

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING AUDITORIUM**

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**Monday, February 3, 2020 – 7:05 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 3, 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

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**POSTING OF THE COLORS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** – Sergeant Vastola led the Posting of the Colors and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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**PRESENTATION - RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAEL J. HYLE JR. AS A PATROL OFFICER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**RESOLUTION #20-59.** Read by title.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #20-59.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-59**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAEL J. HYLE JR.  
AS PATROL OFFICER IN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2020, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that Michael J. Hyle Jr. be and is hereby appointed as Patrol Officer in the Hopewell Township Police Department.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Michael J. Hyle Jr. is to be compensated at an annual salary of \$50,652 (Step 1 on the Twelve Step Chart from PBA contract for January 2019- December 2021).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this appointment is effective February 3, 2020.

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**PRESENTATION – OATH OF OFFICE TO OFFICER MICHAEL J. HYLE JR.**

Chief Maloney thanked Administrator Borges and the Township Committee for their support; acknowledged Officer Hyle's military background and expressed his confidence in Officer Hyle's abilities. Chief Maloney requested that Officer Hyle come forward; acknowledged his educational background and spoke of his deployments in Operation Iraqi Freedom; Operation Enduring Freedom; his service as a sniper leader; and discharge as a Staff Sergeant in 2017. Chief Maloney also acknowledged Officer Hyle receiving an Award of Merit upon completion of the Monmouth

County Police Academy. Officer Hyle's mother, Debbie Jankowski, came forward to hold the Bible, Mayor McLaughlin administered the Oath of Office to Officer Michael Hyle, Jr., and Deputy Mayor Ruger presented Officer Hyle with his duty badge.

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Kataryniak reported that Elizabethtown Gas is continuing their operations in Elm Ridge Park, and details are posted on the home page of the Township's website.

Mr. Goodell stated that there were litigation updates for the Township Committee which he would be discussing in closed session.

Committee Member Blake reported on her meeting with the Township's Health Officer, the Health Officer of Montgomery Township, Mayor McLaughlin and Ms. Borges regarding the Corona Virus; she explained that the virus should be treated like the flu and if you are sick you should stay home; and updated the activities of Public Works.

Committee Member Kuchinski recognized Karin Poveromo, Recreation Director, as attending her first Committee meeting.

Committee Member Ruger reported that the Police Department issued a press release for the Youth Police Academy which will be held June 22 through June 26; stated that it is a terrific opportunity for boys and girls who are interested in learning more about the police work. He also reported that he attended training regarding the 2020 Census; that the Constitution requires a Census be taken every ten years; the official date of the Census is April 1; there is an online component to the Census this year; notification will begin between March 12 and March 20; an invitation will be sent to respond; a reminder letter will be sent between March 16 and March 24; it is important that residents respond; if you don't respond a Census employee will come to your house to gather information; and during the last Census, New Jersey lost one member of Congress due to an under-accounting of people.

Committee Member Ruger stated that he and Committee Member Blake attended a meeting with the representatives of Washington Crossing Estates regarding the state of their water system; the residents expressed their desire for more information regarding the repairs and/or replacement of the system; the useful life; and the possibility of failure given the useful life of the system. He advised that engineers from Van Cleef will be putting together an estimate on what it would cost to put together the information the residents requested; that Committee Members offered the residents the option of a third party to conduct a review; and he also committed to the residents that no budget discussion regarding the issue would be held without members of the Washington Crossing Estates community present.

Mayor McLaughlin reiterated that the Census is critical, meaningful and it impacts everyone's daily life, so stand up and be counted.

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## PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

**Patty Cronheim**, a resident of Penn View Drive and representing Hopewell Township's Citizens Against the Penn East Pipeline, thanked the Committee for their hard work on Energy Aggregation; thanked the Committee for including a higher renewable energy option in the choices for Energy Aggregation; and commented that Energy Aggregation is a way to show the people at the PennEast Pipeline that they are not wanted or needed.

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

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**RESOLUTION #20-60.** Read by title.

Ms. Poveromo explained the fee changes in the resolution.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #20-60.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION #20-60**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PROGRAM FEES**

**WHEREAS**, the Hopewell Township Parks and Recreation Department sponsors Community Trips for Hopewell Township Residents and their guests and a variety of Summer Camps and Activities for youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Recreation Director is recommending the following 2020 Program Fees with some increases from the previous year as follows:

**2020 PROGRAM/ACTIVITY FEES**

|   | <u>Program Fee</u>  | <u>Twp. Res. Fee</u> |
|---|---|----------------------|
| <b><u>Community Trips</u></b>                         |   |                      |
| Various Community Day Trips                           | Range of \$30 to \$325 with 15% higher to Non-Hopewell Township Residents |                      |
| Various Over-Night Trips                              | Range from \$300 - \$900 no additional cost for Non Residents             |                      |
| <b><u>Summer/Winter Camps per week</u></b>            |   |                      |
| Art in the Park                                       | \$200   | \$200                |
| Baseball  | \$220   | \$200                |
| Soccer Conditioning Camp                              | \$195   | \$175                |
| Teen Travel Camp                                      | \$390   | \$355                |
| Junior Travel Camp                                    | \$390   | \$355                |
| Volleyball Camp                                       | \$170   | \$155                |
| Wrestling Camp  | \$185   | \$170                |
| Multi-Sports Camp                                     | \$175   | \$175                |
| Tennis Camp   | \$175   | \$175                |
| Theater Camp  | \$340   | \$340                |
| Chess Camp  | \$225   | \$225                |
| <b><u>Seasonal Programs/Activities</u></b>            |   |                      |
| Field Hockey League (7 sessions)                      | \$165   | \$150                |
| Girls Soccer Technical Training (8 sessions)          | \$190   | \$170                |
| Boys Soccer League (6 sessions)                       | \$190   | \$170                |
| Softball Clinics (4 sessions)                         | \$125   | \$115                |
| Junior Bulldogs Wrestling K-5 (season)                | \$225   | \$200                |
| Junior Bulldogs Wrestling Grades 6-8 (short season)   | \$125   | \$110                |
| Wrestling Club (season)                               | \$ 65   | \$ 60                |
| Sockey Program (per season)                           | \$150   | \$140                |
| Yoga Classes (8 sessions)                             | \$ 56   | \$ 40                |
| Camp/program registration late fee/administrative fee | \$ 35   | \$ 35                |
| <b><u>Community Programs</u></b>                      |   |                      |
| Family Shows (price per person)                       | \$ 10   | \$ 8                 |

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2020, that the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, approves the above 2020 Program/Activity Fee Schedule.

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**RESOLUTION #20-61.** Read by title.

Ms. Borges advised that there was some missing information in the proposed resolution and that it would need to be amended to include such information.

Motion by Blake, seconded by Ruger to adopt Resolution #20-61 as amended.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

NOES: None

## RESOLUTION #20-61

### A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY CAPITAL BUDGET

**WHEREAS**, The Township of Hopewell desires to constitute the 2020 Temporary Capital Budget by inserting therein a Supplemental Appropriation for the below listed items.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Committee of the Township of Hopewell approves as follows:

Section 1. The 2020 Temporary Capital Budget of the Township of Hopewell is hereby, constituted by the adoption of a schedule to read as follows:

#### Temporary Capital Budget Township of Hopewell County of Mercer

#### Projects Scheduled for 2020 Method of Financing

|   | Estimated<br>Cost<br>General Capital       | Capital<br>Improvement<br>Fund | General<br>Bonds or<br>Notes |
|---|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>a) <u>Road Department:</u></b>   |  |                                |                              |
| (i) The Road Program (base), the Road Program Priority 1 (no base)* and 2021 Road Program preparation (PSEG), all as more fully described on lists on file in the Office of the Clerk which are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth at length, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto. | \$2,612,000<br>(Includes the State Grant*) | \$105,382                      | \$2,002,257                  |
| (ii) The Chip Seal Program, as more fully described on a list on file in the Office of the Clerk which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth at length, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.   | \$1,217,857                                | \$ 60, 893                     | \$1,156,964                  |
| (iii) Signal installation at Federal City Road and Bull Run Road, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.   | \$150,000                                  | \$7,500                        | \$142,500                    |
| (iv) Installation of multi-way stop locations, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.  | \$8,500                                    | \$ 425                         | \$8,075                      |
| (v) Easement acquisition for drainage, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.   | \$251,500                                  | \$12, 575                      | \$238,925                    |

**b) Utility:**

Installation of draft hydrants at two locations, including all work

|   |                    |                  |                    |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.  | \$47,000           | \$2,350          | \$44,650           |
| <b>c) <u>Buildings:</u></b>   |                    |                  |                    |
| Site and architectural planning for the Community/Senior Center, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.  | \$60,000           | \$3,000          | \$57,000           |
| <b>d) <u>Studies:</u></b>   |                    |                  |                    |
| Aquifer and traffic studies by the Council of Affordable Housing, including related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.  | \$200,000          | \$10,000         | \$190,000          |
| <b>e) <u>Drainage:</u></b>  |                    |                  |                    |
| Design of Coventry Lane drainage improvements, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.   | \$5,000            | \$250.00         | \$4,750            |
| <b>f) <u>Police Department:</u></b>   |                    |                  |                    |
| (i) Acquisition of utility vehicles, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.   | \$104,000          | \$5,200          | \$98,800           |
| (ii) Acquisition of various equipment, including mobile radios and a phone recording system, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.   | \$41,500           | \$2,075          | \$39,425           |
| <b>g) <u>Public Works Department:</u></b>   |                    |                  |                    |
| (i) Acquisition of various vehicles, including a jet vac truck, a loader with claw and a road mower, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.   | \$495,000          | \$24,750         | \$470,250          |
| (ii) Acquisition of vehicle lifts, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.   | \$90,000           | \$4,500          | \$85,500           |
| <b>h) <u>Building and Grounds:</u></b>  |                    |                  |                    |
| Installation of a pedestrian crossing sign at Penn RH and Penn Harbourton Road, the acquisition of various equipment, including fuel pumps and a salt barn, and the construction of Department of Public Works access Phase II, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto and further including all related costs and expenses incidental thereto. | <u>\$316,430</u>   | \$15,821         | <u>\$300,609</u>   |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>   | <u>\$5,598,787</u> | <u>\$254,721</u> | <u>\$4,839,705</u> |

Section 2. The Township Clerk is authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, within three days after the adoption of these projects for the 2020 Temporary Capital budget, to be included in the 2020 Permanent Capital Budget as adopted.

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**ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

Mayor McLaughlin read by title the ordinance for introduction.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE SALARY AND WAGE PLAN FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION IN 2020

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Blake to introduce the ordinance on first reading as amended.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**NOES:** None

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCED**

Second reading, public hearing date February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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**ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

Mayor McLaughlin read by title the ordinance for introduction.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SECOND SUBSECTION OF SECTION 3(a) OF BOND ORDINANCE NUMBERED 19-1712 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, FINALLY ADOPTED JUNE 17, 2019 IN ORDER TO AMEND THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**NOES:** None

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCED**

Second reading, public hearing date February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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**ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

Mayor McLaughlin read by title the ordinance for introduction.

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$5,598,787 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,839,705 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Motion by Blake, seconded by Ruger to introduce the ordinance on first reading as amended.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**NOES:** None

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCED**

Second reading, public hearing date February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**RESOLUTIONS #20-62 THROUGH #20-62.** Read by title.

Motion by Blake, seconded by Ruger to adopt Resolution #20-62 through #20-62 .

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-62**

**RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION  
OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATES**

**WHEREAS**, on April 19, 2017 Gavin McLaughlin purchased Tax Sale Certificate 17-0014, for property located at Block 78.19, Lot 13 C92 known as 203 Moore Court, assessed to Crespo Margaret Estate; this certificate was redeemed by Christopher L Mario, son of Margaret Crespo, on January 24, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township can now release the principal and interest received, and premium(s) if applicable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2020, that the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, Mercer County, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the Tax Collector to release the amounts listed to the Lien Holder(s) as specified below:

| <u>BLOCK/LOT OWNERS' NAME(S)</u>    | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>LIEN HOLDER</u> | <u>PREMIUM</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 78.19/13 C92 Crespo Margaret Estate | \$9,231.71    | G McLaughlin       | \$13,000.00    |

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this approved resolution is forwarded to the Tax Collector.

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**RESOLUTION #20-63.** Read into the record.

Motion by Blake, seconded by Peters-Manning to adopt Resolution #20-63.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**NOES:** None

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-63**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CELEBRATION OF  
THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**

**WHEREAS**, the year 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing and protecting women's right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, this centennial offers an opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy; that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the federal or state governments on account of gender; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey has had a long, storied history in the suffrage movement with New Jersey women playing a crucial role in pursuing the rights of women to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1776 women property owners were enfranchised under the New Jersey State Constitution, which was unique in the nation at the time. However, in 1807, the New Jersey Legislature eliminated the property requirement for voting rights and limited the ballot to white males; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1867 New Jersey residents Lucy Stone and Harry Blackwell organized the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association (NJWSA), devoted to gaining women's suffrage; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1909 New Jersey's first open air suffrage rallies were held in Orange and Newark, led by Dr. Emma O. Gantz and Martha Klatschen with NJWSA collecting 5,000 signatures for a petition in support of the federal amendment guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, although the 1912 state referendum on woman's suffrage was soundly defeated in the New Jersey Legislature a corner was turned for the New Jersey Suffrage movement; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1913 an automobile rally led by “General” Rosalie Jones traveled through New Jersey on the way to Washington D.C., in a Suffrage Parade of over 8,000 marchers with many New Jersey women including event organizer Alice Paul; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1915 a second suffrage constitutional referendum was pursued in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts with active campaigns by many suffrage organizations, including the “Passing of the Torch of Liberty” via tug boats on the Hudson River from New York to New Jersey, but was defeated in all four states October 1915; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1917 New Jersey suffragists Allison Turnbull Hopkins, Julia Hulburt, Beatrice Reynolds Kinkead, and Minnie D. Abbott picketed in front of the White House as part of the Silent Sentinels and subsequently were arrested and imprisoned; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 1919 Congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment guaranteeing all American women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 9, 1920, New Jersey became the 29<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, shortly after the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Margaret Laird and Jennie Van Ness were the first two women elected to the New Jersey Assembly in 1921 and in 1925 Rebecca Estelle Bourgeois Winston of Estell Manor was New Jersey’s first woman mayor.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment the Township of Hopewell will light the municipal building in purple, one of the colors of the New Jersey Suffrage movement, for the week of February 10<sup>th</sup>; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township of Hopewell supports the efforts of New Jersey’s Suffrage Centennial NJ Women Vote and strongly encourages local celebrations of this historic milestone; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Governor, Secretary of State and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

**RESOLUTION #20-64.** Read into the record.

Committee Members thanked Officer Toth for his service to the community and the nation and wished him well in his retirement.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #20-64.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

#### **R E S O L U T I O N #20-64**

##### **A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RETIREMENT OF OFFICER MICHAEL A. TOTTH IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Officer Michael A. Toth was appointed as a Dispatcher for the Hopewell Township Police Department on June 5, 1995; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Michael A. Toth was appointed as a Patrolman within the Hopewell Township Police Department on January 6, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Michael A. Toth has served Hopewell Township honorably throughout his 25 years of service, and is now eligible for retirement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, that the Township Committee accepts the retirement of Officer Michael A. Toth from the Hopewell Township Police Department effective February 1, 2020; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Hopewell Township Committee, on behalf of itself and all municipal employees, wishes Officer Michael A. Toth good health and happiness in his retirement.

**RESOLUTION #20-65.** Read by title.

Committee Members expressed that Mr. English is a well-loved member of the community, has kept people healthy and safe, that his services will be missed by many, thanked him for all he has done, and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Motion by Blake, seconded by Ruger to adopt Resolution #20-65.



**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**R E S O L U T I O N # 20-65**

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF  
HEALTH OFFICER ROBERT ENGLISH  
IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Health Officer Robert English has been employed in the Hopewell Township Health Department since December 28, 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, Health Officer Robert English has submitted his resignation on January 28, 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2020 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey:

1. That Health Officer Robert English resignation effective February 25, 2020 be and is hereby accepted.

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**RESOLUTION #20-66.** Read by title.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Ruger to adopt Resolution #20-66.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**NOES:** None

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-66**

**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 2020 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 2020 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$738,009.32

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2020, 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:

|    |         |            |
|----|---------|------------|
| ** | CIF O/E | 254,721.00 |
|    | Total   | 254,721.00 |

2. That said emergency temporary appropriation has been provided for in the 2020 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.

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**RESOLUTION #20-67.** Read by title.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Peters-Manning to adopt Resolution #20-67.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**NOES:** None

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-67**

**A RESOLUTION FOR AN  
EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION  
IN THE SBRSA SEWER UTILITY BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to the below listed items and no adequate provision has been made in the 2020 SBRSA sewer utility 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 2020 for the SBRSA sewer utility pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$17,200.00.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020, 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:

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| SBRSA     |                 |
| O&E       | \$10,000.00     |
| <br>Total | <br>\$10,000.00 |

2. That said emergency temporary appropriation has been provided for in the 2020 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 #20-68.** Read by title.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #20-68.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**R E S O L U T I O N #20-68**

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING 2019  
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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2020 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<br/>MAXIMUM</u> | <u>PROPOSED<br/>MAXIMUM</u> | <u>CURRENT<br/>TERM<br/>EXPIRES</u> | <u>PROPOSED<br/>TERM<br/>EXPIRES</u> |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Princeton Healthcare Systems<br>(Township Physician)<br>9-01-20-100-028 | \$375.00                   | \$394.00                    | 12/31/19                            | No Change                            |

**RESOLUTION #20-69.** Read by title.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Blake to adopt Resolution #20-69.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**NOES:** None

**RESOLUTION #20-69**

**BILLS & CLAIMS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the list of cash disbursements authorized for approval of bills for payment date February 3, 2020 in the following amounts:

|                     |    |            |
|---------------------|----|------------|
| Bills and Claims    | \$ | 434,058.25 |
| Payroll             | \$ | 610.40     |
| Total Disbursements | \$ | 434,668.65 |

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

**WORK SESSION – ENERGY AGGREGATION**

Mayor McLaughlin turned the Work Session over to Committee Member Peters-Manning, the Energy Aggregation liaison. Committee Member Peters-Manning thanked the consultants from Concord Energy Services for presenting their energy aggregation presentation at four public information sessions and two sessions targeting the senior retirement communities in Brandon Farms.

Maria Rodriquez-Gregg, consultant for Commercial Utility Consultants and Concord Energy Services presented the following on energy aggregation:

- Prior to the 1990’s power plants generated the power which went directly to the local power company which in turn went directly to the consumer.
- In the early 1990’s the federal government deregulated the process and separated the supply and delivery side.
- Now energy is sold to suppliers, in turn the suppliers sell the power to the local utility company, and the local utility company delivers energy to the consumer.
- The reason energy is now sold to suppliers is to give consumers more choices and to lower energy prices.
- New Jersey holds a state-wide basic generation services auction every February for suppliers for the local utility.
- The winning suppliers are then considered the suppliers for the utility which is how the current rates are set.
- Aggregation is a process that works in parallel to the State’s process.
- A default rate is set in February and the rates take effect in June of each year.
- It was decided that the process would be offered on a local municipal level to allow for more flexibility in the process.
- N.J.A.C. 14:4-6 are the Statutes that outline the process.
- A municipality can go to auction either by themselves or in conjunction with other municipalities to acquire their own rate for residents.
- When a municipality goes to auction, the new rate replaces the default rate that has been set at the State auction.
- Communities are able to obtain rate reductions for their residents’ energy costs.
- The savings is not guaranteed every month but usually savings is achieved over the term of the contract.
- There are consumer protections available in the process which provides consumers with protection from predatory suppliers or cumbersome fees.
- The process begins with an Ordinance that indicates the municipality is considering an energy aggregation process.
- There is a process that is required to be followed by the Board of Public Utilities and the Department of Community Affairs.
- Energy consultants help prepare the bid documents and once they are prepared the municipality may go to auction at any time.
- There is an energy auction and then a winning bidder is selected through the auction.
- Per State Statute, the winning bid must be lower than the current default rate for the utility at the time of auction.
- Once the winning bidder is chosen, Concord Energy Services begins outreach to residents about the program.

- Thirty days' outreach is required to give residents an opportunity to opt out of the program.
- There will be mailings, public outreach meetings, pre-outreach meetings, an instate call center to allow residents to opt out, and website outreach.
- Mailings will come from official Township of Hopewell stationary.
- There will not be any knocking on doors or telephone calls on behalf of this program to any resident.
- Information will be sent to every resident on the ways they may opt out and educating them on the program.
- The municipality gains no financial benefit.
- Once a supplier is picked and a contract is awarded there will be an initial thirty-day window for residents to decide to opt out.
- If residents choose to opt out they will not be enrolled in the programs.
- Methods to opt out will be:
  - Postage paid mail return
  - A 1-800 number to call
  - A customized website
  - Opt out at outreach meetings
- Residents may opt out at any time, not just within the thirty-day window.
- Residents may opt back in at any time.
- There are no fees or penalties to opt back in.
- Residents with third party contracts or solar will not be included in the program.
- All current services will continue with the local utility.
- The local utility will still read meters and do the billing.
- If there is a power outage, residents should contact the local utility to address those issues.
- Residents will continue to call their local utility for any service related issues or questions.
- Everything will be on one bill.
- There are no fees to be part of the program.
- If someone calls or knocks on your door to sell you an energy program, contact the Township immediately because that may be a fraudulent situation.
- PSE&G and JCP&L are paid to deliver energy to the Township.
- If you want to be more green and purchase clean energy there is a renewable government energy aggregation program which allows each municipality to influence the source of electricity that is being supplied to the residents in the community.
- It provides an environmental benefit and savings.
- You can earn points towards Sustainable New Jersey.
- The program is not a money saving program that cuts costs to residents.
- This portion of the program, residents will need to opt in to.
- There are residents who are desirous of clean energy and this is a good program for them to opt in to.
- The bill will still come from your local utility, however, the bill will reflect the new supplier's name and new rate.
- There are no predatory contractors and no fees of any kind to be part of the program.
- There is protection against seasonal and short-term rates.
- Contract duration is usually a year but may be as long as two years.
- Residents don't have to participate if they don't want to and may opt out.
- The energy consultants do all the outreach and insure everyone is well informed and educated regarding energy aggregation.
- Residents may save an average of \$7.00 a month depending on their energy usage.

At 8:38 Committee Member Blake left the meeting.

Committee Members questioned how many billing cycles it takes to opt in or out to which the response was one thirty-day billing cycle; announced that the program is tailored only for Hopewell Township residents; remarked that slamming is the wrong term to use for the program; that savings will be based on individual usage; that there are several ways for residents to see their savings.

A discussion ensued regarding solicitors not associated with Concord Energy Services, knocking on residents' doors soliciting their energy programs. Committee Members advised that a solicitor's permit is needed to peddle from door-to-door and that the Township will be wary of third party solicitors knocking on doors during the opt out time period and the police will intervene. Concord will not be knocking on doors.

Committee Members offered their support for energy aggregation and the Ordinance to establish an energy aggregation program.

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**ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

Mayor McLaughlin read by title the ordinance for introduction.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL ESTABLISHING  
AN ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM**

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Peters-Manning to introduce the ordinance on first reading.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Blake

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCED**

Second reading, public hearing date February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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**PUBLIC SECTION**

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

**Melanie Phillips**, a resident of Washington Crossing Pennington Road, asked if the members of the public will be allowed to question members of Concord Energy Services and questioned where the money to pay Concord comes from.

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

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION.** Read into the record.

Mayor McLaughlin 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 #20-70**

**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:

- Contract Negotiations
- Legal
  - Concerned Citizens
- 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 3rd day of February, 2020 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.

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At 9:05 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 9:59 p.m. the Regular meeting reconvened.

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At 9:59 p.m., motion by Peters-Manning, seconded by Ruger 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