

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 17, 2018  
7:30 P.M.

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

Absent: 0

Attendance: 3

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: January 8, 2018 Reorganization Meeting  
January 8, 2018 Special Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the January 8, 2018 Reorganization Meeting and accept same as presented.

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

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the January 8, 2018 Special Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

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

Reports:

1. Vicky Roth  
Acting Township Manager
  1. Mrs. Roth questioned the Board as to who would be attending the Lehigh County Association of Township Officials Annual Business Dinner Meeting on February 9 in North Whitehall Township. Mr. Heimbecker and Mr. Wegfahrt will attend and the Township will send a check to register them. The Acting Township Manager stated recently both she and Chairman Paulus met with the LNAA Interim Director, Thomas Stoudt, and Garren Betters, Director of Business Development and Lt. Rodrigues of the Pennsylvania State Police concerning the parking of tractor trailers along Postal Rd. as well as in the gravel parking lot near Airport Road. Chairman Paulus firmly voiced his displeasure with the parking and voiced the Township's concern with the safety of the public on Postal Road because of the parking of these tractor trailers. Because this is a Township road with local Ordinance on no parking, the State Police can only monitor the situation and move the trucks along. The airport was notified that recently the Assistant Chief of Han-Le-Co Fire Company found more than five trucks parked

on both sides of the road on a weekend. After further discussion, the response of the airport was they hope to have a parking lot built in the very near future, but they were awaiting the approval of the County Conservation District concerning the grading of this area. The airport stated they should have a response from the Conservation District by Tuesday, January 16. If same is not received, they will inform the Township who will then contact County and State Representatives to try to alleviate this situation. Councilman Wegfahrt voiced his displeasure with this entire parking situation and noted that Postal Rd. must be cleared. At this point in the meeting, Jeff Mouer, Public Works Supervisor, stated he had received a PA One Call and felt January 23, 2018 is the starting date for the contractor.

2. Mrs. Roth stated earlier in the day Chairman Paulus and I met with partners of Airport Associates at their request. The Developer provided very preliminary plans concerning a possible project along Middle Lloyd Street, Irving Street and Airport Road which would also extend to American Parkway which lies in the City of Allentown limits. The Board was given copies of these plans and it was reviewed with them. The Board felt these new plans were certainly an improvement of the last plans they had looked at earlier and felt we were heading in the right direction. This plan shows a mix of commercial development as well as higher density housing, i.e. apartments or townhouses. There was also a discussion from the Developer concerning the present off-track betting property on Airport Road. They felt possibly this business could be moved down into the new commercial development and they would purchase said property. Councilman Heimbecker voiced his concern with the Chairman getting involved in any matter in speaking to any developer concerning a private piece of property. He stated the Township needs to have complete transparency and thus did not feel we should be involved in this private matter at all.

2. Al Kortze, P.E.  
Township Engineer

1. The Township Engineer stated he had previously discussed the projects for this year in 2018. He requested approval to proceed with the bid process for Sherwood Park Ballfield as well as the Lower Lloyd Sanitary Sewer Replacement. The Township needed to redo the baseball field infield as well as address drainage issues. On this field, when questioned as to the possible cost, it was stated it would be between \$80,000 and maximum \$100,000. The drainage and infield work requires changing of the pitch so water runoff drains better. There is quite a bit of ponding in the short stop area at the present time. The infield mix will use organic matter and all of the leagues which are generally scheduled to use the field this year were notified of this possible project. In that regard, the following Motion was made:

Motion: I move we proceed to place the bid for the Sherwood Park Ballfield.

Heimbecker, Wegfahrt: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus:                      Aye                      Unan.

Mr. Kortze moved on to the sanitary sewer replacement on Lower Lloyd Street. He stated the clay lines needed to be replaced and it would be in the vicinity of Cedar Hill Drive which would tie into the manhole on Lower Lloyd near the meter station. This would involve approximately 1,250 feet of replacement pipe. He also stated this was part of a scheduled three-year replacement which has been part of the Capital Program. In that regard, the following Motion was made:

Motion: I move the Township proceed with advertising for the bid of the Sanitary Sewer Replacement on Lower Lloyd Street.

Heimbecker, Wegfahrt: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus:                   Aye                   Unan.

The Township Engineer was questioned the status of the Troxell Street water line project involving the City of Bethlehem. He stated the City of Bethlehem would open the bids on February 7, 2018 with a bid and two alternates. There is a bid to replace the sewer line on Troxell Street, an alternate bid of doing an interconnect of smaller streets and a second alternate of putting a loop from Taft Street and replacing old galvanized lines on Sherwood and Tacoma Streets. The City of Bethlehem would know which alternate items, if any, can be addressed once the bids were opened since this would involve replacing the water line from a six inch to an 8-inch line. Councilman Heimbecker felt the larger line would bring more pressure and the Township Engineer stated he did not feel it would increase the pressure but rather would increase the flow. It was also discussed that the Township is doing an internal study concerning the pressure and the flows of the hydrants in the Troxell and Sherwood Streets area. Councilman Heimbecker stated prior reads were done at his home which measured between 28 and 32 psi for the pressure. It was stated by the Township Engineer that the PUC rules are at 25 psi at the hydrant, but we would go forward with our flow test and have results at a later date since the bad weather has hampered doing the study at this point.

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

1. Attorney Eaton stated before we send any letter to Bethlehem concerning our displeasure and concerns, we must have the pressure and the volume test done internally for backup information. He stated the standards of the PUC are between 25 and 100 psi. Attorney Eaton stated we needed to wait until after the City of Bethlehem opened their bids and see which decision they made before we push for anything more. Attorney Eaton also stated there was a Boil Water Notice that went to just a few homes in the Troxell Street area in the recent past. Since this was an emergency which covered an isolated area and involved cutting off valves, the City of Bethlehem rightfully eliminated to send a Boil Water Notice to the small area and they proceeded correctly in giving the proper notice. The problem was that the Township was not notified of this emergency and this matter needs to be addressed since the Township must be notified.
2. The Township will hold a Zoning Hearing on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January. This hearing concerns warehousing and retail fireworks at a location on Race Street. He stated

after reviewing this matter, the Township has a general Nuisance Ordinance which prohibits fireworks and a general section on fireworks. Our Ordinance states you must have a \$500 bond whereas the state requires a \$50,000 bond for consumer use and the individual must be at least 18 years old to use consumer fireworks. He will review and amend our Ordinance. Mr. Eaton also stated he has a call into Harrisburg concerning where retail sales of consumer fireworks can be sold and what location they cannot be sold, such as neighborhoods next to schools. The Zoning Hearing Board can require additional special reasonable conditions in their decision. In a related matter, Mrs. Roth stated she had recently been contacted concerning a possible variance/special exception for another retail use of fireworks in a PUD Zoning area. Although in the Planned Unit Development Zoning District retail is approved the Township Attorney stated he would review our Ordinance and Councilman Heimbecker felt the Planned Unit Development Zoning Area was more of a community development and not so much for industrial uses. After further discussion, it was noted we need to address areas such as Schoenersville Road as possible Highway Commercial area as opposed to the Planned Industrial Office area.

Councilman Heimbecker said he wished to readdress the Bethlehem water line area and stated he was quite concerned with the City of Bethlehem dealing with any issues with Hanover Township. He stated a prime example are the Troxell Street numerous sinkholes involving water lines and the temporary fixes to the roads or lack thereof and the flooding at the rear of the Saylor's Mobile Home Park. He felt just sending the City of Bethlehem another letter does nothing and the City does nothing until they are pushed and shoved into doing something. Councilman Wegfahrt added the City has closed Township roads without obtaining any permits. Attorney Eaton stated we will gather all of these concerns and put them in a letter to be addressed with the City of Bethlehem. We must have all the facts to confront the City and it takes time gathering these facts. Once we send them this letter we can sustain pressure onto the City to rectify any answers. If pressures, etc. are not addressed, then each homeowner has individual rights and they contact the PUC concerning their complaints. The Township Engineer was questioned as to the cost of remilling and overlaying the streets and he stated he felt it would be between \$400 and \$500,000. There were additional comments concerning all of the patches on Troxell Street and the City of Bethlehem is not repairing the streets to our standards. Councilman Wegfahrt stated the streets need to be repaired correctly and Hanover Township needs to hold the City of Bethlehem accountable to our standards. Attorney Eaton also stated under our Ordinance of opening up a road which has been paved within the last five years is prohibited, however, an emergency water line break is not covered under our Ordinance. The Attorney will review our Road Opening Ordinance and possibly amend same.

#### 4. Maintenance (Written)

1. Mr. Mouer informed Council he had reviewed the Road Opening permits and he felt it needs to be more specific in having heftier fines for more complete inspections. The Township Attorney advised Mr. Mouer that the Road Opening permits and concerns should go to the Acting Township Manager. Councilman

Wegfahrt suggested our Ordinances need to be reviewed, revised and to have more teeth in the enforcement of them. The Public Works Supervisor also reviewed the current status of the sewer billing in Hanover Township. Within the last few years, the Township has undertaken reading all the meters in Hanover Township in order to obtain a concise, accurate and timing billing. The City of Bethlehem has a new system which is a radio read system similar to our Telog System and we have no access to these readings. Mr. Mouer felt we are moving backwards in the way we will have to be billing sewer at this time. He has been speaking to the City of Bethlehem as well as our software in readapting the system which will delay the sewer billing. He has spoken to Bethlehem Township who presently has not completed their third quarter billing due to the City of Bethlehem's readings. Attorney Eaton stated he would look at our sewer contract to see what rights we have with the City of Bethlehem. Both Councilman Heimbecker and Wegfahrt stated that we have an expectation of the City of Bethlehem's performance in regard to the water reads for our sewer billing.

2. On another matter, the Public Works Supervisor said he is searching various other municipalities with ordinances regarding freestanding salt piles. Since nothing is addressed at the present with the MS4, Jeff will report same back to the Board and the Acting Township Manager at a later date. He has had inquiries from contractors and saw salt piles in various areas including one salt pile which is adjacent to the Township Building.

5. Storm Water Issues (Written)

6. Fire Company Report (Written)

7. Code Enforcement Officers' Reports (Written)

8. 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.

9. Treasurer's Report (Written)

Motion: I move we accept the computer printouts dated January 17, 2018, for the General Fund Account, Capital Reserve Account, Escrow Account, Liquid Fuels Account, Sewer Account and Water Account subject to audit.

Paulus, Wegfahrt: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Councilman Heimbecker noted he received information from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission concerning the formalization of the Lehigh Valley General Assembly. This invitation would allocate millions in transportation funding to devise a new Comprehensive Plan for the region including traffic issues. Mr. Heimbecker said they were late in coming to this conclusion.

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (12/29/17), Payroll (1/12/18), W2 Report&Forms, Voucher Nos. 23302-23311 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 23312-23355, from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$184,839.90; Voucher Nos. 4357-4358 from Capital Reserve in the amount of \$6,000.62; Voucher Nos. 4603-4605 from the Escrow Account in the amount of \$29,196.90; Voucher No. 4175 (Prepaid), Voucher Nos. 4176-4181 from Water Account in the amount of \$2,754.93; Voucher Nos. 5580-5586 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$7,283.05 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$230,075.40.

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

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Adjournment:

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Roth  
Acting Township Manager