

**MINUTES  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,  
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,  
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD  
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY  
NOVEMBER 1, 2017  
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:30 PM**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Announce Quorum

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:** Mayor Francis stated "This meeting is held in accordance with the 1975 Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et seq., annual notice having been forwarded to the New Jersey Herald/New Jersey Sunday Herald, and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements." (Mayor noted fire exits)

**ROLL CALL:** The Clerk called the roll and the following members were present: Councilman Bunce, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman Hoferkamp, Councilman Padula, Councilman Schindelar, Councilman Young and Mayor Francis.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Francis invited all present to salute the flag and to remain standing for a moment of silence.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mayor Francis allowed each member of the Council to present their respective committee reports.

Councilwoman Galate reported that Senior Inc. meets tomorrow. She also reported that she has already spoken to 11 of the vendors from this year's market and they want to participate again next year.

Councilman Hoferkamp reported that the Lake Hopatcong Foundation will be having a beefsteak dinner at St. Jude's and that the tickets can be purchased online. He also stated that he attended both the Armed Forces Relief Benefit and the Senior Luncheon and that both were a huge success. He thanked all those who volunteered with both events.

Councilman Schindelar thanked all those who helped with the Senior Luncheon and reminded everyone that November 7<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. He encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Councilman Young thanked all those who helped and attended the Senior Luncheon. He also stated that, with regards to Recreation, the fall sports are winding down and that the winter sports will be starting soon. He stated that the Environmental Commission discussed the mosquito spraying notifications and that the new trail signs have been damaged. Councilman Young stated that SCMUA will have a "Hazardous Waste Day" on November 4, 2017 from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm. He stated that the Municipal Alliance held the Hero Boys 5K.

Councilman Bunce thanked the Council for all of their support with the Armed Services Relief event as well as the Senior Luncheon. He thanked the Knights of Columbus for all of their help. He reminded everyone to attend the Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 pm at Vet's Field. He stated that the Finance Committee met to discuss the 2018 budget. He stated that the Borough is in great financial position. He stated that the W/S Committee met and that they discussed future plans and the water issue on Hudson Avenue. They discussed the upcoming winter and the preparations. He stated that in case anyone notices activity up at the site of the proposed firing range, the town was directed by the DEP to move some of the fill.

Mayor Francis stated that the County Health Department is coming to the Senior Inc. meeting tomorrow to discuss Lyme disease. He also reported that he went to visit Candlewood Lake in Connecticut to discuss their weed prevention programs. He would like to go down to the DEP to share with them what he learned.

## **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

At this time, Borough Administrator, Ron Tappan, presented his report for the meeting of November 1, 2017. Mr. Tappan stated that the River Styx well is up and functioning after the accident. He also reported that the Borough participated in the reverse auction for electric supply and that we will be saving 15% on general electric supply and 23% on lighting. He reported that there is a resolution on this evening for consideration to appoint Gianna DiMatteo as the Animal Control Investigator. It will allow her to go to court for such things as animal cruelty charges. It doesn’t come with any increase in salary.

Mr. Tappan reported that there are two resolutions on this evening to enter into contracts with Sussex County. One is to allow us to purchase salt and road grit and the other allows us to buy asphalt. Both contracts allows the Borough to purchase at substantially lower prices. Salt is now \$52.00 a ton and the contract is for two years. It is \$5.00 cheaper than last year. Mr. Tappan also demonstrated the new “Dashboards” that will be on our website. The charts and graphs will allow the public to see exactly what the departments are doing. It will measure such things as the tax collection rate and licensing fees.

Mayor Francis stated that this will allow the taxpayers to see how their taxes are being spent. It will all be very transparent. Not only will it show how well each department is being run, but it will also indicate where we need to make improvements.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to open the meeting to the public for any questions or comments concerning items on the agenda for which no public discussion is provided. (Comments limited to 5 minutes). Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Eric Grove, 7 Maple Place, addressed Resolution #2017-197 regarding stipends for DPW Supervisors who are salaried. He stated that he worked for the County for years and that it is expected of supervisors to plow snow and not get paid overtime. He stated that it is one of their basic responsibilities and that it sets a dangerous precedent. He requested that the Council table the resolution until they research other DPW Departments in the County.

David Harris, 125 Dupont asked the difference between salt and bituminous materials.

Councilman Bunce stated that bituminous material is asphalt.

Mara Modes asked if we get special pricing for the materials and Mr. Tappan responded that we do.

Ms. Modes also addressed the resolution to pay the DPW Supervisors overtime for snow removal.

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, Councilman Bunce made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Francis requested that all persons present review the consent agenda. If any member of the Council or public wishes an item on the consent agenda to be discussed and considered separately, a motion to this effect shall so be made at this time.

After all persons have had an opportunity to review the consent agenda and offer requests for changes, Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilman Young.

**CORRESPONDENCE** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

**REPORTS** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

**APPLICATIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Blue Light Application: Kai Crimado.

**RESOLUTIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution # 2017-194 Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 40207 Lot: 40.
2. Resolution # 2017-195 Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 40108 Lot: 8.
3. Resolution # 2017-196 Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 31704 Lot: 45.
4. Resolution # 2017-200 Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 70218 Lot: 7.
5. Resolution # 2017-201 Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 30409 Lot: 7.
6. Resolution # 2017-202 Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 30202 Lot: 32 & Blk: 40107 Lot: 49.
7. Resolution # 2017-203 Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 11002 Lot: 8.
8. Resolution # 2017-205 Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 10201 Lot: 11.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution #2017-197 – 2017 Snow Plowing Stipends for Management**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing stipends for work outside normal working hours for DPW Management. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Resolution #2017-198 – Payment of Bills**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of November 1, 2017, pulling invoice numbers 17-0006, 00234, 00254, 01643, 01787, 01868, and 01895. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Councilman Bunce made a motion to authorize the payment of invoice numbers 17-0006, 00234, 00254, 01643, 01787, 01868, and 01895. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Galate

**Resolution #2017-199 – Award for Road Salt and Grit**

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the participation in a Sussex County Contract Award for Road Salt and Grit. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Resolution #2017-204 – Award for Purchase of Bituminous Concrete, Aggregates and Broken Stone**

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the participation in a Sussex County Contract Award for Bituminous Concrete, Aggregates and Broken Stone. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-206 – Approval to Submit DOT Grant Application

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the submittal of a grant application and to execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Durban & Flora Avenue Resurfacing Project. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-207 – Appointing an Animal Control Investigator

Councilwoman Galate made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Gianna DiMatteo as the Animal Control Investigator for the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

CY2017 Best Practices Worksheet

At this time the Governing Body reviewed the completed CY2017 Best Practices Worksheet.

Councilman Bunce made a motion to accept the CY2017 Best Practices Worksheet. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to open the meeting to the public for any questions or comments concerning the good and welfare of the Borough. (Comments limited to 5 minutes). Seconded by Councilman Schindelar. All were in favor.

Eric Grove, 7 Maple Place, stated that he and his wife noticed that work was being done at the site of the proposed firing range. He stated that a backhoe has been excavating materials and wanted to know why the DEP is requiring the town to do so. He asked what control measures are being taken, why the firing range signage is still posted and what the status is of the new range.

Mayor Francis responded that he will have the Borough Engineer respond to Mr. Grove's questions.

Dan Snyder, 12 Mast Road, asked when the sewer bonds will be paid off and Mr. Ursin responded that Mr. Snyder can reach out to him or the administrator tomorrow.

David Harris asked if they were putting a septic system in for the new townhouses by the River Styx Bridge and Mayor Francis responded that they will be hooked up to the Borough sewer system. Mr. Harris asked about the skate park and the garbage cans at the Jefferson Field.

Mr. Bob McGoldrick, 31 Roosevelt Trail, stated that there are a lot of storm drains that have sunk in town and need to be repaired before someone gets hurt. He mentioned one on Lakeside Blvd and Mayor Francis stated that it is a county road.

Jack Quirk asked where the salt ends up after the DPW puts it on the road for snow removal. Councilman Bunce stated that it usually gets absorbed by the ground.

Mr. Quirk stated that the tax collection rate is great, but that he is concerned about all of the empty houses.

Mayor Francis stated that we are currently drafting an ordinance regarding abandoned property maintenance.

Mr. McGoldrick addressed the Governing Body about the fresh water filters at the Crescent Cove Pump Station.

Dan DeJager asked the Council if the DPW supervisors make more than the employees to plow and Mayor Francis stated that it is based on their current rate of pay.

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, Councilman Bunce made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting of November 1, 2017. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.