

**MINUTES-MEETING
HOPE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
JULY 2, 2015**

The monthly meeting of the Hope Township Zoning Board of Adjustment convened at 7:32 p.m. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following Board Members present: Tom Gabel, Carol Kernoschak, Brian Kathenes, Jan Wargo, Gary Green, and Gil Hankins. Board Member Absent: Steve Larena. Also present were Board Engineer Ted Rodman, Board Attorney Roger Thomas, and Board Secretary Alfia Schemm.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gabel and he led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that the meeting is being held under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act"; adequate notice of the meeting has been provided to the Township's Official Newspaper.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Green made the motion to adopt the minutes of June 4, 2015. Motion seconded by Mr. Hankins. Roll call vote in favor: Kernoschak, Gabel, Green, Wargo, Kathenes, and Hankins.

New Business:

#ZB15-001 Sarabjit Singh, Block 3700, Lot 400; Block 3701, Lot 100

Chairman Gabel read a statement in regards to an accusation of inappropriate conduct against him in regards to the subject application. He stated that he disagrees; however, after seeking outside legal counsel and in an attempt to allow the application to continue on its merits without disruption, he will recuse himself. He did state that in the past and in the future, when a Resident approaches him in regards to a Zoning Board matter, he will instruct them that they have the right to attend the meeting to voice their opinion. He apologized for any inconvenience and he stated that he will step down and Mr. Kathenes will Chair this hearing.

Richard Keiling, Esq. was present on behalf of the Applicant and he stated that his office did not solicit anyone, they were approached by someone. He stated that they are asking that the matter be carried, so that the Township Committee can possibly appoint additional Board Members to fill the vacancies.

Board Attorney Thomas stated that this matter is being carried to the Board's August 6th meeting, without further public notice. He requested that an extension of time be granted to act on the matter. Attorney Keiling granted an extension of time through the Board's September meeting.

Correspondence:

6-22-25 WCPD, Re: Singh

The correspondence was noted.

Vouchers:

Dolan & Dolan

Re: Singh

\$1334.62

Ms. Kernoschak made the motion to pay the voucher. Motion seconded by Mr. Green. Roll call vote in favor: Kernoschak, Green, Wargo, Kathenes, Gabel, and Hankins.

Other:

Mr. Green questioned the time frame. Board Attorney Thomas stated that they have requested an extension and they will request another extension, if the hearing goes beyond the September meeting.

Open to the Public:

The meeting was opened to the public, for non-agenda items.

David Ray asked if the Board has retained a Hydrogeologist Board Attorney Thomas stated that they have.

Virginia Cavalarro asked if they can disclose the person who made the complaint. Board Attorney Thomas stated that the Chair made his statement and he will not comment any further. Chairman Gabel stated that he is disappointed; however, he does not want to jeopardize the application. Board Attorney Thomas stated that Chairman Gabel has not resigned; he is just stepping down on the application.

A member of the public questioned the recent appointment made to the Board.

Steven Flynn asked why a Hydrogeologist was retained. Board Attorney Thomas stated that there was some concern in regards to ground water, etc.

With there being no further comments, the meeting was closed to the public.

Planning Board Update:

None

Other Business:

Annual Report

Deferred

Adjournment:

With there being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alfia Schemm
Board Secretary