

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on March 4, 2020 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser, Ed Rupert and Ricky Kradel. Also attending was Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr., Engineer Bill Braun, Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Lee Kradel and Secretary/Asst. Treasurer Brenda Davis was present to take the minutes. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer. Fifteen people signed in on the public sign in record on file.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of February 3, 2020. Rupert motioned to accept the minutes of February 3, 2020. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$375,002.62 but after deposits of \$107,636.27 and checks in the amount of \$168,634.99 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$314,003.90. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$53,898.15 but after deposits of \$1,535.00 and checks in the amount of \$1,205.00 are approved tonight, the ending balance is \$54,228.15. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$1,789.99 but with interest of \$.07 and annual funding in the amount of \$215,559.92, the ending balance is \$217,349.98. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance is \$192,718.68 but with interest in the amount of \$199.58, the ending balance is \$192,918.26. Lee stated the Act 13 CD had a beginning balance of \$520,155.37 but with interest of \$2,399.27 for a total of \$522,554.64 which makes a grand total of \$715,472.90. Steinheiser motioned to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD - three minute limit pertaining to agenda

NONE

BIDS

Kradel stated he is planning on paving Boy Scout Rd. from the bridge to Rt. 528 and Eagle Mill Rd. from Rolling Valley Ln. to the Franklin Township line. Kradel stated the road crew will replace drains on both roads where needed and paving will be done on the berms of the hills. Kradel said he is only planning on binding the roads this year followed by tar & chip next year. Kradel motioned to advertise to pave the above roads. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Rupert explained that two letters were received from the County Tax Claim Bureau stating they have received \$600.00 bids on two separate parcels that are up for judicial sale and requesting the Township sign the consent letters to sell the properties. Rupert stated the Township can't unreasonably deny the request by law and said it is better for the parcels to be sold to tax paying residents. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. Stated no taxes are being paid on the property now so it is better to get this property back on the tax roll. Kradel motioned to consent to the sale of parcel #120-S3-A175 (Deer Run Rd. - lot 175) for \$600.00. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel motioned to consent to the sale of parcel #120-S4-A1377 (Mink Rd. - lot 1377) for \$600.00. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three minute limit)

Jean Garrett who was not listed on the agenda was present representing State Representative Marci Mustello. Ms. Garrett said she was a past secretary at Connoquenessing Elementary School, a Connoquenessing Township resident and works part time for Representative Mustello. Ms. Garrett stated Representative Mustello is holding workshops to help residents complete their property tax/rent rebates, holding a Farmer's Breakfast on April 17, 2020, holding an Aid & Attendance seminar for Veterans & Family members on March 13, 2020 and can assist with applying for Real ID. Ms. Garrett said Representative Mustello is holding a roundtable event for First Responders on March 26, 2020. Ms. Garrett said the office has any federal or state tax forms the public needs. The board thanked Ms. Garrett for attending.

Joe Hanchosky, resident on Whitestown Rd. said he and his brother just purchased a home at 923 Whitestown Rd. in December 2019. Mr. Hanchosky presented pictures and stated the excessive rain coming from a Township culvert pipe has caused water to go into the basement of the house. Mr. Hanchosky said he would like to grant the Township an easement to run a pipe through the yard to correct the problem. Kradel asked about a tree in the picture being disturbed? Mr. Hanchosky said the pipe could just continue from the current ditch area. Kradel told Mr. Hanchosky he needs to come over and look. Rupert feels Bill Braun should also go. Kradel said the road crew measured and told him that it is 150 feet to the tree and 300 ft. to the woods. Bill Braun stated if the stream enclosure (watershed) is piped more than 100 ft. there will be complex DEP requirements to get a permit and will be expensive. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said the first thing that needs done is to schedule a site visit with Mr. Hanchosky, Rick Kradel and Bill Braun. The board agreed.

Jerry Maher was present to represent St. Fidelis Church who is having a Community Night on July 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and wants to include a 5k run/walk. Mr. Maher presented a map of the race and said most will be through the Farm Show grounds but one lane will be needed on Buttercup Rd. for a short distance to enter and exit the grounds. Mr. Maher said it will only take about an hour and the road may not need closed. Mr. Maher said he has already talked to the Connoquenessing Fire Dept. and Fire Police and they are willing to provide traffic safety. Steinheiser stated 911 Emergency Services will also need notified. Mr. Maher said he would come to our meeting next month with a further update.

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun said he reported last month that there was a 3 month delay on receiving the signal poles from the manufacturer for the Rt. 68 GLG grant project but since then he heard that the poles will be delivered to the contractor by March 27, 2020 and then work should be completed two weeks later. Mr. Braun said the good news now is the Township should meet the deadline for the GLG grant.

Secondly, Bill Braun stated Pedestrian Crossings has also been requested several times by resident Mr. Linton and said a letter just received from Penn Dot is asking if the Township would approve to just put in Pedestrian Crossing Facilities which would include push buttons on the poles, wiring for them and installing painted crosswalks now and then when Penn Dot comes through with the widening of Rt. 68 and the turning lanes they will make this intersection ADA compliant. Bill Braun stated this would cost \$8,500 to the Township but since this project falls under the GLG Grant the Township would only pay 20% or \$1,700.00. There was much discussion on this subject. Steinheiser said PennDot was going to do this anyway in 2022 at their expense but now the Township would be putting up the \$1,700.00. Bill Braun said that is correct. Calvin Wonderly asked what the pedestrian count is there? Steinheiser said, "one". Bill Braun stated PennDot had first suggested the Township not put this in the plan but since a letter was received from a resident concerning the safety of not having pedestrian crossings they have reopened this discussion to letting the Township approve this. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked what the consequences is if the supervisors don't agree to do this now. Bill Braun is not sure. Mr. Linton said there are more than one pedestrian that crosses at this intersection. Steinheiser stated the pedestrians can walk 700 ft. to the Brandywine intersection which is already ADA compliant. Steinheiser suggests waiting the 1-1/2 years and letting PennDot incur this cost. Kradel doesn't believe in spending the \$1,700 on one pedestrian but worried about the ramifications from the State if the Township says "no". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. reviewed the PennDot letter and summarized it that it is a discretionary decision of the Township's on whether to do this now. Mr. Linton stated the problem with getting off at the Brandywine intersection on the bank side he is then walking with his back to traffic. Mr. Linton stated he is not the only pedestrian. Mr. Linton stated if it was only 3 months wait he could see not spending the money but it will be at least 2022. Mr. Linton said possibly PennDot would subsidize some since they are the ones that subsidized the Butler Transit Authority bus that comes through this area. Steinheiser and Rupert feel PennDot should pay for this added expense if they want it enough. Kradel said he has a problem spending \$1,700 on one individual. Mr. Linton said he can pull video of him riding his bike in the summer and there is definitely more people crossing than himself. No action was taken. Steinheiser told Bill Braun to contact PennDot tomorrow on the supervisors response.

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Rupert motioned to approve February invoice in the amount of \$255.84. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated the Connoquenessing School Rd. agreement between the Borough and Township is complete and the Borough will pay half for the repairs. Kradel motioned to approve our road crew doing the maintenance on Connoquenessing School Rd. for an estimated \$6,485.00 with the agreement that Connoquenessing Borough will pay half. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel mentioned the Township's current asphalt saw and jumping jack are outdated and don't work properly so he received two quotes to replace these with workable used items. The one quote is for \$3,550.00 which we are currently renting these to try. The other quote was for \$3,605.00. Rupert asked what they will be used for and how often? Kradel stated they will be used on the berms of Boy Scout and Eagle Mill Roads to prepare for paving and used about 3 times a month. Steinheiser asked if the used equipment would have a warranty. Kradel did not feel they would. Kradel motioned to purchase the rented equipment in the amount of \$3,550.00. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Secondly Kradel said the current mower we have does not have a boom on it to mow correctly. Kradel said he would like to purchase a boom for the mower which will be 20-22 ft. long. Kradel explained that the brush cutter could be used but the high lift that runs it is set up for snow and too time consuming to switch out to mow on nice days. Both bids for just the boom are around \$65,000. Tom Huff, resident stated the brush cutter takes time to set up but it still will do the job. Mr. Huff said it does take an hour to set it up but it does a great job. Steinheiser asked if the boom will fit the mower. Kradel said the dealer said yes and some of the parts on the current mower could be used to attach it and possibly bring the price down to \$57,000. Rupert feels we should table and discuss next month. Steinheiser agreed. Steinheiser feels they should be trained to run the equipment. Laura Mason, resident said she works for an equipment dealer and can assist the Township on looking at the different purchasing, leasing and financing options.

Kradel motioned to advertise for temporary part-time help. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel stated the Agreement between Concord and Connoquenessing Township's to trade items is complete as discussed at last month's meeting.

Kradel read the road superintendents report which is supplied each month and can be reviewed at Township office. Evelyn Hockenberry asked Kradel what will be done on Boy Scout Rd? Ms. Hockenberry said it is unsafe. Kradel stated at the top of the hill (opposite side of guide rails) they are putting wedge curbs in and installing four new catch basins. Kradel said he is just binding this year and then tarring and chipping next year and promised Ms. Hockenberry the road will be nice.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

5-20 - Jo Wack - Woodlands Rd. - new home - 2/4/20
 6-20 - Tom & Pam Huff - Dick Rd. - garage - 2-24-20
 7-20 - Elaine Colteryahn - Prospect Rd. - pole barn - 2/26/20

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

NONE

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Steinheiser stated Butler County Association of Township Officials will hold their 105th Annual Spring Convention on May 21, 2020 at the Butler Country Club. Rupert motioned to approve all Township officials to attend at a cost of \$28.00/each. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to release Big Run Lumber's road bond of .08 mile on Kennedy Rd. in the amount of \$1,000. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

Received letter from MarkWest Liberty Bluestone dated February 21, 2020 stated they have applied to the PA DEP for a State Only Operating Permit (SOOP) for the Voll Compressor Station located at 318 Woodlands Rd. Information is on file at Township office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Rupert motioned to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. to an executive session to discuss litigation issues and stated the board would not return. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.