

**2017 REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 4, 2017 AT 7:30 PM**

Mayor Francis called the 2017 Reorganization Meeting to order.

Mayor Francis stated that “This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. It has been properly advertised and certified by the Clerk.”

INVOCATION

At this time, Deacon Tom Friel, Saint Jude’s Church, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:

Pack 88 presented the colors.

Mayor Francis invited all present to salute the flag and to remain standing for a moment of silence. (**Mayor notes fire exits**)

INTRODUCTION OF DIGNITARIES IN ATTENDANCE

At this time **Mayor Francis** introduced the dignitaries that were in attendance.

Oaths of Office

Catherine Schultz, Municipal Clerk, read the “Statement of County Canvassers.”

Roll Call of the 2017 Governing Body

Mayor Francis requested a roll call of the 2017 Borough of Hopatcong Governing Body.

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

Absent: Councilman Padula

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Francis opened the floor for Council nominations to the position of Council President for the year 2017.

Resolution #2017-01 – Appointing Council President

Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve a resolution appointing Councilman Richard Schindelar to the position of Council President for the year 2017. Seconded By Councilman Hoferkamp.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-02 – 2017 Meeting Dates

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve the Mayor and Council Meeting dates for the year 2017. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-03 – Organizational Resolution

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution adopting miscellaneous organizational appointments and procedures. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-04 – Cash Management Plan

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution adopting a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-05 – Petty Cash Fund

Councilman Young made a motion to authorize the establishment of a Petty Cash Fund in the amount of \$200.00 for the Finance Office of the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-06 – Designation of Official Newspapers

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution designating the official newspapers of the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Resolution #2017-07 – Non-Fair and Open Contracts

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the award of non-fair and open contracts for professional services. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-08 – Appointment of Skylands Risk Management, Inc.

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Skyland's Risk Management, Inc. as the Risk Management Consultants for the Borough of Hopatcong for 2017. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-09 – Legal Defense of Tax Appeals

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Tax Assessor and Borough Attorney to defend the Borough before the Sussex County Board of Taxation and Tax Court of the State of New Jersey in all contested tax appeals. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-10 – Appointment of Appraisal Systems

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Appraisal Systems for assistance in tax appeals and real property value appraisals for the Borough of Hopatcong for 2017. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-11 – Cancellation of Tax and Utility Overpayments

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the cancellation of Tax and Utility overpayments or delinquent amounts less than \$10.00 for the year 2017. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-12 – Tax Sale

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing a tax sale to be held in the year 2017. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS FOR 2017

At this time **Mayor Francis** administered the oath of office to the Hopatcong Borough Fire Department Officers for 2017.

Chief	Steve Kucevic
1 st Assistant Chief	John Wilkerson
2 nd Assistant Chief	Shaun Poland
Fire Marshall	Franklin Steinberg
Deputy Fire Marshall	Shaun Poland

APPOINTMENTS– HOPATCONG BOROUGH LAND USE BOARD

Mayor Francis made the following appointments to the Hopatcong Borough Land Use Board.

**2017 BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG
LAND USE BOARD
APPOINTMENTS & FULL MEMBERSHIP**

Michael Francis Class I Member	exp. 12/31/17 One Year Term
Ron Jobeless Class II Member	exp. 12/31/17 One Year Term
Richard Schindelar Class III Member (Council Rep.)	exp. 12/31/17 One Year Term
Alan Gilbert Class IV Member	exp. 12/31/19 Four Year Term
Robert Duncan Class IV Member	exp. 12/31/19 Four Year Term
Mark Gaffney Class IV Member	exp. 12/31/20 Four Year Term
Robert Rehe Class IV Member	exp. 12/31/17 Four Year term
Justin Lijo (filling unexpired term) Class IV Member	exp. 12/31/17 Four Year Term
Michael Rahill (Open Space Representative) Class IV Member	exp. 12/31/20 Four Year Term
Phillip Reilly (filling unexpired term) Alternate I	exp. 12/31/18 Two Year Term
Ryan Smith (filling unexpired term) Alternate II	exp. 12/31/17 Two Year Term
Judith Kracht (filling unexpired term) Alternate III	exp. 12/31/18 Two Year Term

APPOINTMENTS – BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Francis offered the following names for appointment to the various Boards and Commissions:

Board of Health (Three Year Terms)

Full Member	Michael Francis	exp. 12/31/19
Full Member	Bradley Hoferkamp	exp. 12/31/18
Full Member	Marie Galate	exp. 12/31/18
Full Member	Richard Schindelar	exp. 12/31/17
Full Member	Frank Padula	exp. 12/31/19
Full Member	Richard Bunce	exp. 12/31/18
Full Member	John Young	exp. 12/31/17

Recreation Commission (Five Year Terms)

Full Member	Dave Barnish	exp. 12/31/21
Full Member	Marshall Speizer	exp. 12/31/19
Full Member	Sue Gorglione	exp. 12/31/18
Full Member	Dave Barella	exp. 12/31/17
Full Member	Danette Swanson	exp. 12/31/17
Full Member	Darrin DiNapoli	exp. 12/31/20
Full Member	Corde Motyka	exp. 12/31/18

Lake Hopatcong Commission

Member	Dan McCarthy	exp. 12/31/17
Alternate	Fred Steinbaum	exp. 12/31/17

Environmental Commission (Three Year Terms)

Full Member (Land Use Bd. Rep.)	Richard Schindelar	exp. 12/31/19
Full Member	Pat Hoferkamp	exp. 12/31/18
Full Member (Open Space Comm.)	Elide Young	exp. 12/31/17
Full Member	Georgia Schilling	exp. 12/31/17
Full Member	Bradley Hoferkamp	exp. 12/31/18
Full Member	Jerry Scanlon	exp. 12/31/19
Full Member (Chairman)	Jule Girman	exp. 12/31/17
Alternate I	Joel Servoss	exp. 12/31/18
Alternate II	Jen Barone	exp. 12/31/18

Resolution #2017-13 – Appointments to Boards and Commission for 2017

Councilman Young made a motion to approve a resolution approving of the Mayor's appointments to Hopatcong Borough Boards and Commission and approves and acknowledges the Hopatcong Fire Department Officers for the year 2016. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-14 – OEM Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Wade Crowley as the Emergency Management Coordinator and Kevin Schnider as the Deputy OEM Coordinator for the Borough of Hopatcong for the year 2017. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Finance	Bunce, Padula, Francis
Police	Galate, Schindelar, Hoferkamp
Fire	Bunce, Schindelar, Galate
Ambulance Squad	Bunce, Padula, Galate
OEM	Schindelar, Young, Francis
DPW and Grounds	Bunce, Young, Padula
Water/Sewer	Bunce, Padula, Schindelar
SWAC/PAC	Baker
Open Space	Young
Environmental	Schindelar, Young
Recreation	Young, Schindelar
Land Use Board	Schindelar
Real Estate	Schindelar, Young, Hoferkamp
Redevelopment	Padula, Bunce, Schindelar
Farmer’s Market	Galate, Francis, Hoferkamp
Senior Citizens	Galate, Francis, Hoferkamp
Sussex County League of Mun.	Bunce, Galate, Francis
Municipal Alliance	Francis, Young
School Liaison	Schindelar, Hoferkamp
MSA	Schindelar

2017 CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES:

2017 CLEAN COMMUNITY

Michael Francis, Mayor
Business Administrator, Victor Marotta
DPW Superintendent, Ron Jobeless
Coordinator, Steve Millian

2017 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Michael Francis, Mayor
John Young, Council Representative
Henry Sardina, Captain, Ambulance Squad
Frank Steinberg, Fire Prevention Bureau
Steve Kucevic, Fire Chief
Ron Jobeless, Superintendent DPW
Neil Piro, Supervisor of Facilities, Hopatcong High School

2017 Firewise Committee

Kevin Bourke, Chairman
Frank Steinberg, Fire Marshall
James Franco, Fire Prevention
Michael Francis, Mayor
Richard Bunce, Council Representative
Victor Marotta, Business Administrator

2017 Lake Hopatcong Dock Committee

Michael Francis, Mayor

Resolution #2017-15 –2017 Temporary Budget

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the 2017 temporary budget in the amount of **\$4,243,155.00**. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-16 – 2017 Temporary Sewer Budget

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the 2017 Temporary Sewer Utility Budget in the amount of **\$1,177,915.00**. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-17 – 2017 Temporary Water Budget

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the 2017 Temporary Water Utility Budget in the amount of **\$232,665.00**. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-18 – Electronic Tax Sale

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Tax Collector, Patricia Emery, to complete application to participate in the Electronic Tax Sale process in the year 2017. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-19 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of January 4, 2017, pulling check numbers 00101, 00170, 02163, 0220, 02227. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Councilman Bunce made a motion to authorize the payment of check numbers 00101, 00170, 02163, 0220, 02227. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2017-20 – Appointment of Fund Commissioner for the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Borough Administrator, Victor J. Marotta as the Fund Commissioner for the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-21 – Appointment of Municipal Magistrate

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Gerard F. Smith as the Municipal Magistrate for the Hopatcong Borough-Borough of Stanhope Shared Court for a three year term expiring December 31, 2019. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-22 – Renewal in North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the renewal of the Borough's participation in the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund and authorizing the Indemnity and Trust Agreement. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2017-23 – Appointment of New Police Officer

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Richard Bosland as a Police Officer Grade 9 for the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 21, 2016. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Councilman Bunce made a motion to open the meeting to the public for any questions or comments they may have with regard to the good and welfare of the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Freeholder George Graham congratulated the Council and wished them all a successful year ahead.

Freeholder Sylvia Petillo stated that she was so happy to have worked with this Council and wished them much luck in the coming years.

There being no one else from the public who wished to address the Governing Body at this time, Councilman Bunce made a motion to close the meeting to the public and returned to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

At this time **Mayor Francis** made a few comments.

Welcome to Dignitaries, Residents and Friends.....

Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge, Sylvia Petillo, our former Mayor and newly elected Freeholder. Sylvia is the best thing that has ever happened to our town. Her tireless efforts to improve the quality of life for our residents, has given us a brighter future. I owe her a great debt of gratitude for her leadership, guidance and unshakeable faith that helped me become a better elected official, but more important, a better person. Thank you Sylvia, I miss you and wish you God's Speed as you serve on the Freeholder Board.

I would like to congratulate, Frank Padula, on his re-election to Council. You share a love and pride in Hopatcong and have been actively involved in this Borough for many years. I look forward to serving with you.

Now I would like to take a few minutes to thank the many people who dedicate themselves to serving the residents of Hopatcong throughout the year.

Our Business Administrator, Vic Marotta, our Borough Clerk, Catherine Schultz, our CFO, Lorraine Rosetti and all of our employees. Their commitment and unwavering dedication to the residents of our Borough is exceptional. Thank you!

Our professionals who guide us and give sound advice throughout the year. Greatly appreciated!

Our Police Chief Bob Brennan, for his strong leadership, and performance of the Police Department, our supervisors and officers for their professionalism and integrity, our dispatchers for the outstanding work they perform during emergencies and the day to day assisting of our residents. Our police department continues to collaborate with many neighboring police departments to fight the war on drugs and they have been very successful. Their efforts truly make a difference.

Our fire department for their volunteerism and concern for public safety. I appreciate the time and sacrifices that our volunteers and their families make in order to train, respond and meet all the duties required.

The Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, Ron Jobeless, for his outstanding leadership and accomplishments. The DPW staff are amazing men who work quietly behind the scenes, building new projects, repairing trucks and keeping roads clear, plowed, and salted all hours of the day and night. They are the best!

Rob Lawler, our Water and Sewer Supervisor for maintaining our water and sewer utilities. His staff works not only during the day but they are on call for all emergencies to assure that our systems are in good working order.

Steve Millian and our CERT Volunteers who make themselves available to assist whenever needed. The list of activities and emergencies that they respond to are quite extensive. They are outstanding volunteers.

The Ambulance Squad for their quick response to calls and their willingness to help whenever we need them.

All of our departments and agencies are united in their efforts to keep our community safe. They are remarkable men and women and again I want to thank all of them for their service and the sacrifices they make to bring Hopatcong through the many challenges we face each day.

Six years ago the Council and I announced our vision for redevelopment in River Styx. Our intent was to initiate a strategic plan that was tailored specifically for the River Styx Peninsula to foster a redevelopment project that would revitalize the entire business district. Since then the Borough Council and the Land Use Board have also focused their attention on establishing an economic development plan that would further economic growth throughout the entire Borough. I am glad to report that the first building "Brookland" constructed by Greentree Development is complete and they are now building 9 luxury condominiums on the former Mad House property.

This year the Borough will continue to work to statutorily designate the River Styx area as “An Area in Need of Redevelopment.” This designation will enable the Borough to seek Federal and State money for the infrastructure improvements.

Another redevelopment project that is on the rise is “Mariner’s Pointe.” The Atkins Group has started construction on 35 luxury townhouses that are situated on a ten-acre lakefront parcel in the Garden’s section of the Borough. It is a beautifully environmentally sound concept that will showcase Lake Hopatcong and enhance the entire area. As part of their project they will build a group home for SMILE’s, an organization for special needs teens and young adults.

All of these projects will continue to grow and strengthen our community. They will also provide a much needed economic boost to our business districts.

Tonight, I would like to commend the Borough Council and the Land Use Board who shared a vision for progress, listened to the residents in our community and utilized the resources available from the state and the county to produce good planning initiatives that will encourage economic development in all of our business centers as we move forward in 2017 and beyond.

Now, let’s talk about all of the projects that we completed in 2016 under the supervision of our DPW Superintendent, Ron Jobeless.

The DPW built an additional salt storage building to make sure the Borough does not run out of salt for our roads.

Final plans for a truck wash are completed. This project will bring the Borough into compliance with state and federal regulations.

The basketball court at Modick Park underwent a complete transformation including lights for night games.

At Veteran’s Park and field beautiful street lights were installed in the parking lot for public safety.

The \$268,000 D.O.T. Enhancement grant for Phase II of the Hopatchung Road Street Scaping Project was completed. This project included numerous street-lights, curbing and drainage. It really is beautiful.

We are moving into 2017 with a financially stable budget. We will continue to review and evaluate each department in order to enhance the efficiency of services while keeping expenses stable this year.

Our Bond Rating was raised by Standard and Poors Global Rating to an AA+. This is important because it shows just how well our finances and budgets are being managed. It also shows that we have a Very Strong capacity to meet our financial commitments. There are very few towns in New Jersey that have AA+ratings.

This year, we had another successful Farmer’s Market. I want to thank Marie Galate for helping me get the market going, the vendors for coming and the residents for participating. We hope to see you again this year!

Our Senior Center underwent a change this year with our new Recreation Director, Cathy Millian. Under her leadership our senior center has grown and is now the largest senior group in Sussex County.

This year “The Hopatcong Creative Arts Council” was formed to foster an awareness and knowledge of cultural diversity for public enjoyment and enrichment for all ages. They planned their first event this September “Apple Pie and Art” and it was a huge success. The event was co-sponsored by the Borough and Sussex County Community College and held at Hopatcong High School. What a wonderful creative collaboration between people, artists and institutions. Thank you to all involved.

Their second event was Snowman’s Park. That was another successful venture. The snowmen were individually created from a wood form and wild imaginations. It was a delightful activity and lots of fun.

I can’t wait to see what their next event will be!

Before I end, I would just like to acknowledge Bill Wagner, his family and friends who worked tirelessly for months to prepare for their wonderful presentation of the Christmas Spectacular. He brought the beauty of Christmas alive once again and smile's could be seen on everyone's faces. This year Olaf showed up and joined the cast of characters that entertain the crowds. Although the weather didn't cooperate on the second weekend as we had hoped, Mr. Wagner stayed the course and came back on Christmas Eve. Children from one to 92 were captivated by the enchanted evening.

The Cub Scout volunteers served delicious hot chocolate in an effort to keep everyone warm along with Marty and the warming bus. But the wind and cold did not dampen anyone's spirits. The winds blew hard, the lines were long, but the magic of Christmas filled the air every night and brought laughter and joy to all who believe!

Throughout the year we recognize excellence in the accomplishments of our residents. I would like to recognize Sam Schindelar for earning his Eagle Scout Award and Lara Watrous for earning her Gold Award. These accomplishments required a tremendous amount of work. Scouting is a very important part of the fabric of our town.

It is the people in our community that give so much that makes Hopatcong a very special place to live.

I am very proud to serve as Mayor of Hopatcong and what we have accomplished in the last few years together. I look forward to continuing our vision, establishing new goals to improve the entire community and making Hopatcong a better place to live.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting held on January 4, 2017. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Michael Francis, Mayor

Catherine Schultz, RC