

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

February 28, 2019
4:30 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Heimbecker, Lawlor, Paulus, Tocci, Woolley; Christopher Garges; Vicky Roth

Absent: J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire; Al Kortze, P.E.

Attendance: 0

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: February 6, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the February 6, 2019 Regular Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

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

Reports:

1. Christopher J. Garges
Township Manager

A. Mr. Garges said he sent an email out and had been contacted by Catasauqua and North Catasauqua Boroughs. Mr. Garges had met with Becky Bradley of the Lehigh County Planning Commission ("LVPC") to start looking into updating the Township's Comprehensive Plan and see if it was something that the LVPC could do for the Township. Ms. Bradley had mentioned that Catasauqua and North Catasauqua were also looking at doing theirs. Ms. Bradley put Mr. Garges in contact with both Boroughs and they are interested in at least sitting down and discussing the stages of the multi-municipal comprehensive plan, which would mesh all three municipalities together from a comp plan standpoint, but is something that the LVPC would be able to do at a reduced rate splitting it three ways and would also open up the Township in the future for grants, if the Township has a multi-municipal comp plan. As the Township moves forward with the trail, Catasauqua treats all of the Township's sewers as well. If Council is fine with this, Mr. Garges will meet with them and at least see where the interest lies and what they want to get out of it and see from that point forward what LVPC would be able to do from a cost and timeframe standpoint. Nothing has been set up as of yet, but if anyone would like to attend, they should let Mr. Garges know. Councilman Heimbecker asked Mr. Garges when he is planning to do this and Mr. Garges said nothing has been set up yet, but Councilman Tocci said after work hours would work. Mr. Garges said on a Wednesday before Council meets would work as well. Mr. Heimbecker asked if representatives

from Catasauqua and North Catasauqua would come to the Township to meet. Mr. Garges said they would come either to the Township or wherever it would be set up at. Mr. Heimbecker said the Township has nice meeting rooms and Mr. Garges said he could offer the Township meeting rooms as well. Mr. Garges said if there is interest in this, he will look to get something set up possibly for the Township's second Council meeting in March at the Township Building before the Council meeting begins. Everyone agreed and Mr. Garges said he will move forward and keep Council posted.

- B. Mr. Garges mentioned that the past practice has been from a garbage collection standpoint that the Township hasn't collected any fees from residents for garbage collection. He said the Township Code does not reflect this. The Code still reflects billing rates and times the Township is supposed to invoice and collect in it. Mr. Garges is bringing this before Council that if the intention is to continue not to collect fees, etc. from residents, it should be removed from the Code. It can always be added back in should the Township's contract expire and rates go up or should the economic condition change and the Township wants to change it. Mr. Garges brought it to Council's attention to see, going forward, how they want to proceed. Presently, the Township is in a contract with JP Mascaro. The contract, itself, expires March 31, 2020, with a two-year extension option on the contract at the same rate, which would bring the Township to a five-year total. That would be at 2022 and then there is also a three-year negotiated extension where the rates can be renegotiated. That would bring the Township to an eight-year total and bring it to 2025. Mr. Garges said the Code says, basic fee of \$115 per year per residential home. Chairman Paulus asked Mr. Garges if he wants to remove that from the Ordinance on record. Mr. Garges reiterated that presently it says that the Township is suppose to be billing for garbage collection. Mr. Paulus said that it is the Council's intention to keep it as is. He doesn't see why they would want to start charging in the future unless the Township becomes financially strapped. Mr. Garges said plans for that are in the Budget. Mr. Heimbecker said it would make more sense to leave it in and every year just forgive it. Mr. Heimbecker said the change is already in there. Mr. Garges said that would be something he would ask Jackson Eaton, Township Attorney, to weigh in on and then he will bring it back to Council. Mr. Heimbecker said it is also something for the guys that are running to campaign on. Mr. Paulus said the language has always been in there and when they made it free to Township residents, they never thought of removing it. A discussion ensued. Mr. Garges said from his perspective and his position, if it's in the Code, he is supposed to do it. He would rather have Council tell him he is not supposed to do it or not have it in the Code. Mr. Heimbecker said the fact that the Township publishes free garbage, maybe Mr. Garges needs to get something that says trash collection this year is free. Mr. Heimbecker asked what it breaks out to in the current level of occupants or homes that get trash collection versus what the Township is being charged. Mr. Garges replied that the Township pays \$11,000 per month according to the contract. The Township serves 439 residential households. Mr. Heimbecker said Mr. Garges should move it to the current rate and then forgive it, which would look great for Council. Mr. Garges said he will look into it further and bring back more accurate numbers to Council regarding rate per households and then Council can make a Motion or Resolution to waive it. Mr. Garges said the Township could

also send out a letter to each household. Mr. Paulus said the Township includes it in the two newsletter every year, which every household receives. A discussion followed. Mr. Garges said he confirmed with Mr. Eaton that it is in the newsletter and calendar that goes out to each household. Mr. Garges said it can be included by staff, but without Council action. Mr. Heimbecker reiterated that the Township should have a Resolution to raise it to whatever it's costing the Township per household and then the Council can move to forgive it and that the Township will pay for service. Mr. Garges said he understands what the intent of Council is. He will discuss it with Mr. Eaton and see mechanically how they can make it work. Councilman Tocci asked if this is a Resolution that comes up each year and that Council formally forgives. Mr. Garges said the Township has not and Mr. Paulus agreed. Mr. Tocci asked how long the Township has been offering free garbage to residents and Mr. Paulus replied about 20 years. Mr. Tocci said it probably would be a good idea to make it a yearly Resolution. Mr. Garges explained that the reason any of this came up is that the Township received a complaint that the garbage hauler was late picking up the garbage and Mr. Garges turned to the Code to see what the policy is. That is how Mr. Garges came across this circumstance and prompted him to bring it to Council's attention. He will research matter further and bring it back to Council at next meeting.

2. Al Kortze, P.E.
Township Engineer

Township Engineer was not in attendance this evening and there is no report.

3. J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire
Township Attorney

The Township Attorney was not present at meeting this evening and there is not report.

4. Maintenance (Written)
5. Storm Water Issues – None.
6. Fire Company Report (Written)
7. Code Enforcement (Written)
8. Treasurer's Report (Written)

Motion: I move we accept the computer printouts dated February 19, 2019, for the General Fund Account, Capital Reserve Account, Escrow Account, Liquid Fuels Account, Sewer Account and Water Account subject to audit.

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

Aye

Unan.

9. Building Inspector Report (Written)

A. Mr. Paulus said he noticed the work over at Primo Produce. He said all the erection with the steel is going up. Mr. Garges said the other project that is really moving forward is B. Braun. Mr. Paulus asked if it is already up and visible and Mr. Garges replied, no, they have a lot of demolition of the foundation of the slab that was at that location. They are getting all the utilities in and all the underground work has begun. Mr. Garges said he will be presenting to Township in the next month or so the roadwork they have to tie in some deep sewer. They are looking at a weekend closure of Postal Rd. Mr. Garges reported that at Hangar 11, they are still working on that. A lot of it is the underground stuff. Mr. Garges said the Township got in a new submission for a 25,000 square foot warehouse addition at the corner of Willowbrook and Race at 1650 E. Race Street which will go before the Township Planning Commission in March. Also, March 19 will be the rezoning of Willowbrook Road. Mr. Heimbecker asked Mr. Garges if the Airport submitted anything regarding the new hotel and shopping complex. Mr. Garges replied that the Township has not received anything to date. The Airport was in to the Township to do some background research last year. Mr. Garges said that also on the Agenda for the March Planning Commission meeting is the maintenance building over on 1003 Postal Road that will need a Special Exception from the Zoning Hearing Board and then to Council for approval. Councilman Woolley asked Mr. Garges if anything has come to the Township regarding a “jump” place on Mr. Joshi’s land. Mr. Garges replied that the Township has not heard anything from them. Mr. Garges told Council this was proposed at 1108 American Parkway where St. Luke’s was going to do a new building that was going to be a medical building which is on hold at present. Mr. Garges said they lost their potential tenant. And Goodman Properties on Middle Lloyd between Lloyd Street and American Parkway, the Township hasn’t heard anything from them to date. A discussion followed.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Heimbecker asked Mr. Garges where the Township is at regarding the fishing Ordinance that was introduced at the last meeting. Mr. Garges replied that without having Mr. Eaton and Mr. Kortze present at the meeting in case there are any questions, it will be brought to the table at the March 6, 2019 Council Meeting. Mr. Eaton is prepared to give a legal opinion on ice fishing. Mr. Heimbecker said his son has volunteered to test the waters for fishing. Mr. Garges said ironically, he received an email today from someone who is not a resident but works in the industrial park and was asking if the Township would ever entertain having fishing in the pond because he could hit it on his way home.

New Business: None.

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (01/25/19); Payroll (2/11/19); Voucher Nos. 24157-24176 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 24177-24332 from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$143,566.94; Voucher Nos. 4407 (Prepaid), Voucher

Nos. 4408-4410 from the Capital Reserve Account in the amount of \$21,384.72; Voucher Nos. 164 from the Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$5,348.94; Voucher Nos. 4765-4766 from the Escrow Account in the amount of 33,971.78; Voucher No. 4247, Voucher Nos. 4264-4266 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 4267-4273 from the Water Account in the amount of \$102,600.72; Voucher No. 5701-5705 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 5706-5717 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$411,742.39 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$718,615.49.

Paulus, Heimbecker: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Adjournment:

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Garges
Township Manager