

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

Monday, May 20, 2019 – 7:05 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 January 8, 2019, 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, Kuchinski, Ruger, Mayor McLaughlin
Hart arrived at 7:07 p.m.

ABSENT: None

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

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

MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Kuchinski to approve March 4, 2019 Special, Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Kuchinski to approve March 11, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Blake to approve March 25, 2019 Special, Regular and Executive Session (2) Meeting Minutes.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR MEETING AGENDA

- A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF PROPERTY DAMAGE RELEASE WITH NEW JERSEY MANUFACTURERS INSURANCE COMPANY FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO WOOSAMONSA ROAD
 - B. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Kataryniak reported that construction on Federal City Road will continue until at least late July with daily road closings and that JCP&L will be doing their annual helicopter inspections over the next six to eight weeks.

Committee Member Kuchinski requested that Mr. Kataryniak keep up on inspections and road maintenance on Aunt Molly Road and requested assistance from the County with left-hand turn traffic during the construction process on Federal City Road. Committee Member Hart also asked to extend the traffic light on Pennington Road to alleviate traffic congestion.

Committee Member Blake reported on efforts by Public Works regarding such subjects as brush collection, curbside Freon collection, and roadside mowing; and announced that it is National Public Works Week and extolled the important services public works provides to the community. Committee Member Blake also reported on her tour of Trenton Water Works.

Committee Member Kuchinski provided information on the upcoming Recreation Advisory Committee meeting.

Committee Member Blake reported that the Historic Preservation Commission meeting was canceled for the week and changed to a future date.

Committee Member Ruger announced that there is now a Tree City USA sign outside the Municipal Building's easterly driveway and provided information on the upcoming Environmental Commission Meeting.

Mayor McLaughlin advised that the Governor invited all Mercer County Mayors for a roundtable discussion at which the issues of Affordable Housing, energy tax receipts, and various topics were discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION. Read into the record.

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

Motion by Blake, seconded by Kuchinski 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 #19-173

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 20th day of May, 2019 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.

At 7:16 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 8:00 p.m. the Regular meeting reconvened.

RESOLUTION #19-174. Read by title.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Ruger to adopt Resolution #19-174.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #19-174

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF
PROPERTY DAMAGE RELEASE WITH NEW JERSEY
MANUFACTURERS INSURANCE COMPANY FOR
EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO WOOSAMONSA ROAD**

WHEREAS, on or about May 26, 2018 a storm event occurred and caused overflow and initial damage to Woosamonsa Road; and

WHEREAS, this resulted in roadway closure for emergency and safety reasons; and

WHEREAS, Hopewell Township went through a public bid process in order to undertake emergency repairs to Woosamonsa Road; and

WHEREAS, Hopewell Township advertised and awarded a construction contract to Hale Built Contractors on or about October 31, 2018 for emergency repairs to Woosamonsa Road; and

WHEREAS, an additional rain event occurred on or about November 24, 2018, which resulted in additional damage to Woosamonsa Road including damage to the recent repair work performed by Hale Built Contractors; and

WHEREAS, prior to Woosamonsa Road being damaged, work and grading was performed by Thomas and Mary Foster on their driveway. It is believed that the work and grading performed by Thomas and Mary Foster on their driveway and on their property caused damage to Woosamonsa Road; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Manufactures Insurance Company insures Thomas and Mary Foster; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Manufactures Insurance Company has agreed to payment of the sum of \$58,940.29 for any and all repair work done by the Township to Woosamonsa Road as a full and final settlement of this matter; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee finds it is in the best interest of the municipality to accept this sum and resolve this matter with New Jersey Manufactures Insurance Company on behalf of Thomas and Mary Foster.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a Property Damage Release with New Jersey Manufactures Insurance Company for the repairs to Woosamonsa Road. The Property Damage Release to be in the form substantially and in conformance with the Property Damage Release attached hereto and made a part hereof.

RESOLUTION #19-175. Read by title.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #19-175.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #19-175

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR
AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON
AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL**

BE IT RESOLVED, on this 20th day of May 2019, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell that the Mayor and Clerk of the Township and/or their designees are hereby authorized to execute the attached agreement between the Borough of Hopewell, Borough of Pennington, and the Township of Hopewell for the Senior Services Coordinator to provide services to borough seniors of the Borough of Hopewell and the Borough of Pennington for the year 2019.

2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Borges exhibited a slide presentation with regard to the 2019 Budget which contained the following:

- An analysis of the average tax bill.
- Hopewell Township has the lowest equalized municipal tax rate in Mercer County.
- Hopewell Township has its AAA rating affirmed by S&P in 2017.
- The Township Committee has significantly reduced tax increases over the past three years.
- 2019 Budget Overview.
- Spending has been reduced by almost \$2 million since 2015.
- A history of the Township's revenue history.
- Detail of expenses
- Summary of factors impacting the tax rate.
- Township debt reduction efforts.
- Percentage of the budget that debt service consumes.
- Debt components in the budget.
- Impact of debt on the budget.
- Continued debt reduction efforts.
- Additional insight on surplus usage.
- Surplus history over the past twenty years.
- Future Committee actions.
- Tax Rate History.
- Impact of Affordable Housing.

The following members of the public spoke during the public hearing:

Cheryl Edwards, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, questioned if the budget presentation would be placed on the website; requested that the Township Committee support State legislation to cap the amount of property taxes seniors must pay.

Amie Rukenstein, a resident of Pennington-Titusville Road, stated her opposition to the school budget and New Jersey policy regarding affordable housing. She thanked the Township Committee for working hard within the parameters they had to keep the tax increase as low as possible.

Burton Sutker, a resident of Lexington Drive, made certain comments regarding gun control at which time the Township Attorney advised him that comments were being restricted to comments on the budget only and was invited to speak during the public comment section of the meeting. Mr. Sutker asked if the pensions paid to retired Township employees were based on a defined pension plan and if so, is the Township was looking at alternatives to reduce pension costs.

Todd Brant, a resident of Overlook Road, requested that the Committee post the budget presentation to the website along with the past two years' presentations; commented on debt service and the tax rate.

Jon Edwards, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, commented on the Economic Development and Tourism Committee; budget increases; affordable housing impact on budget and asked what impact losing ratables have had on the budget.

Robert Greene, a resident of Burroughs Avenue, thanked the Committee for being good stewards of tax dollars and commented that the Township's portion of the budget will only increase his taxes a few cents, which he appreciates.

Andrew Borders, a resident of Hilton Court, thanked the Committee and the professional staff for their work on the budget; commented on the efforts to trim the budget; improvements contained in the budget; judiciousness of spending tax dollars; and the reduction of debt.

Courtney Peters-Manning, a resident of East Acres Drive, requested the topic of energy aggregation be a main concern in the budget.

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

Each Committee Member explained their reasons for their vote and commented on the budget.

RESOLUTION #19-176. Read by title.

Motion by Blake, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #19-176.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Blake, Kuchinski, Ruger, Mayor McLaughlin

NOES: Hart

(A copy of Budget Resolution #19-176 is herewith attached and made a part of these minutes.)

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Burton Sutker made certain comments regarding gun violence and gun control and requested an enhanced gun control ordinance.

Jon Edwards commented on the budget; budget meetings; the Economic Development Committee and the upcoming primary election race.

Todd Brant commented about the Scotch Road walkway and the Zaitz/Weidel property switch.

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

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Mayor McLaughlin removed the following ordinance for introduction from the agenda for consideration at a future date.

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL AMENDING
CHAPTER VII OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
ENTITLED “TRAFFIC,” SECTION 7-3.3, “SCHEDULE I NO PARKING”

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTIONS #19-177 THROUGH #19-178, Read by title.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Ruger to adopt Resolution #19-177 through #19-178

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

RESOLUTION #19-177

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE *CLICK IT OR TICKET* MOBILIZATION OF MAY 20 – JUNE 2, 2019

WHEREAS, there were 565 motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey in 2018; and
WHEREAS, a large percentage of the motor vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were not wearing a seat belt; and

WHEREAS, use of a seat belt remains the most effective way to avoid death or serious injury in a motor vehicle crash; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 135,000 lives were saved by safety belt usage nationally between 1975-2000; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey will participate in the nationwide *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization from May 20 – June 2, 2019 in an effort to raise awareness and increase seat belt usage through a combination of high visibility enforcement and public education; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety has set a goal of increasing the seat belt usage rate in the state from the current level of 94.5% to 95.5%; and

WHEREAS, a further increase in seat belt usage in New Jersey will save lives on our roadways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Hopewell Township declares its support for the *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization, both locally and nationally, from May 20 – June 2, 2019 and pledges to increase awareness of the mobilization and the benefits of seat belt use.

R E S O L U T I O N #19-178

**RESOLUTION OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM
THE HOPEWELL VALLEY SENIOR FOUNDATION**

WHEREAS, the Township of Hopewell has received a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from the Hopewell Valley Senior Foundation for the purpose of providing transportation for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 6th day of May, 2019, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Township of Hopewell hereby accepts the donation in the amount of \$250.00 from the Hopewell Valley Senior Foundation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the donated funds shall be used by the Township to provide transportation for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

RESOLUTION #19-179. Read by title.

Committee Members recognized Ms. Niederer's accomplishments, commended her work ethic, thanked her for her service and wished her well.

Motion by Hart, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #19-179.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #19-179

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RETIREMENT OF
JUDY NIEDERER IN THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, Judy Niederer served as a Hopewell Township Committee Member from January 3, 2005 through September 10, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Judy Niederer was appointed as Recreation Director in the Hopewell Township Recreation Department effective September 11, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Judy Niederer has served Hopewell Township honorably throughout her over 14 years of service, and is now eligible for retirement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, that the Township Committee accepts the retirement of Judy Niederer Hopewell Township effective June 1, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hopewell Township Committee, on behalf of itself and all municipal employees, wishes Judy Niederer good health and happiness in her retirement.

RESOLUTION #19-180. Read by title.
Motion by Hart, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #19-180.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #19-180

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ERIK MARTIN
AS PART-TIME RECREATION LABORER
IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 20th day of May, 2019 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that Erik Martin be and is hereby appointed as Part-time Recreation Laborer in the Hopewell Township Public Works Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Erik Martin be compensated at an hourly rate of \$12.00 per hour, not to exceed 24 hours per week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appointment is effective May 21, 2019.

RESOLUTION #19-181. Read by title.
Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #19-181.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #19-181

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH SAVE A FRIEND TO HOMELESS ANIMALS TO PROVIDE FOR SHELTER SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township has a need for shelter services for its animal control activities; and

WHEREAS, SAVE, a Friend to Homeless Animals, is a non-profit corporation of the State of New Jersey which houses animals and places them for adoption; and

WHEREAS Hopewell, by and through its Animal Control Officer, takes custody of stray animals in accordance with N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16; and

WHEREAS Hopewell, from time to time, has a need for a facility for the boarding of animals and places animals with SAVE, A Friend to Homeless Animals; and

WHEREAS SAVE, A Friend to Homeless Animals is willing to accept such animals subject to conditions set forth within agreement found acceptable to the Township of Hopewell; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds are available NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000.00, as follows:

2019 Current Budget – X-17-00-917-234

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; 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 SAVE, a Friend to Homeless Animals.

RESOLUTION #19-182. Read by title.
Motion by Ruger, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #19-182.

ROLL CALL VOTE:**AYES:** Blake, Hart, Kuchinski, Ruger, Mayor McLaughlin**NOES:** None**RESOLUTION #19-182****BILLS & CLAIMS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the list of cash disbursements authorized for approval of bills for payment date May 20, 2019 in the following amounts:

Bills and Claims	\$	5,393,136.98
Payroll	\$	401,871.73
Total Disbursements	\$	5,795,008.71

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

RESOLUTION #19-183. Read by title.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #19-183.

ROLL CALL VOTE:**AYES:** Blake, Kuchinski, Ruger, Mayor McLaughlin**NOES:** None**ABSTAIN:** Hart**RESOLUTION #19-183****BILLS & CLAIMS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the list of cash disbursements authorized for approval of bills for payment date May 20, 2019 in the following amounts:

Bills and Claims	\$	35.70
Payroll	\$	0.00
Total Disbursements	\$	35.70

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS
- B. AN ORDINANCE UPDATING SOLICITATION ORDINANCE AND ESTABLISHING A NO-KNOCK REGISTRY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
- C. REVISIONS TO SIGN ORDINANCE
- D. RECYCLING
- E. FOUR-WAY STOP SIGNS AT CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Jon Edwards stated his objections to the early Executive Session meeting and provided his opinion regarding Denow Road and suggested discussion with the property owner's association.

Cheryl Edwards expressed her appreciation for Judy Niederer and stated she was a "wonderful person."

Melanie Phillips commented on the budget presentation and stated that the public should have had access to the presentation before the meeting and requested that the Committee coordinate with the School Board so as to not hold meetings on the same day.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION. Read into the record.

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

Motion by Kuchinski, 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 #19-184

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
- Litigation
- Contract Negotiations

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 20th day of May, 2019 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.

At 9:47 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 11:03 p.m. the Regular meeting reconvened.

At 11:03 p.m., motion by Ruger, seconded by Blake 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