

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

November 5, 2012
4:00 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Atkinson, Dreisbach, Kovacs, Paulus, Woolley; Sandra A. Pudliner; Vicky Roth

Absent: 0

Attendance: 1

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: October 22, 2012 Budget Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the October 22, 2012 Budget Meeting and accept same as presented.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Dreisbach, Kovacs, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Atkinson:

Abstained

Old Business:

1. Public Hearing – Continuation of Proposed 2013 Operating, Capital Reserve, Liquid Fuels, Water & Sewer Budgets (Review and Discussion)

Chairman Paulus opened the Public Hearing relative to the Proposed 2013 Budgets. The Township Manager advised that at the prior meeting the Board had ceased their discussions in the Department for Administration in particular the line item for Legal Fees. A discussion regarding that line item resulted in a reduction of the proposed amount of \$75,000 to \$65,000. Additionally, the line item for Postage Meter was reduced from \$8,000 to \$7,000. With respect to the line item for EIT/BPT/LST Tax Commission, the Township Manager noted that since the Revenues from such taxes in the Revenue portion of the Operating Budget have been revised she would need to adjust this figure accordingly and would do so prior to the next meeting.

With respect to the Department for Municipal Building, a discussion ensued relative to the line items contained therein. With respect to the line item for Utilities there was a discussion initiated by the Township Manager regarding the Township utilizing an energy provider other than PPL to secure a reduced rate for energy supply. The Township Manager advised that the solar installation at the new Municipal Building is functioning properly and is acting as a credit towards the electric usage. However, conversations with authorized PPL representatives have indicated that the Township does not possess sufficient solar panels to ever result in a buyback situation where the

Township would sell energy back to the energy supplier. The PPL rep also noted that being in the northeast weighs heavily on that scenario ever coming to pass. Accordingly, the Township Manager advised that it would be her intent to secure an energy provider other than PPL which is at the high end of the cost issue for the Municipal Building. She advised that all the other electric accounts have already been put through a broker and are under agreement for a reduced energy provider cost. Chairman Paulus questioned whether or not the heating system is shutting down and the Township's Maintenance Supervisor who was in attendance at the meeting indicated that was the case but currently it is not doing so until 10:00 P.M. in the evening. Mr. Mouer noted that after training is given and there is a better way of adjusting the system the Township would put that in place. With respect to the line item of Municipal Building: Loan Payback, the Township Manager advised that amount was incorrectly noted in the Budget. The amount noted in the Budget only reflects a three-quarter figure and an additional quarter needs to be added to same bringing the cost over \$200,000. Mrs. Pudliner advised she would make the necessary adjustment to that line item.

With respect to the Department for Code Enforcement, the Township Manager noted that this Budget Department provides for a 15 cent per hour increase for the three Code Enforcement Officers. There were no changes made to this Budget at this time.

With respect to the Fire Department Budget, the Township Manager noted that as the Board may be aware workman's compensation costs have been separated out from Municipal costs and the Township is now required to secure insurance outside of our package. The cost for same for 2013 is \$8,800 and accordingly the line item for Workman's Compensation was changed from \$8,000 to \$8,800. It was noted that the Township's Fire Chief would be invited to the next meeting to review the Fire Budget as well as the Emergency Management Budget with Council.

With respect to the Department for Planning and Zoning, no changes were made to that department at this time.

With respect to the Highway Department, the Township's Maintenance Supervisor, Jeffrey Mouer was in attendance at the meeting and the Board reviewed the line items contained therein with him at this time. There was a discussion regarding the line item for part-time help. The Township Manager advised the Board that she had inserted that figure in the Budget, the amount being sufficient to provide for one part-time summer employee to assist the Public Work's Department. Mrs. Pudliner noted that she is of the opinion that considering the scope of the new Municipal Building and grounds and observing the functioning of the department, she felt that the part-time employee in the summer would be helpful to the department. Mr. Mouer commented that there are things that don't necessarily get done under the present scenario and also that he has found that the breakdown of administrative work is higher than he thought it would be. Accordingly, he requested that the Board consider the one summer employee at this time.

Council discussed this matter and determined that they would provide that line item for one summer employee and see how that works out in 2013. The Board stopped their review of the Highway Department with the line item for Road Materials and determined to continue the hearing until the next scheduled hearing which would be Monday, November 12, 2012 at 4:00 P.M.

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra A. Pudliner".

Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager