

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

October 2, 2013
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: 3

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: September 18, 2013 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the September 18, 2013 Regular Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

Dreisbach, Kovacs: Moved and Seconded

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

Reports:

1. Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager

1. The Township Manager advised the Board that it will be necessary to schedule Trick or Treat Night in Hanover Township. Mrs. Pudliner noted that the Borough of Catasauqua will be holding Trick or Treat on Saturday, October 26, from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M., and Hanover Township, Northampton County will be on Friday, October 25, 2013 from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. The Board discussed the fact that Hanover Township historically has held Trick or Treat on Friday evenings and accordingly directed the Township Manager to advise the press that the Township will hold Trick or Treat on Friday, October 25, 2013 between the hours of 6:00 – 8:00 P.M., rain or shine.
2. The Township Manager advised the Board that the Township has received the Transportation Impact Study of the Rockefeller Group as prepared by the engineering firm of Pidcock Company. The Township Manager noted that the representative from Rockefeller Group has indicated that after our traffic engineer reviews same, they would like to sit down with us and the engineers to discuss the matter.
3. The Township Manager advised the Board that she has provided Council with information forwarded to her by LANTA regarding proposed improvements LANTA is requesting at the Catasauqua Rd. bus stop area. LANTA is requesting

that the No Pedestrian Crossing signs be removed from the intersection of Catasauqua Rd. and the entrances to Valley Plaza and Bethlehem Diner and a crosswalk be marked across Catasauqua Rd. LANTA further noted that they want to avoid having to go into the Valley Plaza Shopping Center due to the tight configuration of the parking lot and the difficulty of entering and exiting. Additionally, the need to traverse the parking lot of the shopping center would add significant time to their schedule. The LANTA representative further noted that if riders could exit the bus at the stop in front of Bethlehem Diner and be able to cross Catasauqua Rd. that would be the most convenient solution.

The Township Manager noted that in her opinion she felt that the Township could possibly create a liability situation by granting LANTA's request. The Township Engineer noted that in his opinion their request could result in a new traffic signal permit, ADA compliance for pedestrians, etc. He felt that there is some expense involved and liability. Accordingly, in resolution of this matter, the Board made the following motion:

Motion: I move that the Board direct the Township Manager to reply to LANTA and indicate that the Township is not willing to make the changes they are requesting and that they should consider moving the buses into the Valley Plaza Shopping Center to allow safe egress of their passengers.

Atkinson, Kovacs: Moved and Seconded

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

4. The Township Manager advised the Board that it would be necessary to schedule the public hearings on the 2014 Budget. In that regard, it was determined that the Board would meet between the hours of 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. on October 21 and October 28; November 4, 11, 18, and 25; and December 2, 2013.
2. Frederick W. Hay, P.E
Township Engineer
 1. With respect to the Road Program, the Township Engineer noted that the contractor is currently paving the parking lot areas of the Municipal Building complex and is planning on scheduling for Monday of next week the milling of Grove Road after which they would pave the roadway and then do the paving work on Pennsylvania Avenue and Catasauqua Road. Upon questioning by Councilman Kovacs, the Township Engineer noted that the entire Pennsylvania Avenue is not being paved but only a portion thereof.
 2. The Township Engineer advised the Board that the Airport is currently taking care of safety upgrades involving runway 31. They are just finishing up the design of Postal Rd. and discovered a problem with the right-of-way in that it appears they will be encroaching on Township property. To make it easy, the Township Engineer advised that he would recommend that we give them an easement to put storm water on our property with a stipulation that the water will then go onto their property. Underground storage on their property will be in place. The Township Engineer noted that he could write up a description. Jackson can

review it with their attorney and the matter could be resolved. Councilman Atkinson questioned whether or not the Township should just give them the property. The Township Engineer indicated that he felt that giving them an easement gives us more options. In resolution of this matter, the Board made the following motion:

Motion: I move that the Board grant the Township Engineer authority to draw up a right-of-way agreement including an indemnity clause for the above-referenced property as described by the Township Engineer.

Atkinson, Kovacs: Moved and Seconded

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

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

1. The Township Attorney advised that with respect to the one outstanding unpaid item involving the Municipal Building project; it was his intent to wrap up that matter along with any and all outstanding matters involving the construction of the new Municipal Building.

At this point in the meeting, Councilman Atkinson questioned whether or not we've heard anything from the insurance company relative to the fatalities on Race Street which occurred recently at the LANTA bus stop on Race Street. The Township Manager noted that other than a writ to institute a lawsuit on behalf of the heirs of two of the deceased individuals, she has heard nothing from the insurance company regarding this matter for quite some time.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Resolution No. 2013-29, A Resolution Adopting Budget Transfers for the Year 2013 (Vote)

The Township Manager advised the Board that in accordance with the Home Rule Charter, after September of a given year, the Board can transfer revenues from one department to another if a department is in danger of going under. The Township Manager advised that the proposed Resolution before them relates to monies that are necessary to be transferred into the Planning and Zoning Department to cover advertising expenses. A discussion ensued relative to the Township fees for appeals to the Zoning Hearing Board. It was noted that the cost for the Zoning ads which have to be placed on two separate occasions are extremely high and eat up most of the \$750 application fee. The Township Manager noted that she would check around to determine if any municipalities in the region have increased their fees above the \$750 figure. Mrs. Pudliner noted that the last time she looked into this matter, the \$750 or less was the prevalent fee. Additionally, the Township Attorney would look into the Township's

options regarding this issue. In resolution of the matter, the Board made the following motion:

Motion: I motion that Resolution No. 2013-29, A Resolution Adopting Budget Transfers for the Year 2013 be adopted as presented.

Atkinson, Kovacs: Moved and Seconded

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

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Dreisbach addressed all in attendance and brought to everyone's attention what he considered the accomplishments of the Board in the year 2013. Chairman Dreisbach noted that the following had been accomplished:

1. The removal of the PPL poles and lines along Grove Road.
2. Re-landscaping of the Township property by Tall Timbers.
3. The completion of the parking lot for the Municipal Building.
4. The installation of the Chestnut Grove Park playground equipment.
5. Replacement of the window in the lobby area of the Municipal Building for a safer and secure window treatment.
6. Negotiation meetings held with the Rockefeller Group, the Airport, and Township officials, etc.
7. The control of meter readings being taken back from the City of Bethlehem by the Township personnel.
8. The completion of a new web site for the Township which is now being controlled by the staff who are handling all the updates to the web site.
9. The return of the Chestnut Grove Homeowners Association to hold their meetings in the Township Municipal Building.
10. Access to the Municipal Building being provided to the Code Enforcement Officers.
11. Moving the voting process for elections back to the Municipal Building in the year 2014.

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager