
REGULAR SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING

June 28, 2022

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

Present were Supervisors Warren, Lawless, Diacogiannis, Prendeville, Engineer Brien Kocher, and Solicitor Anthony Giovanni.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Upon motion of Mr. Prendeville, seconded by Mr. Warren, the Board approved the agenda.

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

Upon motion of Mr. Prudenville seconded by Mr. Warren, the Board approved the minutes from the meeting of the Board of Supervisors dated May 24, 2022.

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

Upon motion of Mr. Prendeville seconded by Mr. Warren, the Board approved the list of bills and transfers dated June 28, 2022.

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

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Joan Steinberg of 4417 Tracey Lane stated concerns she had over Hanover Township's Organization Chart and questioned why the Director of Administration has no employees reporting directly to them but the role in the past had direct reports and asked if policies are available online.

Mona Finnigan of 4208 Maria Lane stated Hanover Township is a premier place to live, work, and play and stated her concerns over people challenging the policies and procedures that were put in place. Mona stated concerns over residents making false accusations on social media that others take as truth. She praised the Township Staff and Public Works department that have been employed for many years making Hanover Township the best place that it is. Mona questioned why the Board is trying to change something that isn't broken? She stated concerns over the word gaslighting being used when referring to Hanover Township. Mona praised the Township Manager and the time, effort, and leadership he has brought to the Township. She requested the Board stop stirring the pot and putting Hanover in the news negatively and get back to the business of the Township.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Mr. Nagle has nothing to report.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Mr. Prendeville has nothing to report.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Nagle – Road District #1, reported an overgrown bush in driver's vision by Dr. Amato's Office has been taken care of.

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

Mr. Warren – Road District #3, had nothing to report.

Ms. Lawless – Road District #4, gave update on LVPC's approval of Nazareth Area Multi-Municipal Plan and requested a public hearing being placed on August Agenda. Ms. Lawless also stated she read a Morning Call article regarding valley officials seeking childcare and early education funds from the Commonwealth of PA but preschool doesn't qualify as childcare. It might be a missing link between getting people back into the workforce.

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

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS – BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

PLANNING & ZONING – Ms. Lawless

Zoning Map Change Request –

The Board discussed the Arcadia Development Corporation letter requesting to amend the Township Zoning Map to include their property between Highland Ave, SR 0512 and SR0022 to be aligned with the adjoining properties.

Ms. Lawless moved the Board authorize the solicitor to prepare the necessary paperwork for the requested changes.

Mr. Diacogiannis seconded the motion.

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

Zoning Hearing Board – 215 Township Line Road

The applicant is requesting relief from the off-street parking and off-street loading requirements of the Ordinance.

The Board does not want to send representation to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Zoning Hearing Board – 2931 Kenwick Drive

The applicant is requesting relief from the provisions of the Ordinance for a covered patio in the rear yard setback.

The Board does not want to send representation to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Zoning Hearing Board – 4410 Greenfield Rd

The applicant is requesting relief from the provisions of the Ordinance for maximum lot coverage and setback requirements for patio/fire pit area installed without a permit.

The Board does not want to send representation to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Zoning Hearing Board – 4501 Susan Drive

The applicant is requesting relief from the provisions of the Ordinance for a covered patio in the rear yard setback.

The Board does not want to send representation to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Zoning Hearing Board – 1935 Rosewood Drive

The applicant is requesting relief from the Woodland Ordinance, the prior decision from the Dewire Estate Subdivision for maximum land cover, and Stormwater Ordinance.

The Board does not want to send representation to the Zoning Hearing Board.

ADMINISTRATION – Mr. Diacogiannis

Proclamation – Kenneth H. Saff

Mr. Diacogiannis moved the Board to Adopt Proclamation 2022 – 8 applauding and recognizing Kenneth H. Saff on the occasion of his 100th Birthday and reaching this milestone in his life. The Board of Supervisors proclaimed July 1, 2022, as Kenneth H. Saff, Sr. Day in Hanover Township. Mr. Nagle was to deliver the proclamation.

Mr. Warren seconded the motion.

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

Proclamation – Scott R. Milham

Mr. Nagle moved the Board to Adopt Proclamation 2022- 9 applauding and recognizing Scott R. Milham for his years of service as a volunteer in the Lehigh Valley and in particular the residents, business community and visitors of Hanover Township and the Board of Supervisors expressed its sincere gratitude and appreciation. The Board of supervisors proclaimed the week of July 4th, 2022, as Scott Milham R. Week in Hanover Township.

Scott was presented with a copy of his proclamation.

Mr. Prendeville seconded the motion.

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

DH Productions – Contract

Mr. Diacogiannis moved the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the DH Productions contract for the Tree Lighting Event.

Mr. Prendeville seconded the motion.

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

Met-Life Dental Application

Mr. Diacogiannis moved the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the MetLife Application for Dental Insurance.

Mr. Prendeville seconded the motion.

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

Hartford STD/LTD/LIFE/AD&D Application

Mr. Diacogiannis moved the Board authorize the Chairman to DocuSign the Hartford Application for Short-Term and Long-Term Disability Insurance, and Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance.

Mr. Prendeville seconded the motion.

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

Appointment – Recreation Director

Mr. Diacogiannis moved to appoint John T. Byrne, Recreation Director effective August 1, 2022. Mr. Diacogiannis further moved to adopt Resolution Number 2021 - 13. Appointment contingent upon the completion of Act 15 background checks.

Mr. Warren seconded the motion.

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

DEVELOPMENTS- Mr. Warren

4444 Innovation Way – Deferral Request

Mr. Warren moved the Board approve deferral request for 4444 Innovation Way relative to landscaping.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

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

Steuben Road & Township Line Road – Improvements Extension

Mr. Warren moved the Board grant the developer of Steuben Road & Township Line Road Improvements an extension to June 30, 2023, to complete the required improvements, per the developer request letter dated June 13, 2022.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

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

Schoenersville Site, LLC – Agreements

Mr. Warren moved the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement for Highway Occupancy Permits for Enclosed Surface Stormwater Facilities between Schoenersville Site, LLC and The Township of Hanover, Northampton County.

Mr. Warren further moved the Board authorize the Township Manager to execute the Applicant's Authorization for Agent to Apply for Highway Occupancy Permit.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

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

Kevin Drive Maintenance Bond and Retainer Release

Mr. Warren moved the Board authorize the release of the retainage balance of \$20,186.93, due to the receipt of the Maintenance Bond, per Hanover Engineering's recommendation.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC WORKS- Mr. Prendeville

Chaucer Lane & Lord Byron Drive Storm Sewer – Bid Award

Mr. Prendeville moved the Board award the bid for the Chaucer Lane & Lord Byron Drive Storm Sewer Extension to Jao & Bradley Construction Co, Inc. in the amount of \$2,236,600 per their bid submitted on June 8, 2022. Mr. Finnigan informed the Board that the bid met all requirements and the board should accept the bid.

Mr. Diacogiannis seconded the motion.

Mr. Warren no, Ms. Lawless no, Mr. Prendeville no, Mr. Diacogiannis no, Mr. Nagle no.
The motion failed.

Pool Project Discussion

Mr. Finnigan stated the following “As we saw in the last agenda item construction costs have increased significantly since the 1st of the year. This is primarily due to spiraling inflation and supply chain issues. We expected the storm sewer bid at around \$1.2M and in came in just over \$2.2M.

I asked Mr. Powell from BKP to be present tonight to discuss the pool project, unfortunately he had a prior commitment. I asked him if we could validate the \$5 – 5.2M projected cost of the “new” pool and amenities.

His email response on June 15th was, “Jay – the cost estimator came back with two scenarios. The first is an update of the design development estimate to incorporate any known material/labor price increases. The cost for that is \$2,000. The second is a full estimate of the bidding documents (which will pick up the various tweaks and minor changes we’ve incorporated over the last couple of months. The cost for that is \$6,500. It’s not my money but for what it’s worth, for the peace of mind, I recommend the second option. Please let me know what you think.”

The board needs to decide whether to let the bid ride based on 6-7 month old figures or choose one of the two alternatives Joe laid out.

Additionally, on June 23rd he provided the following update on the storm water from the conservation district. “I do have news. I’m out of town and haven’t had time to talk but the civil engineers had a productive meeting with the conservation district Tuesday. It looks like they are going to accept the managed release of the storm water. The civil still has (he typed gas) to address all twenty five or thirty points on their checklist but progress. (If you recall from the previous meeting the district didn’t my want to hear it.) Yesterday Joe provided an update where we need to provide additional documentation relative to Terracon’s Report. Mr. Kocher is preparing the letter that should satisfy the conservation district needs.

Finally, before you debate the price analysis, I’d like to address the continued erroneous statements being made on Facebook. Specifically, a May 18th post, “It’s really that Township Management evidently doesn’t know how to or doesn’t want to multi-task, which is what BKP told them they’d have to do if they wanted the Pool done for 2023. Susan Lawless specifically ASKED at that BOS meeting last fall for Township Management TO multi-task – evidently a direction from just 1 Supervisor isn’t enough to get them to actually DO it.”

There was also a June 17th or 18th post that read, “..... the BOS did sit on it too long & also didn't start preparing bid documents until after they'd gotten the financing, which BKP told them they would have to do to have any hope of getting it done for 2023.”

I asked Mr. Powell his thoughts relative to the assertions that the Township sat too long, etc. His response was, “The design and documentation process, by itself, takes months to work through. Every walkway, building, and other site elements need to be studied, drawn, re-studied (the wall between the splash area and lap lanes is a good example). That takes time to do just to reach consensus on exactly what needs to be detail documented.

Add to that the layer of approvals. We can’t all know every regulation inside and out but there is no way to account for how regulatory agencies will respond and react to the specific interpretation of those regulations on a specific project (the conservation district meeting we had with you and the others is a good example of that).

Combined, the process of bringing a feasibility study plan together and to a level of detail enough so that the project can be bid and built (extra work for an open public bid expected to draw some shady operatives). This is all normal and nothing about this process – what we’ve done, what the Township has done – has delayed or inhibited the process timeline in any way.”

This board needs to do something to stop these non-factual posts. The attacks may be directed at me personally, but as this board is aware, the public works director, Township Engineer and Manager were resources relative to the pool project. Mr. Traupman, Mr. Stasak, Mr. Kocon, and Supervisors Lawless and Prendeville are the drivers of the project after receiving input from the Board. Staff has done nothing but provide timely information to BKP. The false statements impugn the integrity of the Pool Advisory Board.

Please let me know how you'd like to proceed, if at all, on the price verification so I can let Mr. Powell know or we'll be accused of foot dragging again!"

The Board discussed the options for getting accurate estimates for pool costs.

Mr. Prendeville moved the Board authorize the expense to BKP of \$6,500 for full estimation for the pool costs.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

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

E.M. Kutz Quotes

Mr. Prendeville moved the Board approve the E.M. Kutz proposals for the upfitting of 3 - 3500 trucks, totaling \$85,685. It is noted that this is a budgeted item.

Ms. Diacogiannis seconded the motion.

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

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Joan Steinberg of 4417 Tracey Lane praised the Township Manager and his ability to save the Township a lot of money. Joan stated concerns for how Board directs Township Staff and hires employees. Ms. Steinberg stated her concerns for nepotism being the root of why the Recreation Director and the Assistant Recreation Director left, and if it wasn't the reason, she directed the Board to investigate what is the reason. Joan stated concern for the newly hired Recreation Director will leave too if they don't find out the reason. Mr. Diacogiannis called Point of Order when Joan Steinberg and Township Manager were discussing incorrect information being said by Joan Steinberg. Joan questioned the character of the Township Manager during the tax collector election. Mr. Finnigan indicated the information she was stating was totally erroneous.

STAFF REPORTS

Engineer – Mr. Kocher had nothing to report

Solicitor – Mr. Giovanni had nothing to report but commended the Eagle Scout who built the fire pits as his project, it was a nice addition to the Township.

Public Works Director- nothing to report

Township Manager – Mr. Finnigan reported that Bryce Mendenhall, V. Pres of Community Utilities of PA. gave an update on lines below Macada Road per below bullet points received from their engineers. They anticipate final model runs and generation of the final deliverable in approximately 3 weeks.

- Model has been developed and built with current system configuration and interconnections
- GHD Engineers held a meeting with UI operations to identify areas of opportunity
- A figure to visually depict break history and infrastructure age is being developed
- Model simulations are currently being run for as-built condition hydrant operation and multiple alternatives for system improvement
- The report text is well underway with background and as-built conditions completed, awaiting model simulations and some figure work to continue building the report.

Upon motion of Mr. Diacogiannis the Board adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Beth A. Bucko
Assistant Secretary