "Hope Go Green Fair"

A memo dated March 11, 2014 from the Hope Environmental Commission and the Green Team was acknowledged and discussed. The groups will hold a "Hope Go Green Fair" on April 12, 2014. They asked the Township Committee to close Cedar Street and Walnut Street during the fair, which will be from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The governing body approved the request and supported the event.

A request to conduct tours of the Moravian Distillery is under advisement pending the completion of the walkway once the weather is better and the snow and ice have melted.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M. on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by Koonz. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk

