

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

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**Monday, May 22, 2020 – 3:01 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 19, 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, Ruger, Mayor  
McLaughlin

**ABSENT:** Peters-Manning

**STAFF PRESENT:** Administrator/CFO Borges, Municipal Clerk Gompf, Director of  
Community Development/Engineer Kataryniak, Interim Health Officer  
Carey

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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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**RESOLUTION #20-186.** Read by title.  
Motion by Blake, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #20-186.  
**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-186**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TEMPORARY  
EMPLOYEES IN HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for temporary help in the Department of Health.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that the following individuals be and are hereby appointed as temporary employees in the Hopewell Township Health Department:

1. Jeremy Borges – Part-time Contact Tracer
2. Melissa Self-Gomes – Part-time Contact Tracer

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the above individuals be compensated at the hourly rate of \$25.00 per hour, not to exceed 25 hours per week (unless deemed necessary).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this appointment is effective June 1, 2020.

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**RESOLUTION #20-187.** Read by title.  
Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #20-187.  
**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-187**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL S-2475 and ASSEMBLY BILL  
A-3971 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE “CORONAVIRUS RELIEF BONDS” BY  
MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES**

**WHEREAS**, A-3971, which authorizes the issuance of “coronavirus relief bonds” by municipalities and counties and is sponsored by Assemblyman Dan Benson, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, was approved by the New Jersey General Assembly on May 14, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Senate companion, S-2475, sponsored by Senators Troy Singleton and Vin Gopal was introduced on May 11 and awaits Senate committee action; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities and counties are experiencing unprecedented financial challenges, including significant loss of and unanticipated expenses because of the on-going COVID-19 global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, these fiscal consequences of the pandemic and the ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency, are likely to continue and further impact the Township of Hopewell; and

**WHEREAS**, the current public health emergency led to shuttering of businesses, construction, courts, and schools; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments are experiencing a record decline in revenue from permitting fees, licensing fees, parking revenue, hotel/motel occupancy taxes, and court fines at the same time experiencing income losses due to declining returns on investments with the uncertainty of property tax collection and state aid revenues in the horizon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hopewell Township budget has significant fixed statutory expenses and provides essential public services; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of providing many essential services is likely to increase as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic for an extended period afterwards; and

**WHEREAS**, A-3971 and S-2475 would allow counties and municipalities to borrow moneys through the issuance of bonds and notes to cover the revenue shortfalls and additional costs that are directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and pay that money back over a ten-year period; and

**WHEREAS**, the A-3971 and S-2475 would also require a local government to thoroughly investigate and apply for financial assistance that may be available to it from the federal government, the State and other sources due to revenue shortfalls and expenditures because of the pandemic, prior to authorizing the issuance of the “coronavirus relief bonds”; and

**WHEREAS**, under A-3971 and S-2475 a municipality may use the proceeds from the sale and issuance of the coronavirus relief bonds to address a revenue shortfall experienced by the municipality and cover the cost of unanticipated expenses that are directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and which occurred within 24 months after the end of the Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, A-3971 and S-2475 is not a one size fits all solution that provides the appropriate financial assistance to Hopewell Township to help address all revenue shortfalls and expenditures directly attributable to this pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, without this legislation, to address the revenue shortfall some municipalities would be required to take extreme measures that would gut local government eliminating critical public service. Local governments need the flexibility that A-3971 and S-2575 provides to limit the impact on property taxpayers;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer and State of New Jersey that:

1. Strongly supports the swift passage and signing into law A-3971 and S-2475, which will provide flexibility and offer relief to municipalities and counties to address their revenue shortfalls and expenditures directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the Governor, the President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Sponsors of the Legislation, the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee, the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, our State Legislators, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

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## **PUBLIC SECTION**

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Mary Galioto, founder, publisher and editor of Mercer Me, questioned what the public can anticipate from contact tracers and how the public may differentiate between scammers and actual contact tracers; questioned the relationship between one of the contact tracers and the Township Administrator; and asked what is the Township policy regarding hiring related persons.

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 will not reconvene following the Executive Session.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Blake 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 #20-188**

### **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:

- Legal
  - Trenton Water Works

**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 22<sup>nd</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 3:18 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 3:37 p.m. the Regular meeting reconvened.

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At 3:37 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