

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

July 18, 2018
6:30 P.M.

Present: Lawlor, Paulus, Woolley; Christopher J. Garges; Vicky Roth

Absent: Heimbecker, Wegfahrt

Attendance: 1

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

New Business:

1. Public Hearing – Five-Year Capital Program 2019-2023 (Review and Discussion)

Chris Garges, Township Manager, began the meeting by going over the following major points of the 2019-2023 Capital Program:

1. Total appropriation for 2019 is \$1,678,295
2. Total appropriation for 2019-2023 is \$7,851,475
3. Relatively unchanged programs include “Traffic Congestion Improvements” and “Catastrophe Fund.”
4. Largest appropriation in “Future Road Construction Projects” (\$2,250,000 over 5 years), the projects include:
 - a. repaving the Troxell Street area (2018-2019)
 - b. repaving Middle / Lower Postal Road (2020)
 - c. repaving Upper Irving & Catasauqua Roads (2021).
5. “Pump Station & Sewer Line Upgrades” program proposes \$1,875,000 of funds over 5 years including the following projects:
 - a. Valley Plaza sanitary sewer replacement (2019)
 - b. Technology, safety and maintenance equipment purchase / upgrades (2019)
 - c. Catasauqua Road sanitary sewer replacement (2020)
 - d. Marcon Easement sanitary sewer replacement (2021)

At this point, Mr. Garges told Council that if they had any questions while he was discussing these major points, they could just interrupt him and ask their question.

6. “Fire Apparatus” program proposes \$1,216,475 of fund appropriation over 5 years in accordance with HanLeCo Fire Company’s apparatus replacement schedule. The next vehicle purchase will be in 2025.
7. “Sinkholes / Miscellaneous Storm water Projects” proposes \$1,000,000 of appropriation over the next five years. This figure includes approximately

- \$100,000 per year in expenses for the Township's MS4 program as well as \$100,000 per year for any unanticipated storm water problems.
8. "Public Works Vehicle Replacement" program proposes \$750,000 in appropriations over the next five years. This includes the following vehicles:
 - a. 10-ton dump, pick-up truck, hybrid admin vehicle and Ex Mark mower for 2019
 - b. Shoulder mower and Ex Mark mower for 2020

Mr. Garges said that he and Jeff Mouer, Public Works Supervisor, had a conversation today. A lot of the higher priced vehicles are on the 20 to 25-year replacement programs. They are going to look at when those are set to be replaced and update with that just to plan out appropriately. You will see in the Public Works Replacement Program, as you get to the end of the next five years, the total appropriation does get reduced because all of our equipment is going to be new at that point and then we are just doing enough to have the money we need in the future.

Mr. Paulus said that he and Mr. Garges had a conversation that since they hired a day-time Code Enforcement Officer who writes tickets for street sweeping, he uses the car for that half of day whenever he is scheduled to work. And if he is using the Admin car, Admin does not have transportation to go to meetings, bank, or wherever they would need the car for during the day. As Mr. Paulus and Mr. Garges were discussing this, Mr. Paulus said that he would like to maybe see a battery car or something that would go with the solar panels. Mr. Garges agreed that it would be a great idea. They discussed maybe a Chevy Bolt, which can be hooked up on a charging station in keeping with the Going Green. Mr. Garges felt it would be a bold statement to make. He didn't know how it would work out in the future but thought maybe it would be something to supplement the Code vehicles in the future if it works well. He didn't know how long they last, but certainly something to look into. Mr. Paulus thought that with their mileage he thought it would work out well. Mr. Garges said that he and Vicky Roth, Township Clerk, and any of the staff would need it for is all local driving. Everyone agreed that it would be a good idea to look into one. Mr. Paulus stated that he wanted to get one, but Mr. Mouer wasn't in agreement to do so at the time. Mr. Woolley asked why Mr. Mouer didn't think it was a good idea and Mr. Garges replied that from a maintenance perspective it might be a little scary because of the unknown.

9. "Township Parks" program proposes \$375,000 of appropriated funds over the next five years. Several minor upgrades include:
 - a. Fencing, roof, foundation and ADA ramp improvements at Canal Park (2019)
 - b. Permanent restroom at Sherwood Park (2019)
 - c. Lawn treatment at Chestnut Grove Park (2019)
 - d. Comprehensive park study (2019)

Mr. Garges has been in touch with Urban Research and Development in Bethlehem. They prepare many comprehensive park studies. Basically, they would take a look at all three of our parks, the services we offer, the facilities we have, the utilization of them and make recommendations. The goal is to see if we can get a grant to see if we can help match the price cost of the study. The upside of having a study done is any future grants if you have projects identified in a comprehensive study like that, it gives you a higher priority and higher chance for winning grants in the future for that type of work. This is something we are going to look at for next year. The bulk for improvements that we had for Township Parks were all minor but for next year.

10. "Allentown Water System Improvements" program proposes \$135,000 of appropriated funds over the next five years. Minor projects / improvements include:

- a. Upgrading water meters (2019)
- b. Electronic leak detection equipment (2019)
- c. Upgrade Telog system (2019).

This is a cellular-base reporting system that everything comes back to here so that we don't have to read the meters at our big meters where we have interconnects.

Mr. Garges said that the above is the bulk of the major points in this year's Capital Program. One thing that you will see and Mr. Garges added a spreadsheet ledger sheet to each fund just to wrap his brain around things a little bit more because it's easy to say how much money we are going to appropriate, but to actually see where our balance is now and how each transaction and each purchase we make or funding that we do affects our balance and where our balance stands after that five-year period. Mr. Garges pointed out to Council the excel sheet he provided them. On Page 4(a) on the first one for Future Roads, it shows where our current balance is and then the projects are all listed there where he hit on all the major points. Mr. Garges went on to explain and point out the information on the excel sheet to see the effects of the ins and outs of the funding and the expenditures. This was done for all the major funds. Mr. Garges also included the projected costs that they used to put the Five-Year Capital Program together. He had numbers prepared by Keystone and then he worked with Mr. Mouer as well. As you look back through some of the Public Works-related, water and sewer-related projects that are more inhouse, those were prepared by Mr. Mouer. You'll see those spreadsheets in there. Mr. Garges noted that one other thing to note is that all of the equipment that we are purchasing, we sell that on the backside, none of that money is included in this Program. It all ends back in our General Fund as Revenue. With that said, these numbers are not net, they are actually gross numbers. At this time, Mr. Garges asked Council if there were any questions. Mr. Woolley asked Mr. Garges a question regarding Parks. He knows that the Township is doing something with the path down at Canal Park. Mr. Garges responded that has nothing in it for the D&L at this point. Mr. Garges said that Mr. Mouer told him that over the past few years, they have cleaned that path to where it is walkable. Mr. Garges wasn't sure that with development coming on both sides the

Township would need some improvement there. He said there is at least one D&L marker out there now. That is something Mr. Garges could look into. Councilman Woolley asked if that would be something the Township would have to fund. Mr. Garges responded that the section right next to us to the north, D&L got grant money within the last month or so. Mr. Garges said as this project progresses forward, they will keep an eye on it. He said that early on he did reach out to them and has contact numbers and support in place. He hopes that they will reach out to the Township as well as things progress. Mr. Woolley was curious if our side was part of it. Mr. Paulus said that our side is in pretty good shape end to end. Mr. Paulus asked Council if they had any questions. He explained that it's guesstimate five years ahead and if something would come up they would have to change it. But, he thought it looked good at this point. Mr. Paulus said that Mr. Woolley wanted to know more about the Chevy Bolt. Mr. Garges said they would put it in next year's budget and that Mr. Mouer told him that with some of the stuff that he's purchased that were in this year's budget, there is enough money for the Public Works budget this year. Mr. Garges said he would look into it further as he has time. Mr. Paulus said that if we have the money it can happen at the end of the year or any time really. Mr. Garges said that he believes that the 2018 Capital Fund is almost 100% funded. Mr. Garges said that Mrs. Roth said that this schedule is where they want to bring the monies out of General Fund and by the end of 2019 have that much money set aside. We don't have all that money, as the tax monies come in, Mrs. Roth skims some out of the General Fund. That's what you see in the Bill list. Actually, this month you will see that there was a \$400,000.00 transfer from General Fund into this Capital. Mr. Garges explained that when he says funded that means the Township taxes and revenues are coming in to the point where we can continue to operate and fund this. The Township is half way through the year but is almost fully funded. Mr. Paulus told Mr. Garges to look into the state pricing for purchasing a Chevy Bolt. Mr. Garges said he plans on checking with a Costars. Mr. Paulus thought it would be better to get this done this year rather than next year because Washington put a stop on it on checkbacks. He didn't know what the date was for the stop, but thought it was around \$7,000.00. Mr. Woolley said it's the same as when you invested on solar panels. The government gave a kickback if you installed them by a certain time. Mr. Paulus thought it was a tax credit and that wouldn't help us. Mr. Garges was curious if PPL had a program where the Township could either get money back or money toward the recharge station. Mr. Garges said he will have to research all of this. Mr. Woolley asked if the Bolt was total electric and Mr. Paulus and Mr. Garges responded that it is all electric. Mr. Paulus said a charge is good for 200 miles and Mr. Garges replied that that was more than the Township would need it for. Mr. Paulus mentioned that Code goes at the most 60 miles per night. He thought it would work for them as well.

Mr. Paulus said the next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Garges
Township Manager