

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

Monday, January 18, 2022 – 5:05 p.m.

PROPER STATEMENT OF NOTICE – Mayor Peters-Manning 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, 2022, 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: David Chait, Kevin Kuchinski, Uma Purandare,
Michael Ruger, Mayor Courtney Peters-Manning,

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator/Public Works Director George Snyder, Municipal Clerk Laurie Gompf, CFO Julie Troutman, Community Development Director/Engineer James Hutzelmann

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

2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mayor Peters-Manning announced Committee Member Chait’s areas of responsibility which are: Public Works; Communications; Economic Development; Affordable Housing; and the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Council.

Committee Member Kuchinski conveyed that the budget discussion will begin with Mr. Hutzelmann who will review the roads, Community Development and Historic Preservation budgets; that the discussion will also include Professional Service Agreements; that the Health budget has been moved to the meeting of January 24; and that the aim of the meeting is to move to the Public Comment section by 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Hutzelmann displayed a Power Point presentation regarding the Community Development 2022 Capital Budget which included:

- Mill and Overlay of Roads, broken down into Priority 1, Priority 1 & 2, and Priority 1, 2 & 3 expenditures amounts.
- The amounts shown would bring the Township up to a point where maintenance would only need to be done afterward.
- Chip Seal is the biggest practice that the Township does in terms of miles.
- Chip Seal is done on a three-year cycle.
- Suggested resurfacing more rural roads with Chip Seal.
- Sought clarity on the priority of road repair.
- Explained the thought process behind the prioritizing of the road repairs.
- Addressed reinvestigating and renewing the Township’s paving inventory.
- Discussed the road paving grant and what to expect.
- Reviewed drainage projects which are a priority.
 - Coventry Lane
 - Rivera Drive
 - Miscellaneous Drainage Repair (Township-wide)
- Requested funding for Traffic Calming

- Requested funding for Distillery masonry repoint.
- Requested funding for guiderail improvements
- Requested a new vehicle for Community Development

Committee Members discussed that the Community Development Capital Budget requests exceeded the amount allotted for the 2022 total capital budget. Mr. Hutzelmann explained that studies would need to be conducted before traffic calming measures were implemented and that the traffic calming request was for the actual construction.

Committee Member Kuchinski explained that Ms. Troutman would be sending out a preliminary Capital Budget which would be reviewed; that the Capital Budget would be introduced early in order to take advantage of early bidding on road projects; and that Members of the Committee should perform a site visit of Aunt Molly Road to see the conditions of the road prior to the Committee Meeting on January 31.

Discussion of alternate funding ensued. Mr. Hutzelmann committed to contacting the Mercer County engineer to identify potential bridge projects they may be conducting in the near future.

Mr. Snyder shared a Power Point presentation regarding the Hopewell Township Utilities 2022 Capital budget. The first request was door replacement for the Brandon Farms Society Hill wet well which is a security issue in its current state. He requested replacement windows for the building as well. The second request was for a system evaluation for the Washington Crossing Estates water system.

Committee Members commented that, although they will seek input from members of the Washington Crossing Estates community, the decision on how to move forward with repairs will ultimately lie with the Townships professionals aided by input from the residents and questioned what the evaluation of the Washington Crossing Estates water system would entail. Mr. Snyder explained that an estimate was given to the Township by the engineer's consultant; that an ultrasound would be performed on the pipes that would show the condition of the pipes and their life expectancy; that the tanks would be inspected; and that the mains would be inspected and possibly dug up.

Mr. Snyder was then queried regarding the repaving of roads after the evaluation. Mr. Snyder responded that the Washington Crossing Estates (WCE) are a Priority 1 road for repaving and scheduled to be repaved this year; explained that the WCE water system was built in the late 1960's; that the pipes are lead and embedded on shale; that when the shale shifts water main breaks may occur; that the mains are original to the system; that the Township's concern is that there could be a catastrophic failure; and that if there is a catastrophic failure in the pipes, all the water in the system may drain out of the homes causing possible contamination and then sanitation remediation would be needed. He explained that if the mains weren't replaced and the old mains remained, if the roads were newly paved and there was a main break, the new road would have to be cut into, repaired and patched; and that typically utility work is done before a road is paved.

Ms. Troutman clarified that the WCE project was funded through the 2021 utility budget and not the 2021 Capital budget, however those funds were not utilized in 2021 and redirected to the 2022 budget. Committee Members questioned Mr. Snyder regarding the paving and evaluation.

Committee Member Kuchinski shared that he attended an American Recovery Program (ARP) webinar, as did Ms. Troutman, and that the final uses were released; that one of the uses of ARP funds is the potential for needed investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure; and suggested that some of the items discussed could potential qualify for funding under ARP.

Ms. Troutman shared an Excel spreadsheet listing each Professional Service Agreement (PSA); explained that the Township awards PSA via a resolution to the professionals providing the Township services in order to avoid bidding for the services; and that the PSA includes an amount not to exceed stipulation; and that PSA's are funded through the current fund operating budget.

Committee Member Kuchinski explained that Ms. Troutman's spreadsheet shows previous years' actual spending through the year and that it includes the amounts utilized in 2021 for a benchmark. PSAs reviewed included:

- The Canning Group
- Integrity

- Mercer Council on Drugs and Alcohol
- Penn Med/or similar
- Rnd Consulting
- Fit for Duty contingent
- Parker McCay
- Ruderman & Roth
- Van Cleef Engineering
- Banisch
- Harry Haushalter
- Carlin, Ward, Ash & Heiart
- Mason, Griffin, Pierson
- McManimon Scotland - Legal
- Trimboli & Prusinowksi
- Robert Yostemski
- General Code
- McManimon Scotland for Bond Counsel in Finance
- Phoenix Advisors
- Cirkiel
- Inverso & Stewart
- Van Cleef Engineering for general engineering, stormwater, waste water and Coventry Lane drainage.
- Ferriero Engineering for Redevelopment – Non escrow and the Community Center
- Francis Linnus
- Van Cleef Engineering for Planning and Zoning engineering
- Banisch & Associates for Community Development services
- Mason Griffin Pierson for Zoning legal purposes
- McGowan for water compliance for Buildings and grounds
- Kelly Winthrop Deer Carcass Removal
- M2 Associates
- Lears Lawncare
- Physician Practice Enhance
- Lawrence Township
- John Holiday, Public Defender
- Conflicts public defenders

Due to time constraints the review of the PSA budget was halted and it was announced that the subject would be revisited at a later budget meeting.

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Harvey Lester, a resident of Continental Lane, made accusations that the two new members of the Township Committee know nothing of the WCE utility and three members had limited knowledge; offered to share his knowledge regarding the utility; expressed that he thought three minutes to publicly speak at a meeting was not enough; stated that the WCE utility was self-sufficient and paid for by the users of the utility, not by taxpayers; stated that money is being utilized for the well house; expressed his opinion that the Township was using the utility money for what he perceives as unneeded purposes; and once again offered to share his knowledge of the utility with members of the Committee.

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

Mayor Peters-Manning advised that Mr. Snyder did advise the WCE working group that the utility would be discussed at tonight's meeting.

Committee Member Ruger interjected that members of the Committee have met with members of the WCE working group over the utility and that professionals were present to answer any questions.

Mayor Peters-Manning announced that the Township will continue to work with the WCE working group.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION. Read into the record.

Mayor Blake 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 #22-28

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:

- Real Estate
 - Pennytown

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 18th day of January, 2022 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 6:35 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 6:51 p.m. the Regular meeting reconvened.

At 6:51 p.m., motion by Purandare, seconded by Chait 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