

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 26, 2015
5:00 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Heimbecker, Lawlor, Paulus, Wegfahrt, Woolley; Ryan Christman; Sandra A. Pudliner; Vicky Roth

Absent: J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire

Attendance: 4

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

New Business:

1. Public Hearing – Proposed 2016 Operating, Capital, Liquid Fuels, Water and Sewer Budgets (Review and Discussion)

Chairman Paulus opened the Public Hearing relative to the Proposed 2016 Budgets. Chairman Paulus noted that this evening the Board would review the Fire Budget, the Water and Sewer Budgets and the Highway Budget and begin the discussions with the Fire Budget.

The Township's Fire Chief, Robin Yoder, was in attendance at the meeting and advised the Board that in addition to the Fire Budget, he would review with them the Emergency Management Budget, being that he holds the position of Emergency Management Director for the Township. With respect to the Emergency Management Budget, Mr. Yoder noted that no changes have been made to same from prior Budgets and the Board had no issue with same. With respect to the Fire Company Budget, the Township's Fire Chief called to the Board's attention the line item for the purchase of a Ford 150 Pickup truck at a budgeted cost of \$15,000. Mr. Yoder noted that the additional monies to purchase the truck would be secured by way of a state grant for \$15,000 which grant they have applied for in the past and have received every time they applied. It would be through Costars through the Township. Mr. Yoder noted they would use same for both the Fire Company's traveling purposes as well as Fire Police and for general hauling of materials. The pickup truck would not be parked inside a building. They would like to park the vehicle next to the Salt Dome. Mr. Yoder also noted he is providing the Board this evening with a copy of an estimate which he prepared with respect to the replacement of fire trucks on a 20-year replacement basis. In that regard, Mr. Yoder noted the Fire Company is requesting that the funding showing in this Budget of \$125,000 be raised to \$300,000 this year and also the Capital Program should reflect an additional \$300,000 expenditure for the year 2017 in which year the Fire Chief would like to purchase a new vehicle to replace the 1994 Rescue 3341. Council, in particular, Chairman Paulus advised the Fire Company representatives in attendance at the meeting that they thank them for the information and presentation and would take the matter under consideration.

At this point in the meeting, the Township addressed the Water and Sewer Budgets with the Township Engineer, Ryan Christman, who was in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Christman took this opportunity to advise the Board that he would be leaving Keystone Consulting Engineers in the very near future to pursue other business interests but appreciated the time that he had spent in Hanover Township as the Township Engineer. He noted that the President of Keystone, Al Kortze, P.E., would take over as Hanover Township's Engineer but that the field crew guys would remain the same.

At this point in the meeting, the Board addressed the Proposed Water Budget for 2016. The Board reviewed the Revenue and Expenditure portions of the Water Budget. The only change which came about was with respect to the Expenditure portion, in particular, Administration and Maintenance Expenses, which was increased from \$4,000 to \$5,500.

The Board now directed its attention to the Proposed 2016 Sewer Budget. Mr. Christman and Jeff Mouer, Maintenance Supervisor, reviewed with the Board the line items set forth in the Revenue portion of the Sewer Budget, but no revisions were made. With respect to the Expenditure portion of the Sewer Budget, the Township Engineer noted that with respect to the Capital Program for Sewer System Improvements which had previously been adopted with an appropriation of \$300,000, it was his recommendation that it be increased to \$500,000. He noted to the Board that in 2016, the Township would propose to complete the Sewer System Replacement Project in Chestnut Grove and finish the Interceptor Project on Willowbrook Road. Because of the costs of those matters, the Township Engineer felt that the increase from \$300,000 to \$500,000 would be necessary. The Board reviewed the proposed Sewer Budget and no changes were made with the exception of the Capital item for Sewer System Improvements being increased from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

At this point in the meeting, the Township entered into a discussion with the Township's Maintenance Supervisor regarding the purchase by the Township of a new piece of equipment to replace the current Sewer Flusher which is a 1996 vehicle, approximately 20 years old. The current Sewer Flusher will need a new tank and a rebuild of a pump. In short, Mr. Mouer noted that in order to refurbish this piece of equipment the cost for same would range between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Due to the necessity to make that type of an investment in a fairly old piece of equipment, Mr. Mouer advised that he looked into the replacement of such equipment with a piece of equipment that would provide the sewer flushing capability as well as the capability to clean the storm sewers within the Township. It is anticipated that in 2016 that EPA and DEP will enforce regulations to control pollutants in the storm water systems in all municipalities. The equipment which the Township could purchase would have the capability of cleaning the Township's catch basins with a powerful vacuum which is built into the vehicle. All in all with a Mack chassis and the equipment installation on the truck, the cost would come in somewhere around \$360,000. The Township's Maintenance Supervisor as well as the Township Manager are of the opinion that due to the necessary compliance with DEP regulations, it was in the Township's best interest to purchase this piece of equipment to handle both the flushing of the sewer

lines as well as the power vacuuming of the storm sewers in the Township. Mr. Mouer noted that the Township's catch basins are full and with limited manpower in the Public Works Department, this equipment would effectively handle the cleaning of the catch basins on a regular basis. With respect to the payment for such equipment, it was noted that \$100,000 would be appropriated from the Township's Capital Account for Miscellaneous Storm water and an additional \$100,000 would be appropriated from the Township's existing Capital Program for Sewer System Improvements. The balance of the funding would be shown in the General Fund Budget where a \$100,000 appropriation had been approved in the recently adopted Capital Program for the year 2016 and the monies in escrow in that account are approximately \$60,000. Utilizing these three accounts the Township can effectively purchase the truck at an approximate cost of \$360,000. Council discussed the matter and determined that since mandates will require the Township to effectively clean the storm sewer system within the Township and the fact that the current Sewer Flusher would need refurbishing to bring it up to safety standards the logical approach seems to be to purchase the new vehicle as discussed. The Township Council had no objection to proceeding in that fashion.

At this point in the meeting, Council determined to adjourn until the next Public Hearing which is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Accordingly, the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2016 Budgets was closed at this time.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager