

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING AUDITORIUM**

Monday, February 24, 2020 – 7:01 p.m.

PROPER STATEMENT OF NOTICE – Mayor McLaughlin called the meeting to order stating that notice of the meeting had been posted on the municipal bulletin board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News, The Times, the Trentonian and the Hopewell Express (the official newspapers) on January 14, 2020, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

ROLL CALL: Those answering the roll call of the Municipal Clerk:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Blake, Kuchinski, Peters-Manning, Ruger, Mayor McLaughlin

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator/CFO Borges, Municipal Clerk Gompf

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Mayor McLaughlin led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

RESOLUTION #20-83. Read by title.

Motion by Blake, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #20-83.

Committee Member Blake explained that in less than 48 hours the Township would not have a Health Officer due to his resignation; the Township must have a Health Officer; and Montgomery Township has offered to enter into a shared services agreement for interim Health Officer services. Committee Members offered their comments on the shared services agreement.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #20-83

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK TO EXECUTE
A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF
MONTGOMERY AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL FOR
INTERIM HEALTH OFFICER SERVICES**

BE IT RESOLVED, on this 24th day of February 2020, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to execute a shared services agreement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et. seq., with the Township of Montgomery, for provision of interim Health Officer Services.

2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Committee Member Kuchinski reviewed the budget for utilities, street lights, telephone and fuel.

Committee Member Ruger questioned the large savings in the telephone budget to which Ms. Borges replied that there was a savings from the renegotiation of cell phone contracts, some employees no longer use cell phones, and there was a remainder of the balance from 2018's budget carried over to 2019.

The discussion then turned to the street lighting budget. Committee Members suggested changing the lights to LED and then suggested that utilizing hybrid cars will lower fuel costs in future years. Ms. Borges added that a debit card program for the fuel pumps will also reduce fuel costs.

The following items were discussed:

- Social Security payments
- The Defined Contribution Retirement Program payment
- Municipal Court Budget
 - Salaries and Wages
 - Printing
 - Office Supplies
 - Equipment Maintenance
 - Interpreter Service
- Pension
 - PERS
 - PFRS
- Interfund Operating Transfers
 - Animal Control
 - Pet Census
 - Twin Pines
- Fire District Transfer of Funds
- Recycling Tonnage Tax
- Municipal Alliance
 - Opioid Addiction
- Grant Programs
 - Distracted Drivers
 - Click It or Ticket
 - Solar in Schools
 - DOT
 - Mount Rose Distillery Grant
 - Clean Communities
 - Bullet Proof Vest Program
 - FEMA Grant Generator
 - Pay to Plug In
 - Lawrence Hopewell Trail
 - Recycling Tonnage Grant
- Interlocal Police Services
- Interlocal Dispatch
- Interlocal Recycling
- Interlocal Alliance Program
- Interlocal Emergency Medical Services – Dispatch
- Interlocal Senior Services
- Capital Improvements
- Bond Principal
- Note Principal
- Bond Interest Payments
- Note Interest Payments
- Emergency Authorizations
- Grand Total Expenditures

Committee Member Blake asked the Committee for \$2,000 for a community asset map application used for combating suicide, drug use and addiction. Committee Members discussed the positive uses for such funding and unanimously supported funding.

Committee Member Kuchinski outlined the agenda for the next budget meeting. Mayor McLaughlin made positive comments regarding the budget process. Committee Member Kuchinski added that he would like to codify debt reduction practices through a statement of intent.

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Bill Durling, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, questioned the Timberlane water testing results and stated he has had a significant drainage problem on his property and would like to discuss the issue.

Andrew Borders, a resident of Hilton Court, requested that the work sheets the Committee utilizes be placed on the projector; questioned if the Township had information regarding the controlled burn in Mercer Meadows; requested if Clean Communities Day could be resurrected; and questioned the timeline of construction in Brandon Farms for snow plowing of certain roads.

Patricia Ann Cosgriff, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, offered pictures of the drainage problem on her road; stated that the Pennington Harbourton Road tax payers are requesting proper drainage be placed on the north slope of Timberlane Drive and proper drainage be added to the Middle School.

The detailed public comment may be viewed at www.hopewelltp.org in the video library.

At 8:12 p.m., motion by Ruger, seconded by Peters-Manning to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

The detailed public meeting may be viewed at www.hopewelltp.org in the video library.

LAURIE E. GOMPF
MUNICIPAL CLERK