

## First Hope Bank Annual Shareholders Meeting

Hope, NJ – First Hope Bancorp held its Annual Shareholders Meeting virtually on May 12, 2020. President and Chief Executive Officer, Donald D. Somma, addressed the Shareholders on a variety of topics. Mr. Somma highlighted some of the many successes of the Bank this past year, including significant deposit growth, loan growth and earnings, highlighting the outstanding performance of the residential lending area, as well as the Bank's current strong liquidity and capital position. Mr. Somma provided an update on the Bank's participation in the CARES Act's Payroll Protection Program, mentioning the tremendous aid we provided for our customers and many small businesses, allowing for many jobs to be saved throughout the communities we serve.

The Bank's navigation through the COVID-19 pandemic was then discussed. First Hope has taken many precautions from the onset in order to ensure the safety of the Bank's client base and associates. We have been monitoring and adhering to CDC and government guidelines. Three of the Bank's six branches were closed for six weeks, with the remaining three branches processing transactions by the drive thru lanes, ATM and night deposit with limited customers entering the lobbies by appointment. Currently, all six branches are open, operating under temporarily modified hours with, the majority of transactions still occurring through the drive thru lanes and lobby access continuing to be by appointment only. Fortunately, no associates have been sick, and all have been able to continue working in this time of need.

Following initial remarks and department statuses, Shareholders re-elected M. Murphy Durkin, Robert Rokosz and William Burke for additional three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

In recognition of their achievements and contributions, the Board of Directors also approved and would like to congratulate the advancement of:

**Neil Martucci:** Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer

Martucci has become a welcome member to the Executive Committee bringing over 20 years of strategic finance, accounting and leadership experience to First Hope Bank.

**Stephen Lefurge:** Vice President, Finance

Lefurge joined the Bank's Finance Department in 2004 and has held various roles, most recently VP, Controller since 2017. His work ethic and dedication has been a valuable asset to First Hope Bank

**Maria Sangalli:** Vice President, Controller

Hired in 2010, Sangalli has been an integral part of both the Finance and Mortgage Departments. Most recently, Sangalli held the position of AVP, Assistant Controller.

**Dave Eresman:** Trust Officer

Eresman started with First Hope Bank in 2012 and joined the Trust Department in 2014 as Trust Administrator, then Assistant Trust Officer in 2015 and has contributed greatly to the success of the Trust Department.

First Hope Bank's foundation is built on the 107 associates within. The values of community and one team, one mission, are engrained in all First Hope Bank Associates and the Bank looks forward to continuing to make a difference by providing financial solutions that help its

customers achieve their hopes and dreams while enhancing the growth and prosperity of the Bank and its community.

**About First Hope** - *First Hope Bank, established in 1911, is a full-service financial institution with locations in Andover, Blirstown, Great Meadows, Hackettstown, Hope and Sparta. Known for its customer service, financial strength and stability, First Hope Bank also offers the sophisticated range of products and services found in large financial institutions including a comprehensive Wealth Management division. First Hope Bank's associates strive every day to fulfill the Bank's motto, "Turning Hope into Reality". Visit First Hope Bank's Web Site at [www.firsthope.com](http://www.firsthope.com) or email the Bank at [info@firsthope.com](mailto:info@firsthope.com).*