

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Terry Steinheiser at 7:00 p.m. on September 4, 2013 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser, Scott Longdon and Jack Kaltenbaugh. Also attending were Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr., Engineer Bill Braun, Treasurer Lee Kradel and Secretary Brenda Davis was present to take the minutes. Thirteen people signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW MINUTES

Steinheiser mentioned there was a mistake in the minutes on Page 3 under the "Solicitor Report" where he stated if a sewage complaint is not valid, the money will be sent to the landowner to help pay our SEO for his inspection. Steinheiser said the money actually will stay with the Township because the Township pays for the inspection, not the landowner. Steinheiser motioned to accept the "supervisors meeting" minutes of August 7, 2013 with this correction. Longdon, seconded. Roll call, yes. Lee Kradel noted that if the complaint is valid, the complainant will get the \$50.00 refund and the landowner will then have to pay for the previous inspection and pay to correct the problem.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$374,639.74 but after total deposits of \$32,102.02 and checks of \$55,541.48 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$351,200.28. The Escrow account beginning balance was \$29,521.00 but after deposits in the amount of \$1,100.00 and checks in the amount of \$6,717.50, the ending balance is \$23,903.50. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$169,702.45 but with interest of \$8.61, and a partial payment to Shields Paving in the amount of \$51,299.28, the ending balance is \$118,411.78. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance is \$365,892.11 but with interest of \$45.11 and a partial payment to Shields Paving in the amount of \$90,000, the ending balance is \$275,937.22. Steinheiser motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kaltenbaugh, seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD

* NONE *

BIDS

Longdon said it was time to order shot gravel and said we would advertise for the same material and amount as last year which was 1,000 tons/more or less. Longdon motioned to advertise for "shot gravel" bids to be opened at next month's meeting. Kaltenbaugh, seconded. Roll call, yes.

OLD BUSINESS

Steinheiser said they were still working on the sign ordinance amendment to make it more appealing to local businesses and it had been advertised and ready to approve. Bill Braun mentioned section 7 (11.11) where it talks about the "total exposed exterior surface" needs to have the word "wall" between "exterior and surface". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated it could still be adopted and correct the clerical change on the original ordinance. Steinheiser made a motion to adopt Sign Ordinance Amendment #87-13 with the word "wall" inserted in section 7 (11.11). Longdon, seconded. Roll call, yes. Lee Kradel questioned Mr. Menchyk, Jr. if this ordinance

was just an amendment to 86-13 and not replacing it? Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said it is just an amendment and does not totally replace 86-13.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

REQUEST TO BE HEARD

Tim Hutchison was on the agenda but did not attend.

Debbie Garing stated she has been trying to sell 4 lots her mother owns in the Woodlands and has lost 4 buyers because when they call the Township they are told one acre is required now for a residence. Ms. Garing stated there was a trailer there that was removed. Ms. Garing said her husband calculations come to .96 acres and is asking the board if this property can be sold and used as a residence or if they just have to continue paying taxes for nothing? Longdon stated there are four lots and to help this process he feels a lot line revision would need done to combine the 4 lots into one .96 lot. Longdon stated he feels the separate lots now are existing lots and would be permissible to build on. Ms. Garing stated there is a working well and septic on the lot. Longdon stated since the sewage system has not been used for more than 2 years, our SEO states a dye test would pass, therefore Longdon suggested that after 6 months of use, a dye test should be done to make sure the system is working properly. Longdon said another beneficial thing the possible purchaser could do is find an "alternate sewage site" so if after 6 months the system failed, the new site would be ready. Longdon told Ms. Garing none of this is required by the Township but recommended. Kaltenbaugh told Ms. Garing that if the original residence was a 3 bedroom and the new residence may be a four bedroom, the larger one would use more septic and the system in place may not be sufficient. Steinheiser thinks it would be advantageous for the Garings to combine the lots into one large lot. Mr. Garing asked what all is involved in combining the lots. Steinheiser stated they would need a surveyor to remove all the lines. Brenda Davis stated there will be a \$50.00 application fee with the Township, \$700.00 escrow that will be retained by the Township to pay our engineer to review, \$50.00 to the County and pay the surveyor. Mr. Garing asked if this would need done before selling? Mr. Menchyk, Jr. advised there is nothing saying you can't sell the four individual lots and suggested telling the new landowner what the Township recommends about combining them but it would be more marketable if combined first. Longdon explained the problem comes in if you don't combine before a new residence is put on, it may not be able to meet the setbacks. Longdon said you can not put a structure across property lines. Tom Pawlowicz said most of those lots are 1/5 of an acre, therefore 4 lots would only be 4/5 of an acre. Longdon said, "they are existing building lots". Steinheiser said he understands there was a septic system on the lot but still feels it would be a good idea to combine the lots. Longdon stressed that the board is not requiring the Garing's to do anything, only providing suggestions. Mr. Garing asked if it would be okay just to tell the new owner they will need to combine lots before putting a new residence on? Steinheiser said that would be nice to do because they will have to come to the Township to get a permit and follow the Township requirements when a new residence is built. Mr. & Mrs. Garing thanked the board for their time.

PLANS

John Thomas presented a request for preliminary and final approval of his lot line revision. Mr. Thomas said he is selling a 6.784 piece to his neighbors the LeFevers. Mr. Thomas stated the land is a hillside full of trees and rocks. Mr. Thomas noted the plan was updated per Bill Braun's comments and was recommended by the Planning Commission. Mr. Braun said his letter stated the plan needed to show "Public" water and the setback in the back needed changed to 25' instead of 50'. Mr. Braun said they did comply and has no further comments. Mr. Braun said section 5 & 6 in the ordinance also states they need to apply for a modification in reference to providing contours. Steinheiser made a motion to grant a modification for providing contours on the plan since the plan is a lot line revision. Kaltenbaugh, seconded. Roll call, yes. Secondly, Steinheiser made a motion to approve preliminary and final approval to the John Thomas lot line revision. Longdon, seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser and Brenda Davis signed the mylar but Brenda stated she would call the planning commission in to sign and then will call Mr. Thomas to pick up.

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun presented a design proposal from Senate Engineering which also includes costs from Trans Associates as a sub consultant to obtain the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation HOP permit that is necessary before any work can be done on a state highway which would be for the Rt. 68 turning lane project. Steinheiser asked Mr. Braun if there is a time frame after receiving the HOP permit that the work needs completed. Mr. Braun said he was not sure but knows you can request an extension. Steinheiser said he was asking because he is concerned about the funding and wouldn't want to move forward on this and be totally underfunded. Steinheiser said we need to work diligently with trying to get funding. Mr. Braun stated even if they approved Senate's proposal and didn't act on it for 5 years, the report could be revised to meet current Penn Dot standards, without revising the whole report. The board did not act on accepting Senate's proposal.

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Steinheiser motioned to approve invoice in the amount of \$242.96. Kaltenbaugh, seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Longdon mentioned the road crew has been setting catch basins on Powdermill Road before XTO paves some berms. In addition, Longdon stated Fassinger Road and Smalstig Roads have been paved and Kneiss Road was regraded. Longdon stated Moose, Fassinger and Smalstig Roads have been seal coated.

Secondly, Longdon discussed the Reiber Road project. Longdon said the road crew is planning on starting at Kriess Road on Reiber and heading towards Meridian and place 15" pipe and 7 catch basins so the water runoff will be directed to the creek. Longdon stated the cause of this excess water stems from Stormwater problems. Longdon stated years ago the Stormwater requirements were not as strict. Longdon said he received a pipe bid from Walsh Equipment and

a A&A Concrete quote for the catch basins which he feels both are the cheapest. Kaltenbaugh asked if he had checked Poland Concrete? Longdon said he could get more quotes. Kaltenbaugh stated he knows the project needs done but would like to see the bids. Longdon stated the total project is around \$16,946.00 and would like to use the Act 13 funds. Steinheiser said the job definitely needs done and asked if it would be done this year? Longdon said it will be done soon and will take about 2-1/2 weeks to complete. Longdon made a motion to correct the stormwater issues on Reiber Road near Kriess Road as per the drawing and cost estimate provided of \$16,946.00. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, yes. Secondly, Longdon motioned to use Act 13 monies to pay for the project since it is a stormwater issue. Kaltenbaugh, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Longdon said the new equipment building is complete and has been inspected by the Commercial Building inspector, Mike Grill. Kaltenbaugh asked if there would be doors? Longdon stated not at this time but said when Charlie Yenick designed the building he made the door openings the same as our other building so when we do get new doors they can go on the upper building and the old ones put on the new storage building. Kaltenbaugh said it might be years before we get doors. Longdon said it was not in this years budget.

Road superintendent's report for month of August was in the packets.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

Steinheiser stated there were three building permits applied for this month. They were:

Bruce Double - Double Rd. - modular home
Tom Robson - Conno. School Rd. - addition
William McGee - Shannon Rd. - garage

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Tom Pawlowicz stated school tax money is coming in good but Township taxes are in the penalty phase so they are not coming in.

SEO REPORT

NONE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Longdon stated a letter was sent to the Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Dept. requesting them to show how our monies we send them are spent. London said a letter was received showing the breakdown and also noted he had talked to Lou Zimmerman, Chief of Fire Dept., earlier about starting to hold quarterly meetings between the fire department, Connoquenessing Borough and Connoquenessing Township in order to keep everyone informed about Emergency Services.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Steinheiser motioned to advertise Budget Workshop. He stated a date will be determined by the board before the ad is placed. Kaltenbaugh, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser stated the BCATO Annual Safety Seminar will be held at Tanglewood Center-Coleman Hall on October 2, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. Cost is \$15.00. Steinheiser motioned to pay for anyone interested in attending. Longdon, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to release lot line escrow to Eric Pawlowicz in the amount of \$470.00. Kaltenbaugh, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to release lot line escrow to Lou Westerman in the amount of \$527.50 Longdon, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to release stormwater escrow to Shane Fleeger in the amount of \$400.00. Kaltenbaugh, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to release Verizon cell tower escrow in the amount of \$4,053.75. Longdon, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser said the Township Office will be closed on Thursday, September 19, 2013 for office personnel to go to Municipal Grant Writing Workshop.

Steinheiser said the below, which was on the agenda, is for information:

Three mobile home parks have been inspected and operating permits have been issued.

Rec'd "notification of surface landowner/water purveyor of well drilling operation or alteration" from DEP for 1 well in Butler Township. The well pad is the Hinch-Smith Unit #5H. Information is on file at Township office.

Rec'd letter dated August 8, 2013 from Gannett Fleming in reference to Mountain Gathering, LLC proposing to construct a natural gas gathering pipeline in portion of Connoquenesing, & Forward Township. (Patton Gas Pipeline) Requested a "land use letter" which secretary, Brenda Davis, completed and returned. Information is on file at Township office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Steinheiser motioned to close the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Longdon, seconded. Roll call, yes.