

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
VIA ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS**

Monday, April 20, 2020 – 3:17 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 April 17, 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, Director of Community Development/Engineer Kataryniak, Director of Public Works Snyder

2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mayor McLaughlin announced that this meeting will be the final budget meeting and Washington Crossing Estates would be the only topic.

Committee Member Kuchinski explained that sewer and utility budgets must be included in the budget each year. Ms. Borges shared the following on the Washington Crossing Estates budget:

- No surplus was budgeted last year for the utility.
- Reviewed last year's actual collection rate.
- Reviewed what is budgeted for this year's collection rate.
- Reviewed an adjustment for a Bond Ordinance.
- Expenses were reviewed and were slightly lower than the previous year.
- Bond expenses were raised in the 2020 budget.
- Capital Reserve was raised for 2020.
- Reviewed surplus and stated that surplus continues to grow this year.
- Engineer testing in the well house recommended that a series of repairs must be made.
- Repairs to the well house were itemized by Mr. Snyder who also provided recommendations.
- Ms. Borges recommended using surplus and the capital reserve in the budget to fund the recommended repairs to the well house.

A discussion ensued regarding the repairs; Committee Members suggested hearing what the homeowners had to say.

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Harvey Lester, a resident of Continental Lane, questioned if his assessment of the surplus amount was correct; stated that if any money must be spent, he and the vast majority of Washington Crossing Estate residents would prefer that surplus be spent; objected to information he alleged is being kept from the residents; made certain remarks about the maintenance of the pumps in the well house; alleged certain damages were caused by Township employees or contractor; and

asserted that the cost of repairs should lie on the shoulders of the Township.

Patrick Casey, a resident of Washington Crossing Estates, agreed with Mr. Lester and questioned why the pumps in the well house are in disrepair.

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

Committee Members offered their opinions regarding the repairs to the pump house; recommended the use of surplus and capital reserve for repairs; and stated that no other Capital expenses will be forthcoming for Washington Crossing Estates this year.

At 3:52 p.m., motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Ruger 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