

MINUTES
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
August 17, 2023

Start Time: 6:30 p.m.

The **Sunshine Statement** was read into the record by Mayor Ritter.

The **Flag Salute** was led by Mayor Ritter.

- **Roll Call:** Robin Freitag, Kelsey Bayzick, Tom Tedesco and David Miller present.
 - Also Present: John Hitchner, Admin; Jeannette Pace, Acting Clerk; Township Solicitor Matt Ritter, Esquire
- **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the July 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Discussion: Minutes were amended to remove Leo Selb's name and add John Hitchner

Motion by Miller to approved with amendment; Seconded by Bayzick. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Approval of Department Reports

Discussion: Hitchner added to his report that the bid opening for the Convenience Center was on 8/10/23. He spoke about the grant money being used on the project. He also talked about the status of the generator at the pump station. In addition, he mentioned new shirts being purchased for Township Employees utilizing Clean Communities monies. After no further discussion, a Motion was made by Bayzick and Seconded by Freitag to approve the reports. Voice Vote: All in favor.

RESOLUTION #2023-90 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1, OAK DRIVE 2022 NJDOT RESURFACING PROJECT

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

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

Approval of Treasurer's Report for July 2023 and Bills. No further discussion. Motion by Freitag to approve; Seconded by Miller; Voice Vote: All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Fire Chief Ken Mayhew spoke on behalf of the Fire Department. He advised the Committee that

long-time member Doug Zirkle and his son started a business to find wounded deer with their drone and have offered their services to the Fire Department. They are fully licensed and insured. He asked the Solicitor to let him know if any paperwork is needed. He advised that the equipment is high tech and works in rain and strong winds. The Committee agreed that this will be a great benefit to the department. Mayhew also spoke as to the status of the fire truck and broke down when they obtained their trucks and when they would need a new one. Mayor Ritter suggested our CFO look at the bonding capacity and when outstanding bonds were due. Mayhew indicated the department would benefit from a new rescue/engine vehicle. He also spoke as to 911 addresses. Residents do not have house numbers visible and driveways are overgrown. Pace suggested putting information in the Hopewell Day bags and offered to make a flyer for that purpose.

Seeing no one further, a Motion to close the public portion was made by Bayzick and Seconded by Freitag; Voice Vote: All in favor.

ORDINANCES for Adoption on second reading:

#2023-07: 2027 Salary Ordinance:

Motino to Open to Public by Bayzick; Seconded by Freitag; Voice Vote: All in favor.
 Seeing no one, Motion to Close by Bayzick; Seconded by Freitag; Voice Vote: All in favor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

ORDINANCES for Introduction:

#2023-08: Street Opening Fees Ordinance

Discussion: Title of Ordinance in packet is incorrect and will be fixed prior to adoption.

Roll Call Vote:

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

#2023-09: Temporary Housing Ordinance

Discussion: Copy of Ordinance will be sent to the Land Use Board for review of consistency with the Master Plan.

Roll Call Vote:

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

RESOLUTIONS:

#2023-91: RESOLUTION APPROVING TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN (WELDEN) PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION – 45 Pineview Terrace, Block 24, Lot 19

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

#2023-92: RESOLUTION AWARDING THE CONTRACT TO RICKY SLADE FOR ADA IMPROVEMENTS AT THE CONVENIENCE CENTER

Discussion had regarding amount of grant, amount being used and excess left over.

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

#2023-93: RESOLUTION TO AMEND ADOPTED BUDGET (Chapter 159) – Special Items of Revenue and Appropriation – NJ DEP Municipal Stormwater Assistance Grant

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

#2023-94: RESOLUTION TO AMEND ADOPTED BUDGET (Chapter 159) - Special Items of Revenue and Appropriation – Website Redesign and Enhancement

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Audit: Approval and Acknowledgment of Findings and Recommendations: Hitchner went through the findings and recommendations.
- NJEM Grants - MOU Authorization: Mayor will sign off.
- NJLM – Third week of November: Consensus to close Township Offices at 3:00 due to staff attendance at NJLM.
- Events Permits: Hitchner will review what other towns are doing.
- Conversion from Verizon to other provider for office phones: Hitchner will review costs and compare quotes – further discussion at a later date.

- Local Recreation Improvement Grants: Hitchner will do further research on this with Blauer Associates
- Solar Panels on Municipal Building / Senior Center: Discussion held on putting solar panels on both the municipal building and the senior center. Tedesco and Miller made recommendations on solar providers. Hitcher will do additional research and obtain an assessment by RCL Solar.
- Weed Killer licensing/training: Discussion regarding Public Works Supervisor obtaining licensing for spreading pesticides. Committee suggested Hitcher discuss with JIF whether or not there is insurance coverage for this. Additional research required.
- Rental of Sidearm Mower – Upper Deerfield: Discussion regarding Upper Deerfield Township rental our Sidearm Mower. Committee agreed to rental with restrictions.
- Rocks on park trails: Discussion regarding current situation with rock gardens being placed on trails at the park. Public Works will only remove rocks in the area where mowing is done or where the rocks could damage the equipment or cause harm or tripping hazards to residents.
- Sale of Paper Street – 90 Westwood: Discussion regarding the sale of the paper street. Further research is required.
- Recycling Cans Purchase: The Township is in need of additional recycling cans. Committee agreed to the purchase of 100 round cans.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Ritter spoke of the \$968 overdue by the Green Olive on their judgment. Final follow-up would be done before entering a judgment in full.

Ritter spoke of the letters that were sent to the neighboring property owners on Oak Drive. He is still waiting for a response from one.

Ritter spoke of the farmland lease and the issue with the DEP adopting new regulations which will impact the farmability of that parcel.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

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

End Time: 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: October 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Jeannette Pace, Acting Clerk

cc: Township Administrator, Committee and Counsel