

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 17, 2016
7:30 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Heimbecker, Lawlor, Paulus, Wegfahrt; J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire; Al Kortze, P.E.; Vicky Roth

Absent: Councilman Woolley; Sandra A. Pudliner

Attendance: 9

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: August 3, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the August 3, 2016 Regular Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

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

Aye Unan.

Reports:

1. Vicky Roth
Township Clerk

No report.

Vice Chairman Heimbecker advised the Board that he and the Township Manager met with a representative of Daniel McNeal's office concerning the upcoming Opioid Meeting to be held on September 14 at the Days Hotel. They reviewed items to be discussed as well as speakers for this meeting. This town hall meeting is an issue of concern by the Board of which he feels the residents and businesses should become aware. This matter is not political and is a serious concern of this Township.

2. Al Kortze, P.E.
Township Engineer

1. With respect to the tennis courts in Sherwood Park, the Township Engineer stated the contractor will begin to repaint the green perimeter of the tennis court to alleviate the issue of the staining. We have an 18 month maintenance bond for this contract. Vice Chairman Heimbecker questioned whether there are any exclusions in this bond. The Township Engineer responded that this bond covers a myriad of issues. He also stated painting over the stain should alleviate the issue and the stain should not leech through and should hold at least five to seven years which as a general rule is when the courts should be repainted.

2. The traffic count study at the intersection of Irving Street and Cedar Hill Drive should be completed shortly. The traffic counts are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week. Monday, Friday and the weekends are not included since they do not give true traffic counts and he will report the results at the next meeting.

3. The Township Engineer reported he had obtained the prices for solid vinyl fence to be installed in the rear of the Diane Blvd. parking lot adjacent to the hotel. He stated an eight foot solid vinyl fence covering 260 feet would cost approximately \$18,460. A six foot solid vinyl fence covering the same 260 feet would cost \$11,400. The eight foot vinyl fence will have beefed up posts in order to handle the height. The Township Engineer recommended the installation of an eight foot fence both for sound abatement and to enhance a visual barrier. There was a discussion which ensued relating to this issue. Chairman Paulus stated he visited the area and noted there is a five foot embankment between the hotel and the edge of the parking lot on Diane Blvd. and if we do choose to install the eight foot solid vinyl fence, the Township would require applying for a variance with the Zoning Hearing Board. He stated the Township has no hardship concerning this matter. Robin Yoder of 2724 Diane Blvd. voiced his displeasure in installing a six foot fence. Maurice Armellino of 2736 Diane Blvd. and Washington Cruz of 2740 Diane Blvd. also felt a six foot fence would not alleviate the issue. Mr. Yoder stated they would accept an eight foot fence since the townhouses sit approximately two feet higher than the hotel. Mr. Armellino informed the Board that he can see directly into the kitchen area of the hotel and felt the eight foot fence would be a much better alternative in blocking the view. Mr. Yoder researched arborvitaes and said their roots only grow approximately two feet deep and are placed around septic areas everywhere. Further discussion ensued and the Township Engineer noted there will be further work to be done in order to hold the five foot bank on the hotel parking lot in place. At this point in the meeting, Vice Chairman Heimbecker stated he was in favor of the eight foot fence without any arborvitaes installed since the laterals could be affected on repair with these roots. Vice Chairman Heimbecker stated engineering standards have changed over the years, fences are more attractive and trees do not stop sound. Mr. Maurice Armellino said there are spikes sticking up along the orange fence which is a danger to children who are playing in the area. He felt a child could be impaled with these spikes. He would remove the spikes either later this evening or in the morning and place them alongside the plastic orange fence to alleviate this issue. There was further discussion concerning possible colors chosen for this fence and the Township Engineer will have samples at the next meeting to show the Board. The Board feels the installation of any fence should not be placed on top of any laterals. The Engineer said the contractor will try to comply with this and it was also noted if any homeowner should need to repair their lateral, it will be the responsibility of any homeowner to pay the cost of pulling out and reinstalling the fence. At this point in the meeting, the following Motion was made:

Motion: I move we approve the installation of an eight foot vinyl fence covering approximately 260 feet at the rear of the Diane Blvd. parking lot.

Wegfahrt, Heimbecker: Moved and Seconded.

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Wegfahrt, Paulus:

Aye Unan.

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

1. The Township Attorney advised the Board that Logan's Roadhouse had filed for bankruptcy and since they are up-to-date on their utility payments, he felt we are safe and any future utility payments should not be an issue.
2. The Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority has filed tax appeals for 23 properties. He stated generally airport authorities are considered state agencies and real estate parcels are not taxable. He noted that some of these appeals involved narrow strips along Race Street are for the proposed widening of the road. The law is clear on exempt properties and he felt if these properties would be turned over to Rockefeller then they would immediately go back on the books as taxable properties. When questioned by the Board as to the cost of the amount of tax dollars lost, the Township Attorney stated most of these appeals are vacant land which has a nominal Township real estate tax.

At this point in the meeting, Vice Chairman Heimbecker questioned the Township Engineer concerning traffic issues from the FedEx Development. He stated a resident had questioned him as to if the traffic counts are exceeded on Willowbrook Road with the new development, would have any impact on possibly putting in a new road or opening a road between Willowbrook Road and Weaversville Road. The Township Engineer stated he saw this note on an exhibit of a possible future connector road but it was not part of this project. Councilman Wegfahrt questioned whether if these traffic counts are exceeded, must a connector road be put in place. The Township Attorney stated he felt there will be some further development of some type which would be in East Allen Township although, at this point, no one has any knowledge of when or if this might happen. Vice Chairman Heimbecker also stated that the Route 22 project is still slated to begin in the year 2022 and in the meantime we will have excessive traffic concerns in Hanover Township.

4. Maintenance Report (Written)

1. Jeff Mouer, Maintenance Supervisor, stated the Township received the delivery of the new Sewer Flusher Truck. No lettering has been placed on the truck at this time and the Maintenance staff will have training on Thursday, the 25th of August, before it can be placed into use. The Township Attorney questioned whether Hanover Township would be renting this truck out to other municipalities. Mr. Mouer answered that the Township purchased the truck to clean catch basins and for the FOG to vacuum the lines to remove the grease from the lines as opposed to just jetting the lines as we had to do in the past. This truck was obtained because of the new DEP laws of the MS4 and a mailer called "After the Storm, a Citizens Guide to Understanding the Storm Water", was mailed out which is compliment with the DEP public education criteria. The next step in the future will be gaining education for the Public Works staff when washing any trucks. We are in the MS3 and 4 stage concerning storm water and

MS5 and 6 which concerns more businesses and residential will be addressed in the next few years. Mr. Mouer noted that the LED light conversion of the street lights is just about completed. Intersection LED lights are not included in this and he will be questioning the Township Manager as to purchasing LED lights for the traffic intersections. Upon questioning of the Board concerning whether any LED lights are hidden behind any trees, Mr. Mouer stated he would be checking these at night and generally PPL, once given the report, will do any tree trimming to alleviate any issues.

5. Fire Company Report (Written)

1. Fire Chief Robin Yoder stated the fire company has 40 calls higher than at the same time over last year. He stated there have been more traffic accidents and medical calls which comprise the difference. He also presented to the Board as per their request with the Fire Company's Five Year Capital Program Plan. The Chairman stated this would be useful at Budget time.

6. Code Enforcement Officers' Reports (Written)

7. Building Inspector's Report (Written)

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

8. Treasurer's Report (Written)

Motion: I move we accept the computer printouts dated August 17, 2016, for the General Fund Account, Capital Reserve Account, Escrow Account, Liquid Fuels Account, Sewer Account and Water Account subject to audit.

Paulus, Heimbecker: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Wegfahrt, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

At this point in the meeting, Vice Chairman Heimbecker stated the Board received a letter from Brown and Brown Insurance concerning offering a proposal of insurance for the package renewal in 2017. While he felt we have good coverage with our present carrier, under the transparency rules that Hanover Township goes by, we should be reviewing this and directed the Township to notify Brown and Brown of same.

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (07/29/16), Payroll (08/12/16), ADP Fees (07/29 & 08/12), Voucher Nos. 22135-22151 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 22152-22208, from the General Fund

Account in the amount of \$243,206.67; Voucher Nos. 4274-4275 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 4276-4281 from Capital Reserve in the amount of \$164,515.26; Voucher No. 134-135 from Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$5,550.04; Voucher No. 657 (Prepaid) from the Distribution Account in the amount of \$1,831.61; Voucher Nos. 4411-4433 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 4434-4436 from the Escrow Account in the amount of \$6,703.00; Voucher No. 4060-4061 (Prepaid), Voucher Nos. 4062-4067 from Water Account in the amount of \$2,575.72; Voucher Nos. 5412 (Prepaid), Voucher Nos. 5413-5422 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$14,865.04 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$439,247.34.

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

Aye Unan.

At this point in the meeting, the Board invited anyone in the audience to look at the new Township Sewer Flusher as well as the new Fire Company Utility Truck which was in the Maintenance yard in the Township Building.

Vice Chairman Heimbecker requested the Catasauqua Press reporter to reach out to Catasauqua High School to possibly attend the September 14 Opioid Meeting. He stated there has been a 49% increase in drug activity and this is very important issue for the school, the parents as well as the students.

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Roth
Township Clerk