

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

March 20, 2024  
7:00 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Heimbecker, Lawlor, Paulus, Rossi, Woolley; Jason Ulrich, Esquire; Kevin Chimics, P.E.; Melissa A. Wehr; Vicky Roth

Absent: J. Jackson Eaton III, Esquire

Attendance: 6

Courtesy of the Floor: A. Pennsylvania State Police  
B. Phil Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive

Jason Tratman, Lieutenant Station Commander at Troop M in Bethlehem appeared to introduce himself. He recently took over Troop M in Bethlehem as their Station Commander. He is in charge of the patrol and criminal investigation sections. He will be your point of contact if there are any problems, concerns, issues or requests from the Board or Manager. Lieutenant Tratman has been in the department 22 years of service.

Phil Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive addressed the Board. We have been telling everyone we've got the bond, the contractor and will be coming around surveying how many emergency radios you need. We are going digital which will be in place by 2026. We are looking at the possibility in the future of regionalized police forces. We paid \$100,000 to get this study. We may also be looking into a similar thing for the volunteer fire companies because they are running into the same problem with getting volunteers and more young people involved. We passed a balanced budget with no tax increase. Next month I'll be going out to Penn State on our Pardon Project. We are the only county in the State of Pennsylvania that actually has someone hired in our Public Defender's office to work with people who had a minor conviction several years ago. To get a pardon and for something like that, you have to hire a lawyer and it can cost over \$10,000. We now have a lawyer in our Public Defender's office just to work with people to get that pardon and to get something off their record which will enable them then for housing, jobs, education and get them as great members of the county and good tax paying citizens. We are also one of the first counties in the state to have facetime with 911. When you call 911 and we think it's something we should be seeing that we can help you, we will text you if we can. You will have the right to say no. I think every county is going to be able to do that very soon since the technology is there, and it is at no cost to the taxpayer. I just got back from Washington, DC and I had the opportunity to meet with four different congressmen about the Transportation Bill. As you all know, we need money for the widening of Route 22, the 309 interchange down at Saucon Valley and Tilghman Street. The Transportation Bill is up in two years and I'm proud of being on the Executive Board of the County Executives of America and on the Board of the NACO. We are putting Lehigh County on the map. It's helped with knowing when grants are going to be handed out before they are publicized so that we can start working on them and also helped us get a lot of grants too. I would also like to introduce Adrianna Calderon who is our new Community Liaison. She is our public

information officer and we added something else to her job title expanding her duties. The Chairman asked Mr. Armstrong regarding regionalizing fire companies and how that differs from the Mutual Aid Agreements in place. Mr. Armstrong replied many of the companies, even with mutual aid, need people. There are shortages of people. We are looking at how we can help. We are looking to join up with Berks County, Bucks County and Dauphin County on a juvenile detention rehab center. We don't have anything like that in Lehigh County and we have to pay to put our complex juveniles somewhere. It is expensive and some places won't even take them.

Bob Heimbecker of 1834 Sherwood Street and the Operating Manager Director under Grant Heimbecker who is the Executive Director of Community Partners 4 Kids. This is an anti-sex human trafficking organization which is faith based. One of the groups we belong to is Believers in Business, which has a network of 13 different chapters. These are all businesspeople, faith based and want to get together and support the Community Partners 4 Kids by having a fundraiser at Canal Park. Grant brought to my attention there is a rule that you can't have fundraisers at Canal Park. I suggested to him to speak to the Manager to get on the Agenda to see if we can get an exception to have our fundraiser there. It is alcohol-free. We would appreciate your support and hopefully get a favorable read from Council and management.

Approval of Minutes: March 6, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the March 6, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes and accept same as presented.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Rossi, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Reports:

1. Melissa A. Wehr  
Township Manager

I received the 2023 LVPC/LVTS Annual Report. If anyone would like a copy, please let me know and I'll forward it to you.

I received the 2020-2023 Meals on Wheels Impact Report. If anyone would like to see it, I can scan it in and get it out to you.

I am working on the newsletter. If there is anything that Council would like included in the newsletter, please let me know in the next week or so.

I am happy to report that with us nearing the end for completion of the Catasauqua Rd./Valley Plaza Signal Enhancement Upgrade, we received a grant for \$365,000 for that project. Since we are nearing the end of that, I put in to get that grant funded. As soon as it wraps up and we do the closeout report, we will get the rest of it.

Community Day planning is chugging along. Some exciting things are going to happen this year with Community Day, which is Tuesday, August 27 from 4:00 –

7:30 p.m. with a rain date of Wednesday, August 28. It will include the petting zoo, Community Partners 4 Kids with the child fingerprinting, and the pony rides. New this year, I have a gem miner coming. The kids can come, do that thing with the tray, go through the water to dig for the little gems and they get to walk away with a little bag of gems.

We are planning Movies in the Park which will be the last Friday of May, June and July down at Canal Park. Movies are picked out and we are going through getting our licenses so we can show them. The Airport is the sponsor. More will follow on this as well.

A Council member asked the Manager to reach out to PPL again regarding the light that is out down at Sherwood Park. Public Works and Code Enforcement have called it in several times. I will take care of it.

The Vice Chairman inquired about the tree removal. A contractor was selected. The Public Works Supervisor did not get back to her with a date, but she thinks it will be done within the next week or so.

The Vice Chairman questioned the Audit Report for 2023. The Manager replied that she anticipates seeing that paperwork soon.

The Vice Chairman inquired about the cameras in the Parks. He asked if a vendor for the Capital improvement for cameras was selected. The Manager stated we went with Tuway Communications off of the Co-Stars program. He asked if we have specifications on the cameras. The Vice Chairman asked to see those specifications. She will get them to him.

A Council member asked if the homeowner had any issues with the tree removal. The Public Works Supervisor met with them and hand delivered a letter to the homeowner explaining everything. It is scheduled for tomorrow if they did not do it today. The street sign will be relocated.

2. Kevin Chemic, P.E.  
Township Engineer

The contractor for the stormwater project is looking to start either late this week or early next week. They will begin with the swale work at the municipal garage along Postal Rd., move down to Canal Park and finish up with the swale at Allendale.

3. Jason Ulrich, Esquire  
For J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire  
Township Attorney

The Attorney stated that he had nothing to report this evening.

4. Maintenance Report
5. Storm Water Issues – None.

6. Fire Company Report (Written)
7. Code Enforcement Report (Written)
8. Treasurer's Report (Written)

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

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

9. Building Inspector's Report (Written)

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Authorization to Release the Payment for the Catasauqua Rd./Valley Plaza Signal Project – Payment #3 and Payment #4 in the amount of \$75,460.20 to Telco Inc. (Vote)

The Engineer stated that all the work is done. They made a punch list of the final items that he issued to the contractor. There were two sidewalk panels that settled and are damaged and need to be replaced. There is lawn restoration at every corner. The work was done. They will need to go in and rake and reseed it. The final payment is held until we get the other work completed.

Motion: I move we approve Authorization to Release the Payment for the Catasauqua Rd./Valley Plaza Signal Project – Payment #3 and Payment #4 in the amount of \$75,460.20 to Telco Inc. as presented and approved by the Township Engineer.

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

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (3/15/2024); Voucher Nos. 27824-27852 from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$395,837.87; Voucher Nos. 4692-4693 from Water Account in the amount of \$314.52; Voucher Nos. 6443-6446 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$3,301.77; Voucher Nos. 5420 from the Escrow Account in the amount of \$765.00 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$480,455.75.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

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Heimbecker, Lawlor, Rossi, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Wehr  
Township Manager