

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 30, 2017
6:00 P.M.

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

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

Attendance: 2

Courtesy of the Floor: None

Approval of Minutes: October 23, 2017 Budget Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the October 23, 2017 Budget Meeting and accept same as presented.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

New Business:

1. Public Hearing – Continuation of Proposed 2018 Operating, Capital, Liquid fuels, Water and Sewer Budgets (Review and Discussion)

Chairman Paulus opened the Public Hearing relative to the Proposed 2018 Budgets. The Township's Fire Chief, Robin Yoder, was in attendance at the meeting and at this point in time the Board reviewed with Mr. Yoder the proposed 2018 Fire Budget. Council reviewed the Fire Budget as a whole with Mr. Yoder and determined to make no revisions to same. However, a discussion ensued with respect to a request by the Fire Chief for a new category to be created titled Training. The Fire Chief advised the Board that his members would like to take advantage of training programs offered in Bucks County for different certifications and it was determined that this line item titled Training, would be created and funded in the 2018 Budget in the amount of \$3,500. In that regard, the following Motion was made:

Motion: I move we add a line item to the Department for Fire in the General Fund Budget to provide for training fire personnel and fund same in the amount of \$3,500 in the year 2018.

Heimbecker, Woolley: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

At this point in the meeting, Council also reviewed with the Township's Fire Chief the Budget for Emergency Management and after review it was determined that no revisions would be made to same.

Council now determined to review the Department for Highway with the Township's Maintenance Supervisor, Jeff Mouer, who was present at this meeting. Mr. Mouer noted that he would request a revision to the line item Street Lighting to account for additional work to be accomplished in 2018 and accordingly the line item for Street Lighting was revised from \$15,000 to \$17,500. Additionally, the line item titled Beeper Pay was revised to read On-Call Pay. The line item amount remained the same.

There was some discussion with the Township's Maintenance Supervisor regarding the attendance of Maintenance Personnel at a prior Budget Meeting. Mr. Mouer indicated to the Board that he was unaware that his department members attended the meeting and that their attendance and request made to the Board were entirely theirs on a personal level and did not represent his thinking regarding salaries, benefits, etc. The Township's Maintenance Supervisor also reviewed with Council the Department for Recreation and it was determined that no changes would be made to same.

The Township's Maintenance Supervisor at this point in the meeting addressed with the Board the Township's Budget for Sewer. The Budget items were reviewed and no revisions were made to same. It was noted by the Township Manager that the Surplus after all Expenditures are paid in the year 2018 is \$1,965,600. Mrs. Pudliner noted that should the Surplus continue to grow the Board might wish to consider a decrease in the sewer rates for Township customers.

The Township's Water Budget was reviewed at this time and it was determined that no revisions would be made to same.

The Board also reviewed the Department for Code Enforcement. There was a discussion regarding a 50 cent per hour increase as proposed for Code Enforcement Officers. The Township Manager indicated that she felt same was acceptable considering the new issues that have arisen which require daytime activity in addition to the normal nighttime activity. With respect to the Department for Code Enforcement, no changes were made to same.

At this point in the meeting, there was a discussion initiated by Chairman Paulus wherein he noted that as the Board is aware at the last meeting employees were here expressing concerns regarding increases in salaries, benefits, etc. Chairman Paulus indicated that he has information to present to those employees and that they should be invited to attend another meeting of the Board for review of that information. Councilman Heimbecker expressed his concern that the attitude noted at the meeting, in his opinion, was not acceptable behavior. Chairman Paulus commented that he wished the Township Manager to supply both him and the Township Solicitor with a copy of the current Township healthcare plan. Mrs. Pudliner indicated that she would do so.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager