

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
April 15, 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 Paul Ritter**
- **Others Present – Gary VanMeter (OEM), Matthew Ritter (Solicitor), Leo Selb (Administrator), John Hitchner (Clerk), Jeff Shimp (Resident), Tom Tedesco (Resident), Bruce Hankins (Former Mayor), Al Caggiano (LUB Chairman), Ms. Korman (Resident)**

*\*Approval of Minutes: Motion to Approve the 03/18/2021 regular meeting minutes was made by Mr. Shoemaker and second by Mrs. Freitag, Voice Vote 5-0.*

**\*Department and Committee Reports**

*Mr. Facemyer makes a motion to approve the department reports. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bayzick and approved 5-0 with a unanimous voice vote.*

*\*Approval of bills: A motion to approve the Total Bills on the Treasurer's April 15, 2021 prepared bill list was made by Mr. Facemyer and second by Ms. Bayzick. Motion carries with a unanimous voice vote, 5-0.*

**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)*

*Mr. Shoemaker makes a motion to open to the public. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Freitag and approved 5-0.*

*Ms. Korman states that she is seeking permission to spay/neuter the cats at the dump as she has done in years past. She is working through South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter. Administrator Selb states that they are not registered under our current laws and for insurance purposes she would either need to reach out to Animal Friends Foundation who is registered or SJRAS would need to be registered. The Committee discusses options and instructs Administrator Selb to work towards finding a adequate resolution so Ms. Korman may proceed.*

*Mr. Shimp Discussed his need to resign from the Agricultural Advisory Committee because of a conflict due to his farmland preservation application. The Committee thanked him for his service to the Township.*

*Being as no other members of the public wished to speak, a motion was made by Mr. Facemyer to close the public portion. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Freitag and approved 5-0.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Ordinances: Second Reading:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Ordinances: First Reading:**

**ORDINANCE 21-10: ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING CAPITAL FUNDS FOR THE LED SIGN**

*Mrs. Freitag made a motion to approve Ordinance 21-10 on first reading. Motion was seconded by Mr. Shoemaker and approved 5-0 with a roll call vote.*

**ORDINANCE 21-11: ORDINANCE OPTING OUT FOR MARIJUANA**

*Mr. Facemyer made a motion to approve Ordinance 21-11 on first reading. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Freitag and approved with a unanimous roll call vote.*

**Resolutions:**

**RESOLUTION 21-37: RESOLUTION CHAPTER 159 INSERTING RECYCLING GRANT FUNDS INTO THE BUDGET**

*Ms. Bayzick makes a motion to approve Resolution 21-37. Motion is seconded by Mr. Shoemaker and approved 5-0.*

**RESOLUTION 21-38: RESOLUTION TO REFUND PAYMENT OF TAXES WHEN A PROPERTY IS CLASSIFIED EXEMPT**

*Mr. Shoemaker makes a motion to approve Resolution 21-38. Motion is seconded by Mrs. Freitag and approved 5-0.*

**RESOLUTION 21-39: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FRALINGER ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP SANITARY LANDFILL**

*Mr. Shoemaker makes a motion to approve Resolution 21-39. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bayzick and approved 5-0.*

**RESOLUTION 21-40: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FRALINGER ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP NJDOT PROJECT ON HOLLY TERRACE AND ELWELL TERRACE**

*A motion was made to approve Resolution 21-40 by Mrs. Freitag. Motion was seconded by Mr. Facemyer and approved 5-0.*

**RESOLUTION 21-41: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SELF-EXAMINATION OF THE 2021 BUDGET**

*Mr. Facemyer made a motion to approve Resolution 21-41. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Freitag and approved 5-0.*

**RESOLUTION 21-43: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING JEFF SHIMPS RESIGNATION FROM THE AAC**

*A motion was made by Ms. Bayzick to approve Resolution 21-43. Motion was seconded by Mr. Facemyer and approved 5-0.*

**Discussions –**

**Item #1** – Convenience Center Update Proposal for site map/design for sink holes

*Administrator Selb discussed the need to address the pavement at the Convenience Center*

**Item #2** – American Rescue Grant Money – 2 Block Grants \$400,000 each used by 12-31-2024

*Administrator Selb gave an update as to the status and distribution of the federal grant money.*

**Item #3** – Youth Week

*Clerk Hitchner gave the Committee an update on youth week. He requested the three Committee members ask questions of the Youth Week Candidates during the public portion of their meeting.*

**Item #4** – Shared service with Greenwich and Shiloh for Tax Assessor

*Administrator Selb discusses the progress on the retirement of the Tax Assessor Lois Mazza and is looking into shared services for this position with Shiloh and Greenwich moving forward afterward. He will be meeting with the neighboring towns.*

**Item #5** – Discussion about park, trails, gates.

*Administrator Selb discusses recent events in the park and trails with residents driving in places they aren't allowed. He suggests installing a gate at certain entrances and the Committee agrees.*

**Item #6** – Planner review of Ag Buffer

*The Committee discusses the recent review of the Ag Buffer Ordinance by the new Township Planner Scheule. They instruct Clerk Hitchner to have the Land Use Board review the same at their next meeting.*

*Mayor Ritter discusses the recent CDC meeting concerning the Animal Sheltering and recent discussion about addressing off-road vehicles. He also brings up grants concerning electric vehicle charging stations and potentially expanding internet coverage within the Township.*

**Solicitor's Report**

*Solicitor Ritter informs the Committee that there has been more discussion concerning the Wedding Barn resolution and that he and Clerk Hitchner have been working diligently on the Codification.*

**RESOLUTION 21-42: EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONTRACTS; POTENTIAL LITIGATION**

*Mrs. Freitag makes a motion to approve Resolution 21-42 to enter Executive session. Motion is seconded by Ms. Bayzick and approve 5-0 at 7:45 pm.*

*(Committee leaves Executive Session at 8:15 pm)*

*Mayor Ritter discusses the obstacles of planning Hopewell Day given the uncertainty of the pandemic. Clerk Hitchner advises that it takes months of preparation and that we request money from local businesses in order to fund the event. It is decided to cancel Hopewell Day for 2021.*

*Mrs. Freitag makes a motion to have Administrator Selb pursue renovations for the front room to be rented. Motion is seconded by Mr. Shoemaker and approved 5-0.*

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Bayzick at 8:20 pm. Motion was second by Mr. Shoemaker and approved 5-0.*

**Respectfully submitted,**

**John H. Hitchner III, Municipal Clerk**