

MINUTES
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Re-Org. January 2, 2024

Start Time: 5:00 p.m.

The **Sunshine Statement** was read into the record by Acting Municipal Clerk Jeannette Pace
The **Flag Salute** was led by Jeannette Pace

Pastor Strope led the prayer.

Pace thanked Pastor Strope and congratulated newly elected committeepersons, Kelsey Bayzick and Jeff Shimp. Solicitor Matt Ritter administered their Oaths of Office.

Pace initiated **Roll Call**: Present: Kelsey Bayzick, Robin Freitag, David Miller, Jeff Shimp and Tom Tedesco. Also Present: John Hitchner, Admin; Jeannette Pace, Acting Clerk; Solicitors Ted Ritter, Esquire and Matt Ritter, Esquire

Pace asked for a motion to open up nominations for Mayor. Bayzick made the motion with Tedesco seconded. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Pace asked for a **nomination for Mayor**. Bayzick nominated Robin Freitag as Mayor. Tedesco spoke highly of Ms. Freitag and seconded the nomination. Voice Vote: All in favor. Freitag takes the Mayor's seat at the table.

Freitag asked for a motion to open up nominations for Vice Mayor. Bayzick makes the motion and Shimp seconded. Voice Vote: All in favor. Freitag asks for a **nomination for Vice Mayor**. Bayzick makes a motion to nominate Tom Tedesco as Vice Mayor. Shimp seconds. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Solicitor Ted Ritter swears in Mayor Freitag and Solicitor Matt Ritter swears in Vice Mayor Tedesco with the assistance of his son, Michael Tedesco.

Freitag asks for a motion to **open to the public**. Tedesco makes the motion. Miller seconds. Voice Vote: All in favor. Prior to opening it up to the public, Freitag introduces Cumberland County Sheriff Michael Donato to say a few words. Donato addresses the Committee offering his continued services to Hopewell Township, congrats all of the committee and wishes everyone well for 2024.

Freitag asks if anyone in the public wishes to speak. Joe Stanger, Freitag's brother, addresses the committee. Stanger speaks highly of his sister and how much she gives back to her community and believes she will do a great job as our Mayor.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Freitag asks for a motion to **close the public portion**. Miller makes the motion. Bayzick seconds. Voice Vote: All in favor.

RESOLUTIONS (Consent Agenda):

Freitag asks the Committee to review all Resolutions on the Consent Agenda and asks if there are any conflicts or items that need to be discussed before voting. Hearing no one, Freitag asks Clerk Pace to read the Consent Agenda items by Title Only for the record as follows:

- #2024-01 Resolution Establishing 2024 Meeting Dates and Official Newspapers**
- #2024-02 Resolution Establishing 2024 Holiday Schedule**
- #2024-03 Resolution Establishing a Cash Management Plan**
- #2024-04 Resolution Adopting the 2024 Temporary Budget**
- #2024-05 Resolution Establishing Depositories and Change Funds**
- #2024-06 Resolution Authorizing Petty Cash Funds for 2024**
- #2024-07 Resolution Establishing 2024 Municipal Employee Appointments**
- #2024-08 Resolution Establishing Roberts Rules of Order**
- #2024-09 Resolution Establishing 2024 Municipal Fees**
- #2024-10 Resolution Establishing Interest Rate for Non-Payment of Taxes**
- #2024-11 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Tax and Sewer Overpayments or Delinquent Amounts +/- \$10.00**
- #2024-12 Resolution Authorizing Recycling Tonnage Grant Application and Recycling Coordinator**
- #2024-13 Resolution Appointing a Public Agency Compliance Officer**
- #2024-14 Resolution Approving Membership in the Cumberland Development Corporation**
- #2024-15 Resolution Awarding Contract to South Jersey Animal Shelter for Professional Services for Animal Shelter for 2024**
- #2024-16 Resolution Appointing Ford-Scott Associates, LLC as Auditor and Awarding Agreement for the year 2024**
- #2024-17 Resolution Awarding Contract for Professional Services to Surenian, Edwards & Nolan, LLC as Affordable Housing Attorneys**
- #2024-18 Resolution Awarding Contract for Professional Services to Clarke Caton Hintz, PC as Planning Consultant**
- #2024-19 Resolution Awarding Contract for Professional Services to Countywide Animal Care and Control, LLC as an Animal Control Officer**
- #2024-20 Resolution Awarding Contract for Professional Services to Archer & Greiner, PC as Bond Counsel**
- #2024-21 Resolution Awarding Contract for Professional Services to Phoenix Advisors as Disclosure Agent**
- #2024-22 Resolution Awarding Contract for Professional Services to Scheule Planning Solutions, LLC as Planning Consultant**
- #2024-23 Resolution Awarding Contract for Professional Services to the Ritter Law Firm, LLC as Township Solicitor**
- #2024-24 Resolution Awarding Contract to Hardenbergh Insurance Group as Risk Management Consultant**

Motion to Approve the above Consent Agenda Resolutions as read by Title Only:
Motion by: Tedesco. Second by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.

RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

#2024-25 Resolution Awarding Contract to Salmon Ventures as Consultant for Broadband Expansion

Discussion:

There was discussion regarding the term and amount of the contract. Tedesco suggested modifying the contract on a quarterly basis asking that they sign for a three-month contract and then have it re-evaluated in three months with up to three extensions for a potential end date at the end of the year. Bayzick agreed with this and the general consensus of the committee agrees with this. A new resolution will be prepared with these terms at a monthly pay rate of \$750.00 in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00. Hitchner will review this proposal with Salmon Ventures to confirm their agreement.

Motion to Approve by Bayzick with the amendments to the Resolution and Contract.
Second by Shimp. Voice Vote: All in favor.

#2024-26 Resolution Awarding Contract for Professional Services Land Use Board Solicitor

Discussion:

Tedesco proposed asking the current solicitor to accept an hourly rate rather than a monthly retainer stating there are not always monthly meetings for the Board. The Committee agreed with this suggestion.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Sub-Committees:

Freitag asked for a motion to approve her appointments to the sub-committees as follows:

Personnel:	Kelsey Bayzick, David Miller
Finance:	Robin Freitag, Kelsey Bayzick
Public Works:	Tom Tedesco, Jeff Shimp
Senior Center:	Robin Freitag, Kelsey Bayzick
Public Safety/Fire:	Tom Tedesco, David Miller
Sewer:	Tom Tedesco, Jeff Shimp
Insurance:	Tom Tedesco, Kelsey Bayzick
Economic Development:	Robin Freitag, Tom Tedesco
Broadband:	Tom Tedesco

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

Mayoral Appointment:

Freitag appoints Kyle Johnson as an Alternate to the Land Use Board and Joe Zirkle to the Ag Advisory Committee to file the vacancies in both organizations.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Freitag requests a motion to adjourn the Township Committee meeting and enter into the Redevelopment Authority Re-Org meeting. Bayzick makes the Motion. Miller Seconds. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Redevelopment Authority minutes prepared separately for record keeping purposes.

End Time: 8:55 p.m. **Next Meeting Date:** January 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Pace, Acting Clerk

cc: Township Administrator, Committee and Counsel