

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

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**Friday, May 8, 2020 – 2:33 p.m.**

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**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 May 5 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, Township Attorney Goodell

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

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Mayor McLaughlin announced that the reason for the meeting was to discuss the potential extension of the grace period for the payment of property taxes from May 11, 2020 to June 1, 2020 as per Governor Phil Murphy's Executive Order #130. She stated that the governing body, while very sympathetic to the plight of many residents, wanted to make sure the municipality had the ability to meet its obligations.

Ms. Borges explained that at this point last year the collection rate was 92.2% and the current collection rate is 90.35%; that there is a concern about the shortfall because there are upcoming payments to the County and the School which the Township is obligated to pay on time with no exceptions; unfortunately, Executive Order #130 did not take into account for municipalities to extend the payment period to the County or School District; and there needs to be assurances that the Township can pay the County, School District and its obligations.

Committee Members discussed if Township operations could be met while offering tax payers tax relief. Comments were positive for extending the payment of property taxes to June 1, 2020 while allowing the Township to meet its fiscal obligations. Discussion included municipal bonding; possible federal government funding through stimulus packages; and working with the State Legislature to remove local municipalities as a bank for larger entities. Committee Members agreed to bring forth a resolution for consideration extending the second quarter property tax grace period to June 1, 2020.

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**RESOLUTION #20-172.** Read into the record.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #20-172.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Blake, Kuchinski, Peters-Manning, Ruger, Mayor McLaughlin

**NOES:** None

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL  
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #20-172**

**A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER  
PROPERTY TAX GRACE PERIOD**

**WHEREAS** on April 28, 2020 Governor Phil Murphy issued Executive Order 130 authorizing local units to extend the second property tax payment installment grace period through June 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Hopewell Township has evaluated their current financial position and finds it possible to extend our grace period to assist those impacted by the current economic result of COVID 19.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the grace period for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter will be moved to June 1, 2020.

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**PUBLIC SECTION**

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

**Ralph Wesner**, a resident of Butterfoss Avenue, stated he recently purchased a property in Titusville and questioned when the ordinance pertaining to a driveway easement would be discussed. He was advised that his topic would be discussed at the next meeting of the Township Committee.

The detailed public comment may be viewed at [www.hopewelltp.org](http://www.hopewelltp.org) in the video library.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION.** Read into the record.

Mayor McLaughlin stated that the regular meeting would reconvene following the Executive Session.

Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Ruger to go to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION #20-173**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Township Committee to discuss contract negotiations, real estate, legal, and/or personnel matters; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 permits the Township Committee to conduct a meeting from which the public is excluded in order to discuss such matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee wishes to discuss the following:

- Personnel

**WHEREAS**, the time when and circumstances under which discussion conducted in executive session may be disclosed to the public is when appropriate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Township Committee shall forthwith conduct an executive session to discuss the above.

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At 2:56 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 3:13 p.m. the Regular meeting reconvened.

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**RESOLUTION #20-174.** Read by title.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #20-174.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION # 20-174****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR  
TO TAKE ACTION ON A PERSONNEL MATTER**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, that the Administrator, Elaine Borges, be and is hereby authorized to terminate the employment of Linda Weber, Community Development Coordinator, Community Development Department, effective May 8, 2020 and take all other related action.

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At 3:19 p.m., motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Blake to adjourn the meeting.  
**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

The detailed public meeting may be viewed at [www.hopewelltp.org](http://www.hopewelltp.org) in the video library.

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LAURIE E. GOMPF  
MUNICIPAL CLERK