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## **REGULAR SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING**

### **January 14, 2025**

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

Present were Supervisors Lawless, Prendeville, Gross, Versteeg, Diacogiannis, Township Engineer Brien Kocher, and Township Solicitor James Broughal.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Upon motion of Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Versteeg, the Board approved the agenda. Mr. Diacogiannis, aye, Mr. Prendeville, aye, Mr. Gross aye, Ms. Versteeg aye, Ms. Lawless, aye.

Upon motion of Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Versteeg, the Board approved the minutes from the meeting of the Board of Supervisors dated December 17, 2024, and the Reorganization minutes from January 6, 2025.

Mr. Diacogiannis, aye, Mr. Prendeville, aye, Mr. Gross aye, Ms. Versteeg aye, Ms. Lawless, aye.

Upon motion of Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Versteeg, the Board approved the list of bills and transfers dated January 14, 2025.

Mr. Diacogiannis, aye, Mr. Prendeville, aye, Mr. Gross aye, Ms. Versteeg aye, Ms. Lawless, aye.

#### **COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

#### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Ms. Lawless reported that last week on one of the coldest days of the New Year, an apparent water main break caused a large sinkhole to open in the Township. Ms. Lawless thanked our Police, Fire, EMS, Public Works and Township Manager for their response.

Mr. Hudson reported that on Wednesday, January 8, around 4:30pm, a Township Resident discovered a sinkhole on his property that extended into the roadway and across the street into a neighbor's yard. The resident called 911 and the Colonial Regional Police Department, the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company, and the Public Works Department responded.

A water main break was discovered when the Emergency Services arrived, and the Bethlehem Water Department was called to the site. The Township Emergency Management, Zoning and Administration Offices were called to the scene. The Bethlehem Water Department arrived and turned the water off to Brentwood Ave, began to review the scene and called in additional help. The Fire Company determined for the safety of our residents that 6 homes needed to be evacuated, and those residents were evacuated.

The Fire Company and Public Works continued to survey the properties and for any additional damage. One home was deemed unsafe for occupancy and was posted as condemned so that no one would reenter the structure by the Township Zoning Officer and Administration. The Bethlehem Water Department's emergency crew arrived and began to excavate the road where they determined the water main break to be. The Fire Company and Police turned the scene over to the Water Department.

It was determined Wednesday night that two of the homes that were evacuated earlier in the night were able to be reoccupied.

The Water Department repaired the water main break and restored water to the residents on Brentwood and Wednesday Evening, a boil water advisory was issued for the residents who were without water from the main being turned off.

On Thursday, January 9, the Water Department was back on scene to expose the rest of the sinkhole in the roadway and repair the sinkhole in the roadway. Three of the four homes that were evacuated on Wednesday evening were permitted to reoccupy their homes. The Township Engineer sent out our Geologist to review the scene.

The sinkhole in the road was filled with stone and compacted by the water department.

On Friday, January 10, the Water Department was planning to come and finish the restoration of the roadway so that residents would be able to use the road but were called to another sinkhole on Kenwood Drive. The Township cautioned taped off the home that still unoccupied and posted the property with no trespassing signs.

On Monday, January 13, the Water Department finished the temporary restoration of Brentwood Ave. and the roadway was reopened for traffic.

#### REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Ms. Versteeg thanked the Public Works Department for their work with yard waste and Christmas tree collection.

#### SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Diacogiannis – Road District #1, had nothing to report.

Ms. Versteeg - Road District #2, had nothing to report. Ms. Versteeg expressed gratitude to the Hanover Township EMS.

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

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

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

#### APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS – Mr. Diacogiannis

Ms. Lawless, noted for the benefit of the attendees, during the first week of January, the Board conducted a reorganization meeting. Ms. Lawless explained the reorganization meeting process. During the meeting, the Board appoints and/or reappoints people to service on the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board. At that time, Mr. Prendeville moved to carve out appointments for the Planning Commission and requested more debate on the topic. The Board unanimously agreed.

Ms. Lawless asked questions to Mr. Broughal for record regarding procedure:

Does the Board of Supervisors have the exclusive authority to appoint Planning Commission members?  
Mr. Broughal answered yes.

Does the Board of Supervisors have to legally consult with the Planning Commission Chair regarding appointments?  
Mr. Broughal answered no.

Is there any (legal) requirement to re-appoint any member who wishes to extend his or her term?  
Mr. Broughal answered no.

Other than the notice requirements that pertain to the agenda (at which meeting such appointments are made) are there any special notice requirements that the Board of Supervisors must follow to make appointments tonight?

Mr. Broughal answered that no special requirements are needed and that appointments can only be made during a public meeting.

Ms. Lawless thanked all the individuals who have served the Township and stated that the Township is blessed with an abundance of very qualified people who are thankfully willing to serve.

The Planning Commission, an Advisory Board, has made some recommendations. Ms. Lawless noted for the record that there are two terms for voting members open on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission recommended Paul Borosky and Michael Fina to be reappointed as their terms expired at the end of 2024.

Ms. Lawless explained the voting process and called for nominations.

Mr. Diacogiannis nominated Mr. Borosky and Mr. Fina. Mr. Prendeville shared the recommendation letter from the Planning Commission and nominated Mr. Borosky and Mr. Fina. Mr. Gross does not have any nominations. Ms. Versteeg nominated Glynis Daniels. Ms. Lawless does not have any nominations.

Greg Hughes, 856 Merrivale Road, suggested adding more members to the Planning Commission rather than eliminating them. Ms. Lawless stated she will look into it.

Ms. Lawless asked for the votes for the first seat on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Diacogiannis, Paul Borosky, Mr. Prendeville, Paul Borosky, Mr. Gross, Glynis Daniels, Ms. Versteeg, Glynis Daniels, Ms. Lawless, Glynis Daniels.

Ms. Lawless states Glynis Daniels is appointed for the first seat for a four-year term ending December 31, 2028.

Ms. Lawless asked for the votes for the second seat on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Diacogiannis, Paul Borosky, Mr. Prendeville, Michael Fina, Mr. Gross, Paul Borosky, Ms. Versteeg, Paul Borosky, Ms. Lawless, Paul Borosky.

Ms. Lawless states Paul Borosky is appointed for the second seat on the Planning Commission for a four-year term ending December 31, 2028.

Ms. Versteeg motioned to table the alternate discussion. The Board directed Mr. Broughal to provide them with further information to make a decision at a later date.

Mr. Prendeville seconded the motion.

Mr. Diacogiannis, aye, Mr. Prendeville, aye. Mr. Gross, aye, Ms. Versteeg, aye, Ms. Lawless, aye.

#### PLANNING & ZONING – Ms. Versteeg

##### **AFHBD Update**

Mr. Hudson stated the AFHBD committee last met in 2024. Hanover Engineering has been finishing up the next draft and will be sending it out to the attorney for AFHBD. Once the draft is returned from the attorney, it will go to the committee for review. After the committee reviews, the Board will receive it by February.

### **Hold Harmless - 5413 Nala Drive**

Ms. Versteeg moved the Board to authorize the Chair and Secretary to sign the hold harmless agreement to install a fence on the property of 5413 Nala Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18017. The proposed structure will encroach into the ten-foot Drainage and Utility Easement in the side and rear yards located on the premises.

Mr. Gross seconded the motion.

Mr. Diacogiannis, aye, Mr. Prendeville, aye, Mr. Gross aye, Ms. Versteeg aye, Ms. Lawless, aye.

### DEVELOPMENTS – Mr. Gross

#### ADMINISTRATION – Mr. Prendeville

#### **Note for the Record - Organizational Chart**

Mr. Prendeville noted for the record that the Township Secretary provided the Board an updated Organizational Chart on January 14, 2025, and it has been posted on the Township's website.

### PUBLIC WORKS – Mr. Diacogiannis

#### **Resolution 2025 – 08 Asset Disposal**

Mr. Diacogiannis moved the Board to adopt Resolution 2025 – 08, permitting the disposal of municipal assets.

The Township will be selling the Sterling street sweeper and three copiers.

Mr. Gross seconded the motion.

Mr. Diacogiannis, aye, Mr. Prendeville, aye, Mr. Gross aye, Ms. Versteeg aye, Ms. Lawless, aye.

### COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Engineer** – Mr. Kocher had nothing to report.

**Solicitor** – Mr. Broughal had nothing to report but stated that only the governing body gets sworn in, no other offices need to be.

**Public Works Director** – Mr. Limpar thanked the Public Works Department for cleaning the carpets in the Board room. The dump trucks that were ordered in 2022 are almost ready to be delivered. Pharo Park is under construction because it is getting an upgrade. Yard waste and tree collection is completed. Yard waste will resume in April.

**Township Manager** – Mr. Hudson shared Mr. Terenzio's report that the Wiffleball Tournament is scheduled for March 15 at the Hanover Township Community Center. Other events, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny will be April 12<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual HTCC Golf Tournament will be on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. The next bingo is February 6<sup>th</sup>. Preschoolers will begin intro to sports on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hudson shared that newsletter articles are due Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. The website is in progress.

Ms. Lawless noted the next Board of Supervisors meeting will be Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

Upon motion of Mr. Prendeville the Board adjourned at 7:57pm.

Kimberly R. Lymanstall  
Township Secretary