

**MINUTES**  
**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP**  
**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
January 25, 2024

**Start Time:** 6:30 p.m.

The **Sunshine Statement** was read into the record by Mayor Robin Freitag  
The **Flag Salute** was led by Mayor Robin Freitag

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

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Awards were presented to the students at Hopewell Crest School for the Calendar Contest. Many of the children and their families attending the meeting to receive their awards and gift cards.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the December 21, 2023 and the January 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes  
Motion to approve by Bayzick (with a correction to a typographical error); Seconded by Miller.  
Voice Vote: All in favor.

- **Approval of Department Reports**

Discussion: Bayzick advised the committee of some activities happening at the Senior Center which included an Angel Tree during the holiday. Tedesco commended the report prepared by Ken Mayhew on behalf of the Fire Department.  
Motion to approve by Bayzick; Seconded by Tedesco. Voice Vote: All in favor.

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

Approval of January 2024 bills as well as additional separate bills itemized on agenda.  
Motion to approve by Miller with clarification by CFO regarding the electric bill; Seconded by Shimp. Voice Vote all in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Motion to Open to Public by Miller; Seconded by Shimp. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Gary Van Meter mentioned the deadlines for the Municipal EOP. They received the letter of approval from the State on January 18, 2024. The County is making copies which the Committee will need to approve.

Wayne Holt of Cubby Hollow Road appeared and discussed the noise happening in the neighborhood with loud music at very late hours. Hitcher advised him of the complaint process.

Sheri Calabrese of Sewell Road appeared to discuss the tree in the park. She outlined how she went about getting permission to decorate the tree after the decorations had been previously removed. She advised that someone went to remove the ornaments after the holiday only to find them gone. She then advised that someone cut down the tree. As she was continuing, she named a Township employee by name at which time the Township Solicitor cut her off and advised that she was not permitted to discuss an employee by name unless said employee was given a Rice Notice to appear at the meeting.

Al Caggiano appeared and stated that he had missed the reorganization meeting and wanted to congratulate the new mayor and township committee members.

Seeing no one else, Mayor Freitag addressed the room stating that next year it is the intention of the Township Committee to sponsor a tree and create a community event where everyone can attend and decorate it. She is suggesting having it outside the township offices where it will be monitored by cameras.

Seeing no one else, a Motion to close the public portion was made by Tedesco; Seconded by Miller. 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. Resolutions #2024-27 and 2024-30 were removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the regular Agenda for discussion. Freitag asks Clerk Pace to read the Consent Agenda items by Title Only for the record as follows:

**#2024-28 Resolution Cancelling Taxes for Kyle Matthew Mihalecz, a Veteran with a Wartime Service-Connected Disability, Block 50, Lot 42, 1 Meadow Wood Drive**

**#2024-32 Resolution Cancelling Taxes for Jimmie Lee, Jr., a Veteran with a Wartime Service-Connected Disability, Block 43, Lot 9, 19 Oak Drive**

**#2024-33 Resolution Cancelling Taxes for Dustin Harrall, a Veteran with a Wartime Service-Connected Disability, Block 50, Lot 6, 200 West Park**

**#2024-29 Resolution approving the signing of the contract renewals for fire monitoring systems at the municipal building and the fire hall with DNS Solutions**

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

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

### **#2024-27 Resolution approving the joining of the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System**

Discussion: Hitcher explained this resolution. Bayzick questioned the cost and whether or not we were still able to go out to bid to which Hitchner replied there is no cost to join and yes. Tedesco advised he had spoken with our CFO to confirm the procedure and costs with Municipal Maintenance.

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

### **#2024-30 Resolution approving the Model Written Indoor Air Quality Program V1.0**

Discussion: Hitchner explained this resolution.

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

### **#2024-31 Resolution approving submission of the Local Recreation Improvement Grant**

Discussion: Hitchner explained the grant to the committee and mentioned that Mark Blauer has been successful in obtaining this grant for other municipalities. The monies are to be used for parks and recreations. Tedesco voiced his concern that we currently do not have a specific project for the grant and concern as to the soft costs. Freitag wants to re-enact the Recreation Committee and get some ideas. Miller voiced his concern with paying up front and then getting reimbursed. Hitchner indicated the DCA is pretty good at paying and further the engineering costs can be paid under the grant. Further discussion is needed.

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

### **#2024-34 Resolution Authorizing the Application of the Local Recreation Improvement Grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs**

Discussion: This resolution piggy-backs the previous one (2024-31) and it was decided that further discussion is needed.

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Convenience Center Update: Hitchner and Tedesco gave an update on the status of the convenience center with a few punchlist items.
- Comcast Update: Tedesco advised he had a conference call on Tuesday. Pole permits are pulled and need to be completed by Verizon and then Atlantic Electric which is expected to take place within 60 days. Not all permits need to be approved before construction can begin. It is anticipated the project will be completed within 2-4 months.
- 2024 Hopewell Day: Pace advised Greenwich is interested in having their Artison's Fair on the same day as Hopewell Day and advertise them together. Greenwich is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>. Former Mayor Ritter had suggested that Hopewell Day take place on the same day as the Amish Market's Family Fun Day since the same vendors are being

utilized. Pace spoke with Jonas at the Market and is waiting for a conversation with Jason. Additional updates will be provided at the next meeting.

- Drone 21 Status: Solicitor Ritter advised that an agreement was signed on December 22, 2023 and submitted for approval which was received on January 19, 2024. The Drone is now in service within and outside of Cumberland County.
- Email/Website Update: Pace and Hitchner provided an update on the situation affecting the emails
- Discussion regarding storms, cooling centers, etc.: Bayzick pointed out what Deerfield Township is doing to assist residents in the event of storms or outages. She agreed to reach out to Deerfield for additional information.

### **RESOLUTION #2023-35 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed involved Potential Litigation and Personnel

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

Time: 7:30 p.m. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Motion to Return to Public Session by Miller; Seconded by Tedesco

Time: 8:10 p.m. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Action Taken: **Resolution #2024-26** to appoint Beth White, Esquire as Solicitor of the Land Use Board. Motion by Bayzick to Approve; Seconded by Tedesco. Voice Vote: All in favor.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Bayzick provided cupcakes to celebrate Hitchner's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

**End Time:** 8:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** February 15, 2024 @ 4:30 pm (budget workshop/regular meeting)

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Pace, Acting Clerk

cc: Township Administrator, Committee and Counsel