

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

Monday, March 1, 2021 – 3:31 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 and amended on March 1, 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, Police Director Robert Karmazin, Recreation Director Karin Poveromo

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

2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Committee Member Kuchinski suggested a final review of the Capital budget and shared a spreadsheet with the figures. He reviewed changes since the last discussion which included:

- Changes to the Roads Program.
- The expansion options for the Department of Public Works building.
- Hiohela Pond dredging and restoration
- Changes to Police SUV purchases

Committee Member Kuchinski stated that the budget included a significant investment in the roads and drainage systems; planning for the future; Hiohela Pond; opportunities to fund next generation projects in Recreation; making timely investments in equipment in Public Works; spoke of the importance of the video recording systems for the Police Department; and recommended introducing the Capital Budget via Ordinance today.

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Mayor Blake 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, THEREFOR AND
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES OF THE
TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by McLaughlin 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 March 15, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Troutman shared the Recreation budget spreadsheet which included information on past budgets from 2018 to the present.

Ms. Poveromo reviewed the Recreation budget which included:

- Dues, Trainings, Meetings
- Increase in Operating Supplies due to a new laptop for the Executive Secretary.
- Special Events increased due to the need for a Port-O-John in Woolsey Park full time.
- Also included in the Special Events line item is funding for the Holiday Decorating Contest, tree lighting, fireworks and Concerts in the Parks.

Discussion ensued regarding the funding for the Port-O-John; the field maintenance; and the utilization of the trust.

Committee Member McLaughlin announced that Capital Health has once again offered to pay for half of the Senior Services Coordinator's salary; and gave much thanks to them.

Mr. Snyder reviewed the Parks Maintenance Budget. Items reviewed were:

- Equipment Maintenance
 - Operating Supplies
 - Budget request for extra funding for additional dumpsters at the MAC site to help offset illegal dumping.
 - Request for extra funding to replace a deteriorated fence at Independence Park.
 - Equipment Maintenance line item went up and the Operating Supplies line item went down resulting in a decrease in the overall Parks Maintenance budget.
-

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Jon Edwards, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, questioned why the Capital budget was being introduced at this meeting and not the next regular Township meeting.

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

At 4:05 p.m., motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Peters-Manning to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

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

LAURIE E. GOMPFF
MUNICIPAL CLERK