

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
VIA ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS**

Monday, February 7, 2022 – 6:33 p.m.

PROPER STATEMENT OF NOTICE – Mayor Peters-Manning 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, 2022, 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: David Chait, Kevin Kuchinski, Uma Purandare,
Michael Ruger, Mayor Courtney Peters-Manning

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator/Public Works Director George Snyder, Deputy Municipal Clerk Katherine Fenton-Newman, CFO Julie Troutman, Director of Community Development/Engineer James Hutzelmann, Police Director Robert Karmazin, Township Attorney Steve Goodell

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

Mayor Peters-Manning requested a moment of silence for former Hopewell Township Police Captain William Seas, Jr., who passed away earlier in the month.

MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Kuchinski to approve August 2, 2021 Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes and the August 16, 2021 Special, Regular and Executive Session (2) Meeting Minutes.

ABSTAIN: Chait, Purandare

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS – POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Police Director Robert Karmazin presented the Award of Merit to Police Officer James Hoffman for responding to a 911 call of a motorist stranded in their vehicle on Lambertville Hopewell Road on September 1, 2021. Director Karmazin read the following: The vehicle was taking on water as a result of flooding from Hurricane Ida. The remnants of Hurricane Ida battered the Hopewell Township area, leading to Township-wide flooding, requiring multiple water rescues, and leading to fatalities. Officer Hoffman remained in the area to divert traffic from the flooded roadway and to await rescue personnel. Water across the roadway continued to rise, making the roadway impassable. While waiting, within a few moments, Officer Hoffman's patrol car was swept up by the water's current and began to drift off the roadway in the direction of a wooded area. The patrol car was rapidly taking on water with Officer Hoffman inside. Officer Hoffman made the quick decision to exit his patrol car to seek safety. However, the doors of the patrol car would not open due to the water pressure. Officer Hoffman was able to evacuate the patrol car through the driver's side window, swimming underwater to reach the surface. Once outside of the patrol car, Officer Hoffman was carried away by the current striking trees and debris. He was eventually able to grab onto a tree and find a place to perch. Unable to communicate with the emergency team, Officer Hoffman remained in the tree for several hours until he was rescued by responding fire and swift water rescue. Due to Officer Hoffman's act of outstanding bravery in the line of duty and disregard to his own personal safety, Officer Hoffman is awarded the Department's Award of Merit.

Director Karmazin presented the Award of Merit to Police Officer Michael Makwinski stating that on September 1, 2021 at approximately 8:30 p.m., Officers Robert Voorhees and Michael Makwinski responded to an officer in distress call on Lambertville Hopewell Road. Officer James Hoffman, who was attempting to locate a stranded motorist on the flooded roadway, had reported over the radio that his patrol car was taking on water and he needed to evacuate the car. Multiple attempts were made to call Officer Hoffman. They went unanswered. The remnants of Hurricane Ida battered the Hopewell Township area throughout the evening with heavy rain and wind, leading to Township-wide flooding, requiring multiple water rescues, and leading to fatalities. As Officers Voorhees and Makwinski neared Officer Hoffman's last know location they were unable to reach it due to the flooded roadway. They exited their patrol cars and walked on foot through the woods calling out to officer Hoffman. While walking, the officers thought they heard Officer Hoffman signaling them as they continued on foot in his direction into the flooded roadway. The water began to rise and the current swept them off their feet. Again, they thought they saw a signal from Officer Hoffman and they pushed towards him through the water. They located Officer Hoffman, while attempting to reach him, Officer Makwinski was swept under the current away from the location. Officer Makwinski struck several pieces of floating debris before he was able to grab onto a tree, eventually climbing onto a branch out of the water. Officer Makwinski remained in the tree for several hours until he was rescued by responding fire and swift water rescue personnel. Due to Officer Makwinski's act of outstanding bravery in the line of duty and disregard of his own safety, Officer Makwinski is awarded the Department's Award of Merit.

Director Karmazin presented the Award of Merit to Police Officer Robert Voorhees, who was attending the meeting via Zoom, stating that on September 1, 2021 at approximately 8:30 p.m., Officers Robert Voorhees and Michael Makwinski responded to an officer in distress call on Lambertville Hopewell Road. Officer James Hoffman, who was attempting to locate a stranded motorist on the flooded roadway, had reported over the radio that his patrol car was taking on water and he needed to evacuate the car. Multiple attempts were made to call Officer Hoffman. They went unanswered. The remnants of Hurricane Ida battered the Hopewell Township area throughout the evening with heavy rain and wind, leading to Township-wide flooding, requiring multiple water rescues, and leading to fatalities. As Officers Voorhees and Makwinski neared Officer Hoffman's last know location they were unable to reach it due to the flooded roadway. They exited their patrol cars and walked on foot through the woods calling out to officer Hoffman. While walking, the officers thought they heard Officer Hoffman signaling them as they continued on foot in his direction into the flooded roadway. The water began to rise and the current swept them off their feet. Again, they thought they saw a signal from Officer Hoffman and they pushed towards him through the water. They located Officer Hoffman, while attempting to reach him, Officer Voorhees was swept under the current away from the location. Officer Voorhees continued pressing forward through the swift water locating Officer Hoffman, trying to reach him and getting away from tree branches. Once Officer Hoffman confirmed he was stable, Officer Voorhees battled the current attempting to reach Officer Makwinski. Officer Voorhees was also pulled under by the current, striking several pieces of debris. Officer Voorhees was eventually able to grab onto a tree and remain there until water rescue reached through and effected that rescue. Officer Voorhees then waded over to assist Officer Hoffman and together they were rescued by fire and water rescue personnel. Due to Officer Voorhees' act of outstanding bravery in the line of duty and disregard of his own safety, Officer Voorhees is awarded the Department's Award of Merit

Director Karmazin presented the Award of Merit to Police Officer George "Mike" Peterson stating that on January 13, 2022 at approximately 12:25 p.m., Officer George Peterson responded to a report of a woman who had fallen through the ice at Rosedale Lake in Rosedale Park on Federal City Road. Several calls were received also reporting that the woman was in the water unfortunately, up to her neck. Officers Peterson and Pauciullo were the first responding officers. On the scene the officers located the woman in distress approximately 25 yards from the shoreline. The woman was flailing and struggling to keep her head above water. Utilizing a water rescue throw rope, Officer Peterson waded into the lake, successfully throwing a rescue rope to the woman and she was able to grasp the rope. Officer Peterson, along with Deputy Fire Chief, William Tunncliffe, and several other responding emergency personnel, were able to get to her safely and were able to get the woman to the shore. Once on dry land, the woman was treated on-scene for potential hypothermia by the Pennington First Aid Squad, Hopewell Valley Emergency

Services, and Capital Health Paramedics. She was later transported to Capital Health Hopewell Hospital in stable condition. Due to Officer Peterson's quick actions, bravery, and disregard for his own life and safety, Officer Peterson is awarded the Department's Award of Merit.

Director Karmazin presented the Civilian Service Award of Merit to Union Fire Company Deputy Fire Chief William "Buddy" Tunncliffe stating that on January 13, 2022 at approximately 12:25 p.m., officers responded to a report of a woman who had fallen through the ice at Rosedale Lake in Rosedale Park on Federal City Road. Several calls were received also reporting that the woman was in the water up to her neck. Officers Peterson and Pauciullo were the first responding officers. On the scene they met with responding Union Deputy Fire Chief William Tunncliffe. The officers and Deputy Fire Chief Tunncliffe located the woman in distress who was approximately 25 yards from the shoreline. The woman was flailing and struggling to keep her head above the water. Utilizing a water rescue throw rope, Officer Peterson and Deputy Fire Chief Tunncliffe waded into the lake, Officer Peterson successfully threw the rescue rope to the woman and she was able to grab the rope. Officer Peterson and Deputy Fire Chief Tunncliffe were able to safely get the woman to shore. Once safely on dry land, the woman was treated on-scene for potential hypothermia by the Pennington First Aid Squad, Hopewell Valley Emergency Services, and Capital Health Paramedics. She was later transported to Capital Health Hopewell Hospital in stable condition. Due to Deputy Fire Chief Tunncliffe's quick actions, bravery, and disregard for his own life and safety, Deputy Fire Chief Tunncliffe is awarded the Department's Civilian Award of Merit.

Director Karmazin presented Sergeant Louis Vastola, Officer Christopher Collins, Officer Steven Ciosik, Officer Michael Crincoli with an Award of Merit from Pennington Borough which stated: On August 24, 2021 at approximately 11:13 a.m. Officer Michael Crincoli responded to a radio call of an erratic driver on North Main Street. Officer Crincoli initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle in question after observing the operator crossing the double yellow line on the roadway into the oncoming way of traffic. Sergeant Vastola, Officer Collins and Officer Ciosik arrived and assisted officer Crincoli at the traffic stop. It was determined that roadside testing was required, the driver subsequently failed the testing and was taken into custody. During an arms-reach search of the vehicle, illegal drugs and a tote were recovered. Inside the tote, a 9 millimeter Ruger handgun was found located with hollow point bullets and a high-capacity magazine. The weapon was immediately rendered safe by Officer Ciosik and retained for evidence. The weapon was later found to be stolen out of South Carolina during a residential burglary. Through their quick actions, disregard of their own safety, and acts of outstanding personal bravery in the line of duty, these officers were able to successfully take the suspect into custody and assure the safety of residents by removing the weapon from the streets. For their actions, Officer Crincoli, Sergeant Vastola, Officer Collins and Office Ciosik are awarded the Pennington Police Department's Award of Merit.

Committee Members offered their gratitude and congratulations to the award recipients.

RESOLUTION #22-53. Read by title.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #22-53.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #22-53

**A RESOLUTION PROMOTING
DETECTIVE MARK A. PANZANO
TO THE POSITION OF SERGEANT IN THE
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2022, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that Detective Mark A. Panzano be promoted to Sergeant effective February 8, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mark A. Panzano be compensated at an annual salary of \$129,256.75 (Sergeant 1).

OATH OF OFFICE

Deputy Municipal Clerk, Katherine Fenton-Newman, administer the Oath of Office to Sergeant Mark A. Panzano.

Director Karmazin offered his congratulations to Sergeant Panzano.

PRESENTATION – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS “BLACK HISTORY MONTH” IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mayor Peters-Manning explained that she approached Catherine Fulmer-Hogan, Elaine Buck, and Beverly Mills, regarding the possibility of naming the streets in the Township’s new developments in honor of African American residents of Hopewell Township; emphasized that there is no official list as of yet; and asked them to explain how they are comprising the list.

Catherine Fulmer-Hogan expressed that she is honored to be part of creating history for future generations and that the people who will be honored will have their first and last names presented and not the names of the people who owned them.

Elaine Buck shared the name of Reverend Richard Allen, who started the Mother Bethel Church in Philadelphia; he bought his freedom from being enslaved by working for the Continental troops; he came to Pennington and lived there for approximately six months; after he left, churches began popping up around Pennington, one of which is the Bethel AME Church in Pennington.

Beverly Mills conveyed that it was very hard to pick from the list of names; explained that African American men were very active in fighting for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War; that Samuel Sutphen was one of such soldiers from Readington in Somerset County, but his relatives lived in Pennington; that Samuel went to fight on behalf of his master under the condition that when he returned he would be a free man; however, that didn’t happen; upon Samuel’s return his master sold him to someone else. Ms. Mills expressed that it is people like Samuel who deserve to be recognized and are on the list and if anyone has any interest regarding anyone on the list she will be happy to help them with that.

Mayor Peters-Manning expressed her desire to continue the conversation; hear more about the other names on the list; move forward with the process; and have more presentations about the names on the list as it becomes finalized.

RESOLUTION #22-54. Read in full by each member of the Township Committee in turn. Motion by Ruger, seconded by Kuchinski to adopt Resolution #22-54.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

RESOLUTION #22-54

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022 AS “BLACK HISTORY MONTH” IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the history of Hopewell Township, New Jersey, and our nation are inextricably linked to the heritage of our country’s Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, in the beginning of our nation’s history, a large majority of Black Americans were enslaved; yet many, such as William Stives, a local African American war veteran and Badge of Merit recipient, participated in the struggle for American independence with his life in order to build a society based upon the ideals of liberty, prosperity, and self-government; and

WHEREAS, the history of Black Americans is the story of extraordinary individuals such as Friday Truehart, Frost Blackwell and Sylvia Dubois who were born enslaved but achieved their freedom and, along with William Stives a free man, were among the first African Americans to settle in the Sourland Mountain region and raise families whose descendants would remain in the area; and

WHEREAS, the history of African Americans has not been accurately transcribed as the history has either been diminished, distorted or deleted. Black Americans have served in every theater of war. In the Civil War, 88,000 New Jerseyans participated with African Americans

numbering upwards of 2.900. From our region soldiers such as Ira Bergen, Raymond Bergen, George Boldin, Lewis Fisher, William Boyer, Charles Jennings, Samuel Montgomery, John Naz, Tracy Peterson, George Reasoner, William Reasoner, Samuel Ridley, James Schenk, Jonathan Stives, Aaron Truehart, George Williamson and John VanZandt enlisted in the United States Colored Troops in the 127th, 41st, 29th 24th, 14th, 11th 8th and 3rd regiments and were eyewitnesses to historical events such as President Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration, Lee's surrender to Grant at the Appomattox Courthouse and were survivors of the bloody Battle of Olustee which suffered some of the heaviest regimental losses recorded in the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of competition in athletics has played an integral part in the history of our region because of Black Americans such as Paul Arnold, a local African American man who started with the Pennington Allstars and went on to play against well-known athletes, both Black and White, and became a member of the Brooklyn Royal Giants, the Newark Browns and the Newark Dodgers which became part of the Negro National League; and

WHEREAS, while the history of Black Americans is also the story of countless nameless heroes brought to our shores who endured lives of bondage and oppression, the deprivation of their civil rights, and the ravages of bigotry and racism, it is a history for which the most glorious chapters have yet to be written as Black Americans contribute in full measure to the fulfillment of the American promise; and

WHEREAS, the people of New Jersey and this nation should study the history of Black Americans through vehicles such as the book "If These Stones Could Talk," written by local residents Beverly Mills and Elaine Buck about the African American presence in the Hopewell Valley, Sourland Mountain and Surrounding region, the Sankofa Collaborative comprised of five New Jersey organizations (1804 Consultants, Grounds For Sculpture, The New Jersey Historical Society, the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum and the William Trent House Museum) and Amistad Commission so that they may learn from its stories of heroism, struggle, and achievement; and

WHEREAS, On April 7, 2005 this State adopted P.L.2005, Joint Resolution No. 2 which designated the month of February of each year as "Black History Month" in recognition of the many accomplishments of Black Americans and their contributions to the history of this nation and State, and to provide the citizens of this State with an annual opportunity to pay tribute to the sacrifices and accomplishments of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Committee wishes to honor the contributions of its Black citizens and acknowledge the work that remains to be done to ensure equity by designating the month of February 2022 as Black History Month in Hopewell Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer and State of New Jersey:

1. The Township recognizes February 2022 as "Black History Month" in the State of New Jersey and acknowledges and pays tribute to the bravery, sacrifices, and accomplishments of Black Americans.
2. The Township urges all citizens of this State to reflect upon the many contributions that Black Americans have made to this State and nation and to participate in the activities and programs that are held in observance of "Black History Month" in accordance with P.L.2005, Joint Resolution No. 2.

PRESENTATION – CITIZENS' EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

Committee Member Michael Ruger explained that the adoption of the Citizen's Equity Advisory Committee (CEAC) was considered by the Township Committee in the summer of 2020; that it was considered because an action taken by any level of government may not have a discriminatory intent, but it could have a discriminatory effect; that we should, as a community, look at our ordinances and proposed ordinances to see if there is a potential discriminatory effect; explained to that end the CEAC was formed; and that their charge at that time was to conduct a systematic review of existing and proposed Township regulations and practices for potential discriminatory effect and to offer suggestions how to remedy such effect.

He explained that the CEAC began meeting at the end of 2020 and met all through 2021; announced all the members of the Committee; and introduced Mr. David Berez, Chair of the Committee.

David Berez, Chair of the CEAC, began by congratulating the officers who received Merit Awards this evening and explained that the CEAC progress report's purpose was a document that served as an outline of their meeting highlights and to inform the Hopewell Township Committee of the

progress the CEAC has made during their first term which expired on December 31, 2021.

The following are highlights from the CEAC meetings:

- Discussed the definition of what equity means to the Group
- Discussed the NJ Sunshine Law
- Discussed the inequities in Township policies, procedures and practice.
- Director Karmazin made a presentation to the CEAC.
- That the CEAC has reviewed the Township's Ordinances to ascertain if there are any inequity issues which may be within the Ordinances.
- Advised that Horatio Hernandez, Vulnerable Populations Coordinator for the Township, made a presentation to the CEAC, and that he explained how services are provided to those in need within the Township.
- The CEAC reviewed the Township's policies on roadways and bike paths.
- Reviewed the use of the CEAC's budget money.
- Finalized the draft of suggested Ordinance changes.
- Discussed whether it is appropriate for the Township to hire a Diversity Equity and Inclusions Officer

Mr. Berez reminded everyone that the meetings were open to the public and that anyone from the public may attend; all meetings are listed on the website under the meetings tab; and encouraged anyone who has anything to contribute to do so.

PRESENTATION – HEALTH OFFICER DAWN MARLING – COVID UPDATES

Ms. Marling advised that the Township has seen a record breaking number of COVID cases in the Township since the arrival of the Omicron variant; that there were over 300 confirmed lab cases in December; over 500 cases in January; that the community experienced two additional deaths last month due to COVID-19; that the State advises the focus to be placed upon the vulnerable communities; that numerous outbreaks occurred within the Township's childcare centers; that the rate of newly reported cases has dropped off significantly since mid-January; and that the State-wide transmission rate has been below one for the past week. She noted that home-based tests are not included in the State's official data; that the region remains at a high COVID transmission status; urged the continued use of precautions to reduce the risk of catching and spreading the virus; emphasized that it is of the utmost importance that anyone who feels ill should remain home until COVID can be ruled out; that a negative single use home tests should not be relied upon as accurate; that PCR and rapid antigen testing places are now widely available with local options being listed on the Township's website and social media platforms; reiterated that vaccinations and boosters are critical to reducing your individual risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death; announced the details of the most recent vaccine clinics that the Health Department held; and announced the detail for the upcoming clinics.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Snyder reported that the Township is working on obtaining reimbursement from FEMA for losses incurred resulting from Hurricane Ida; that the purchasing agent has advertised for request for proposals for services which would allow the Township to conduct hybrid meetings; that on-line employment applications are currently being developed; and advised that residents should have the Township calendar by next week.

Mr. Hutzelmann reported that there will be a community outreach meeting soon regarding the Mount Rose portion of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail; that the Mount Rose Preserve Parking Lot permits have been submitted for soil erosion and sediment approval; and the Mount Rose Carter Road East local transportation assistance program is moving ahead and gaining momentum.

Ms. Troutman reminded residents that we are currently in the tax quarter; that tax payments were due on February 1st; and that there is a ten-day grace period until the tenth of the month.

Committee Member Chait thanked Public Works for their hard work during the recent snow

events; reported on leaf and Christmas tree collection; that Public Works transported the Christmas trees to Brigantine to build dunes on the beach; there were deicing and plowing operations on January 7, 8, 28 and 29; that there were icy road responses on January 16 and 17; reported on Freon collection; and that the Affordable Housing Committee held their reorganization meeting.

Committee Member Purandare expressed that she was excited about being a member of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail committee; mentioned that it was Heart Health month; and announced that there were radon kits available in the Township's Health office for residents to pick up.

Committee Member Kuchinski reported that the Committee has almost completed its capital budget and that the introduction will likely be at the February 22 meeting; that he anticipates the second round of public meetings on the Senior/Community Center will be held in March; that the Planning Board had its reorganizational meeting in January and that their next meeting will be regarding BeiGene on the Bristol-Myers Squibb campus.

Committee Member Ruger expressed his opinion that hybrid meetings will allow more people to attend meetings that couldn't before and that it would be a great benefit to the community; announced the details for the upcoming Citizens' Equity Advisory Committee; announced that this month's Wolsey Park Committee meeting was canceled; that they are waiting on results from the request for proposals for the band shell; and provided information on the upcoming Open Space Advisory Committee meeting.

Mayor Peters-Manning reported that she met with Dr. Treece and Board of Education President, Linthorst, to discuss the demographic study; that the Township will be collaborating with the School District on a demographic study; that the School District has a demographer that they have used in the past and will provide more details to the Township regarding the study in the future. She also advised that they discussed creating a Cannabis Task Force; that the School District is working on defining the Task Force's mission and identifying potential members; that Mayor Peters-Manning has contacted both of the Boroughs regarding appointing members and the potential structure of the task force. Mayor Peters-Manning then reported that the deer harvest is down significantly; and that a decision will be made shortly regarding the return to in-person meetings.

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Lucia Huebner, a member of the Hopewell Township Agricultural Advisory Committee, requested that the Committee begin the process of leasing the 43-acre property on Hopewell Rocky Hill Road to a farmer before it gets too late in the season for a farmer to utilize the property.

Glenn Gabai, a resident of Hunterdon County, stated that he appreciated the timely handling of the retail cannabis sales in Hopewell Township and questioned the next steps that will be taken towards retail cannabis.

Jon Edwards, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, questioned when the data from the demographic survey will be available; and requested an independent cost benefit analysis on the PILOT program's effect on the School District.

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

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Mayor Peters-Manning read by title the ordinance for introduction.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A 10% INTEREST IN CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE WALKER PROPERTY LOCATED AT BLOCK 50, LOTS 8 AND 20 AND BLOCK 51, LOT 27 ON THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP TAX MAP AND AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR SUCH ACQUISITION AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE

OF DEED FROM JONATHAN WALKER

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chait, Purandare, Ruger, Mayor Peters-Manning

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Kuchinski

ORDINANCE INTRODUCED

Second reading, public hearing date February 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTIONS #22-55 THROUGH #22-60, Read by title.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Chait to adopt Resolution #22-55 through #22-60.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**R E S O L U T I O N #22-55**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR
AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON
AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL**

BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of February 2022, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell that the Mayor and Clerk of the Township and/or their designees are hereby authorized to execute the attached agreement between the Borough of Hopewell, Borough of Pennington, and the Township of Hopewell for the Senior Services Coordinator to provide services to borough seniors of the Borough of Hopewell and the Borough of Pennington for the year 2022.

R E S O L U T I O N #22-56

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR 2022**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Governing Body of the Township of Hopewell to contract with the Township of Hamilton for the provision of certain sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinic services for the term January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et seq. permits local units of the State to enter into a contract with any other local unit for the provision of any service which any party to the agreement is empowered to render within its own jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of February 2022, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Clerk be and hereby are authorized to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Hamilton for certain health services for 2022. Said services shall be furnished and rendered by the Township of Hamilton pursuant to a contract, a copy of which is annexed hereto.

R E S O L U T I O N #22-57

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE
TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL TO CONTRACT WITH
THE COUNTY OF MERCER FOR THE PROVISION
OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) DISPATCH SERVICES**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Governing Body of the Township of Hopewell to contract with the County of Mercer for the provision of EMS Dispatch Services; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq. permits local units of the State to enter into a contract with any other local unit for the joint provision of any service which any party to the agreement is empowered to render within its own jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2022, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Clerk be and hereby are authorized to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Mercer for the provision of EMS Dispatch Services for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Said services shall be furnished and rendered by the County of Mercer pursuant to an agreement in a form similar to that which is attached hereto.

R E S O L U T I O N #22-58

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF
THE PART-TIME CONTACT TRACER
IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
COURTNEY RISEBOROUGH**

WHEREAS, Part-time Contact Tracer, Courtney Riseborough has been employed in the Hopewell Township Health Department since June 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Part-time Contact Tracer, Courtney Riseborough has submitted her resignation on January 28, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February, 2022 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey:

1. That Part-time Contact Tracer, Courtney Riseborough resignation effective February 12, 2022 be and is hereby accepted.

R E S O L U T I O N #22-59

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF THE
CLERK/ FLOATER IN THE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
GINA SORBINO**

WHEREAS, Clerk/Floater Gina Sorbino has been employed in the Hopewell Township Administration Department since September 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Gina Sorbino has submitted her resignation on February 1, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February, 2022 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey:

1. That Clerk/Floater Gina Sorbino resignation effective February 18, 2022 be and is hereby accepted.

R E S O L U T I O N #22-60

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS FOR
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

WHEREAS, registration fees were paid for participation in a variety of programs sponsored by the Hopewell Township Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, some participants have requested a refund in accordance with department policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of February, 2022 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the following program refunds be and are hereby authorized:

Patricia Armstrong	2355 Pennington Road	Pennington 08534	\$88.00
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RESOLUTION #22-61. Read by title.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Chait to adopt Resolution #22-61.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #22-61

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DANIELLE D'ALISE
AS DISPATCHER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of February, 2022 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that Danielle D'Alise be and is hereby appointed as Dispatcher in the Hopewell Township Police Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Danielle D'Alise be compensated at an annual salary of \$51,730.04 (Step 1); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appointment is effective February 8, 2022.

RESOLUTION #22-62. Read by title.

Motion by Purandare, seconded by Chait to adopt Resolution #22-62.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #22-62

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AMANDA BREGENZER AS
MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Chapter 17-220.3 of the Municipal Code of Township of Hopewell establishes the position of Municipal Housing Liaison.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of February, 2022 by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that Amanda Bregenzler be and is hereby appointed as Municipal Housing Liaison in the Hopewell Township Department of Community Development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appointment will be effective immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Amanda Bregenzler be compensated with an annual stipend of \$10,000 (paid on a per pay basis) upon completion of the necessary training/certification.

RESOLUTION #22-63. Read by title.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Chait to adopt Resolution #22-63.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #22-63

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP CITIZENS EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of February 2022, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that Robert Greene is hereby appointed as a member of the Hopewell Township Citizens Equity Advisory Committee for a one-year unexpired term expiring December 31, 2022.

RESOLUTION #22-64. Read by title.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Purandare to adopt Resolution #22-64.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #22-64

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ALTERNATE
MEMBER TO THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Courtney Peters-Manning, Mayor of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, on this 7th day of February 2022, do hereby appoint Robert Greene as Alternate No. 2 Member of the Open Space Advisory Committee for an unexpired term expiring 12/31/2023.

RESOLUTION #22-65. Read by title.
Motion by Purandare, seconded by Chait to adopt Resolution #22-65.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #22-65

A RESOLUTION FOR THE GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION’S

“Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit’s hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit’s hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual’s criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit’s hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

RESOLUTION #22-66. Read by title.
Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Chait to adopt Resolution #22-66.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

R E S O L U T I O N #22-66

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REQUEST FOR MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE FROM MERCER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of February 2022, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell that the Mayor of the Township of Hopewell is hereby authorized to submit a letter to the County of Mercer Department of Transportation and Infrastructure requesting County Municipal Assistance for the Township’s 2022 Road Maintenance Program for priority road resurfacing projects.

RESOLUTION #22-67. Read by title.
Motion by Purandare, seconded by Chait to adopt Resolution #22-67.
ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chait, Kuchinski, Purandare, Ruger, Mayor Peters-Manning
NOES: None

R E S O L U T I O N #22-67

**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 2022 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 2022 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 \$20,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of February 2022, 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	\$20,000.00
Total	\$20,000.00

2. That said emergency temporary appropriation has been provided for in the 2022 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 #22-68. Read by title.

Motion by Ruger, seconded by Purandare to adopt Resolution #22-68.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chait, Kuchinski, Purandare, Ruger, Mayor Peters-Manning

NOES: None

R E S O L U T I O N #22-68

BILLS & CLAIMS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the list of cash disbursements authorized for approval of bills for payment date February 7, 2022 in the following amounts:

Bills and Claims	\$	6,776,723.13
Payroll	\$	359,602.06
Total Disbursements	\$	7,136,325.19

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

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

PUBLIC SECTION

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Gale Downey explained that the \$20,000 charge from the Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority (SBRSA) to the Township was due to the fact that the SBRSA processed more water last year than the average of the last five years; remarked that this is a concerning trend; and that

Hopewell Township should begin to look at infiltration issues because it is beginning to bite into the budget.

Jon Edwards referred to a link he sent to the Committee of the Boxer Report, which dates back many years ago, regarding PILOT programs; made certain comments citing the Boxer Report; urged the Committee to read the report; and inquired if the Township was willing to do a cost benefit analysis.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION. Read into the record.
Mayor Peters-Manning stated that the regular meeting may reconvene following the Executive Session.

Motion by Kuchinski, seconded by Ruger to go to Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations, real estate, legal and personnel matters.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

RESOLUTION #22-69

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:

- Legal
 - Ordinance Amendments
 - Sewer Connections
- Contract Negotiations
 - CWA
- 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 7th day of February, 2022 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.

At 8:14 p.m. the Executive Session was held.

At 9:27 p.m. the Regular meeting reconvened.

At 9:28 p.m., motion by Chait, seconded by Ruger to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

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

KATHERINE FENTON-NEWMAN
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK