

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 7, 2017  
7:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Sandra A. Pudliner

Attendance: 5

Courtesy of the Floor:

Mr. Todd Brosky, President and one of the Principals of Brosky Insurance, appeared before the Board to review our municipal insurance program at the invitation of Chairman Paulus. Earlier he had supplied the Township with handouts to be given to the Board, which was reviewed at this meeting. Mr. Brosky informed the Board that Hanover Township has had Brosky Insurance for 25 years. He also explained the claims process and noted that MRM Property and Liability Trust is underwritten through Philadelphia Insurance Company which has an A++ (Superior) rating. Any claim between \$0 and \$250,000 for the property liability auto and excess liability would be covered by MRM Trust Program and anything over that amount would be covered through the Philadelphia Insurance Company. He stated in 1990 when we joined MRM they had a 2.5% worker's comp commission and an 8.5% property liability commission rating. This is very low since essentially this runs like a self-insured company. Hanover Township recently was given a dividend check for the years 2015-16 in excess of \$27,000. We also have \$60,000 in the "bank" for workers compensation and \$35,000 for the property liability auto and excess liability which would be lost if we switched carriers.. Mr. Brosky stated even though we have a 78% loss ratio on the liability portion we still have over \$ 35,000 as a dividend in the bank, which is unheard of in the insurance realm, Brosky Insurance is the Broker of record for the MRM Trust in this area. Mr. Wegfahrt stated he thought the Township could just draft a resolution and join MRM Trust individually. Mr. Brosky stated it must go through the broker.

Approval of Minutes: May 17, 2017 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the May 17, 2017 Regular Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

Paulus, Heimbecker: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Reports:

1. Vicky Roth  
Township Clerk  
For Township Manager

Mrs. Roth stated there is no report. Mr. Wegfahrt questioned whether the Township has any knowledge of the East Allen Township meeting regarding the Rockefeller zoning change. The May 10, 2017 hearing was cut short when more citizens appeared at the East Allen Municipal Building than could accommodate the structure. The next meeting will be held between July 17 and August 17, but not on a night of a regularly scheduled township meeting and would be conducted on an off premise site. This date has not been determined at this point and this information was obtained through a Morning Call article.

Mr. Paulus informed the Board he had a meeting with Cindy from Base Engineering concerning the home and animal situation on Tacoma Street. Cindy informed Mr. Paulus that the animal, the dog with the cancer, has been doing well and the agency posted the dog's picture on the website for adoption. They were approached by a woman in Ohio who wished to adopt this dog and care for him. They also received a call from a local gentleman who stated he felt this was his dog which was taken from his property approximately a year or so ago. The gentleman met with the dog warden who explained the conditions this dog was kept in at the home on Tacoma Street. He was visibly upset to hear the cruelty to this dog. Upon meeting this dog, it was very apparent this was indeed his animal. He has made arrangements to reimburse the shelter for the care and surgery of this dog. The Board was also informed concerning the spill incident in the vicinity of the Lehigh Valley Health Network Labs at 794 Roble Rd. on June 1 of this year. A written report was given to the Board from Base Engineering and Mrs. Roth informed the Board the Fire Chief would be submitting a copy of the incident report from the county once he has received same. The Township Engineer also stated his firm went to the swale in the rear of this building and is monitoring the remediation of this spill. Representatives from the DEP and EPA were also on site and DEP representatives are the lead investigators for this incident which apparently, caused by a chemical leak from the property adjacent to the Lehigh Valley Health Network.

2. Al Kortze, P.E.  
Township Engineer

1. Mr. Kortze continued the update concerning the spill on Roble Rd. The soil was being tested by a firm in Northampton and the swale is covered in plastic and a construction fence has been erected. He has given a report from the DEP to Jeff Mouer for the MS4 file. The Township was sent a letter from PennDOT concerning an annual highway performance monitoring system data report. He stated this report or survey basically deals with the Road Programs in the past. Our Township roads are primary collector-type roads and any information would be obtained from his office in conjunction with the Township staff in obtaining the data for this report and his office will file this report.

A copy of the cost estimate was submitted to the Board and reviewed with the Township Engineer Concerning the repaving cost estimate for the Middle/Lower Lloyd/Postal Rd. overlay,. This report showed two options. Option No. 1 shows using the current prices, and the average size of aggregate which is commonly used in mill overlaying. The binder course is a pg64-22 and Option 2 shows a pg76-22 which is heavier and would have more stability and a cost higher of approximately \$33,000 more. Option 2 would not have a smooth black finish and the road noise would be higher. This is used for trucks which would be traveling at a slower speed and more turning into parking lots. Mr. Heimbecker questioned what would be the advantage of using Option 2. The Township would gain a couple of years of extra life and it would improve the riding surface. The Township Engineer stated if we do not see cracks and a failure of the base possibly the Township can wait until 2018 to 2019 to mill and overlay this portion of Postal Rd. After further discussion, it was determined this area would be monitored and revisited in the spring of 2018 to see if we have a base failure. At this point in the meeting, Jeff Mouer stated each year the cost of paving goes up approximately 20% and as long as we maintain the funding in the Future Roads Budget it should cover same at that time. Both Councilman Wegfahrt and Chairman Paulus felt we must monitor the base of this area and if we notice a failure next spring then it would be placed on the 2018 Road Program.

Councilman Heimbecker left the meeting at 8:10 p.m. to attend another appointment.

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

1. Attorney Eaton stated they have been working on the Cell Tower Ordinance and would need to meet with the Building Inspector as to his role in this Ordinance. Once they have this information, they will prepare the Ordinance to be introduced at a later date.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Paulus stated we needed to revisit this insurance issue. He felt we need to reach a decision and put this to bed at this meeting. There were further discussion concerning the MRM group and our dividends. Attorney Eaton stated through the MRM group we are essentially self-insured. The dividend and monies placed in this program is part of the pool and the \$90,000 is our portion of the entire pool. Mr. Paulus stated there was a letter placed before the Board which he had opened from Brown and Brown Insurance and he reviewed this letter with the Board. The letter requested full copies of the current policies along with the premiums by line of coverage and Brown and Brown states they are able to project a savings which would be equal to or greater than any dividend that has been paid to the Township in the past. Mr. Wegfahrt felt we should be reviewing all contracts and costs annually. He stated we need to be best stewards possible of the residents' money. After further discussion, it appeared the majority of the Board members present felt that we would stay with the MRM Group and Brosky

Insurance for our worker's comp, and property liability insurance. Mr. Wegfahrt did not agree or disagree with this decision.

Courtesy of the Floor:

There was a question concerning any traffic signals maintenance, specifically, the traffic signals located at Airport, Schoenersville and Race Street. It was noted that the Township would maintain the signals and any repairs would be paid by the Township and reimbursed by the Rockefeller Group as per the agreement. The Township Attorney informed the Board if for some reason the Township would get sued concerning any accidents with the signals, a fund had been set up and once the fund had been used up, it must then be reimbursed by the Rockefeller Group. The signals are Township owned with the permit from PennDOT issued to the municipality.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Roth  
Township Clerk