

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

January 13, 2014
7:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Frederick W. Hay, P.E.

Attendance: 9

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: December 30, 2013 Special Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the December 30, 2013 Special Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

It should be noted there was some discussion with respect to Councilmen Heimbecker and Wegfahrt not being present or part of the government at the end of 2013, but the Township Attorney noted that the Township's Charter requires the majority vote for passage of a motion and he was of the opinion that if the Board Members read the Minutes at this time and had no issues with same, they could vote accordingly. Accordingly, Mr. Heimbecker and Mr. Wegfahrt read the Minutes at this time. In resolution of this matter, the following vote regarding the approval of these Minutes was taken.

Heimbecker, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

Reports:

1. Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager

1. The Township Manager advised the Board that she has received information relative to courses available through the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Officials for newly-elected Township officials. There are two sessions scheduled for Lehigh County on Saturdays, namely, February 8 and February 22, 2014. Councilmen Heimbecker and Wegfahrt indicated their desire to attend the sessions and Councilman Woolley said he would get back to the Township Manager regarding his availability.
2. The Township Manager advised the Board that the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors holds an annual convention in Hershey, Pennsylvania, usually in April of the year. She noted that they provide booths

with information from different companies regarding services available to Townships as well as equipment display of almost every type of equipment involving public works for townships. Also, there are educational seminars which are available for attendance for delegates at the convention. The Township Manager noted that the delegates fees are covered; however, should a delegate bring a spouse, those fees would need to be reimbursed to the Township. The Township Attorney noted that with respect to the actual room reservations there is no reimbursement expected for the spouse's attendance and presence in the room. The Township Manager advised the Board that the deadline for registration is rapidly approaching, it being January 24, 2014. She requested that they advise her as soon as possible regarding their attendance as well as whether or not their spouses will also attend.

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

The Township Manager advised that there must have been a miscommunication with the Township Engineer and he is not present at the meeting at this time, but will be in attendance at the Wednesday meeting.

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

1. The Township Attorney advised that at the Wednesday meeting, he will have available for the Board a proposed Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance of a Portion of Right-Of-Way on Postal Rd. to the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority.
2. The Township Attorney advised that he would like to suggest to the Board a workshop meeting for the purposes of discussing the attorney's relationship with the Board as well as discussing the legal aspects of the operation of the Township. Attorney Eaton noted that he is aware that the newly-elected Board Members are planning to attend seminars but being that the Township has a Home Rule Charter, there are some issues which are not applicable to a Home Rule form of government that are enforced for normal Second Class townships. Attorney Eaton also indicated he would like to discuss with the Board pending matters.

A discussion ensued and it was determined that the Board would hold a workshop on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Chairman Paulus noted for all Board Members that the Township has received the resignation of Peter D'Ambrosio from the Hanover Township Planning Commission.

Chairman Paulus also advised all in attendance that it is his hope that in the year 2014 the current Board can bring back respect and integrity to the Board. Hopefully, this Council

can make better decisions and become Township friendly. Chairman Paulus also indicated it is his hope that the Board can review in depth with the attorney the current Home Rule Charter. He noted that each member of the Board should receive one and make notations as to things that seem unclear or they feel could be issues. Chairman Paulus felt that the charter should follow state law since he felt that if the Township tries to enforce certain issues, the state law may supersede. The Township Attorney confirmed that in some areas, the state law would not supersede the Township. The Township Attorney noted that he was of the opinion that April 8 is the time limitation with respect to notifying the Board of Elections if you want something on the ballot. He felt that the Township Board should review the Charter in depth to make a determination as to what items the Board felt should be placed on the ballot.

Chairman Paulus also indicated that it is his desire that the adopted Ordinance No. 547 which amended Section 1-404 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township to establish term limits for any person serving in a position as the Chairman of the Township Council should be rescinded.

At this point in the meeting, there was general discussion. Councilman Heimbecker noted that his parents resided in the Township and after they passed, he resides on Sherwood Street. He issued a public invitation at the meeting for his constituents to come to the meetings. He indicated to all in attendance that they should advise their friends and neighbors to come before the Board with their concerns. There was discussion with respect to securing email addresses for Township residents so that they could be informed of what is going on via that media. Councilman Heimbecker also indicated that he thought it would be a great idea to have an appreciation day for the Pennsylvania State Police for all they do for the Township. It was his thought it could be held in Sherwood Park on a weekend possibly. There was discussion of doing so in the warmer weather sometime in May, 2014. Councilman Wegfahrt noted he is happy to be here. He noted he has concerns which arise from being a resident in the Sherwood Street area and that he is looking forward to working for the Township. Councilman Woolley also noted that he is happy to meet and work with the new Council Members. Chairman Paulus noted that the Board should be aware that this Board oversees the running of the Township. Council oversees what the Administrative staff do. When things are running smoothly, there is no need for the Board's involvement.

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager