

APRIL 23, 2014

A special meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 5:00 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 the Municipal Clerk, Mary Pat Quinn, and the Municipal Court Judge, Craig Dana.

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 by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards all on April 17, 2014.

Discuss Budget & Staff Requirements for Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope

Present for this discussion were Hardwick Mayor James Perry; Liberty Township Mayor John Inscho; Liberty Township Committeeman Peter Karcher; White Township Mayor Samuel Race; White Township Committeeman Jeff Herb; Brian Tipton, Esq., White Township Attorney; and Municipal Auditor Anthony Ardito. Representatives of Blirstown Township were invited but advised that they would not be at the meeting.

White Township asked for permission from the member municipalities of the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope and the Superior Court of New Jersey to become a new member of the court as a result of personnel changes in their court. The Superior Court has approved the addition of White Township as a new member. The members of the Municipal Court were unofficially advised by Blirstown Township that it would withdraw from the Court as a member effective December 31, 2014. Given these two changes, the remaining municipalities determined that they should meet to discuss their options.

Judge Dana discussed the December 13, 2013 letter from Yolanda Ciccone, the Assignment Judge of Vicinage 13 to Richard Wenner, Esq. (Courter, Kobert and Cohen). There are no outstanding issues related to the items in the letter.

Ardito reviewed the analysis that he prepared based on the involvement of Blirstown, Hardwick, Hope, Liberty and White. There were questions about how that would change if Blirstown is authorized by the Superior Court to withdraw as a member. Ardito advised that the costs of running the court do not decrease just because there is a reduction in revenue.

Also discussed were the merits of a shared court vs. a joint court. The Superior Court liaison seemed to be in favor of a shared court. This matter is under advisement.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk

