

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2021**

Sunshine Statement

"In compliance with the 'Open Public Meetings Act' this meeting was duly advertised by a notice to The Daily Journal on January 9, 2021 and the South Jersey Times on January 8, 2021. A notice was placed on the Municipal Office bulletin board as of January 5, 2021."

- **Roll Call – Kelsey Bayzick, Greg Facemyer, Robin Freitag, Joe Shoemaker, (Mayor Ritter was not present)**
- **Others Present – Gary VanMeter (OEM), Michael Garcia (Auditor), Matthew Ritter (Solicitor), Leo Selb (Administrator), John Hitchner (Clerk), Jeff Shimp (Resident), Tom Tedesco (Resident)**

***Approval of Minutes:** *Motion to Approve the 03/04/2021 regular meeting minutes minutes made by Bayzick and second by Shoemaker, Voice Vote 4-0.*

***Department and Committee Reports**

Freitag makes a motion to approve the department reports. Motion is seconded by Bayzick and approved 4-0 with a unanimous voice vote.

***Approval of bills:** *Motion to approve the Total Bills on the Treasurer's March 18, 2021 prepared bill list by Shoemaker and second by Freitag, Voice Vote all yes 4-0.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *Please stand, state your name and the municipality in which you live for the record, and in five (5) minutes or less briefly state your comments to the Township Committee. The Township Committee will allow for a total of 30 minutes for all public comments. (Ord. 18-01 Adopted 1/18/18)*

Open to the Public – Motion by Freitag, Second by Shoemaker, Voice Vote 4-0

No members of the public wished to speak

Close to the Public – Motion to close by Bayzick, Second by Freitag, Voice vote 4-0

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinances: Second Reading:

ORDINANCE 21-08: ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

A motion was made to open for public discussion by Bayzick. Motion was seconded by Shoemaker and approved 4-0 with a voice vote.

Being as no members of the public wished to speak a motion to close was made by Shoemaker and seconded by Freitag. Motion carries 4-0 with a voice vote.

Motion to adopt on second reading was made by Shoemaker and seconded by Bayzick. Motion carries with a 4-0 roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 21-35: RESOLUTION TO READ THE BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY.

Freitag makes a motion to approve resolution 21-35. Motion is seconded by Bayzick and approved with a 4-0 voice vote.

RESOLUTION 21-30: INTRODUCING THE BUDGET (Second Reading)

A motion was made by Bayzick to open for public discussion on the budget. Motion was seconded by Shoemaker and approved with a 4-0 voice vote.

Being as no members of the public wished to speak, a motion was made by Freitag to close to the public. Motion was seconded by Bayzick and approved with a 4-0 voice vote.

A motion was made by Bayzick to approve resolution 21-30 on second reading. Motion was seconded by Freitag and approved with a 4-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 21-36: TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Motion was made by Freitag to approve the resolution. Motion was seconded by Shoemaker and approved 4-0 by roll call vote.

Discussions –

Item #1 – Convenience Center Update

Administrator Selb informs the Committee that the accounting issues have been resolved with EarthTech and that the Engineer is working on resolving the pavement issues at the Center.

Item #2 – Hopewell Park Items – fencing, gate, lights

The Committee discusses adding various items to the park to reduce nighttime activity. It was

discussed to do things in phases starting with a street light and a new sign and possibly moving forward with a gate and fence.

Item #3 – Fliers for Water Testing

The Committee approved the proposed flier for water testing which was requested by the HTEC.

Item #4 – Sign for Township Building

Administrator Selb discusses the new sign which some of the Committee were able to view. The new sign will be durable, connect to wifi, have remote access, and should last a long time.

Item #5 – Garage Doors

The Committee discusses purchasing new doors for the new P/W garage building. The Administrator received three quotes and south jersey door was the lowest.

Item #6 – Sewall Rd Lines

The striping of Sewall Road was discussed. It was determined this should be done once the budget is finalized.

Item #7 – American Rescue Plan

The Township should expect a total assistance of \$800,000. The Committee discussed how to use it. Helping area businesses and upgrading an aging sewer system were both noted.

Item #8 – Use of Business Park for Open air Dance recital

The Committee discussed the use of the Senior Center property by the local dance studio for a performance. There were issues such as port-o-pots, insurance, and legal liabilities. It was also determined that this may set an unwanted precedent. The request was denied.

Item #9 – Recreational Cannabis

The Committee discussed the recent marijuana law and the amendments which were made concerning notifications to parents.

Item #10 – Dragon Village/Wedding Venue

The Committee was informed of recent improvements to Dragon Village and that the old DeCou's property in Shiloh may be turned into a wedding venue by the same owners as Dragon Village.

Item #11 – Shared Service Greenwich Twp./Shiloh Borough

The Administrator discussed moving into a formal shared services agreement with Shiloh and Greenwich with regards to the retirement of the Tax Collector and Tax Assessor.

Item #12 – Hopewell Day

No final decision was made with regards to whether or not to have Hopewell Day in 2021.

Item #13 – Youth Week (May 6th)

Clerk Hitchner informs the Committee of where the school is on moving forward with Youth Week 2021. He suggests that the meeting on April 1st be canceled and Youth Week be moved to May 6th at the request of the school.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Ritter informs the Committee that the Morse family was open to the proposed agreement to settle open business with them. He suggests having the new planner review the Ag Buffer Ordinance, recent marijuana laws, and preparing for the Master Plan review in 2022.

MOTION TO ADJOURN 7:35 PM by Freitag and second by Bayzick, voice vote 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Hitchner III, Municipal Clerk