

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

Monday, March 5, 2018 – 7:11 p.m.

PROPER STATEMENT OF NOTICE – Mayor Kuchinski 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 February 27, 2018, 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, McLaughlin, Ruger, Mayor Kuchinski

ABSENT: Hart

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator/CFO Borges, Municipal Clerk Gompf, Director of Community Development Kataryniak, Township Attorney Goodell

2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mayor Kuchinski reported that the Township is still awaiting information from the State for the budget.

Ms. Borges reported the date for the budget introduction, reported on the updated figures for the operating budget and presented the following:

- Receipt of two NJ Department of Transportation Grants
- Brandon Farms Roads Negotiations
- Remediation expenses for Public Works' garage.
- Current Fund levy increase
- Anticipated tax rate increase

A discussion ensued regarding a GIS driven database which would be able to be utilized by multiple departments to store and access documents and data. Mr. Kataryniak reported that the system being explored would be able to interface with the current system being utilized by the Construction Department and transfer their information to the new database. He also explained the possible uses for the new system, the advantages it would provide, possibility of a public user interface, software cost, licensing, update costs, storage capacity and server costs. Mayor Kuchinski commented that this would free up and streamline the staff and recommended spreading the scanning costs over a two year period.

Mayor Kuchinski announced that the Health, Recreation and utility budgets will be reviewed on March 12. Ms. Borges explained that there are a few items which remain open such as State Aid, County and School District numbers, the postponement of the electronic filing of the budget, and posting of a user friendly budget.

Ms. Borges explained the services that impact the Township's interest rate from the Bank of Princeton. Committee Members questioned Ms. Borges regarding the Verizon franchise fee, pursuit of the collection of arrears owed for use of the cell tower, Green Acres funding, Interlocal Agreements for senior services, miscellaneous revenues and the public works overtime budget.

Mayor Kuchinski asked that certain homeowner's associations be invited to the next budget meeting.

MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

In light of Committee Member Hart's absence, Attorney Goodell suggested that the meeting minutes be postponed to a future agenda so he may participate in the vote to which Mayor Kuchinski agreed.

PUBLIC SECTION

No comments from the public.

At 7:45 p.m., Motion by Blake, seconded by McLaughlin 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