

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

Monday, February 1, 2021 – 6:01 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: Kevin Kuchinski, Kristin McLaughlin, Courtney Peters-Manning, Michael Ruger, Mayor Julie Blake

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Acting Administrator George Snyder, Municipal Clerk Laurie Gompf, CFO Julie Troutman, Director of Community Development/Engineer Mark Kataryniak, Township Attorney Steve Goodell

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

MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Ruger to approve December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

PRESENTATION – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS “BLACK HISTORY MONTH” IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mayor Blake began by saying that today marks Freedom Day which traditionally opens February as Black History Month. She then introduced Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman Anthony Verrelli who read the Black History Month Resolution into the record.

RESOLUTION #21-50. Read by title.

Motion by McLaughlin, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #21-50.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Kuchinski, McLaughlin, Peters-Manning, Ruger, Mayor Blake

NOES: None

RESOLUTION #21-50

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021 AS
“BLACK HISTORY MONTH” IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the history of Hopewell Township, New Jersey, and our nation are inextricably linked to the heritage of our country’s Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, in the beginning of our nation’s history, a large majority of Black Americans were enslaved; yet many, such as William Stives, a local African American war

veteran and Badge of Merit recipient, participated in the struggle for American independence with his life in order to build a society based upon the ideals of liberty, prosperity, and self-government; and

WHEREAS, the history of Black Americans is the story of extraordinary individuals such as Friday Truehart, Frost Blackwell and Sylvia Dubois who were born enslaved but achieved their freedom and, along with William Stives a free man, were among the first African Americans to settle in the Sourland Mountain region and raise families whose descendants would remain in the area; and

WHEREAS, the history of African Americans has not been accurately transcribed as the history has either been diminished, distorted or deleted. Black Americans have served in every theater of war. In the Civil War, 88,000 New Jerseyans participated with African Americans numbering upwards of 2,900. From our region soldiers such as Ira Bergen, Raymond Bergen, George Boldin, Lewis Fisher, William Boyer, Charles Jennings, Samuel Montgomery, John Naz, Tracy Peterson, George Reasoner, William Reasoner, Samuel Ridley, James Schenk, Jonathan Stives, Aaron Truehart, George Williamson and John VanZandt enlisted in the United States Colored Troops in the 127th, 41st, 29th 24th, 14th, 11th 8th and 3rd regiments and were eyewitnesses to historical events such as President Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration, Lee's surrender to Grant at the Appomattox Courthouse and were survivors of the bloody Battle of Olustee which suffered some of the heaviest regimental losses recorded in the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of competition in athletics has played an integral part in the history of our region because of Black Americans such as Paul Arnold, a local African American man who started with the Pennington Allstars and went on to play against well-known athletes, both Black and White, and became a member of the Brooklyn Royal Giants, the Newark Browns and the Newark Dodgers which became part of the Negro National League; and

WHEREAS, while the history of Black Americans is also the story of countless nameless heroes brought to our shores who endured lives of bondage and oppression, the deprivation of their civil rights, and the ravages of bigotry and racism, it is a history for which the most glorious chapters have yet to be written as Black Americans contribute in full measure to the fulfillment of the American promise; and

WHEREAS, the people of New Jersey and this nation should study the history of Black Americans through vehicles such as the book "If These Stones Could Talk," written by local residents Beverly Mills and Elaine Buck about the African American presence in the Hopewell Valley, Sourland Mountain and Surrounding region, the Sankofa Collaborative comprised of five New Jersey organizations (1804 Consultants, Grounds For Sculpture, The New Jersey Historical Society, the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum and the William Trent House Museum) and Amistad Commission so that they may learn from its stories of heroism, struggle, and achievement; and

WHEREAS, On April 7, 2005 this State adopted P.L.2005, Joint Resolution No. 2 which designated the month of February of each year as "Black History Month" in recognition of the many accomplishments of Black Americans and their contributions to the history of this nation and State, and to provide the citizens of this State with an annual opportunity to pay tribute to the sacrifices and accomplishments of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Brianna Taylor and others at the hands of police brought back into national focus systemic inequities faced by Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, citizens all over this country including Hopewell Township took to the streets to demand that we as a people understand and change these systems so that we can actively work to live up to our Founders' bedrock belief that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;" and

WHEREAS in July 2020 the Hopewell Township Committee formed the Citizen's Equity Advisory Committee to conduct a systematic review of existing and proposed Township regulations and practices for potential discriminatory effect and to offer suggestions on how to remedy such effects; and

WHEREAS, in August 2020 the Hopewell Township Committee in Resolution #20-286 endorsed proposed legislation on Environmental Justice, that has now been signed into law, which will require NJDEP to assess the impact of certain environmental permits on overburdened communities, which are usually communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Hopewell Township has always considered equity in its Affordable Housing plans, and will continue to do so as new housing developments begin to be built; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Committee wishes to honor the contributions of its Black citizens and acknowledge the work that remains to be done to ensure equity by designating the month of February 2021 as Black History Month in Hopewell Township.

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

1. The Township recognizes February 2021 as “Black History Month” in the State of New Jersey and acknowledges and pays tribute to the bravery, sacrifices, and accomplishments of Black Americans.
2. The Township urges all citizens of this State to reflect upon the many contributions that Black Americans have made to this State and nation and to participate in the activities and programs that are held in observance of “Black History Month” in accordance with P.L.2005, Joint Resolution No. 2.

Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson explained that Bill A-446 requires school districts to include instructions on diversity and inclusion as a part of the implementation of New Jersey’s learning system; that schools would examine the impact unconscious biased and economic disparities have on both an individual level and a societal level; that it encourages a safe, welcoming, inclusive environment for all students regardless of race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, as well as religious beliefs; that lessons will include topics related to economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, gender, race and religious tolerance; and will begin at the start of the 2021-22 school year, grades K-12.

PRESENTATION – CITIZENS EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bonnie Williams, Chair of the Citizens Equity Advisory Committee, explained that the Committee Members are from separate segments of the population of Hopewell Township and provided the names of the members of the Committee. She explained that some of the different areas of interest discussed at the meetings were: the systematic review of regulations and practices; researching organizations that focus on inequities that they could use as a model for ideas for policies and procedures; reviewing police policies regarding recruitment; discussing emergency services in the northwest area of the Township; as well as discussing ideas for health, mental health and mentoring.

Committee Members questioned if the Committee will have a written report at the end of the year on what they have addressed; thanked the members of the Committee for the hard work they are doing; provided meeting information for public attendance; and stated that the work is very important and needed to be done.

PRESENTATION – DAWN MARLING, HEALTH OFFICER

Dawn Marling, Hopewell Township Health Officer, provided an update for the vaccination waiting list; clarified that the Township is continuing to work with the Mercer County Health Officers’ Association and utilizing Mercer County vaccine doses; advised that anyone in the Hopewell Valley can go to the Senior Services website and register for a vaccination; provided an update on the current COVID-19 case count; clarified her previous reporting dates; and advised that monitoring of the Mercer County Corrections Facility COVID-19 cases is continuing.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Kataryniak reported on the County’s second public meeting on the Moore’s Station Quarry; that information may be found regarding that meeting on the County’s website; and Public Service will begin tree trimming at the end of February to support pole replacement that will immediately follow.

Mr. Goodell reported on the US Homes vs. ELSA case management conference.

Mr. Snyder reported that the Township calendars were mailed this month; the new Vulnerable Populations Outreach Coordinator started in the Health Department today; phone lines may be out until Wednesday or Thursday due to the routers being down; the Township will be migrating to the new Mitel phone system soon; an employment offer was made for a new Accounting

Clerk; and provided an update on the upcoming snow storm.

Ms. Troutman reported that taxes are due on February 1.

Committee Member McLaughlin thanked Mr. Snyder for the great work on keeping the roads passable during the snowstorms.

Committee Member Kuchinski reported on the refinancing of bonds and resuming the 2021 budget process.

Committee Member Ruger thanked Mr. Snyder and Public Works for their hard work during the snowstorm; reported on Christmas Tree pickup; the Freon collection event; the Citizens' Equity Advisory Committee meeting; and the Wolsey Park Advisory Committee Meeting.

Committee Member Peters-Manning reported on the Senior Advisory Board meeting and their discussion of the proposed design of the new Senior Center.

Mayor Blake reported on the Mine Road Bridge public meeting and advised that any comments on the bridge should be directed to the Township Clerk, Laurie Gompf.

Committee Member Peters-Manning lost her internet connection, was disconnected from the meeting and then immediately reconnected to the meeting.

PUBLIC SECTION

No comments from the public.

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Mayor Blake read by title the ordinance for introduction.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE SALARY AND
WAGE PLAN FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, MERCER
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Kuchinski to introduce the ordinance on first reading.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Kuchinski, McLaughlin, Peters-Manning, Ruger, Mayor Blake

NOES: None

ORDINANCE INTRODUCED

Second reading, public hearing date February 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

RESOLUTION #21-51. Read by title.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT

RESOLUTION #21-51

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Julie Blake, Mayor of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, on this 1st day of February 2021, do hereby appoint the following members to the Agricultural Advisory Committee:

- 1) George Sciarrotta as a Regular Member for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2023.
- 2) Christopher Pazdan as a Regular Member for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2023.

- 3) John R. Hart as Alternate No. 1 Member for a three-year unexpired term expiring December 31, 2022.

RESOLUTION #21-52. Read by title.
 Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by McLaughlin to adopt Resolution #21-52.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #21-52
**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LOCAL REVIEW
 OF THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5 the Township of Hopewell has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2021 budget year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 1st day of February 2021, by the Governing Body of the Township of Hopewell that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the Governing Body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met (complies with CAP law.)
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

RESOLUTION #21-53. Read by title.
 Motion by McLaughlin, seconded by Peters-Manning to adopt Resolution #21-53.
ROLL CALL VOTE:
AYES: Kuchinski, McLaughlin, Peters-Manning, Ruger, Mayor Blake
NOES: None

R E S O L U T I O N #21-53
A RESOLUTION FOR AN

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to the below listed items and no adequate provision has been made in the 2021 temporary appropriations for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for the purpose above mentioned; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary resolutions adopted in the year 2021 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$126,750.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 1st day of February 2021, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. An emergency temporary appropriation be and the same is hereby made for:

**	Interlocal EMS O/E	\$ 15,350.00
	Total	\$ 15,350.00

2. That said emergency temporary appropriation has been provided for in the 2021 budget under the title of:
As listed in 1 above
3. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

RESOLUTION #21-54. Read by title.

Motion by McLaughlin, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #21-54.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #21-54

A RESOLUTION AMENDING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Township entered into Professional Services Agreements with the firm noted below; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend this agreement to change the amount and/or the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 1st day of February, 2021 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Professional Services Agreements be and are hereby amended as follows:

<u>FIRM</u>	<u>CURRENT MAXIMUM</u>	<u>PROPOSED MAXIMUM</u>	<u>CURRENT TERM EXPIRES</u>	<u>PROPOSED TERM EXPIRES</u>
Spiezle Architectural Group (Architectural and Engineering Design Services) x-04-00-677-312 x-04-00-674-312 x-04-00-675-312	\$123,000.00	\$123,800.00	12/13/21	No Change

RESOLUTION #21-55. Read by title.

Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #21-55.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #21-55

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for professional services for the following: General Planning; and Engineering as it relates to Stormwater matters; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the contract is not to exceed \$10,000.00 (1-01-21-190-028) for General Planning; and \$10,000.00 (1-01-20-165-028) for Engineering as it relates to Stormwater; and funds will be available in the 2021 budget appropriations for this purpose certified by the local finance officer encumbered in the accounts referenced above; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that a resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreements with:

Banisch Associates, Inc. for General Planning issues;

Van Cleef Engineering Associates for Engineering as it relates to Stormwater matters;

2. The contracts are awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (1)(a) as a contract for services to be performed by persons authorized by law to practice recognized professions that are regulated by law and it is not possible to obtain competitive bids.

3. A notice of this action shall be published once in the official newspaper as required by law.

RESOLUTION #21-56. Read by title.

Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Ruger to adopt Resolution #21-56.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #21-56

**A RESOLUTION FOR THE GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF
COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S**

**“Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in
Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

RESOLUTION #21-57. Read by title.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by McLaughlin to adopt Resolution #21-57.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**R E S O L U T I O N #21-57****A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO BULL RUN ROAD, HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP (BID 20-06)**

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2020, the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell awarded a contract under Public Bid #20-06 to Capital Paving and Contracting, LLC (Contractor) for Roadway Improvements to Bull Run Road within the township in the amount of \$244,612.10; and

WHEREAS, this project is funded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), in whole or in part, and is subject to NJDOT approval; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2021, the Contractor has submitted Change Order Number 1, reflecting the as-built quantities for the contract and a Final Contract Price Adjustment for a **decrease** in the total contract amount of \$66,455.13, representing a Final Contract Amount of \$178,156.97; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Engineer has confirmed that the Contractor has satisfactorily completed the required work prescribed in the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor has posted the necessary and required Maintenance Bond, No. S-330270 by the NJM Insurance Company, which remains in effect through December 15, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 1st day of February, 2021 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer and State of New Jersey:

1. That the Township accept Change Order No. 1 for the Final Price Adjustment and reduction in Contract Amount.
2. The Township authorizes and directs the Township Engineer to execute the final Change Order (#1) for the project.
3. That the Township issues Final Acceptance of the Bull Run Roadway Improvements.
4. That the Township accepts the Maintenance Bond for the project.
5. That the Township considers the terms of the contract for Bid #20-06 satisfied.

RESOLUTION #21-58. Read by title.

Motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Ruger to adopt Resolution #21-58.

ABSTAIN: Kuchinski

MOTION CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #21-58**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX ASSESSOR TO ACT AS AGENT FOR HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF FILING AND SETTLING TAX APPEALS ON BEHALF OF THE TAXING DISTRICT FOR THE TAX YEAR 2021**

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor is knowledgeable regarding the valuation and assessment of properties in Hopewell Township; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has the statutory responsibility, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-23 to 36, to set assessments for properties in Hopewell Township under the Local Property Tax, N.J.S.A. 54:4-1 et seq; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Taxing District deems the Tax Assessor to be responsible and acting in the best interests of the municipality.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 1st day of February, 2021 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Assessor is hereby authorized to act as agent for the Township of Hopewell, without further governing body approval to:

(a) Determine when tax appeals, cross appeals, complaints and counterclaims should be filed on behalf of the Taxing District with regard to any property located in Hopewell Township and ratio issue, and accordingly direct the attorney for the Taxing District to file such documents with either the County Tax Board or Tax Court of New Jersey as deemed appropriate;

(b) Resolve and settle tax appeals pending before the County Tax Board, Tax Court or Appellate Courts for any tax year and authorize the attorney for the Taxing District to formalize such settlements in the appropriate Courts and/or County Tax Board if the settlement results in a tax refund or tax credit not exceeding \$50,000 per appeal/per year.

RESOLUTION #21-59. Read by title.
Motion by Ruger, seconded by Peters-Manning to adopt Resolution #21-59.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

RESOLUTION #21-59

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT WITH WEST TRENTON ANIMAL HOSPITAL FOR VETERINARY SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Hopewell has a need for veterinary services as supplied by West Trenton Animal Hospital 568 Grand Ave, West Trenton, NJ 08628; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that veterinary services will not exceed \$6,000.00 per year, and a total anticipated of \$12,000.00 over the two (2) year contract period; and

WHEREAS, the Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-15) allows for a two (2) year contract appointment in such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, subject to the funding of future budgets by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds NOT TO EXCEED \$6,000.00 in 2021 and \$6,000.00 in 2022 for a total of \$12,000.00 over a two (2) year period are available as follows:

Animal Control Trust Fund - Animal Control Professional Services.
X-17-00-917-234

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with West Trenton Animal Hospital 568 Grand Ave, West Trenton, NJ 08628 for the contract amount not to exceed \$6,000.00 in 2021 and \$6,000.00 in 2022.

RESOLUTION #21-60. Read by title.
Motion by Ruger, seconded by McLaughlin to adopt Resolution #21-60.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Kuchinski, McLaughlin, Peters-Manning, Ruger, Mayor Blake
NOES: None

RESOLUTION #21-60

BILLS & CLAIMS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the list of cash disbursements authorized for approval of bills for payment date February 1, 2021 in the following amounts:

Bills and Claims	\$	203,662.89
Payroll	\$	0.00
Total Disbursements	\$	203,662.89

Itemized and listed on the submitted schedule are hereby approved and filed as a record as part of the minutes of this meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – AS LISTED ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE ON THE CLERK’S PAGE.

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

James Burd, a resident of Nursery Road, made certain comments regarding Affordable Housing as it relates to various races; questioned the status of certain resolutions regarding Affordable Housing; and questioned the time, meeting dates and members of the Agricultural Committee.

Melanie Philips, a resident of Washington Crossing-Pennington Road, questioned the next steps for the Zaitz Tract and Scotch Road Planning Board Applications and asked what is the status of the independent water study she asked to be conducted.

Jon Edwards, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, spoke about the negotiations with ELSA and the developers on the west side of Scotch Road and requested an update on that and Pennytown; questioned if breaking out police statistics on individual officers has been done; asked if steps have been taken to address racism in the police department; and suggested sensitivity training for the police.

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

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 Peters-Manning 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 #21-61

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
 - US Homes/ELSA
 - RJL Homeowner's Association
- Personnel

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 25th day of January, 2021 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 7:11 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 8:24 p.m. the Regular meeting reconvened.

At 8:24 p.m., motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by McLaughlin 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