

**MINUTES**  
**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP**  
**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
 May 18, 2023

**Start Time:** 6:31 p.m.

The **Sunshine Statement** was read into the record by Vice Mayor, Robin Freitag.

The **Flag Salute** was led by Vice Mayor Freitag.

- **Roll Call:** Kelsey Bayzick, David Miller, Tom Tedesco, Robin Freitag present. Mayor Paul Ritter appeared by phone for the budget portion of the meeting.  
 Also Present: Leo Selb, Admin/Clerk; Jeannette Pace, Deputy Clerk; Neil Young, CFO; and Michael Garcia, Municipal Auditor; and Township Solicitor Matt Ritter, Esquire
- **Introduction of Hopewell Township Budget.**  
 Municipal Auditor Michael Garcia presented the budget to the Committee. After presentation, Garcia indicated that the budget would result in a 9/10 of a cent increase in the tax rate or a \$9.00 increase on a \$100,000.00 assessment.

A **Motion to Open** to the Public was made by Bayzick and Seconded by Miller.

Roll Call Vote:

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kelsey Bayzick	X		X			
Robin Freitag			X			
David Miller		X	X			
Tom Tedesco			X			
Paul J. Ritter, III			X			

Seeing no one, a **Motion to Close** the Public Portion was made by Bayzick and Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.

**Resolution #23-45 Introducing the Hopewell Township 2023 Budget**

Discussion: None

**Motion to Adopt** made by Bayzick; Seconded by Miller.

Roll Call Vote:

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kelsey Bayzick	X		X			
Robin Freitag			X			
David Miller		X	X			
Tom Tedesco				X		
Paul J. Ritter, III			X			

**Motion to Adopt Passed** by a 4-0-1 vote.

Mayor Ritter disconnected from the meeting.

**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 the Public:

Motion by Bayzick; Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.

**Discussion:**

Isabel and Yiesica Lopez of 714 Shiloh Pike appeared. They live next to the empty lot/field next to Newfield Bank which is owned by the Township. They are having a party on July 29<sup>th</sup> with between 100-150 people and are asking the Township's permission to park vehicles in the empty field. They confirmed that there would be alcohol present. Solicitor Ritter voiced the liability concerns involved. Discussion was had by the Committee and the Lopezes regarding insurance coverage should something happen during the party. Bayzick requested that Selb reach out to JIF to find out what they would require to hold the party. It was also suggested that they could use the road and cul de sac next to the bank and Amish Market which is a public road. Selb indicated that he would look into the insurance requirements and get back to them.

Seeing no one else, a Motion was made by Bayzick to Close the Public Portion which was Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the April 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Discussion: None.

Motion by Bayzick; Seconded by Tedesco. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Approval of the April 20, 2023 Executive Meeting Minutes

Discussion: None.

Motion by Bayzick; Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.

- **Department and Committee Reports**
  - **Written Reports Submitted by Tax Collector, Senior Center, Environmental Commission Newsletter.**
  - **Township Admin/Municipal Clerk's Report** (verbal presented by Leo Selb)
    - 1 Member has not completed his Financial Disclosure Statement which is resulting in fines being assessed each day until completion
    - Plane crash update given
    - Bay Hill Environmental Lead-Based Paint update given
    - Senator Booker has approved the self-contained breathing apparatus and that is in its next stage
    - Update given on the Broadband commitments.
    - Advised Committee of the situation happening at the Roadstown Pump Station. Issue with size of generator; may need to update Ordinance to raise sewer fees
    - Update of picnic park – signs ordered, parking, etc. Dutch Neck Landscaping donating time for the landscaping with Township paying for materials only
    - Recycling Report – deadline for filing missed by Public Works. Selb was able to get them to accept our late filing. Funds will not be received until 2025.
  - **Deputy Clerk's Report** (written report presented by Jeannette Pace with minimal commentary added)

### **Approval of Department Reports**

No further discussion

Motion by Tedesco; Seconded by Miller; Voice Vote: All in favor.

- **Treasurer's Report and Approval of Bills**

Approval of Treasurer's Report for April, 2023 and Bills:

Discussion: None.

Motion by Miller; Seconded by Bayzick; Voice Vote: All in favor.

A **Motion was made** by Bayzick; Seconded by Tedesco to approve the Clean Communities payment to the Village Trappers for roadside cleanup of Roadstown and Trench Road on 5/21/23. Voice Vote: All in favor.

### **ORDINANCES:**

#### **Ordinance for Adoption:**

**#23-06: ORDINANCE TO RAISE LOSAP APPROPRIATION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OF HOPEWELL/STOW CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Motion to Open to the Public by Tedesco; Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.  
Motion to Close Public Portion by Tedesco; Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Discussion: None

**Motion to Adopt:**

Motion by Tedesco; Seconded by Miller.

Roll Call Vote:

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kelsey Bayzick					X	
Robin Freitag			X			
David Miller		X	X			
Tom Tedesco	X		X			
Paul J. Ritter, III						X

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**#23-62: RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LEAD BASED PAINT FEE SCHEDULE AND PROCESS FOR PAYMENT OF FEES**

Discussion: None

Motion to Approve by Bayzick; Seconded by Tedesco.

Voice Vote: All in favor, Miller abstained.

**#23-63: RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION TO CREATE A DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR THIRD PARTY LEAD BASED PAINT INSPECTION FEES AS PER N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437-1.**

Discussion: None

Motion to Approve by Bayzick; Seconded by Tedesco.

Voice Vote: All in favor, Miller abstained.

**#23-64: RESOLUTION FOR MUNICIPAL AID FOR JUNE DRIVE AND JAY AVENUE**

Discussion: None

Motion to Approve by Miller; Seconded by Tedesco. Voice Vote: All in favor.

**#23-65: RESOLUTION REMOVING AND ADDING NAMES TO OCEAN FIRST BANK ACCOUNTS**

Discussion: None.

Motion to Approve by Bayzick; Seconded by Tedesco. Voice Vote: All in favor.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Polling Places: Pace advised the Committee that the County Board of Elections would not permit all 3 districts to be located at the municipal building due to their concern for turnout at the time of the presidential election and that they wanted to keep the polling places the same for each election. Therefore, District 1 will be moved back to the Senior Center and Districts 2 and 3 will be at the municipal building.
- Dragon Village: Selb updated the Committee on the current happenings at Dragon Village including the various events, day and evening, that they were having. Discussion was had regarding the violations of the various permits that are or may be required to hold the events. Selb is going to have our zoning officer send a letter to them regarding any possible violations.
- Convenience Center: Tedesco advised that he should have a more definitive time table for completion at the June meeting.
- Picnic Park. Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Health Department \$10,000 Grant: Pace updated the Committee that she was discussing website options at this time. A decision will be made in time for the June meeting.
- Master Plan Re-Examination Status: Tedesco updated the Committee on the current status of the Master Plan Re-Exam. It was confirmed that the Committee needed to do nothing further and is simply to be provided with a copy of the report upon completion.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- NJDOT Municipal Aid for 2023 and 2024 – Tedesco spoke to the Committee regarding the NJDOT Municipal Aid grant. Discussion as to what road(s) could be done under the grant. Grant deadline July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

- Update Cumberland Manor Tax Appeal: Solicitor Ritter advised that a Case Management Order was received and discovery is proceeding. He expects a trial date in April of 2024.

## **RESOLUTION #23-56 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The General Nature of the subject matters discussed were Personnel.

Motion to Enter into Executive Session by Bayzick; Seconded by Tedesco

Time: 7:45 p.m. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Motion to Enter into Public Session by Freitag; Seconded by Bayzick.

Time: 8:05 p.m. Voice Vote: All in favor.

**Action Taken:**

Two Offers of Employment will be submitted to the proposed candidates as discussed in Executive Session. A Motion was made by Bayzick; Seconded by Miller as to the above with a Voice Vote: All in favor.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Motion by Miller; Seconded by Tedesco. Voice Vote: All in favor.

**End Time:** 8:07 p.m.      **Next Meeting Date:** June 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Leo F. Selb, Jr., Township Administrator/Municipal Clerk  
Jeannette Pace, Deputy Clerk  
cc: Township Committee and Counsel