

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

August 4, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Heimbecker, Lawlor, Paulus, Woolley; Melissa Wehr;
Vicky Roth; J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire; Al Kortze, P.E.

Absent: 1

Attendance: 2

Courtesy of the Floor: None

New Business: Public Hearing Five-Year Capital Program 2022-2026 (Review and Discussion)

The Township Manager put together the Five-Year Capital Program for the years 2022-2026. At this time, she reviewed the highlights.

Sinkhole/Miscellaneous Stormwater Projects. The Allendale Swale and completion of the vegetation swale along Postal Road by the Salt Dome.

Traffic Congestion and Improvements. The Township applied for the DCED Grant with the assistance of Al Kortze and his office for the Catasauqua Road signal and pedestrian crossing. Looking to complete this next year.

Future Roads and Construction. The goal is to overlay Catasauqua Road which would be after the signal repairs. Just a reminder 2022 will be the final payment for the Troxell Street Curbing Project.

Catastrophe Fund. The \$25,000 appropriation for the next five years will continue. Grant monies that the Township received from the Covid-19 Grants have been put back into the Catastrophe Fund.

Township Parks. Upgrades will be made to the playground equipment and park signage through the Capital Program in the upcoming year.

Fire Apparatus. There are four trucks with targeted goals of when one will be replaced. Instead of individual accounts, the Township Manager would like to merge them into one account. If the Township keeps them in single accounts, the Township would never be able to purchase a truck. One account will always have to borrow from another. When looking at it as a whole, it works out over the extension of the life of each of those fire truck replacements. One of the Council Members addressed the Fire Chief who was in attendance at this meeting. He asked if the Fire Chief could let Council know what the service life is of the fire trucks and what causes them to have to be replaced every so many years. The current Fire Chief replied that he was not part of the initial discussions of the Capital Program. The previous Fire Chief was involved in those discussions which

began approximately five years ago. His understanding is that they pro-rated the values of replacing the trucks according to their next replacement and that is why some of them are very high now. It is gaged until they meet the approximate amount. The NFPA recommends that the vehicles be replaced every 15 to 20 years. They like to have a reevaluation of the vehicle and evaluation. The previous Fire Chief had it set up for every 23 years which is beyond what the NFPA recommends because they don't have a high use of the trucks and they do take very good care of them. The Council member asked if the Fire Chief is seeing that the new pumper that the Township will be purchasing over the next few years have more manageable parts in it. He asked if the technology and warranty programs will be the same or are they getting better or are the trucks getting more expensive. The Fire Chief replied that there is more technology in them and have become safer and can do more. They have a contract with a company that comes in and does regular preventative maintenance on them.

Public Works Vehicle Replacement. The only planned purchase for 2022 is the Utility Vehicle. Future expenditures would include possibly a new Code Enforcement vehicle.

Building Maintenance. This is a new category. The Township is trying to build this fund. Expenditures are not going to be very high. They are looking to expend for a new HVAC system in the new Pole Barn on Postal Road for the Public Works equipment.

Sewer. It is anticipated to replace the Allendale sewer line in 2022 along with Marcon Blvd. sewer line. It's been pushed back because the Township did not have enough funds in the account. Also, Allendale is planning to replace some of their stuff at the same time.

Water. Repairs and maintenance to the lines is anticipated. Would like to keep enough monies in the account in case something major were to happen the funds would be available to pull from.

A discussion ensued regarding the replacement of the Code Enforcement vehicle. The Township Manager followed up by saying any vehicle that is going to be replaced under her watch will be thoroughly evaluated not only for the need of the Township but if the vehicle life is still there and it can be extended a few more years that is monies better spent for Township residents.

A discussion ensued regarding the Administration vehicle regarding the recall on the battery of the vehicle. The Public Works Supervisor addressed the issue.

The Township Manager advised Council that the Capital Program chart they have before them is completely up-to-date through end of July. The figures will be incorporated in the Township's upcoming Budget for 2022. The Resolution to adopt the Capital Program will be placed on the August 18 Agenda if Council is in agreement with that.

The Chairman closed the Public Hearing for the Capital Program.

Courtesy of the Floor:

The Fire Chief addressed the Board. He said last year when addressing the Capital Budget, the subject of an electronic sign outside in front of the fire house came up which the Chairman thought was a good idea. He thought it was mentioned that it could be a Capital purchase, but he isn't sure if it was meant to do at a later date. He asked for some clarity. He feels it not only helps the Fire Company but also the community for notifications as well. A discussion ensued. If the Fire Company would do the work themselves, which was originally discussed, it would be around \$9,000 just for the equipment and under \$20,000 if they contract it out. The Chairman asked if they would advertise on the sign and the Fire Chief replied that it would just be notifications for the public, i.e., training nights, temperature, time, etc. With Covid and looking for funds for all the other every day expenditures of the Township as well as the existing Capital Program presented to the Board this evening, the Township Manager said she would make the recommendation that more research go into this regarding signage and perhaps placing it on the Capital Projects Program for next year. Also, this would give the Fire Company more time to do their research and bring to the table more accurate figures and hopefully get more bang for the buck. Perhaps, it would give them more time to consider contributing some money toward the sign as well through some fundraising efforts on their part. Since it is budget time, the Fire Chief said they had been thinking about doing an expansion since they are running out of space. Initially, they had a \$25,000 line item in their Budget in the previous year to get architectural engineering which was pulled out due to Covid and the lack of funds. The Fire Chief wanted to know what is the process of a larger expenditure like that. He asked for some guidance so he can get the balling rolling on it. It would definitely be a Capital expenditure. The Township Manager recommended that the Fire Chief meet with her to go over what their plans are for the expansion. She would need an explanation on 1) approximate size of expansion; 2) what the expansion use is for; 2) their future vision for it; and 3) how far out are they going to go with it, etc. After discussions, it goes into the appropriate budget line item and then it gets presented to Council. The Fire Chief will meet with the Township Manager to take the proper steps for the expansion. The Township Manager asked if this is something that the Fire Company is looking to contribute monies toward through fundraising or is it something that they are looking for the Township to fully fund. One of the Council members asked if the \$25,000 can be allocated so the Fire Company can get started with their planning. The Township Manager asked that they take a step back and first have a meeting to discuss the plan further. It needs to be looked at as a whole before making any decisions on proceeding. A discussion ensued.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Wehr
Township Manager