

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 5, 2012
7:30 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Atkinson, Dreisbach, Kovacs, Paulus, Woolley; J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire; Frederick W. Hay, P.E.; Sandra A. Pudliner; Vicky Roth

Absent: 0

Attendance: 6

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: November 21, 2012 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the November 21, 2012 Regular Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

Paulus, Kovacs: Moved and Seconded

Atkinson, Dreisbach, Kovacs, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Reports:

1. Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager

1. The Township Manager offered no oral report at this time, but accepted questions from the Board. In that regard, Councilman Kovacs questioned whether or not there was a final attendance figure for the Municipal Building Dedication. The Township Manager indicated that the attendance is approximately at 100 individuals.

2. Frederick W. Hay, P.E.
Township Engineer

1. The Township Engineer advised the Board that the Township will receive bids for the second part of the Race St. Sanitary Sewer Project at the next meeting. The 2012 Road Program has been completed as reported to the Board by Ryan Christman of my office at the last meeting.

Councilman Kovacs questioned the Township Engineer as to the status of the traffic study at Race Street and Cascade Drive. The Township Engineer indicated that the study had commenced last week and is finishing in the near future.

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

1. The Township Attorney advised the Board that all his items are listed on the Agenda with the exception of a matter under New Business regarding a change in millage, as well as an Ordinance with respect to dumping into the Township's Storm Sewer System.

Councilman Atkinson questioned the Township Attorney regarding the status of activity involving the accident claims at the Lanta Bus Stop on Race Street. The Township Attorney advised that the Township had received two notices of claims that have been filed but no further action has been taken of which the Township is aware.

Unfinished Business:

1. Bill No. 2012-06, An Ordinance Amending Part 2 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township Regarding Bidding and Contracts to Increase the Ceiling for Required Competitive Bids to \$18,500, Index the Ceiling to the Consumer Price Index and Require Solicitation of Offers for Certain Contracts in an Amount less than \$18,500 but Greater than \$10,000 (Public Hearing)

1. Chairman Paulus opened the Public Hearing relative to Bill No. 2012-06. In resolution of this matter, the Board made the following motion:

Motion: I move that Bill No. 2012-06, An Ordinance Amending Part 2 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township Regarding Bidding and Contracts to Increase the Ceiling for Required Competitive Bids to \$18,500, Index the Ceiling to the Consumer Price Index and Require Solicitation of Offers for Certain Contracts in an Amount less than \$18,500 but Greater than \$10,000, be adopted as Ordinance No. 534.

Kovacs, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Atkinson, Dreisbach, Kovacs, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

New Business:

1. Bill No. 2012-07, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Part 9 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township to add a Definition for Outdoor Wood-Fired Boiler and Prohibiting the same in the Township (Introduce)

1. The Township Attorney advised that per Council's request, he had reviewed different Ordinances regarding this issue and only one of those municipalities prohibited same entirely. We have added these provisions to a section of our

Code which already limits outdoor wood burning. Bill No. 2012-07 was introduced at this time with a Public Hearing on same to be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.

2. Resolution No. 2012-41, A Resolution Providing for the Appointment of Eileen Koller to the Hanover Township Personnel Board Filling the Vacancy Created by the Resignation of Patrick Howlett (Vote)

In resolution of this matter, the Board made the following Motion:

Motion: I move that Resolution No. 2012-41, A Resolution Providing for the Appointment of Eileen Koller to the Hanover Township Personnel Board Filling the Vacancy Created by the Resignation of Patrick Howlett be adopted as presented.

Paulus, Atkinson: Moved and Seconded

Atkinson, Dreisbach, Kovacs, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

3. Resolution No. 2012-42, A Resolution Authorizing a Holiday Dinner for Recognition and Appreciation for Service Rendered (Vote)

In resolution of this matter, the Board made the following motion:

Motion: I move that Resolution No. 2012-42, A Resolution Authorizing a Holiday Dinner for Recognition and Appreciation for Service Rendered be adopted as presented.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Atkinson, Dreisbach, Kovacs, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

4. Bill No. 2012-08, An Ordinance Establishing a Tax Rate for the Year 2013 to Reflect the County-Wide Reassessment of Real Property Concluded in 2012 (Introduce)
5. Bill No. 2012-09, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township to Add a New Part 10 Prohibiting the Discharge of Certain Substances into the Storm Sewer System (Introduce)

The Township Attorney opened discussions relative to proposed Bill Nos. 2012-08 and 2012-09. Attorney Eaton advised the Board that the first proposed Ordinance relates to the 2012 County-Wide Reassessment which will require the Township to adjust its millage rate from the current one-quarter mill. Attorney Eaton noted that the purpose of the reassessment was to get all the properties on the same table with the current market values and essentially generate the same amount of money. With respect to the Township's assessed valuation in the beginning of 2012 same was at \$161,054.25. After reassessment, the figure is

\$506,116.70. Accordingly, the Township will need to lower the millage rate to generate the same revenues. In order to do that, the millage rate would become .07955. New construction will be on the assessment rolls next year. This will result in "revenue neutral" plus new properties. The County will provide a list of the worst case scenario as same relates to current tax appeals. The revenue neutral was based on this assessment. Six months from now the figure may go down as a result of new appraisals. Attorney Eaton advised he did not know how much is at risk. The Township Attorney noted that the County allows the Township to increase the rate but it is first important to adopt the revenue neutral tax rate and then the Board could adopt a higher rate. Councilman Woolley questioned the Township Solicitor as to how many of these current tax assessment appeals the Attorney felt would result in a reduction in the assessment. The Township Attorney noted that usually there is a compromise. There was a discussion with respect to whether or not the Board felt there was a need to consider adopting a higher tax rate. It appeared that such action may not be necessary. In any event, Bill No. 2012-08 was introduced at this time with a Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 2:00 P.M.

At this point in the meeting, the Township Attorney discussed with the Board proposed Bill No. 2012-09. The Township Attorney indicated that he reviewed the Township Ordinances and found nothing prohibiting the discharge of certain substances into the storm sewer system. As the Board will recall, this relates to the issue of illegal dumping in the Township. The Township Attorney advised that he has sent the proposed Ordinance to both the Public Works Director and the Township Engineer for comment. He noted that the Township Manager agreed that the Township should have legislation on the books regarding this matter. Accordingly, Bill No. 2012-09 was introduced at this time with a Public Hearing on same to be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.

Courtesy of the Floor:

Vice Chairman Dreisbach advised the Board that with respect to the Municipal Building Construction Project, the list of unfinished items is greatly diminished and mostly all the punch list items have been addressed. A few outstanding items should be taken care of in the near future.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager