

**MINUTES**  
**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP**  
**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
March 28, 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:** Mayor Robin Freitag, Vice Mayor Tom Tedesco, David Miller, Kelsey Bayzick, Jeff Shimp  
Also Present: John Hitchner, Admin; Jeannette Pace, Acting Clerk; Solicitor Ted Ritter; Neil Young, CFO; and Michael Garcia, Auditor

- **Presentation**

A Presentation was made by the Committee to Salvatore J. Blandino, Jr. who was recently inducted as a Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Member by the Bridgeton Board of Education. Blandino appeared and gave some background of himself and thanked the Committee for this honor.

- **Budget Workshop**

Auditor Mike Garcia, and CFO Neil Young, attended the meeting and went through portions of the budget with the Committee. Bayzick indicated there may be some changes that will require reintroduction of the budget. Hitchner suggested a meeting with the Finance Committee ASAP to iron out any details in that regard.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

Gary Van Meter discussed his recent attendance at an OEM seminar featuring a guest speaker from FEMA. He indicated the speaker would be willing to address the Committee and give some insight on issues surrounding FEMA grants, etc. Freitag asked Van Meter to pass along the FEMA guest speaker information to Hitchner. Van Meter also talked about the drains on Mary Elmer Drive. He also indicated the public needs to be educated on blowing leaves into the roadways.

Fire Chief Ken Mayhew discussed a recent fire at 107 Grandview. He also asked the Committee for a policy for alcoholic beverages and recreational drugs for members, e.g. a time frame when someone may have a drink and then go back on duty. He also discussed the firetruck grant.

Motion to Close to the Public by Shimp; Seconded by Millville. Voice Vote: All in favor.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Discussion as to phone lines showing up on billing at Senior Center. Hitchner to do further research. Motion to pay bills by Bayzick, pending the above; Seconded by Tedesco. Voice Vote: All in favor.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

### **#2024-47: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL AND THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND FOR SPECIFIC MOSQUITO CONTROL OPERATIONS TRAINING**

### **#2024-48 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL AND THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND FOR STREET CLEANING SERVICES**

Discussion regarding the above two (2) resolutions: Miller questioned the cost of the street cleaning. Hitchner advised it would be the pay rate of whoever they put in the truck. Tedesco suggested doing it this year and looking into alternatives at the expiration of this contract. Bayzick confirmed the contract is for one (1) year.

Motion to Approve both of the above Resolutions by Tedesco; Seconded by Shimp. Voice Vote: All in favor.

### **#2024-49 RESOLUTION EXTENDING AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES WITH SALMON VENTURES**

Discussion: Tedesco gave an update as the status of Comcast. Kim Schalik spear-headed pressure on Comcast to get this moving along. He advised that several permits are still outstanding but believes wires will be hung by the second quarter of this year. Tedesco mentioned additional funding that may be available, but the Township will have completed the project before the funding would be ready.

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Housing Element and Fair Share Housing Plan: Brian Slaugh provided a quote which is substantially higher than expected. Hitchner is looking into other alternatives and will see what other municipalities are doing. Miller asked how much affordable housing the township has. Solicitor Ritter explained, talked through options and will look into what other municipalities are doing.

- Convenience Center Checklist. Tedesco and Hitchner went through the punch list and gave updates. Pace provided a prepared flyer regarding the new dump permits. Revisions will be made to the flyer and then handed out to the residents.
- Rabies Clinic. Clinic was a success. 120 dogs were vaccinated and 19 residents got their licenses renewed.
- HTEC Public Notice – Barretts Run Park. Discussion as to location of the gate at the park. Talked about vehicles entering the park and getting stuck in bad weather. Also discussed illegal activities happening beyond the gate. Freitag suggested a discussion with the Environmental Commission before making a decision.
- Oak Drive – Block 50, Lot 1.01. Ritter discussed the current status and gave an explanation of what needs to happen to sell this piece of property to an adjacent landowner.
- JIF Claim. Pace advised the Committee of an injury to one of the volunteer firefighters that had been reported to JIF.
- Roof on Fire House. Miller met with Chief Mayhew regarding the roof coating on the fire house. Miller believes it will cost approximately \$2,000 in materials to have Public Works do the repairs. After previously having a conversation with the Director of Public Works regarding this, Pace suggested Miller have a conversation with him before making any decisions.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

- Tax Foreclosures. Ritter gave an update on the new foreclosure laws and how the complaints needed to be amended.
- Business Park Pesticide Clean-Up. Ritter has a letter ready to go out to everyone involved in the clean-up requesting a status and advising what legal remedies are available. Gary Van Meter indicated he was on premise when they were drilling for the testing and they were drilling at the wrong spot. Ritter advised that ESU is still interested but not interested in spending additional monies at this time until we have a definitive answer as to the clean-up results. Ritter advised that Dutchway Structures has a May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for their concept plan and he is awaiting receipt from their attorney.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** made by Bayzick; Seconded by Shimp. Voice Vote: All in favor.

**End Time:** 8:25 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** April 11, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Pace, Acting Clerk

cc: Township Administrator, Committee and Counsel