

Boro eyes credit cards

Hanover residents could charge their municipal bills.

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Hanover Borough officials are exploring the possibility of allowing residents to pay municipal bills by credit card.

At a recent borough finance committee meeting, borough staff presented a program called MuniPAY, run by Nationwide Payment Solutions based in Scarborough, Maine.

The plan would allow residents to pay their water, sewer, trash, property taxes or other fees using either Discover or MasterCard; the company is working to bring Visa online soon.

Borough Council members have shied away from installing a credit card payment system in the office because usually it requires the borough to pick up the transaction fee. MuniPAY's system charges what is termed a "convenience" fee to the cardholder, meaning the borough doesn't have to pay for the transaction.

"The customer pays for the convenience of using a credit card," said Assistant Borough Manager Barb Krebbs.

Before running a credit card to pay a bill, the resident is informed of the convenience fee, according to Nationwide's web site. The fee is 2.45 percent of the transaction, with a minimum of \$1.50.

The borough would receive the card readers for free, Krebbs said. And the program would integrate with the borough's existing computer and billing system.

Members of the finance committee, which is made up of Borough Council, said the program sounded like it could benefit residents.

And several municipal entities in Pennsylvania -including Midway Borough, Bethlehem, and the Dover Township tax collector - have signed up for the service in the past few weeks.

Borough Manager Bruce Rebert said borough staff would get an agreement written up for the council members to review and bring it back to a future committee meeting.

ON THE WEB

For details on the MuniPAY system, visit www.municipay.com.