

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

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**Monday, May 18, 2020 – 4:02 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 January 3, 2020 and amended on May 15, 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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**MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**

Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Ruger to approve February 24, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes, March 2, 2020 Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes, and March 16, 2020 Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

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**PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON COVID-19 BY STEPHANIE CAREY, INTERIM HEALTH OFFICER**

Ms. Carey presented the following:

- Provided the latest case counts from New Jersey, Mercer County and Hopewell Township.
- Conditions overall are improving.
- Fewer new cases.
- Fewer hospitalizations.
- Improved testing availability (additionally capacity still is needed).
- We can't get complacent as things begin to reopen.
- We need to restock and recharge.
- Governor Murphy has introduced a road map for restoring economic health through public health.
- Masks and social distancing are still necessary.
- Masking is mandatory in any retail establishment and strongly recommended while engaging in outdoor activities.
- More things are beginning to reopen.
- One of the keys to reopening is contact tracing.
- Some grant funding from the State will be available to defray the cost of contact tracing.
- Recommended an extension of the current shared services agreement from 30 to 60 days.

- Recommended a new vision for public health:
  - Extension of Interim Agreement (30-60 days).
  - New Part-time Registered Environmental Health Specialist
  - Workforce Needs Assessment and Workforce Development Plan by approximately May 31.
- Authorities are actively investigating an outbreak at the correctional facility.

Mayor McLaughlin strongly urged residents to wear their masks when they venture outside. Committee Members cited concerns regarding the outbreak at the County Jail and questioned where the health department was in alleviating the outbreak to which Ms. Carey replied that State, County and Local officials are involved in the response. Ms. Carey was asked if the 90 cases in Hopewell Township included the outbreak at the corrections facility and her reply was that it did not include those; questioned if Pennington and Hopewell Boroughs will have their own contact tracers; and that several candidates have applied to be contact tracers for the Township.

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**RESOLUTION #20-175.** Read by title.

Motion by Blake, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #20-175.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

### **R E S O L U T I O N #20-175**

#### **A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF STEPHANIE CAREY AS INTERIM HEALTH OFFICER**

**BE IT RESOLVED** on this 18<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 Shared Services Agreement between the Township of Hopewell and The Township of Montgomery for Interim Health Officer coverage for a ninety (90) day period effective February 25, 2020 is hereby extended for a thirty (30) day period; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Agreement may be further extended for successive 30 day periods by mutual agreement of both parties.

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**PRESENTATION – PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

**PROCLAMATION -** Read into the record by Committee Member Peters-Manning.

Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Blake to adopt Proclamation.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

### **P R O C L A M A T I O N**

#### **DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Township of Hopewell to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence.

**WHEREAS**, every day, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other high-income countries; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is mayors' highest responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

**WHEREAS**, mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 22nd birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, to help honor Hadiya – and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 5, 2020, the first Friday in June, as the 6th National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

**WHEREAS**, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

**WHEREAS**, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 5<sup>th</sup>, the first Friday in June in 2020, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 5, 2020 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey declares the first Friday in June, June 5, 2020, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Kataryniak reported that there was a successful virtual Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting; that there are more applications coming before the Board; there are continuing construction projects throughout the Township; bids are being accepted for roadwork programs; reported on road detours throughout the Township; and the DEP has approved a tree seedling giveaway which will be held on Saturday, June 6 at the Department of Public Work's building from 9:30 a.m. to noon and there will be drive-thru pickup only.

Mr. Goodell reported on the Concerned Citizens trial and stated that he would fully discuss the trial in Executive Session.

Ms. Borges reported that many things are coming from the Governor's Office that the Township is trying to keep up with; was seeking clarification from the State on the opening of the tennis courts; and commented on Bills waiting to be signed by the Governor and stated she is watching to see what happens with them.

Ms. Gompf reported that the Governor has directed that the Primary Election on July 7 will be mainly a vote-by-mail election, meaning if you are a democrat or republican you will receive a vote-by-mail ballot; unaffiliated or inactive voters will receive an application to vote by mail; if you decide to vote at the polls, you will only be allowed to do so provisionally; and each municipality must have at least one polling location. Mayor McLaughlin encouraged all residents to vote-by-mail saying it is efficient and safe.

Committee Member Peters-Manning reported that there is a rerouting of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail as work continues on the new bridge over the Stony Brook; the completion date is scheduled for mid-June; encouraged everyone to wear masks when they are on the trail; a resource guide has been sent to the Township's seniors; the senior activities page on the website is consistently being updated; and the Senior Center is still closed but lunch pick-ups and deliveries are continuing.

Committee Member Blake reported on the activities of the Department of Public Works such as brush collection, mowing, and curbside Freon collection; and suggested signs in Mercer Meadows on the Lawrence Hopewell trail asking people to wear masks.

Committee Member Kuchinski thanked everyone for their participation in the budget preparation; reported that appointment to the Tourism and Economic Development Advisory Board has been on hold due to the pandemic but believes that appointments should be made to the Board sometime in July; suggested that the Committee think about guiding their efforts from a goal standpoint; that the

Hopewell Valley Central High School Class of 2022 has created a Hopewell Strong tee-shirt which is for sale and will donate the proceeds to help small, local businesses; and the emerald ash borer has destroyed over one million ash trees in the Sourland region and the Sourland Conservancy has launched a program where you can get a tree kit for a \$10 donation or have a tree planted on your behalf in the Sourland region.

Committee Member Ruger urged everyone to fill out their 2020 census and announced that Hopewell Township's participation continues to increase making it above the state and county average; and announced that a video was posted over the weekend regarding fraud in the age of COVID-19 and gave examples about how you might tell you are being scammed; and if you think you are being scammed, please call the police on their regular telephone line.

Mayor McLaughlin emphasized the importance of filling out the census and cited statistics where filling out the census will benefit the Township; announced she has been in communication with the State, County and other local Mayors; the State is moving their weekly phone calls to bi-weekly phone calls; the County is beginning to move towards reopening; and it is hopeful that the Freeholders will pass their budget shortly so a tax rate may be set.

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## 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Borges displayed a slide show regarding the Municipal Budget Presentation as follows:

- The municipal budget has a 1.81% increase over 2019.
- The levy for 2020 is a 2% increase over 2019.
- The budget for 2020 is under the appropriation cap and under the levy cap.
- Presented an analysis of the average tax bill of which Hopewell Township taxes are 14% of the average tax bill.
- Hopewell Township once again has the lowest equalized municipal tax rate in Mercer County.
- Hopewell Township has had its AAA rating affirmed by S&P.
- The Township Committee has significantly reduced tax increases over the past four years.
- 2020 Budget Overview
  - Hopewell Township continues to do more with less while maintaining responsible budgeting practices. The core municipal operating levy for 2020 is up only 1.2% vs. a year ago.
  - The budget reduces the Township's debt levels- new debt spending in 2020 will be less than the prior year debt paid off in 2020.
  - Hopewell Township's tax levy will increase \$36.59 in 2020, for an average home assessed at \$464,400.
- The Township's budget continues to decrease.
- Presented the Township's revenue history.
- Presented a detail of expenses.

Committee Member Kuchinski took over the presentation of the slide show presenting the following:

- A detailed chart of Hopewell Township's current debt which stands at \$59.0 million as of December 31, 2019.
- Debt Service consumes 24.7% of the Township's 2020 budget.
- Impact of debt on the budget such as interest costs.
- Steady debt reduction efforts are beginning to have a positive impact.
- Surplus usage has been steadily reduced with the municipal budget.
- The goal is to maintain a fund balance of \$10 million+, or ~25% more than our past 20-year average.
- Future committee actions:
  - Continue to reduce debt to lower the associated interest costs and debt service payments.
  - Pursue new revenue sources to reduce dependence on residential property taxes.
  - Once economy improves, restart efforts to sell Pennytown, utilizing the proceeds to reduce affordable housing debt and the associated subsidy from the general operating budget.

- COVID-19 Contingency Planning:
  - Freeze year to date savings within Municipal budget, to free up additional monies to cover added COVID-19 costs and/or revenue impacts.
  - Discuss razor-focused approach to hiring (excluding health-related positions) until budget impacts are better understood.
  - Work towards additional shared services with neighboring municipalities and the School District.
  - Aggressively pursue any available federal, state or county grants.
  - Closely monitor Q2 and Q3 collection rates.

Mayor McLaughlin stated that salaries of the new contact tracers will be borne by the Township until funding is made available to supplement those salaries. Committee members made positive comments regarding the budget.

Mayor McLaughlin opened the budget discussion to members of the public.

No comment from the public.

**RESOLUTION #20-176.** Read by title.  
Motion by Ruger, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #20-176.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**  
**AYES:** Blake, Kuchinski, Peters-Manning, Ruger, Mayor McLaughlin  
**NOES:** None

**INSERT MUNICIPAL BUDGET RESOLUTION #20-176 PAGE HERE.**

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**PUBLIC SECTION FOR ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

**Jon Edwards**, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, requested the history of the Energy Aggregation resolution; stated his concerns regarding energy aggregation; questioned if the energy auction had happened; urged the committee to tour the prison to ensure acceptable social distancing; and questioned if there have been meaningful efforts by the county or the state to release prisoners to reduce crowding in the jail.

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

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**ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

Mayor McLaughlin read by title the ordinance for introduction.

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL ESTABLISHING A  
PRIVATE DRIVEWAY EASEMENT WITHIN THE EXISTING RIGHT OF  
WAY OF BUTTERFOSS AVENUE

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Peters-Manning to introduce the ordinance on first reading.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**  
**AYES:** Blake, Kuchinski, Peters-Manning, Ruger, Mayor McLaughlin  
**NOES:** None

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCED**

Second reading, public hearing date June 8, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

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**ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

Mayor McLaughlin read by title the ordinance for introduction.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXI,  
 "TOWING AND STORAGE" OF THE REVISED GENERAL  
 ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

Motion by Blake, seconded by Ruger to introduce the ordinance on first reading.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**NOES:** None

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCED**

Second reading, public hearing date June 8, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**RESOLUTIONS #20-177 THROUGH #20-180.** Read by title.

Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #20-177 through #20-180.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**R E S O L U T I O N # 20-177**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
 REFUNDS FROM HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP  
 PLANNING & ZONING TRUST ACCOUNTS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18<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 individuals and/or corporations so specified below be refunded the account balance shown as their respective Planning Board or Zoning Board applications have been finalized:

<u>A/C#</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
09783	THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE 31 TITUS MILL ROAD PENNINGTON, NJ 08534 BLK 37 LOTS 26 & 42 - ENGR/INSPEC (ENV CTR)	24,102.22
48898	THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE 31 TITUS MILL ROAD PENNINGTON, NJ 08534 BLK 37 LOTS 26 & 42 - USE VAR, SITE P/F AMENDED (ENV CTR APARTMENT)	31.03
48913	THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE 31 TITUS MILL ROAD PENNINGTON, NJ 08534 BLK 18 LOT 66 - USE VAR, MN SUB (HOPEWELL VETERINARY)	593.23

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-178**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF  
 UNUSED ANNUAL LEAVE, SICK AND COMPENSATION  
 TIME TO SERGEANT KEVIN ZORN**

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Kevin Zorn retired May 1, 2020 from employment with the Township of Hopewell Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agreement between Hopewell Township and the Hopewell Township Superior Officers Association provides to employees who retire from service the payment of unused sick, annual leave and compensatory time at their current hourly rate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** on this 18<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 hereby approves the payout of accumulated sick time as calculated by the Human Resources Director in the amount of \$42,797.96 to Sergeant Kevin Zorn.

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**RESOLUTION #20-179**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS FOR  
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

**WHEREAS**, registration fees were paid for participation in a variety of programs sponsored by the Hopewell Township Recreation Department; and

**WHEREAS**, some participants have requested a refund in accordance with department policy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18<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 following program refunds be and are hereby authorized:

David Friedrich	104 W. Prospect St	Hopewell, NJ 08525	\$355.00
Kathy Doyle	21 Old Washington Crossing Rd	Hopewell, NJ 08560	\$710.00
Lynn Marsh	35 Buckingham Dr	Pennington, NJ 08534	\$110.00
Calleen Parson	23 Lexington Dr	Pennington, NJ 08534	\$110.00
Deborah Kimaid	20 Lawrencina Dr	Lawrenceville, NJ 08648	\$368.00

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**RESOLUTION #20-180**

**RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION  
OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATES**

**WHEREAS**, on April 18, 2018 Vasyi or Maria Kavatsiuk purchased Tax Sale Certificate 18-0016, for property located at Block 87 Lot 3 known as 2465 Pennington Road, assessed to Calla Holdings LLC; this certificate was redeemed by Crossbridge Title, as closing agent, on May 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township can now release the principal and interest received, and premium(s) if applicable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020, that the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, Mercer County, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the Tax Collector to release the amounts listed to the Lien Holder(s) as specified below:

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>OWNERS' NAME(S)</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>LIEN HOLDER</u>	<u>PREMIUM</u>
87/3	Calla Holdings LLC	\$19,078.89	Kavatsiuk Vasily or Maria	\$7,000.00

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this approved resolution is forwarded to the Tax Collector.

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**RESOLUTION #20-181.** Read by title.

Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #20-181 as amended.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION #20-181**

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP ZONING OFFICER  
TO ISSUE A TEMPORARY ACTIVITIES PERMIT TO  
NANCY O'LEARY - FOOD TRUCK LADY**

**WHEREAS**, Nancy O'Leary - Food Truck Lady seeks permission to use the Rosedale Mills property, specifically the parking area extending across the southwest side of the property parallel to Route 31, for operation of a food truck serving breakfast/lunch/dinner, seven days per

week, operating various hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for onsite staff, customers visiting the store, and the general public. The food truck would operate on a temporary basis during the COVID-19 closing of non-essential services, to serve onsite staff and the general public who are unable to purchase food from surrounding restaurants.

**WHEREAS**, this proposal has been reviewed by the Hopewell Township Attorney who has advised that this proposal can be authorized under a Temporary Activities Permit issued by the Hopewell Township Zoning Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, this request has been reviewed by the Hopewell Township Health Department, Hopewell Township Police Department, and Hopewell Valley Fire Safety who have raised no objections;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18<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 Hopewell Township Zoning Officer be directed to issue a Temporary Activities Permit to Nancy O’Leary - Food Truck Lady for the temporary operation of a food truck in the parking area of the Rosedale Mills property, seven days per day, operating various hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for onsite staff, customers visiting the store, and the general public, during the COVID-19 closing of non-essential services, subject to receipt of all final approvals and comments from the Hopewell Township Health Officer, Hopewell Township Police, Hopewell Valley Fire Safety and Zoning Officer, and subject to any relevant restrictions on use, noise, signs, etc., or other permits as may be required, including:

1. **Operation is limited to one (1) food truck at any given time and each truck must be licensed by the Hopewell Township Health Department.**
2. **Patrons must maintain social distancing and shall be required to wear masks consistent with standing Executive Orders issued by the Governor’s Office; Six foot (6 FT.) distancing indicators should be placed in the parking area using cones, chalk, tape or other similar marking.**
3. **Food trucks should encourage ordering in advance for pickup.**
4. **Each truck proposing to operate at the site will be required to obtain a fire safety permit from Hopewell Valley Fire Safety prior to commencing operations at the site.**
5. **All food services shall be for take-out only. No tables or other provisions for on-site consumption of purchases shall be permitted on the site of the operations.**
6. **This permit shall be valid through 6/23/2020. The Permittee may apply for an extension to this permit provided such request is received no later than close of normal municipal business hours on June 15, 2020.**

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**RESOLUTION #20-182.** Read by title.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Ruger to adopt Resolution #20-182.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

## **R E S O L U T I O N #20-182**

### **RESOLUTION OF AWARD FOR BID #20-06 BULL RUN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Township has advertised and received formal bids on May 12, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. for Bid #20-06 Bull Run Road Improvements, in a Fair and Open manner in accord with N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.4 et. Seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township received formal bids on May 12, 2020, 2:00 P.M. to wit:

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Bid Amount</b>
Capital Paving and Contracting	\$244,612.10
Earle Asphalt	\$246,713.13
Richard T Barrett Paving	\$249,887.40
Top Line Construction	\$253,859.06
DeSantis Construction, Inc	\$293,044.94
S & G Paving	\$315,576.30
Black Rock Enterprises, LLC.	\$331,284.00
American Asphalt Co., Inc.	\$331,710.44

; and

**WHEREAS**, Capital Paving and Contracting, 1225 Rt 31, Lebanon, N.J. 08833, at the price of \$244,612.10 was the lowest submitted bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, the bid as submitted by Capital Paving and Contracting, 1225 Rt 31, Lebanon, N.J. 08833 was deemed to be the lowest responsive and responsible bid by the Qualified Purchasing Agent and Township Consulting Engineer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Qualified Purchasing Agent and Township Consulting Engineer recommend award of Bid 20-06 Bull Run Road Improvements to Capital Paving Contractors, 1225 Rt 31, Lebanon, N.J. 08833 for the bid cost of \$244,612.10; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds are available NOT TO EXCEED \$244,612.10 as follows:

2020 Capital Improvement Fund – X-02-00-920-935

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey, that the recommendation to award is hereby accepted. The bid provided by Capital Paving and Contracting, 1225 Rt 31, Lebanon, N.J. 08833, at the price of \$244,612.10 for Bid #20-06 Bull Run Road Improvements is hereby accepted; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey, that the Mayor is authorized to effectuate a contract with Capital Paving and Contracting, 1225 Rt 31, Lebanon, N.J. 08833, at the price of \$244,612.10, reflecting the precepts as contained within this agreement.

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**RESOLUTION #20-183.** Read by title.  
Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #20-183.  
**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**R E S O L U T I O N # 2 0 - 1 8 3**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, JOINING THE HUNTERDON AREA ENERGY COOPERATIVE (HAEC)**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey has been engaged in a process to establish a competitive marketplace through deregulation and restructuring the electric utility market; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a governmental energy aggregation program ("GEA Program") to purchase electric generation service pursuant to the Government Energy Act of 2003, *N.J.S.A. 48:3-93.1 et seq.* ("Act") and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' implementing rules at *N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.1 et seq.* ("Rules") will increase competition for the provision of electric power to residential electricity ratepayers, thereby lowering electric rates for these users without causing an interruption in service; and

**WHEREAS**, under a GEA Program the residential ratepayers may have the opportunity to receive a direct reduction in their electric bills through the bulk purchase of energy from a third-party energy supplier; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Ordinance #20-1726 adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell on February 18, 2020, the Township of Hopewell publicly declared its intent to commence a GEA Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Califon is the Lead Agency for the Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative (HAEC); and

**WHEREAS**, the HAEC consists of over 20,000 residential customers of JCP&L and would therefore give Hopewell Township's approximately 1,400 JCP&L customers increased bargaining power in the GEA market and therefore increase the likelihood that the electric supply auction will result in significant savings for Hopewell Township's JCP&L electric customers; and

**WHEREAS**, Hopewell Township's PSE&G customers will comprise a separate bid group in the HAEC, potentially with other local towns like Pennington Borough that also have PSE&G customers, but bidding with the HAEC also will increase the bargaining power of Hopewell Township's PSE&G customers, therefore also increasing the likelihood that the GEA auction will result in significant savings for Hopewell Township's PSE&G electric customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Hopewell has been working with other municipalities in

Hunterdon County for years fighting the proposed PennEast pipeline, and joining the HAEC will further this fight by again increasing Hopewell Township's bargaining power in negotiating an optional, opt-in, program to purchase renewable energy through the GEA program, thereby reducing the demand for natural gas for electric generation and further demonstrating that the PennEast pipeline is unnecessary; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Hopewell wishes to be a participating member of the HAEC and hereby agrees to proceed with the program, by signing the Supplier Agreement, should the Lead Agency accept pricing if and only if the pricing provides a savings on the supply portion of the electric bill for the residential energy aggregation program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Califon appointed Commercial Utility Consultants, Inc. (CUC) and Concord Engineering dba Concord Energy Services (CES) for the HAEC to serve as the Energy Agents to assist and administer the GEA program at no cost to the Borough of Califon or HAEC or its participating members, including Hopewell Township.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, in the County of Mercer, New Jersey, duly assembled in public session, as follows:

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

1. The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.
2. The Township of Hopewell, as a participating member of the HAEC, hereby agrees to proceed with the program by signing the Supplier Agreement should the Lead Agency accept pricing if and only if that pricing provides a reduction on the supply portion of the electric bill for the residential energy aggregation program.
3. The Mayor, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer or other municipal officer is hereby authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the Township of Hopewell any documents necessary to carry out the purpose of this Resolution including the Supplier Services Agreement providing a reduction is achieved at the time of auction.

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**RESOLUTION #20-184.** Read by title.

Motion by Blake, seconded by Ruger to adopt Resolution #20-184.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**NOES:** None

## **R E S O L U T I O N #20-184**

### **BILLS & CLAIMS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the list of cash disbursements authorized for approval of bills for payment date May 18, 2020 in the following amounts:

Bills and Claims	\$	14,204,921.48
Payroll	\$	316,690.53
Total Disbursements	\$	14,521,612.01

Itemized and listed on the submitted schedule are hereby approved and filed as a record as part of the minutes of this meeting.

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**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – AS LISTED ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE ON THE CLERK'S PAGE.**

### **PUBLIC SECTION**

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

**Jon Edwards**, requested that Committee Members take a Zoom session to tour the prison facility.

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 not reconvene following the Executive Session.

Motion by Blake, seconded by Ruger to go to Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations, real estate, legal and personnel matters.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-185**

**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
  - Bill A4132/S2350
- Contract Negotiations
  - Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Legal
  - Concerned Citizens

**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 18<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 6:24 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 7:19 p.m. the Regular meeting reconvened.

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At 7:19 p.m., motion by Blake, seconded by Kuchinski 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