

MINUTES
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
March 21, 2019

Approved
04/18/2019

Flag Salute

Sunshine Statement:

In compliance with the 'Open Public Meetings Act' this meeting was duly advertised by a notice to The Daily Journal and the South Jersey Times, sent on January 5, 2019. A notice was placed on the Municipal Office bulletin board as of the same date.

Roll Call: Township Committee: Facemyer, Freitag, Ritter, Shoemaker, Hankins;

Others: Matt Ritter (Solicitor), Ted Ritter (Deputy Solicitor), John Hitchner (Acting Clerk), Leo Selb (Township Admin), Gary VanMeter (OEM Coordinator) Tony Ricciuti (Resident), Sam French (Resident), Jeff Shimp (Resident)

***Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Facemyer to approve the minutes of 03/07/2019 Regular Committee Meeting and the 03/07/2019 Executive Session Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Freitag and approved 4-0 (Mr. Ritter wasn't present yet).

***Department and Committee Reports**

Administrator/Clerk:

- John Hitchner has passed his Introduction to Municipal Clerk's Class and began his second course, Advanced Duties of the Municipal Clerk.
- Leo Selb started on 03/21/2019.

Code Enforcement:

- Report included in your packet

Construction:

- February permit fees: \$1,470.00

Dog Registrar:

- 222 licenses have been issued as of March 19, 2019

Economic Development Committee:

- Next meeting is 4/08/2019.

Hopewell/Stow Creek Fire Company:

- The fire company is electing a new slate of officers next month. Fire Chief Max Dilks will be retiring from being Chief after 23 years as Chief. Kenny Mayhew will be voted in as Fire Chief starting in April.

Land Use Board (Planning/ Zoning): (Shoemaker/Ritter):

- February Zoning Report \$0.00

Public Works/Road: (Shoemaker):

- Report included with your packet.

Tax & Sewer Collector:

- February 2019 Cash Book Report (\$1,740,193.75 tax incl. interest and \$90,697.72 sewer incl. interest).

Senior Center: (Freitag):

- See attached report.

There is some discussion about getting a plaque for the retiring Fire Chief. It is decided that there should be 2 plaques, one for the Chief and one for the Fire Hall. A motion was made by Mr. Shoemaker to accept the Department & Committee Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ritter and approved 5-0.

***Approval of bills:** Total Bills **\$622,829.68** (including payroll) on Treasurers March 21, 2019 prepared list

A motion was made by Mr. Facemyer to approve the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ritter and approved 5-0.

***Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was submitted by the CFO for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Facemyer and seconded by Mr. Shoemaker to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carries 5-0.

The Mayor states that he received a call from Gordon Gross about a loose animal out on Harmony Rd. The house looked abandoned. There was a steer loose. The Mayor and Gary caught the steer and put it back. Today Leo and Dave Haaf went out to the house. They found a dead horse and calf which looked like they had starved to death. There were also 4 pigs out there still alive. The County Prosecutor got involved. It's now a crime scene. The animals were hauled away. There is discussion about putting a lien on the house to pay for services and disposal of the carcasses. There is discussion about letting the mortgage company know somehow. The Mayor wants us to stay in touch with the Prosecutors office.

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)*

Tony Ricciuti stands up to address the Committee. He thanks the Committee for their time and help. He talks about branches hanging in the road on Sewall Rd. past Kinkle. He asks whose responsibility it is to trim them.

Tony also states some complaints about hunting behind the school on the park property. The Mayor states that no one should be hunting north of the stream. Mr. Hitchner takes Tony's phone number and states that he will get him the information for the game warden.

Sam French addresses the Committee. He states that he needs 3.5 ft along his property line so he can install a septic system. Mr. French needs some type of waiver so the septic can be within a certain distance of the property line. Ted Ritter looks over his papers and states that he will look into it and get Mr. French some direction on what to do.

Being no more members of the public wished to speak, a motion was made by Mr. Facemyer to close the public comment portion. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ritter and approved 5-0.

Adoption and public hearing: Ordinance 19-02: Budget CAP Ordinance

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

ORDINANCE 19-02

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of Hopewell Township in the County of Cumberland finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2019 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Committee hereby determines that a 3.5 % increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$14,356.87 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, in the County of Cumberland, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2019 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Hopewell shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$50,249.05, and that the CY 2019 municipal budget for the Township of Hopewell be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Roll Call Vote Introduction:

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bruce R. Hankins			X			
Paul Ritter III			X			
Greg Facemyer	X		X			
Robin Freitag		X	X			
Joseph Shoemaker			X			

Roll Call Vote Adoption:

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bruce R. Hankins			X			
Paul Ritter III		X	X			
Greg Facemyer	X		X			
Robin Freitag			X			
Joseph Shoemaker			X			

A motion to open ordinance 19-02 for public discussion was made by Mr. Facemyer. Motion was seconded by Mr. Shoemaker and approved 5-0.

No members of the public wished to speak.

A motion was made to close the public portion by Mr. Shoemaker. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ritter and approved 5-0.

Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Mr. Facemyer and seconded by Mr. Ritter. The motion passes on a unanimous roll call vote, 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Introduction: Ordinance 19-03: Sewer Rate ordinance
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
CUMBERLAND COUNTY
ORDINANCE 19-03**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP SEWER
ORDINANCE, #05-08, CODIFIED AS ORDINANCE #7.04

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Cumberland, and State of New Jersey, that the Sewer Ordinance of the Township of Hopewell is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

SECTION 8. User Charges.

A. No change

B. Effective January 1, 2020, the annual rate for each domestic consumer unit (DCU) shall be \$700.00 Dollars, to be divided as follows: \$245.00 Dollars capital charge; \$455.00 Dollars treatment and operating charge. The rate shall be paid quarterly at the rate of one-fourth (1/4th) of the annual charge per quarter, and pro rata for portions thereof.

C. No change.

Introduction:
Roll Call:

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bruce R. Hankins			X			
Paul Ritter III		X	X			
Greg Facemyer			X			
Robin Freitag			X			
Joseph Shoemaker	X		X			

Adoption:

Roll Call:

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bruce R. Hankins						
Paul Ritter III						
Greg Facemyer						
Robin Freitag						
Joseph Shoemaker						

A motion was made by Mr. Shoemaker to approve the sewer rate ordinance. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ritter and approved by a unanimous roll call vote, 5-0.

Resolutions-

***Resolution 19-25:** Civil Rights Acknowledgement

RESOLUTION NO. 19-25

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit’s hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit’s hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual’s criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, in the County of Cumberland, hereby states that it has complied with **N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5**, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit’s hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this Resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

Moved By: Mr. Ritter

Seconded By: Mr. Facemyer

VOTING

Bruce R. Hankins
 Paul Ritter, III
 Greg Facemyer
 Robin Freitag
 Joseph Shoemaker

<u>In Favor</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
X			
X			
X			
X			
X			

A motion was made by Mr. Ritter to approve the resolution. Motion was seconded by Mr. Facemyer and approved 5-0.

Discussions-

Item #1 – Path to Progress report. Consider endorsing this report on future funding of state pensions.

The Township Committee reviews the Path to Progress report as submitted. There is discussion. The Committee decides to neither endorse nor reject the report. They remain

neutral.

Item #2 – Roadside cleanups for Citizen’s for a cleaner, brighter Hopewell on 5/4/2019 and 5/5/2019.

Mr. Ritter made a motion to approve the cleanups. Motion was seconded by Mr. Shoemaker and approved 5-0.

Item #3 – Roadside cleanup for Bridgeton First Church of the Nazarene Youth Group.

Mr. Shoemaker makes a motion to approve the roadside cleanup. Motion is seconded by Mr. Facemyer and approved 5-0.

Item #4 – Discuss paying Fralinger to overlay tax map with satellite images for tax liens.

The Mayor states that he was able to use the website that Matt Ritter provided. He believes the information from that website should be sufficient to view the properties with liens and that we won’t need the booklet from Fralingers.

Solicitor’s Report

Matt states that we did not get very long a break from tax appeals. The Amish Farm Market has filed their appeal directly with the State, but they are using a local attorney.

Matt states that a letter was sent to the farmers around Bostwick Lake stating their will be no pumping in 2019. If either farmer thinks they will be pumping this year, the Township will be taking action. There may be litigation which could be costly. The Committee discusses this and feels they are already invested in this area. They also feel this is a matter of principle. Matt will be in contact with Upper Deerfield solicitor Rocco Tedesco regarding coordination and handling of litigation for Bostwick Lake. Hopewell Township plans on sharing the cost of litigation with Upper Deerfield.

The Bostwick Lake Commission stated that the State might waive the dam inspection. This would save the Commission a lot of money.

Mrs. Freitag brings up Youth Week. The Committee is interested in participating this year with the school. Leo will organize.

Mr. Ritter brings up the CDC report from the meeting the other day. Bridgeton will be out of the CDC and it appears Maurice River is in. Mr. Ritter also brings up that Cumberland Regional is down to 1,036 kids. They need to increase enrollment. Mr. Hitchner is going to look into the Ag Tech Program that Tony Stanzione discussed.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm on a motion by Mrs. Freitag, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker. Motion passes 5-0.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: April 18, 2019 @ 6:30 pm

John Hitchner, Acting Clerk

cc: Committee,

Township Bulletin Bd.,

Sol. Matthew Ritter

Sol. T. H. Ritter