

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING  
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING AUDITORIUM**

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**Monday, January 13, 2020 – 5:34 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 9, 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

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**2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mayor McLaughlin turned the meeting over to Committee Member Kuchinski as he is the financial liaison for the Committee.

Committee Member Kuchinski stated that he would like to continue the discussion on the 2020 Capital Budget with the goal of coming close to a final budget this meeting with an eye to making final changes at the next meeting. He stated there are benefits to introducing the Capital Budget ahead of the broader budget, which will enable the Township to move on key projects that benefit the residents.

He explained that the goal is to authorize new capital at an amount less than the amount being retired in principle and elaborated on the amounts being paid off on principle with an end goal of \$5.2 million dollars.

Mr. Kataryniak discussed the following:

- Chip seal and road maintenance programs
- DOT projects are a Priority One request which have an offsetting grant.
- Blackwell Road is not a Priority One project.

Committee Members questioned if additional roads could be added to the chip seal program at this time to which Mr. Kataryniak replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Kataryniak reviewed:

- The priority drainage projects and cited this as a priority for the Capital Budget.
- The draft hydrant for the Honey Lake neighborhood in order to improve fire flow in that area.
- Architectural and overall planning for the Community/Senior Center for preliminary site evaluation, conceptual design and architectural programming for the building.
- Independent studies for aquifer health and traffic studies throughout the Township related to the affordable housing projects.
- Incidental improvements to the Lawrence Hopewell Trail which would include improvements to Carter Road and the Mount Rose Preserve parking lot.
- Concept design for drainage analysis at Coventry Lane which may be rolled into one of the existing drainage projects previously discussed.

Committee Members requested that the improvements to the Lawrence Hopewell Trail might be funded through the Open Space trust fund.

Also reviewed:

- Multiway stops at three locations within the Township. Mr. Kataryniak reviewed the warrant requirements to institute a four-way stop and suggested supplementing traffic counts to meet the requirements.
- Construction and design estimate for the signal installation at the intersection of Federal City and Bull Run Roads through a possible joint effort with Lawrence and Ewing Township sharing in the cost of the signal.

Committee Members sought to reduce the construction and design estimate costs for year 2020 with part of the cost being rolled over into the 2021 budget. It was agreed to initially commit \$150,000.00 in the 2020 budget.

Mr. Kataryniak suggested an assessment of ADA compliance at Hopewell Gardens was necessary, however, Committee Members suggested that this item be included in the Operating Budget and not the Capital Budget.

It was suggested by Mr. Kataryniak that the Pennington-Titus Mill drainage project could be made part of the annual drainage project which could possibly be funded through the I-Bank.

It was discussed that the annual maintenance for guiderails, which was previously funded through the Capital Budget, could possibly be funded through the Operating Budget.

Committee Member Kuchinski reviewed the following:

- Funding could be reduced from the chip seal program.
- Apply for a grant for Blackwell Road East in 2020.
- Fund projects through Open Space budget.
- Reduce the funding for Bull Run Road.
- The Capital Budget still needs to be reduced.
- The need to fund in-car video systems and body-worn cameras for the Police Department was discussed and it was decided to expend the money over several years and ask for warranty extensions with broken camera funding coming from the Operating Budget.
- The license plate reader has been removed from the Capital Budget. It was decided that more information was needed.
- In Public Works the first priority was the road mower, the second priority was the mower with the claw, third priority was a Jetvac truck. It was decided that money should start being set aside for the Jetvac but more information is needed as to how often it would be used.
- A Public Works SUV was removed from the budget.
- Track skid steer was preliminarily left in the Capital Budget, however, it was noted as Public Works' last priority, and subsequently removed from the Capital Budget.
- There was a discussion to move some items to the Operating Budget.
- Allocating some funding from the Affordable Housing Budget for certain studies was discussed.
- Mr. Kataryniak will look for funds from last year to utilize this year.
- Committee Members reviewed the dates and times for future budget meetings.

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## PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

**Harvey Lester**, a resident of Continental Lane, made certain comments regarding the Washington Crossing Estates water utility line item in the budget and opposed the budgeting of over \$300,000.00 for repairs to the water system.

Committee Member Kuchinski read into the record an email received from a resident from Washington Crossing Estates which read:

“Good afternoon Ms. Borges:

I was wondering what was the status of the water line replacement plan for Washington Crossing Estates. The last I heard was that a group of residents wish to stall that plan and an advisory panel was going to be created by the Township. Our roadway is in bad shape and I know that the water line repairs are to be done before the road repairs. So I am just wondering where we are.

If I could be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.”

Committee Member Kuchinski then suggested setting up the next meeting with the residents of Washington Crossing Estates.

**James Burd**, a resident of Nursery Road, requested an explanation as to how the improvements to drainage on Pennington-Titusville Road will be done.

**Kim Robinson**, a resident of Harbourton Rocktown Road questioned what happened to the draft policies the Finance Advisory Committee developed and requested that the Township take over Route 579 from the southern Township borders to the Little Red Schoolhouse in Harbourton.

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

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At 6:38 p.m., motion by Ruger, 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