

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

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**Tuesday, June 30, 2020 – 5:37 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 June 26, 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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mercer County Prosecutor Onofri

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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 #20-235.** Read by title.  
Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #20-235.  
**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-235**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PART-TIME  
SEASONAL WORKERS FOR THE  
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Hopewell Township Recreation Department traditionally offers a variety of summer recreation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, smooth operation of these programs requires that they be planned and staffed in the spring; and

**WHEREAS**, the Recreation Department will operate these programs in 2020, if circumstances permit; and

**WHEREAS**, in deciding whether these programs will be operated in 2020, the Township will be guided by the Governor’s Executive Orders issued under the State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency declared as a result of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, as well as guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health and Hopewell Township Health Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hopewell Township Recreation Director recommends the following individuals for appointment as part time seasonal workers to manage and supervise the programs sponsored by the Recreation Department; and

**WHEREAS**, in the event the programs cannot be operated as a result of the public health crisis, the listed compensation for these individuals shall be prorated to reflect work actually performed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that part-time seasonal workers be hereby appointed effective July 6, 2020 through August 29, 2020 as follows:

NAME	TITLE	PROGRAM	SALARY
Elizabeth Finnegan	Rec. Leader-Guest Artist	Art in the Park	\$ 678.00 per session
Gina Ortlano	Rec. Leader-Guest Artist	Art in the Park	\$ 665.00 per session
Jennifer Skorupa	Rec. Leader-Guest Artist	Art in the Park	\$ 665.00 per session
Stephanie Hart	Rec. Leader-Guest Artist	Art in the Park	\$ 665.00 per session
Brett Lelie	Rec. Leader-Guest Artist	Art in the Park	\$ 665.00 per session
Emily Neal	Recreation Aide	Art in the Park	\$ 11.00 per hour
Annabel Stocks Natalias	Recreation Aide	Art in the Park	\$ 11.00 per hour
Finnian Mayer	Recreation Aide	Art in the Park	\$ 11.00 per hour
Tyler O'Neil	Recreation Supervisor	Bulldog Soccer	\$ 40.00 per hour
Tyler Mills	Recreation Supervisor	Bulldog Soccer	\$ 40.00 per hour

Pay scale as set by Township Ordinance:

Recreation Aide:	\$11.00 per hour to \$15.00 per hour
Recreation Leader:	\$15.00 per hour to \$35.00 per hour
Recreation Supervisor	\$35.00 per hour to \$50.00 per hour

Each of the summer camps has a range of hours that is dependent on weather, drop-off and pick-up times of campers, daily trip times, and set-up/planning time.

Art in the Park	- Range is from 20 hours to 35 hours per week
Baseball Camp	- Range is from 20 hours to 25 hours per week
Softball Camp	- Range is from 20 hours to 25 hours per week
Soccer Camp/League	- Range is from 5 hours to 8 hours per week
Field Hockey League	- Range is from 5 hours to 8 hours per week
Teen Travel	- Range is from 35 hours to 40 hours per week
Volleyball Camp	- Range is from 25 hours to 30 hours per week
Wrestling Camp	- Range is from 20 hours to 25 hours per week

**RESOLUTION #20-236.** Read by title.

Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #20-236.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

### **R E S O L U T I O N #20-236**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FEDERAL AID COST REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE NJDOT DIVISION OF LOCAL AID AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING (PE) SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CARTER ROAD EAST SEGMENT OF THE LAWRENCE HOPEWELL TRAIL (LHT)**

**WHEREAS**, Hopewell Township entered into the NJDOT TAP Design Assistance Program (the "Program") to seek federal funding reimbursement for the required Preliminary Engineering (PE) and Final Design (FD) services associated with the design of a segment of the LHT on the east side of Carter Road (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, under the requirements of the Program, Hopewell Township has accepted the April 6, 2020 technical proposal submitted by Greenman and Pederson, Inc. (GPI), by Resolution #20-160, for the scope and costs associated with the Preliminary Engineering (PE) services for the Project, in the amount of \$278,316.34; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) authorized a reimbursement Grant of federal funding for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase of the Project, in the amount equal to the full cost of the GPI proposal, \$278,316.34; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJDOT Division of Local Aid and Economic Development (NJDOT) is the agency authorized to administer the federal funding; and

**WHEREAS**, Hopewell Township proposes to be the Sponsor Local Public Agency (LPA), or "Subrecipient" of the federal funding for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, receipt of the federal funding for the Project is subject to the terms and conditions of a Funding Agreement, No. 2020-DT-DLA-537, prepared by the NJDOT, and

**WHEREAS**, execution of the Funding Agreement between the Township of Hopewell and the NJDOT is necessary prior to the commencement of the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Hopewell Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell hereby authorizes the mayor to sign the Funding Agreement, No. 2020-DT-DLA-537, accepting the Grant of federal funds for the Preliminary Engineering Design Services associated with the Project.

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**PRESENTATION – LISTENING/ENGAGEMENT SESSION BY MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR ANGELO ONOFRI ON AN OVERVIEW OF USE OF FORCE AND POLICE REFORMS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY N.J. ATTORNEY GENERAL GURBIR GREWAL.**

Mercer County Prosecutor, Angelo Onofri, began by announcing that this evening was part of the 21 County for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Policing Project and explained the following:

- The program was established by Attorney General Grewal in 2018.
- The concept and the goal was to strengthen the relationships between the law enforcement community and the communities they serve.
- These forums are being conducted throughout the State.
- He referenced the 8 minutes and 46 seconds (murder of George Floyd) that occurred on May 25, 2020 which has changed the world as we know it.
- Stated that the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department and the cries of “I can’t breathe!” have reverberated throughout the world.
- Mr. Floyd’s murder, coupled with the events in Atlanta, Louisville, New York and elsewhere have turned from protests into a movement to examine the police use of force/police community relations as well as race relations throughout the United States.
- Prior to Mr. Floyd’s murder, Attorney General Grewal introduced and enacted numerous police reforms through his Excellence in Policing initiatives.
- The reforms started in November and December of 2019 and since then, the Attorney General has announced additional reforms including revising the use of force guidelines, the internal affairs process, officer involved shootings, in-custody deaths, training requirements, as well as expanding crisis intervention training.
- Many police use of force and in-custody incidents occur between the police and people who are emotionally disturbed.
- Police are called on to do many things, therefore crisis intervention training has been expanded and has been found to be one of the most effective ways to reduce police use of force and in-custody incidents.
- Crisis intervention training will assist police officers to respond to situations involving emotionally disturbed people.
- Trenton has been named as a test site for the training.
- There are several Hopewell Township police officers who have gone through the intensive 40-hour crisis intervention training.
- Police officers in New Jersey will have to be licensed in the near future.
- The Attorney General established a Use of Force Portal, which requires police departments to report as an incident occurs, which in turn gets published on the department’s website once a year.
- The Use of Force Portal will come from all law enforcement agencies in New Jersey and is a better mechanism for the Attorney General to gather and analyze use of force incidents in real time and do any necessary follow up.
- The importance of this is to take a top-to-bottom look at all use of force practices in New Jersey and the Attorney General will make necessary adjustments to those policies.
- It provides additional guidance to officers about when and how use of force can be used to gain compliance when trying to effectuate an arrest or for a lawful objective.
- Law enforcement officers can only use force which is necessary and reasonable in certain circumstances.
- The project is being headed by the offices of Public Integrity and Accountability.
- The Attorney General has formed a panel, which include representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union, National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives, County Prosecutor’s Association, PBA, National Action Network and more, that will be consulted to review policies.
- The Attorney General is creating within the Attorney General’s Office Division of Civil Rights an incident response team.

- The team will respond to the community in the event of a civil rights incident.
- The team will be comprised of individuals specifically trained in community relations.
- The team will help to strengthen the bonds between the community and law enforcement.
- Chokeholds are not taught in any police academy in the State of New Jersey.
- The use of Positional Asphyxiation is taught, but not allowed to be used, in New Jersey.
- The Attorney General issued guidance to all law enforcement agencies in New Jersey to, “Restate New Jersey’s commitment to ensuring that our criminal justice system is fair, just and free of biased and noting our solemn responsibility as law enforcement officers and professionals, while reiterating our shared commitment to a culture of professionalism, accountability and transparency.”
- The Attorney General affirmed that New Jersey law enforcement officers “are not permitted to perform chokeholds, carotid artery neck restraints, or similar tactics except in very limited situations when deadly force is necessary to address the imminent threat of life.”
- The Attorney General also warned of positional asphyxiation including kneeling or otherwise placing weight on a subject’s neck or chest.
- Explained situations where a chokehold would be acceptable for an officer to use.
- The Attorney General is statutorily required to investigate and present to the grand jury, if there is any incident of an in-custody death or an officer-involved shooting which resulted in death.
- A statute creating Community Review Boards is pending in the State Legislature.
- The new Use of Force Task Force will consider:
  - Specific tactics designed to subdue a subject
  - Engaging subjects with serious mental illness or substance abuse
  - Exhausting all other reasonable means and pursuing de-escalation before resorting to deadly force
  - Applying force proportionate to the subject’s conduct
  - Less than lethal uses of force, e.g., bean bags, mace and Tasers
  - A duty to intervene when another officer engages in the excessive use of force
  - Firing a weapon at a moving vehicle is prohibited in New Jersey.
  - High speed car pursuits are only permitted when the police are pursuing someone who has committed a first degree crime.
  - The task force will be strengthening reporting and training requirements.
  - The task force will consider any other proposals that would assist in reducing the risk of death or injury to civilians while maintaining the safety of police officers.
- The Attorney General has created a public comment portal and NJ.GOV/OAG/FORCE
- Public comment will be accepted until August 1, 2020.
- The Attorney General has promised that there will be revisions to the use of force policy by the end of the year.

Committee members questioned what the definition of Use of Force is; will the portal be searchable; will there be a similar portal regarding officer discipline; and are there functions such as crisis intervention that doesn’t have to be with the police department.

Richard Burke, former Warren County Prosecutor, past president of the County Prosecutor’s Association of New Jersey and has now joined the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability, added that the portal was going to include reporting of the ARCH 2 IA function; it is not presently there, but part of the plan for the portal is to have access for prosecutors to submit their internal affairs reports; and commented that CIT training does include the training of other individuals besides officers, such as DCP&P workers.

Committee Members questioned the value of a college education for police officers. A member from the chat asked if there was a requirement that all officers have their body-worn cameras on at all times. Mr. Onofri stated that if you are in an encounter with an officer, the body-worn camera should be turned on and that the public should not hesitate to come forward if they have been mistreated by a police officer, because anything that happened will be on the body-worn camera. Committee Members questioned what procedures should be followed if someone feels they’ve been intimidated by a police officer in Hopewell Township; and if the reports can be made anonymously.

Mr. Onofri explained that anyone wanting to report a complaint may begin with the Hopewell Township Internal Affairs; if they are uncomfortable with that, they may bring the complaint to the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office, Internal Affairs Unit; and if they wish they may also go to

the Attorney General's website and click on Citizen's Services where you can submit a complaint by fax or voicemail.

Chat members questioned when a body camera tape is available and what process could the public access the footage; if officers involved in a use of force incident for which they are involved allowed to review their own footage. Mr. Onofri replied that it may be requested through an Open Public Records Request and that body-cam footage aren't usually allowed to be reviewed by the officer.

Chat members questioned if the names of officers would be released if someone dies in their custody to which Mr. Onofri stated that it was the subject of a lawsuit right now and in the process of being determined; and what tools are being considered to determine the effectiveness of racial diversity training and what initiatives are being discussed to collect data regarding racial profiling to which Mr. Onofri stated that the Attorney General established the CLEAR Institute (Community-Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations).

**Sheila Fields**, commented on the information presented on use of force; stated that the current internal affairs officer is a defendant in a racial discrimination lawsuit; questioned why people are being directed to that officer; and assumed all complaints should go to the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

**Melissa Priest** questioned how the police licensure procedure requirements will be different from the current certification requirements in New Jersey and who will have oversight of the disciplinary aspect of the licensure process.

**Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson** questioned if the Prosecutor's office has created a space for their employees to discuss how they feel.

**Scott Brown**, a resident of Montague Avenue, questioned how police departments can have meaningful discipline when they are bound by collective bargaining agreements when police unions have so much power.

**Carolyn McGrath**, a resident of Pennington-Harbourton Road, questioned if the anti-biased training was state-wide; if there was follow-up data on that anti-biased training; and how are the Attorney General's reforms addressing more systemic issues.

Committee Members questioned if there has been work to qualify or quantify what non-biased interaction looks like; what base psychological evaluations are being done; and when the psychological baseline exam was instituted.

**Whitney Lewis** related that she believes that Hopewell's police diversity is reflective of the town but should be more reflective of the county; believes that Hopewell police officers have good relationships with their residents, however, past issues need to be mended; questioned what can be done to bridge the gap and mend relationships; and urged Hopewell officers to go to other town's events.

**Catherine Fulmer-Hogan**, a resident of Ingleside Avenue, stated that her concern was that outside of the anti-biased training and the reliance upon community reporting, how do we address issues that are perhaps pervasive across an entire department; questioned if a process of gaging how the community is feeling about how we are progressing in terms of an anti-biased training outside of a formal report process could be considered.

**Paul Pierson**, a resident of Fieldsboro, commented that it would take a while for us to get there and asked what confidence we have that will ever happen when it's taken 400 hundred years to get there; questioned if anyone was aware of any racial profiling complaints against Hopewell Township within the past five years; and stated he doesn't feel confident that change will happen for the average black man.

**Jon Edwards**, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Rd., questioned how the County is addressing systemic racism; suggested taking the aggregate data and break it down by officer; and questioned if the data will be broken down by officer.

**Elizabeth Lamartine** stated she has friends on several police forces except for Hopewell Township; and questioned if anything was being done to compensate or reinstate a certain police officer on the Hopewell Township Police Department.

**Christopher Pierson**, a resident of Harbourton-Woodsville Road, questioned if there was a breakdown of the police forces by race and is the diversity of the police forces in Mercer County problematic?

**Olivia Allen**, a resident of Washington Crossing Road, requested Mr. Onofri's response to a report by NJ.com that black people are 224% more likely to have use of force used against them; and asked if there is a place where rebuttal data to NJ.com's data is compiled?

**Elizabeth Lamartine's mother**, expressed that she was stopped out on a country road and told the story of the stop; stated that everyone deserves respect; stated she believes people are human and don't believe people are out to get you.

Committee Members thanked Mr. Onofri for coming. Mr. Onofri stated that there will be more of these type of sessions coming from the Attorney General.

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## PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

**Amy Pearlmutter**, a resident of Hopewell Wertsville Road, expressed concern regarding repairing the relationship between the police and the community where people express that they do not feel safe; asked what would it take to repair those relationships; suggested anti-bias training with the understanding of implicit biased; and called for the police to step forward and try to repair that relationship.

**Olivia Allen**, questioned Committee Members regarding the race and diversity group and expressed a desire to join the group. Committee Member Blake conveyed the name of the Facebook Group as Hopewell Valley Together.

**Stephanie Overton-Hall**, a resident of Crest Avenue, expressed her belief that there are racial biases in the community and in the police department and questioned what actions the committee will be taking to address those biases.

**Melissa Priest** expressed that there is a sense of urgency for people of color in the community who need action.

**Catherine Fulmer-Hogan** expressed that she was troubled by comments made by Mayor McLaughlin in an article in NJ.com regarding Chief Maloney.

**Carolyn McGrath** stated there needs to be repair between the community and the police department; she is still upset about the Facebook post; and wants healing to happen between the police and the community.

**Corey Abernathy**, a resident of Plainsboro Township, was seriously concerned regarding the suspension of some of the police officers and that one of the officers was brought back to work; questioned why they were brought back to work; what will be done so that those type of incidents don't happen again.

**Sheila Fields** expressed her concern over an apparent lack of willingness from the Township Committee to explain what is going on; requested that the Committee provide some information if there is an investigation happening; suggested that not speaking about it is frustrating; and asked for a status update on something the Committee can say.

**Olivia Allen**, questioned why the public is not allowed to know if one of the five officers suspended over the Facebook incident is back at work.

**Paul Pierson** spoke about the system not being built for black people right now and he doesn't have confidence that the system will do what it is supposed to.

Mr. Goodell explained the reason for muting all participants due to the Zoom-bombing which was experienced a few weeks ago.

**Linda Rogers** spoke about active listening and said in order to hear, you need to be in the place where someone was hurt; stated none of the committee has been in a black person's life and urged them to listen and try to put things in place to make it better for everyone in Hopewell Township.

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

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At 8:28 p.m., motion by Blake, seconded by Peters-Manning 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