

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

Monday, March 12, 2018 – 5:35 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 March 9, 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, Hart, Ruger, Mayor Kuchinski

ABSENT: McLaughlin

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator/CFO Borges, Municipal Clerk Gompf, Health Officer English, Health Inspector Kiesel, Public Works Director Snyder, General Foreman Guerard, Recreation Director Niederer

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Advisory Committee Members: Sandford, Robinson

2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Borges updated the Committee with regard to the County tax base, school district levies and State aid. Mayor Kuchinski announced that the School District has invited the three mayors to discuss the budget.

Ms. Niederer reviewed the aspects of the Recreation Department's budget. She requested that her assistant be allowed to work 20 hours per week the entire year and also explained how the salary was offset in the budget. Ms. Niederer addressed how Twin Pines field use fees are utilized as well as the replacement of turf. Fees for field use and services were discussed at length.

There was a general consensus from the Township Committee to allow the Recreation Assistant to work a 20 hour week, year-round, beginning immediately.

The conversation then turned to the problems with the lights on the football field and who was responsible for addressing these issues. Mayor Kuchinski asked Ms. Niederer, to provide in the future, a better accounting for the replacement of the turf field and asked the status of the agreements with any sports associations.

Ms. Borges reported that the Washington Crossing Estates water utility ended the year with a surplus balance and proposed certain monies to be used in the 2018 budget; capital improvement fund in the water utility; water tank repair; repairs to the water treatment plant controls; and down payment for capital projects. Ms. Borges asked how the Committee would like to fund an operator for the utility budgets. Ms. Borges also reported that all other operations within the utility are essentially remaining the same.

Mr. Snyder addressed the water main breaks and the status of the system and also spoke about the position of Utilities Foreman, stating that Mr. Guerard, General Foreman, currently holds licenses for the position. Mr. Snyder requested that another person be licensed and placed in the position of Utilities Foreman, suggesting that it be a non-union position in an effort to have a succession plan.

Mr. Guerard addressed the 2017 emergency well pump repair and capital request for a new control system in 2018. Committee Members discussed possible ways to fund the new control system as well as the replacement and maintenance of the existing pipe system.

Ms. Borges reviewed the Brandon Farms utility budget; supplied the year-end surplus figures; proposed use of surplus in 2018; reviewed Utility Foreman position funding; discussed line leak inspection funding; and the ELSA premium payment. The Committee was in agreement to fund the Utility Foreman position.

Ms. Borges reviewed the Princeton Farms utility budget; supplied the year-end surplus figures; recommended the use of a certain amount of surplus in 2018; anticipated reduction in revenue for 2018; explained premium allocation is helpful to make up the difference in reduction in revenue; and discussed line leak inspection and funding. Mr. Snyder supplied a six-year plan for leak control prepared by Van Cleef for Princeton Farms and he and Mr. Guerard discussed the costs associated with the plan with the Committee Members.

A discussion ensued with Mr. English regarding the position of Environmental Health Specialist; the Health Department's operating budget; possible budget cuts; State requirements for computer hardware and software; aquifer testing escrow; line item reduction for STD testing; line item increase for personal protective equipment; lead testing for children; equipment maintenance reduction; violations; and the reallocation of money within the departmental budget.

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment.

James Burd, a resident of Nursery Road, made a request that a \$10,000 escrow be set aside for an affordable housing attorney.

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

At 6:55 p.m., Motion by Blake, seconded by Hart 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