

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 15, 2014
7:30 P.M.

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

Absent: 0

Attendance: 9

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Reports:

1. Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager

1. The Township Manager advised Councilmen Heimbecker and Wegfahrt that she has registered them for the two seminars which will be held in February for newly-elected officials under the sponsorship of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.
2. The Township Manager advised that the Allen Township Planning Commission will be hearing for the first time the proposal of the Rockefeller Group for the FedEx Development proposed in Allen Township. The meeting is scheduled at 7:00 P.M. on January 20 and due to the expected interest in this project the township has moved the meeting from their municipal building to the Allen Township Fire Company.

There was considerable discussion at this point in the meeting relative to this matter. The Township Engineer noted that he along with the Township Manager, Township Solicitor, and Councilman Paulus had attended a meeting before the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding this project. Mr. Hay noted that the project encompasses the widening of Willowbrook Road to Race Street to four lanes, Race Street from two lanes to five lanes and a new southbound lane on Airport Road, all to be accomplished by the year 2015. Chairman Paulus commented that he questioned the fact that the Route 22 Widening Project should be accomplished before any road improvements are made to the roads which are scheduled to be constructed to accommodate the Allen Township Development. Chairman Paulus indicated that the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

had noted that the Airport Road Widening Project was on the ten year plan. Chairman Paulus indicated to the other members of the Board and all in attendance that it was his opinion that pressure should be applied to move the Route 22 Widening Project to a head in the near future and that the Township should contact the Airport, the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation, as well as the State and U.S. Senators, to advise them of the Township's position in this matter. Councilman Heimbecker questioned the Township Engineer as to whether or not there has been an environmental impact study for this project and the Township Engineer indicated that there has not. There was discussion with respect to the possibility of problems with emergency vehicles having issues as a result of traffic congestion. The Township Engineer commented further that he would request that with respect to the Airport Road widening, the south turnoff for Postal Rd., he felt should be made longer and that he felt we should request PennDOT to consider that.

In conclusion, it was noted that the Township had a special meeting scheduled for January 20 at 7:00 P.M., but that meeting should take minimal time and after that is concluded, members of the Board and staff and the Township Engineer and the Township's Traffic Engineer would attend the Planning Commission Meeting in Allen Township.

3. With respect to the Lehigh County Association of Township Officials Winter Convention, the Township Manager inquired as to whether any of the Board Members would attend. It appeared that no one would be in attendance at the Winter Convention and the Manager would advise the Association accordingly.
 4. The Township Manager reminded the Board that it will be necessary for her to make the arrangements for the PSATS Convention in Hershey, PA, in April, 2014, prior to January 24, 2014 and requested that the Board Members advise of their attendance as well as the attendance of their respective spouses.
2. Frederick W. Hay, P.E.
Township Engineer
 1. The Township Engineer offered no report at this time.
 3. J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire
Township Attorney
 1. The Township Attorney indicated to the Board that as they will recall, at the last meeting they discussed reviewing the Charter generally and making changes. Attorney Eaton advised that he thought the deadline for the spring ballot was sometime in April. However, he was incorrect and he has been advised that it is mid-February as the cutoff date. He noted that the Board could accomplish meeting that deadline, but would have to have special meetings in an attempt to do so. Attorney Eaton further indicated that amending the Charter requires that same be done by ordinance and the Township could run into a problem time wise with respect to the introduction and passing of ordinances.

Vice Chairman Heimbecker noted that he was of the opinion that the Township should postpone the amendments to the Charter until fall of 2014. Councilman Wegfahrt also indicated that he felt the Township should proceed at a slower pace and make a thorough review prior to making any proposed changes. The Township Attorney noted that three changes have already been approved to bring the charter in accordance with state law. Those changes will be on the spring 2014 ballot. Chairman Paulus concluded the discussions by indicating that the Township Board would take their time and review the Charter to make sure it is done properly. Council would review the Charter as well as the Township Attorney, Township Manager and staff.

4. Maintenance Report (Written)
5. Fire Company's Report (Written)
6. Code Enforcement Officers' Reports (Written)
7. Building Inspector's Report (Written)

Chairman Paulus acknowledged receipt of a written Maintenance Report, written Fire Company's Report, written Code Enforcement Officers' Reports, and written Building Inspector's Report and same were noted for the record.

Jeff Mouer, the Township Maintenance Supervisor, was present at the meeting and addressed the Board indicating that on behalf of the Public Works Department they would like to extend welcome to the new Board. Mr. Mouer indicated he is looking forward to working with Council. He noted that he is at this particular meeting every month. He also noted that the report which they receive from the Maintenance Department is written by the Township's Crew Chief and approved by Mr. Mouer, himself. Councilman Wegfahrt acknowledged his appreciation for all the Public Works Department does for the Township. There was discussion with respect to taking a tour of the building. Something would be scheduled so that the Board and the Public Works Department can tour the facilities of the Township.

With respect to the Fire Company Report, the Township's Fire Chief was in attendance at the meeting and approached the Board at this time. Mr. Yoder advised the Board that he is the Township's Fire Chief, Emergency Management Director and Code Enforcement Officer. The Township Fire Chief spoke to the Board regarding the current status of the Fire Department. Mr. Yoder noted that right now there are 26 members. There are three juniors and five or six new people in training. Two more have indicated their desire to join the company. Vice Chairman Heimbecker questioned Mr. Yoder as to the Fire Company's training schedule and Mr. Yoder indicated that the Fire Company trains every Monday night for two to three hours. Vice Chairman Heimbecker questioned the Fire Company's response to hazmat issues on Route 22. Mr. Yoder noted that the Fire Company has one or two hazmat technicians. If there is a large spill, the County is automatically called in. He further noted that the Township's squad truck is one-third equipped for spills. Vice Chairman Heimbecker questioned whether or not we have impact on the rail lines. Mr. Yoder indicated that is the case. He advised the Board that he has everything Allentown, Bethlehem and the

other big communities surrounding the Township have, but on a smaller scale. Vice Chairman Heimbecker expressed his appreciation for the fine job the Fire Company does on behalf of the Township.

8. Treasurer's Report (Written)

Motion: I move we accept the computer printouts dated January 15, 2014, 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, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Bill No. 2014-01, An Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance of a Portion of the Right-of-Way of Postal Road to the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (Introduce)

The Township Engineer commented that the Airport is making safety improvements on each end of Runway 31. We discovered that they are working on our property. It appears that the Township intended to convey this particular area back in the 90s and a plan had been prepared but no action was taken. Vice Chairman Heimbecker questioned whether or not the Township would create any type of liability issue by this conveyance and the Township Attorney indicated that he didn't think so since all this really does is change a fence line. The Township Engineer commented that these improvements are safety improvements and actually the property is on a bank and a fenced in area.

Accordingly, Bill No. 2014-01 was introduced at this time with a Public Hearing on same to be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.

2. 2014-02, An Ordinance Amending Section 1-404 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township to Delete Subsection (4) Which Provides Term Limits for any Person Serving in the Position as Chairman of the Township Council (Introduce)

The Township Attorney advised that this proposed Ordinance will delete the language previously adopted to limit terms limits for any person serving in the position as Chairman of the Hanover Township Council. Bill No. 2014-02 was introduced at this time with a Public Hearing on same to be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (01/03/14); Voucher Nos. 19995-20003 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 20004-20041, from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$129,961.09; Voucher Nos. 110 from the Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$6,157.04; Voucher No. 4108 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 4112 from Capital Reserve in the amount of \$16.11; Voucher Nos. 4065-4067 from the Escrow Account in the amount of \$16,978.75; Voucher Nos. 3907 from the Water Account in the amount of \$65.62; Voucher Nos. 5100-5102 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$448.50 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$153,627.11.

Paulus, Heimbecker: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

There was discussion at this point in time with respect to the creation of a Township email to be composed of the Township residents' email addresses. The Township would be in a position to send out mass emails to the Township residents advising them of important issues via the email process. There was discussion on how to accomplish this. It was suggested that the Township utilize a postcard to the residents advising them of the Township's intent and asking them to provide the Township with their email address either through the website or through an email site which the Township would create to assimilate that information. The Township Manager was directed to look into this matter.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager