

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

March 16, 2022
7:30 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Heimbecker, Lawlor, Paulus, Tocci, Woolley; Jason Ulrich, Esquire; Al Kortze, P.E.; Melissa A. Wehr; Vicky Roth

Absent: 0

Attendance: 7

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: March 2, 2022 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the March 2, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and accept same as presented.

Paulus, Lawlor: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Paulus:

Tocci:

Woolley:

Aye

Abstained

Abstained

Reports:

1. Melissa A. Wehr
Township Manager

1. As of March 14, the Township Building was open to the public. We are still requiring masks and social distancing. I am hopeful that in the near future we can remove the requirements of masks and social distancing.

2. The advertisement for the Receptionist position is currently running. Applications are being accepted until March 31, 2022.

3. The Planning Commission met last evening. Preliminary/Final recommendation for Approval was granted to Lehigh Valley International Airport for their runway rehab project.

4. I am working on a response to the Fire Company's complaint letter. Hopefully, it will be done by next month.

A Councilmember questioned the Township Manager regarding her meeting with Amazon regarding the truck traffic issue. The Township Manager said she and Pennsylvania State Police met with the regional manager for Amazon. They have contacted them and gave them instructions not to go down Lloyd Street. They will

place signs where they can at their location and the location where they have their trucks in. They have started street sweeping on a daily basis to address the issues with the mud. The Manager thought the meeting went well. A discussion ensued.

2. Al Kortze, P.E.
Township Engineer

1. The Township Engineer sent out the Intent to Award to the contractor for the Chestnut Grove Basketball Court Project. As soon as he gets the signed contracts back, they can set up a preconstruction meeting. He expects they can get going in April.
2. All other items are under the Agenda.

A Councilmember mentioned that he noticed that the Bethlehem Water Department was surveying on Taft and Tacoma. The Township Engineer said that the City of Bethlehem Water Department has decided to replace the water line on Sherwood, Taft and Tacoma Streets. We managed to convince the City of Bethlehem Water Department to do the work this year.

3. Jason Ulrich, Esquire
For J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire
Township Attorney

1. The Township Attorney said the Agenda will have to be amended if Council decides to vote on a proposed settlement on the Lehigh Valley Health Network Lab property tax appeal. The school district has worked out a settlement, which Council was provided with. There is a Status Conference in April before Council's next meeting. If they want to approve this and let the judge know that they would have to do it this evening. Under the new amendments of the Sunshine Act, Council has to make a Motion to Amend the Agenda to include this item for approval followed by voting on the settlement.

Motion: I move that the Council Agenda for March 16, 2022 Council Meeting Agenda be amended to add an approval of settlement stipulation in the matter of Health Network Laboratories vs. Lehigh County Board of Assessment Appeals, County of Lehigh, Catasauqua Area School District and Hanover Township, Lehigh County, for the following reasons: The Stipulation has already been approved by all of other parties to the litigation and a Status Conference is scheduled with this case with the court on March 31. Annual revision of the states' common level ratio on July 1 may lower the assessed value of the property.

Paulus, Heimbecker: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

3. Maintenance Report (Written)

1. All snow removal equipment has been moved to the Township's 4 Bay Garage on Postal Rd. for the season.
2. Street sweeping begins April 1 through October. Grass cutting and maintenance on all the parks will begin. He said he is proud of the job his crew did this winter.

The Public Works Supervisor stated the winter equipment held up great. They didn't have any major issues.

5. Storm Water Issues (None)

6. Fire Company Report (Written)

7. Code Enforcement Report (Written)

8. Treasurer's Report (Written)

Motion: I move we accept the computer printouts dated March 16, 2022, for the General Fund Account, Capital Reserve Account, Escrow Account, Liquid Fuels Account, Sewer Account and Water Account subject to audit.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

9. Building Inspector's Report (Written)

Unfinished Business:

1. Resolution No. 2022-27, Resolution to Amend Han-Le-Co Purchasing Policy to Provide for Appropriations of Grants, Contributions or Matching Funds (Vote)

The Township Manager said there were discussions with the Township Attorney and comments which he made at the last meeting and she recommends tabling this matter until Mr. Eaton can be in attendance at the meeting to discuss further.

Motion: I move that Council table voting on Resolution No. 2022-27, Resolution to Amend Han-Le-Co Purchasing Policy to Provide for Appropriations of Grants, Contributions or Matching Funds until there is full attendance of the Board including the Township Attorney.

Paulus, Heimbecker: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

New Business:

1. Authorization for the Township Manager to Expend \$175,000 from Capital Reserve-Building for the Roof Replacement and an HVAC Unit at the Fire Station (Vote)

One of the Council Members asked the Township Manager when the Township found out about the roof. The Township Manager replied that it was January of this year.

The Township Manager explained that it is the original roof when the fire station was originally built. A flat roof from back in the 80s. Since it was brought to the Township's attention, she had a representative from Simon Roofing come to evaluate the roof. It isn't worth patching it due to the age of the roof. The Township did not have to get three bids. Simon Roofing through TIPS got three bids and they came in the neighborhood of anywhere from low \$130,000 up to the high of \$182,000. There were issues with the HVAC unit. She and the Public Works Maintenance Supervisor evaluated it and it is at the end of its life. To save money, the thought was to do the two projects at one time since they will need a crane for both. The Township Manager did not budget for this since she was not aware of this and Council will need to approve this. The two projects should come in at around \$175,000. The Township Manager is requesting that she be allowed to take the funds from the Building Maintenance Fund which she started, to be put toward this project. A discussion ensued. At this time, Chris Lallier of Simon Roofing gave a presentation of the old roof to the proposed new roof. The Public Works Maintenance Supervisor gave some background and history regarding the present HVAC unit and what will be proposed going forward.

Motion: I move that Council approve Authorization for the Township Manager to Expend \$175,000 from Capital Reserve-Building for the Roof Replacement and an HVAC Unit at the Fire Station as presented by the Township Manager and Simon Roofing Products.

Heimbecker, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

2. Authorization for the Township Engineer to advertise for the Bid for the Allendale Sewer Infrastructure Line Upgrades (Vote)

The Township Engineer explained that this will involve replacement of close to 1,500 feet of eight-inch sewer main that is within Allendale that is clay pipe now and will be replaced with PVC. There is also going to be close to 1,500 feet of slip lining which is essentially a lining they work into the sewer which seals the pipe and essentially puts a smooth lining inside since some of those mains are underneath trees, patios and other features. The other ones that are still clay and underneath some features, they decided it would be better to slip line those which is more cost effective. Also, there is an alternate for work that would be paid for by Allendale, themselves. They have this as an option bid. Whenever the number comes in, it will be presented to Allendale. If they chose to do it, they can and if

they don't and feel it is too expensive and think they can get their own contractor, then so be it. This was vetted through the Township Attorney and they worked out how they would be handling things. It will be a base bid for the Township work and then alternate for anything Allendale may choose to want to pay for. A discussion ensued.

Motion: I move for the Authorization for the Township Engineer to advertise for the Bid for the Allendale Sewer Infrastructure Line Upgrades as presented.

Heimbecker, Woolley: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

3. Approval of Settlement Stipulation in the Matter of Health Network Laboratories vs. Lehigh County Board of Assessment Appeals, County of Lehigh, Catasauqua Area School District and Hanover Township (Vote)

Motion: I move Council enters into a settlement stipulation in the matter of Health Network Laboratories vs. Lehigh County Board of Assessment Appeals, County of Lehigh, Catasauqua Area School District and Hanover Township, Lehigh County, Docket No. 2021-C-242745, as presented.

Paulus, Heimbecker: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (02/18/22), Payroll (03/04/22); Voucher Nos. 26360-26368 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 26369-26417, from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$324,057.87; Voucher Nos. 201 (Prepaid); Voucher No. 202 from the Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$11,010.82; Voucher Nos. 4598 (Prepaid); Voucher Nos. 4599-4600 from Capital Reserve in the amount of \$150,000.52; Voucher Nos. 5128-5130 from the Escrow Account in the amount of \$28,788.75; Voucher Nos. 4503-4508 from the Water Account in the amount of \$1,880.48; Voucher Nos. 6125-6126 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 6127-6133 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$46,053.66 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$561,792.10.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

The Township Manager recommended Mark Thomas for the Small Town America Volunteer Award due to his years of volunteerism on both the Township's Planning Commission and Recreation Commission. He was honored with a letter and a beautiful sticker. He was very appreciative for the consideration.

Courtesy of the Floor:

John Wexler, President with the Han-Le-Co Volunteer Fire Company, questioned Resolution No. 2022-27. The Township Manager will get them a copy of it once she receives the draft with the Township Attorney's amendments, etc. Mr. Wexler said they want the opportunity to review the draft before it is finalized and voting on.

One of the Council members asked Mr. Wexler if they will be doing an Easter Egg Hunt this year. Mr. Wexler replied that they are but have to work out how to advertise for it since they cannot do flyers.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Wehr
Township Manager