

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

August 12, 2010

Flag Salute

Sunshine Statement:

In compliance with the 'Open Public Meetings Law' the Regular Meeting was duly advertised by an annual notice sent to the News of Cumberland County, the Press of Atlantic City, and WSNJ on January 15, 2010. Notices were placed on the Municipal Office bulletin board on the same date.

Officials Present: Hankins, Facemyer, Freitag, Shoemaker, Ritter. Others Present: Sol. Matthew Ritter, Clerk E. Daddario, Treasurer Lois Buttner. Others: Zarko Rajacich, John Ferrillo, Jeffrey Cassidy, Anne Marie Tedesco, Tom Tedesco, John Tedesco, Scott Burnley, Cathy Bennett and Planning Board Member Alfred Caggiano, Jr.

Shoemaker, seconded by Facemyer, moved for **Approval of Minutes** of 7/22/10 Regular Meeting. Approved (4-0). Ritter Abstain

Freitag, seconded by Shoemaker, moved for **Approval of Minutes** of 7/22/10 Closed Executive Session Meeting. Approved (3-0). Facemyer, Ritter Abstain

Treasurers Report: Lois Buttner received state approval for **Resolution No. 10-47** Emergency Repair of the Hopewell Township Municipal Building Roof.

DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrator reported on the township public records management project made possible through a Cumberland County PARIS (Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Support) grant. Treasurer Buttner worked with outside contractors and the New Jersey Division of Archives and Records Management to organize and catalog records for retention and to obtain approvals for disposal of records no longer needed to be retained. **Assessor** submitted figures comparing 2009/2010 Cumberland County Municipal Property Tax Rates. **Construction Dept.** submitted the June Permit Report (\$5,805.00 collected). **Dog Registrar** has issued 525 Licenses as of 8/12/10. **Convenience Center:** 1297 Permits have been issued as of 8/12/10. **Engineer:** 2011 DOT Construction Grant recommendations for application are River Road (Section 1) and Percy Blew Road. **Fire Department** has received heater replacement quotes from Woodruff Energy, two more will be requested. **Public Works/Road:** County Cooperative Contracts for Ice Control Sand and Rock Salt have been awarded and are on file. Harmony Road Bridge will be closed on Monday August 16th – mid December 2010. **Planning and Zoning Boards:** The August Zoning Board Meeting has been cancelled. July Planning Board Meeting Minutes were submitted. **Tax & Sewer Collector** submitted the July Cash Book Report (\$392,372.83 incl. interest and \$32,445.24 sewer).

A bill list dated 08/12/10 prepared by Treasurer Buttner was provided. Facemyer, seconded by Ritter, motion for **Approval of bills** totaling \$907,777.42 on the prepared list (Including Payroll/Less Hankins Bill) was approved 5-0.

Ritter, seconded by Facemyer, moved for **Approval of Hankins Bill** (\$274.10). Approved 4-0 (Hankins Abstain).

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments and opened the meeting to **PUBLIC COMMENTS**. John Ferrillo, a resident from Greenwich Road, spoke of unacceptable noise generating from Dutch Neck Village when the Sunday afternoon rodeos are frequently held. He suggested that the Township Committee re-visit the current noise ordinance and find ways to make it more enforceable. Scott Burnley, owner of Dutch Neck Village, assured Mr. Ferrillo and others that he will be proactive and do whatever is necessary to remedy the situation. Committeeman Shoemaker stated that respect for neighbors is imperative and could best be achieved by "Turning the Knob!!" Cathy Bennett, a shop owner at the village, has no problems with the noise and suggested more tolerance by those complaining. Mr. Burnley agreed to alert the neighbors of future rodeos upon request and reassured them that he will address their concerns. There being no further public comment, at 7:29pm, Facemyer, seconded by Ritter, moved the meeting to **OLD BUSINESS**.

OLD BUSINESS:

Comcast Franchise Renewal Update: Facemyer received an August 12th letter from Barry Taylor, of Comcast, acknowledging extension of the current franchise agreement until June 1, 2011. Mr. Taylor also noted that efforts to expand the current customer base are ongoing and awaiting pole permits from Atlantic City Electric and Verizon.

Sewer Upgrade Project: The Clerk reported that all pump stations are now operable. A 2-day training session will be scheduled within 2 weeks and a joint meeting of Willier Electric, township public works employees and officials from the Cumberland County Utilities Authority will follow.

The Committee discussed language crafted by the Planning Board in regard a proposed Development Ordinance Amendment concerning HCI Zone permitted uses. They suggested that the Planning Board revisit the 40 foot buffer requirement. Shoemaker and Ritter agreed to convey these concerns at the next PB meeting.

Bostwick Lake Commission Joint Meeting with Township Committees has been confirmed and will be advertised for August 30th, 4:00pm, hosted by Upper Deerfield Township.

Solicitor, Matthew Ritter, reported that the **Business Park Request for Proposal**, submitted by Red Letter Properties, LLC is compliant and complete. Facemyer, seconded by Freitag, moved to accept the RFP as submitted. (Approved 5-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

The following resolutions were approved:

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION No. 10-48
Resolution to refund overpayment of taxes to property owner**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey, as follows:
WHEREAS, property owner, Rebecca Maltese, Block 47 Lot 6, 76 Hitchner Avenue, had been approved by the Veteran's Administration as the widow of a totally and permanently disabled Veteran and Hopewell Township passed Resolution 10-23 on February 25th, 2010 to refund 2009 tax overpayments ; and
WHEREAS, payment for the 1st quarter of 2010 taxes have been made by Maltese's mortgage company even though the collector canceled the billed amounts; and
WHEREAS, Ms. Maltese is requesting a refund of the overpayments on her property; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Hopewell Township refund Rebecca Maltese the 1st quarter of 2010 tax totaling \$1,125.96.

Motion: Freitag
Aye: Hankins, Facemyer, Freitag, Ritter, Shoemaker
Absent: None

Second: Facemyer
Nay: None
Abstain: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-49
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTION,
APPLICATION, AND AGREEMENT FOR STATE AID TO COUNTIES AND
MUNICIPALITIES**

BE IT RESOLVED that application is hereby made to the Commissioner of Transportation for an allotment of aid for the reconstruction of:

River Road Section I

In the Municipality of the Township of Hopewell, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey; and

BE IT RESOLVED that any aid received as a result of this application will only be used for eligible costs for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic application identified as ID #MA-2011-Hopewell Township-00523 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Hopewell; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Hopewell and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Motion by: Shoemaker
Aye: Hankins, Facemyer, Freitag, Ritter, Shoemaker
Absent: None

Second by: Ritter
Nay: None
Abstain: None

RESOLUTION NO. 10-50
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTION,
APPLICATION, AND AGREEMENT FOR STATE AID TO COUNTIES AND
MUNICIPALITIES

BE IT RESOLVED that application is hereby made to the Commissioner of Transportation for an allotment of aid for the reconstruction of:

Percy Blew Road

In the Municipality of the Township of Hopewell, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey; and

BE IT RESOLVED that any aid received as a result of this application will only be used for eligible costs for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic application identified as ID #MA-2011-Hopewell Township-00525 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Hopewell; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Hopewell and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Motion by: Shoemaker
Aye: Hankins, Facemyer, Freitag, Ritter, Shoemaker
Absent: None

Second by: Ritter
Nay: None
Abstain: None

Shoemaker, seconded by Freitag, moved that the CDC Recommended 2010 **Halloween Hours** of Saturday, October 30, 4:00pm til 7:00pm be approved for Hopewell Township. (Approved 5-0)

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES & FILINGS include: Thank you card from the **Barry Crispin Family**, Thank you card from **Kathryn Snowwhite, Robert G. Brewer** notice of Wikipedia page on the County's Open Space Planning effort, **Cumberland County Clerk's Office** Summer Update, **GovConnect** New Items, **A. Paul Kienzle** 2010 Municipal Court 2010 Visitation Report (No bullet proof glass), **Wells Fargo** Stewart Trust Grant Opportunity, **New Jersey Conference of Mayors** 33 Bill Toolkit, Request for Mayors' letters, **NJLM** Legislative Alert (COAH/Affordable Housing Reform), New content on DLGS website, Census Deadline (Friday, July 30th), "Mayor's Newslines" newsletter, Legislative Bulletin (2010-2011 Legislative Session).

At 7:58pm Ritter, seconded by Shoemaker, moved the meeting into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** for the purpose of discussing the possible purchase contract of real estate in the Business Park.

At 8:21pm the meeting was returned to **Open Session**.

Facemyer, seconded by Ritter, moved that the solicitors craft final bid specifications for construction of a "Community Market" as proposed in RFP #10-01. Included in the specifications should be the minimum purchase price of \$180,000.00 for the 4 +/- acre track and adjustments in project completion schedules as discussed. (Approved 5-0)

** Facemyer left the meeting at 8:25pm

At 8:26pm Shoemaker, seconded by Ritter, moved the meeting into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** for the purpose of discussing the possible purchase of real estate.

At 8:46pm the meeting was returned to **Open Session**.

Ritter, seconded by Shoemaker, moved to present an offer to purchase the rear section of the Bridgeton Travel Trailer property as described in an appraisal completed by Kay and Associates Inc. The offer of \$100,000.00 is based on the appraised current market value estimate and assumes that the property is cleared of all abandoned materials and of any environmental contamination requiring remedial action. (Approved 4-0)

There being no further business Freitag, seconded by Ritter, motion to **ADJOURN** was approved by all. Mayor Hankins adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm.

Eugene Daddario, Municipal Clerk