

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 24, 2016  
5:00 P.M.

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

Absent: J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire; Al Kortze, P.E.

Attendance: 1

New Business:

1. Public Hearing – Proposed 2017 Operating, Capital, Liquid Fuels, Water and Sewer Budgets (Review and Discussion)

Chairman Paulus opened the Public Hearing relative to the proposed 2017 Budgets. The Township Manager advised that the Township's Maintenance Supervisor is present at the meeting to review with the Board the proposed 2017 Sewer and Water Budgets. Accordingly, the Board began their review with the Hanover Township 2017 Sewer Budget. Jeff Mouer, Township's Maintenance Supervisor, advised Council that with respect to the Township's sewer system Hanover Township is a customer of the City of Allentown not the Lehigh County Authority. Basically, the Township falls under whatever Allentown is working out with the Lehigh County Authority. Mr. Mouer noted that there will be a definite increase on both the water and sewer rates up to the year 2023. Such information is shown on the documentation attached hereto with respect to the Township's sewer and water rates in the future. Mr. Mouer did note that the Township is not part of the debt service for major capital costs and that only the City of Allentown is involved in that. He also advised the Board that there is an intent to have the sewer plant handle more capacity. In any event, the sewer rate for 2017 as a result of increases would be \$2.62190 per 1,000 gallons. Mr. Mouer noted that when the Board reviews the proposed 2017 Sewer Budget, the Township has increased the sewer rates by 25 cents per 1,000 gallons to begin accommodating for future sewer increases which the Township will be subjected to in years to come. The Board proceeded to review the proposed 2017 Sewer Budget as same relates to proposed revenues and expenditures and determined to make no revisions to same at this time.

With respect to the 2017 Water Budget, Council reviewed same and Mr. Mouer noted that there is no proposed water rate increase to Hanover customers at this time since the account is currently very solvent and monies are available for any issues that arise. However, Mr. Mouer did note that the water rate for 2017 will increase to \$3.37691 per 1,000 gallons. With that in mind, the Board reviewed the revenue and expenditure portion of the proposed 2017 Water Budget and determined to make no revisions to same at this time.

At this point in the meeting, Council reviewed with the Township Manager the Township's Proposed 2017 Liquid Fuels Budget. After reviewing the revenue and expenditures the Board determined to make no revisions to same at this time.

Since the Township's Maintenance Supervisor was present at the meeting, the Board determined to review the Township's Highway Budget at this time. After reviewing the line items in the revenue and expenditure portion of the Highway Budget, the Board did determine to revise the line item for Public Works Vehicle Replacement from the \$150,000 figure shown for 2017 to \$400,000. Such revision increased the totals for the Highway Department to \$1,728,521.

The Township's Maintenance Supervisor initiated a discussion at this time with respect to the Board's consideration regarding the salary increases for Township employees. Mr. Mouer noted that his department has now taken on additional responsibilities with respect to MS4 and also that the other Township employees performances in his opinion merit salary increases. The Township Manager noted that the formula utilized by the Township for calculation of increases has been effective for many years but perhaps could be adjusted to provide a minimum salary increase. Currently, there is only a maximum salary increase plugged into that formula. Mrs. Pudliner noted that over the years as part of the PSATS chat group and the Managers Association of the Lehigh Valley it is her recollection that most municipalities were increasing salaries for their employees in the area of 3%, possibly 4%, in a given year. Mrs. Pudliner indicated she is unaware if that is still the case and her recollection of the healthcare coverage costs was that most of the municipalities appeared to cover family healthcare for their employees, some with a minor contribution. She advised the Board that she would go back to the municipalities that are in some way comparable to Hanover Township and try to determine what the status is with respect to salary increases and healthcare costs and report back to the Board regarding same.

Chairman Paulus closed the Public Hearing on the proposed 2017 Budgets at this time with the next Public Hearing scheduled to be held on Monday, October 31, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra A. Pudliner  
Township Manager