

AGENDA
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING Minutes
May 7, 2020

Final

Start at 4:01pm

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. A notice was placed on the Township website as of May 1, 2020.

Roll Call: Paul Ritter, Greg Facemyer, Roni Freitag, Joe Shoemaker, Mayor Bruce Hankins

***Opening statement from Clerk about online meeting procedures**

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)*

Motion to Open to Public made by Freitag, second by Ritter, voice vote all yes

No Public Comment

Motion to close to public by Shoemaker, second by Facemyer. Voice vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussions & Resolutions -

Item #1 – Discussion about municipal parks and Bostwick Lake

Discussion ensued about opening Parks. Committeeman Ritter advised people like to walk out at the park. Motion to open Hopewell Park on Sewall Rd. by Ritter, second by Facemyer. Public works will remove all barricades etc.

Bostwick Lake. Discussion. Administrator advised we closed Park on our side by Upper Deerfield did not. Solicitor advised he sent packet down to Wells Fargo via email and snail mail about turning the Lake back to Wells Fargo. He has heard nothing. Mayor spoke up about setting a date regarding the abandonment of the Lake for 5 years regrading compliance with the Stewart Estate requirement. Administrator raised the concern about the Ordinance establishing the Commission is still in place. Committeeman Facemyer suggested we fill the vacant seats with Committee members and that way action can be taken by the Commission. Consensus was to direct Administrator to put together a Resolution to go forward to abandon Bostwick Lake. Talk to TRICO JIF who is insuring the Lake to see we are protected and what needs to be done. Check on prices for concrete barriers, etc. to block of entrances. Put together appropriate signage. Advised Upper Deerfield of what is being planned so they can advise as well. Mayor advised last time Upper Deerfield and Hopewell met all agreed to turn it back to Stewart Estate. Motion made Freitag, second by Facemyer to have appropriate Resolution drafted for next meeting. All voted yes.

Item #2 – Discussion of a temporary Shared Service Agreement with Bridgeton for the Clerk's Department

Resolution 20-45: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BRIDGETON FOR A DEPUTY CLERK

Discussion

Solicitor advised appropriate language submitted to address concerns about any costs on part of Hopewell being paid by City of Bridgeton if any should occur for IT services. Also, about not having the Twp. Administrator only working remotely and not entering the building. Committee consensus was to go forward with Resolution as long as Bridgeton accepts the changes.

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

Item #3 – Discussion on the extension of the Tax Grace Period

Resolution 20-46: RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR LATE TAX PAYMENTS TO JUNE 1, 2020

Discussion: Committeeman Facemyer advised he spoke with the Tax Collector regarding this Resolution. Municipal Clerk advised he attempted to contact the Tax Collector for numbers but, was unable to speak with her. Administrator advised he spoke with her about comparison collection rates between this year and last year for 2nd quarter. She advised she will have better numbers after Monday, Dec 11, 2020 when grace period ends. She advised collection appears normal and advised between mortgage company payments and many of the residents having fixed incomes due to age, etc. they all seem to be coming in on a timely manner.

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

Item #4 – Discussion about Hopewell Day 2020

Municipal Clerk and Administrator spoke about Hopewell Day preparations. Municipal Clerk suggested we have larger than usual treasury from last year to start Hopewell Day. Maybe just have some bouncy houses. One comment was made the kids would be at risk as they would be so close together and it would be difficult to keep a social distance if needed. Administrator raised concerns about using caution from a possible legal standard against some type of discrimination. It was discussed by the Administrator that it would take 8 to 10 weeks to set it up but all medical experts are saying we could get a resurgence come the fall. Jonas King advised regardless if we don't have Hopewell Day he may go ahead with planting a corn maze so he can use it in October. It may be better to be cautious as if we did have it a major concern may be compliance with masks, etc. The Municipal Clerk suggested we use some the funds to support the businesses who supported Hopewell Day with a large AD even though we may not have Hopewell Day. Administrator raised concerns about using caution from a possible legal standard against some type of discrimination. Perhaps some businesses wanted to participate but couldn't financially and it may be construed as discriminatory. Not worth the possible legal expense to defend. The TRICO JIF also insures these types of events and we should check with them as they may also have concerns. Perhaps it best not to have Hopewell Day and next year have one bigger and better. Motion by Freitag, second by Ritter, all yes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Facemyer, second by Freitag, voice vote all yes. At @5:15pm

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: May 21, 2020 @ 6:30 pm
Leo Selb, Deputy Township Clerk
cc: Committee,