
REGULAR SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING

April 13, 2021

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Hanover Township, Northampton County, was called to order by Chairman John Diacogiannis at the Hanover Township Municipal Building, 3630 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA, 18017 at 7:00 P.M.

Present via virtual Zoom meeting were Supervisors Nagle, Lawless, Warren, Prendeville, Diacogiannis, Engineer Brien Kocher, and Solicitor Jim Broughal.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Upon motion of Mr. Nagle, seconded by Ms. Lawless the Board approved the Agenda.

Mr. Nagle aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Warren aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye

Upon motion of Mr. Nagle seconded by Mr. Warren, the Board approved the minutes from the meeting of the Board of Supervisors dated March 23, 2021.

Mr. Nagle aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Warren aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye

Upon motion of Mr. Nagle seconded by Mr. Warren, the Board approved the list of bills and transfers dated April 13, 2021.

Mr. Nagle aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Warren aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Diacogiannis encouraged everyone who has not been vaccinated to sign up to get the vaccination for COVID-19 as now it is available for all 16 and over.

Mr. Warren asked if there is an update on the fire truck committee.

Mr. Diacogiannis advised the committee has finished interviewing companies.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Mr. Prendeville advised he and Mr. Finnigan attended the Bethlehem Area Public Library meeting. The library is currently working on another project but was reminded of the request to possibly have a library presence at the community center in the future.

Mr. Prendeville also spoke about meeting with Rhonda Miller from the Oasis Community Center, an article will be submitted for the newsletter. He advised that the Board was invited to do a walkthrough of the facility.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Nagle – Road District #1, Mr. Nagle gave the historical background of the Oasis Community Center building. It was previously occupied by Civil War General William Doster, who was also one of the attorneys in the Abraham Lincoln assassination trial.

Mr. Diacogiannis– Road District #2, had nothing to report.

Mr. Warren – Road District #3, Mr. Warren stated the importance of getting public input on using the American Rescue Funds that will be distributed to the Township and asked to start discussion about the topic.

There was discussion by the Board members regarding financial numbers and the different responsibilities the Township has.

Mr. Diacogiannis advised we need to wait for all the details about the requirements of the funds before there is further discussion.

Ms. Lawless – Road District #4, had nothing to report.

Mr. Prendeville – Road District #5, had nothing to report.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS – BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

PLANNING & ZONING

Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Lawless gave a brief presentation on the current municipal comprehensive plan that is with Bath, Chapman, Nazareth, Stockertown, Tatamy, Bushkill, Hanover, Lower Nazareth, Moore, and Upper Nazareth. The next plan will be completed in 2045. Ms. Lawless distributed information to the Board of Supervisors regarding goals, policies and action plans. The current draft plan presents 7 goals.

1. Reduce Development Stress on Existing Utility Infrastructure
2. Balance Preservation and Development
3. Improve Air and Water Quality
4. Increase the Attainability of Housing
5. Mitigate the Impacts of Increasing Traffic on Roads and Infrastructure
6. Identify the Appropriate Site Locations for Warehouses and Industrial Development
7. Direct Investments and Resources to Maximize the Nazareth Area's Economic Strengths and Diversity

Ms. Lawless requested the Board read and review the information and provide any questions or comments no later than May 10th.

Hold Harmless – 5545 Karen Drive

Ms. Lawless moved the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the hold harmless indemnification agreement for the installation of a fence on the property located at 5545 Karen Drive. The proposed structure will encroach into the ten-foot easement in the side yards and into the ten-foot storm drainage easements located in the rear yard of the premises.

Mr. Nagle seconded the motion.

Mr. Nagle aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Warren aye, Mr. Prendeville abstain, Mr. Diacogiannis aye

Hold Harmless – 4640 Susan Drive

Ms. Lawless moved the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the hold harmless indemnification agreement for the installation of a fence on the property located at 4640 Susan Drive. The proposed structure will encroach into the ten-foot drainage and utility easement in the side yards and into the ten-foot drainage and utility easements located in the rear yard of the premises.

Mr. Nagle seconded the motion.

Mr. Nagle aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Warren aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye

Zoning Hearing Board – 3863 Courtney Street

The petitioner desires to install a 104.6233 square feet wall sign requiring variances from the sign provisions of the ordinance that the sign consists of letters not exceeding 16 square feet in area, that the letter heights be a maximum of 8 inches high, that the lettering be located 4 to 10 feet above grade, that the sign be located on the user's door or near the user's door and that all mounted signs for one building be similar to one another.

After brief discussion, Mr. Diacogiannis directed the solicitor's office to attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting on April 22, 2021.

ADMINISTRATION

Community Center

Mr. Finnigan advised there have been twelve candidates prescreened for the Recreation Director position. The second round of interviews have started. There have been blast emails sent out for hiring of front desk staff, instructors, and summer parks help; to date there have been 14 applications received.

Mr. Warren asked if there is a date set that applications will no longer be accepted for the Recreation Director. Mr. Finnigan advised there will be no further applications accepted for that position as the second round of interviews has begun.

Ms. Lawless questioned if the new occupancy numbers would allow some of the programs to come back, i.e. the cheerleading, possibly in the fall.

Mr. Finnigan advised that the gym capacity would allow for those programs to start back up with proper staff in place.

Proclamation – Roy D. Seiple

Mr. Warren moved the Board adopt Proclamation 21 – 4 applauding and recognizing Roy D. Seiple on his years of service as a Police Officer and the Board of Supervisors express its gratitude and appreciation. The Board of Supervisors also proclaims the week of July 12, 2021 as Roy D. Seiple Week in Hanover Township.

Mr. Prendeville seconded the motion.

Mr. Nagle aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Warren aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye

Mr. Diacogiannis advised that Thursday at noon the Chief will be doing his final sign off, and the proclamation will be presented to Chief Seiple at that time.

Resolution – Reimbursement Rates Volunteer Fire Company

Mr. Warren moved the Board adopt Resolution 21 – 10 setting the reimbursement rates for certain emergency responses incurred by the volunteer fire company of the Township.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

Mr. Nagle aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Warren aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye

Reaffirmation Agreement – RCN Telecom Services

Mr. Warren moved the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the reaffirmation agreement between RCN Telecom Services and Hanover Township.

Mr. Prendeville seconded the motion.

Mr. Nagle aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Warren aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye

Declaration of Restrictive Covenants

Mr. Warren moved that the Board of Supervisors authorize the settlement of the Greg Gulick Condemnation matter for the sum of \$22,500.00 and authorize the Solicitor to file the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants with the Recorder of Deeds of Northampton County

Mr. Prendeville seconded the motion.

Mr. Nagle aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Warren aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye

DEVELOPMENTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Pool Update

Mr. Prendeville did a presented information to the Board. Terracon has completed the geotechnical testing; the final report has not been received yet. The pool advisory board recommends that the next phase of the project be to immediately move in the RFP phase. The pool advisory board has requested Hanover Engineering create an RFP seeking an Evaluation of Options Study. The RFP is to be made available through the Penn Bid program which will remain open for submissions until 12:00 pm May 14, 2021.

Ms. Lawless asked Mr. Kocher to give an overview of the dates of completion that are embedded in the RFP.

Mr. Kocher explained the goal is to have the proposal submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the second meeting in May, looking to award the bid in June. The consultant would then have 90 days to assess the site and present at a September board meeting. The final study would then be presented at the second meeting in October.

Ms. Lawless clarified that this is not a proposal to design a pool. It is a proposal to clarify the viability of the options for a pool.

Mr. Prendeville moved to the Board of Supervisors direct Hanover Engineering Associated to issue the RFP through the PennBid system.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

Mr. Nagle aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Warren aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye

Mr. Dale Traupman stated that 2022 would be the absolute earliest that a pool could be constructed and wanted to the public to be aware of that.

Ms. Joan Steinburg asked when the timing for resident input would be considered.

Mr. Kocher advised that after the preliminary presentation at the September meeting the Board would then decide the level on public input at that point. Mr. Kocher advised the presented timeline is not concrete.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Melissa Garcsar questioned what the delay in opening the community center is.

The Board advised that the hiring process has started in order to reopen.

MS. Garcsar asked why the recreation advisory board is not being used during the hiring process for the recreation center.

Mr. Finnigan advised that previously hiring and firing was done by the Township Manager, as stated in the job description.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Kocher – Engineer – had nothing to report.

Mr. Broughal – Solicitor – had nothing to report.

Mr. Milite – Public Work Director – had nothing to report.
Mr. Finnigan – Township Manager – had nothing to report.

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Upon motion of Mr. Nagle the Board adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Elizabeth D. Ritter
Township Secretary