

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

Monday, January 11, 2021 – 5:03 p.m.

PROPER STATEMENT OF NOTICE – Mayor Blake 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 5, 2021, 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: Kuchinski, McLaughlin, Peters-Manning, Ruger,
Mayor Blake

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Acting Administrator Snyder, Municipal Clerk Gompf, CFO Troutman,
Health Officer Marling, Community Development Director/Engineer
Kataryniak, Police Director Karmazin

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

2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mayor Blake turned the meeting over to Committee Member Kuchinski as he is the Finance liaison. Committee Member Kuchinski summarized what was to be accomplished during the meeting and announced that the Committee would like to introduce the capital budget ahead of the operating budget to give the Township advantages from a buying and bidding standpoint.

Dawn Marling, Health Officer, stated that she only had two capital budget requests that included:

- The replacement of a 2002 Ford Escape with a super cab pickup truck.
- Furniture for the reconfiguration of office area

Committee Member Kuchinski suggested moving the office furniture to operating expenses and questioned the replacement of the Ford Escape with a pickup truck. Ms. Marling justified the pickup truck by explaining that there would be storage space for field equipment that is very dirty.

Committee Member Kuchinski shared a spreadsheet of the current 2021 capital budget item requests and reviewed each item. Mr. Kataryniak explained the road resurfacing, road replacement, drainage improvement expense requests; why it was good practice to bid certain items separately; and possibly splitting costs over several years. There was a brief discussion regarding the D&R towpath and outreach to the neighbors on Aunt Molly Road.

The Public Works capital budget was discussed and the lowest prioritized budget item was taken out of the budget; changes were made to the lighting in the Court and pushed to a future year; and the purchase of an SUV hybrid was evaluated.

Committee Members discussed the need for the vehicle in the Health Department and then reviewed the Police Department's capital budget. It was suggested that all vehicles being purchased in 2021 be SUVs; Director Karmazin was asked to prioritize the remaining equipment they requested; it was suggested that an additional \$100,000 be added to the police budget and

that the department possibly purchase only two SUVs instead of three. Committee Member Ruger announced that radio frequencies will not be changed, so the need to purchase different radios will not be necessary and body worn camera funding was discussed.

Ms. Troutman explained that before the capital budget is introduced, she would need the annual debt statement completed first and then the supplemental debt statement completed; a capital ordinance would then be introduced, advertised, a second reading, and an adoption of the capital budget.

Committee Member Kuchinski mentioned that it is now time to turn to the operating budget and department heads will be invited to walk the Committee through their budget changes and explain those changes. He invited department heads to come up with ideas to deliver more services that residents would want and to identify outside sources or opportunities to increase revenues without adding to the burden of residential property tax.

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Jon Edwards, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, questioned how much of the supplemental COVID funding set aside last year was actually spent and what impact has COVID had on the budget.

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

At 5:41 p.m., motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Ruger 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