

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on September 2, 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 to take the minutes. Seven people signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

### REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of August 5, 2020. Rupert motioned to accept the minutes of August 5, 2020. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$349,461.15 but after deposits of \$94,301.45 and checks in the amount of \$98,051.38 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$345,711.22. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$56,823.15 but with deposits of \$1,300.00 and checks in the amount of \$34,770.33, the ending balance is \$23,352.82. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$217,395.25 but with interest in the amount of \$7.64 and checks in the amount of \$169,656.10 the ending balance is \$47,746.79. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance is \$402,736.51 but with interest in the amount of \$85.51 the ending balance is \$402,822.02. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 CD beginning balance is \$524,487.38 but with interest in the amount of \$1,982.99 has a total of \$526,470.37 leaving a grand total of \$929,292.39. Kradel motioned to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Lee Kradel explained the Central Pension Fund requires her to report by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year at a public meeting what the MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) would be so the dollar amount can be listed on the 2021 budget. Mrs. Kradel said it would be \$16,457.40 which is calculated by taking 3 road crews 2080 hours per year x \$2.46 (\$15,350.40) plus estimating 450 hours of overtime x \$2.46 (\$1,107.00). Rupert motioned to accept the MMO in the amount of \$16,457.40. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

### BIDS

Brenda Davis opened and read aloud the sealed bids for the advertised John Deere GT 275 mower and Target blacktop saw. The bidders names and amounts are as follows:

<b>Bidder Name</b>	<b>John Deer GT 275 mower</b>	<b>Target blacktop saw</b>
Tim Manuel	\$211.00	n/a
Roger Voelker	\$351.00	n/a
Dave Wack	\$ 95.00	\$ 47.00
Gaudino Bros.	\$127.00	\$162.00
Charlie Yenick	\$150.00	n/a
Jay Wack	n/a	\$238.00

Kradel motioned to accept the bid of \$351.00 from Roger Voelker for the John Deere GT 275 mower but if rejected it will be offered to the second highest bidder. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Rupert stated the bids were too low on the Target blacktop saw and doesn't want to sell. After board discussion, Kradel motioned to reject all bids for the Target blacktop saw. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

### COMMENT PERIOD (Three minute limit pertaining to agenda)

\*NONE\*

**REQUEST TO BE HEARD - three minute limit**

Brendan Linton, resident, thanked the board for their continued efforts on working on the Rt. 68 PennDot corridor plan and stated he is in favor of a traffic signal at Rt. 68 and Stevenson/Double Roads. Brendan stated the current plan is through 2044 and our community will be a lot busier by then especially when sewage comes through. Brendan told the board to keep on PennDot even when they are resistant to the boards ideas. Brendan stated he sent a letter to PennDot concerning the plan and asked in his letter that PennDot address pedestrian crossings at this location. Bill Braun stated the Township also sent a letter to PennDot requesting a traffic signal at Rt. 68 and Stevenson/Double roads and Rupert stated he commented on their website. Steinheiser asked the public to send comments to PennDot. Kradel stated there is a petition in the office to sign requesting the traffic signal.

**OLD BUSINESS**

\*NONE\*

**NEW BUSINESS**

Matt McConnell from Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company was present to ask the board for a 2-1/2 mill increase for a total of 3 mills for the fire company. Mr. McConnell stated the fire tax is 1/2 mill currently. Mr. McConnell stated most surrounding municipalities are currently at 1-1/2 mills but are planning to raise their tax to 3 mills next year. Secondly, Mr. McConnell said the fire company needs a new building. Mr. McConnell mentioned the fire company's ISO rating has fallen from 6 to 4 which means that residents' property insurance drops because of the fire company being rated so good. Kradel asked if there were any comments from the public? Candie Ziegler, resident, asked "what about fundraisers"? Mr. McConnell said they have done fund raisers for 40 years but that is not enough and with the Covid-19 the Farm Show fundraiser was canceled. Roy Gilliland asked if they still solicited donations through the mail? Mr. McConnell said they were mailed out. Mr. McConnell said for them to get a loan they need sustainable income, fundraiser income does not count. Roy Gilliland feels it should be taxed so everyone has to pay. Clint McConnell, resident, said he is an insurance agent, and stated a low ISO rating means alot. Lee Kradel asked Mr. McConnell to explain how the ISO rating works? He said "the lower the ISO reading is, the lower the premium is on your home owners insurance". Lee Kradel asked how increasing the millage tax rate will lower the ISO? Mr. McConnell stated the more money they have to provide more fire protection services will lower the ISO. Lou Zimmerman, chief of fire company, stated that the more money they have for equipment, training, etc. could lower the ISO to a rating of 3 that will lower residents' homeowners insurance. Rupert did say that the current fire tax collected is \$22,000 and the Township also pays for their share of the fire company's insurance.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. presented the Guaranty Agreement and a draft Debt Ordinance related to the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority. The Debt Ordinance is the ability of the Township to guarantee a \$1,000,000 loan that the Sewer Authority is taking out with the First Commonwealth Bank to use for the design and engineering costs of the Act 537 Plan. The Guaranty agreement will be signed by the supervisors once the Debt Ordinance has been advertised and approved by the DCED, then the Sewer Authority can close on their loan. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated it should be early November when they can close. Kradel asked if there will be payments on the loan? Calvin Wonderly said, "no, not for 59 months". Clint McConnell asked if this \$1,000,000 is for the whole project? Steinheiser said, "definitely not". Clint McConnell asked if the Township borrowed any money from the County Infrastructure Bank? Steinheiser said, "no". Rupert motioned to approve advertising the Debt Ordinance. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to ratify refunding Sonoma Valley's "Cash Maintenance Bond" escrow in the amount of \$33,152.08 (\$34,902.83 total cash bond minus \$1,750.75 owed to Township). Rupert questioned Lee Kradel if this was all they owed to the Township? Lee stated, "yes". Rupert proceeded to second the motion. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to advertise for 1,000 tons "more or less" of "anti-skid". Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. explained that he received a request from Tom Barnett, who has a Mobile Home Park in the Township for tax forgiveness on an abandoned mobile home in his park. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated Mr. Barnett has gone through all legal steps to allow him to demolish the abandoned mobile home but can not get a removal permit from our tax collector because the taxes are not paid. Without a removal permit the mobile home can't be demolished. Therefore, Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated Mr. Barnett is asking the supervisors to grant Mr. Barnett's request of being issued a demolition permit from the Township without him having to pay the taxes. Rupert stated the Township could give tax forgiveness from us but there are also County and School taxes. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated that the Township is not really forgiving the taxes because once the mobile home is deemed abandoned, the taxes won't need to be paid. Rupert noted that this mobile home is also currently listed on the County Tax sale list which is on September 14, 2020. Rupert made a motion to issue the demolition permit to Mr. Barnett after the September 14, 2020 tax sale if it does not sell. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **PLANS**

Candie S. Ziegler was present to present her Candie S. Ziegler Lot Line Revision Plan. Rupert motioned to approve her request for a modification to waive the requirements of Articles V & VI of Section 245. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser stated Ms. Ziegler is requesting a waiver to build on .603 acre lot instead of our required 1.0 acre requirement. Rupert stated her old mobile home is already on one lot and she is combining the 3 lots she owns which is good for the Township. Rupert then motioned to honor the waiver to allow Ms. Ziegler to move a newer replacement mobile home on the .603 acre lot. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel motioned to approve the Candie S. Ziegler Lot Line Revision Plan for preliminary and final approval. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **ENGINEER REPORT**

Bill Braun stated PennDot did a final inspection at the intersection of Eagle Mill/Kriess and Rt. 68 roads and all is done except some seeding and mulching which will be done in September.

Bill Braun stated the last Bronder invoice to be submitted for ARLE has been received and there may be one small invoice from Trans Associates but then the grant can be finalized.

Bill Braun stated the permit was received from DEP to replace the Whitestown Rd. Ext. culvert. Mr. Braun stated the road crew men are going to do the job which will save tons of money. Mr. Braun stated the 40' pipe has been ordered and should arrive within 2 weeks.

### **SOLICITOR REPORT**

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he talked to Neal Jennings from #1 Cochran on the status of the buffer trees and stormwater pond not completed yet. Mr. Jennings asked for an extension of time. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. told him that any further extensions were unacceptable because of resident complaints. Mr. Jennings stated he would get it completed in September. In addition, Bill Braun stated he received a letter from #1 Cochran's engineer dated August 12, 2020 stating they would start in September.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Rupert motioned to approve invoice for August 2020 in the amount of \$424.98. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

**ROAD MASTERS REPORT**

Road superintendent report for August 2020 in packets.

Kradel stated most of the month was spent berming which included putting oil down and chipping on problem areas and hills that were washed out.

Kradel stated the next major project will be Whitestown Rd. Ext. culvert.

Discussion of concreting floor in tractor garage was on the agenda but not mentioned.

Steinheiser stated Rick Kradel received a nice compliment in the Butler Eagle about Eagle Mill Rd. paving and repair. Steinheiser commended Kradel on how well he has done in his first year as supervisor.

**BUILDING PERMIT REPORT**

Steinheiser stated there were ten building permits applied for this month.

They were:

- 32-20 - Tim Hutchison - Cupps Rd. - pole barn - 8/6/20
- 33-20 - Butler Co. Humane Society - Evans City Rd. - addition 8/6/20
- 34-20 - United Plate Glass - Grundman Dr. - addition - 8/6/20
- 35-20 - Benedict Fallecker - Bobcat Dr. - new house - 8/11/20
- 36-20 - John Schnitzer - Shannon Rd. - garage - 8/13/20
- 37-20 - Elizabeth Daugherty - Eagle Mill Rd. - 2 porch roofs - 8/13/20
- 38-20 - Tricia Brennan - Lower Harmony Rd. - inground pool - 8/17/20
- 39-20 - Kurtis & Jeneane Sintz - Shannon Rd. - deck - 8/20/20
- 40-20 - Michael & Dianna Edwards - Agape Ln. - porch roof - 8/26/20
- 41-20 - Scott & Ann Isaacs - Kriess Rd. - porch roof - 9/1/20

**TAX COLLECTOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**SEO REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

Rupert stated the Connoquenessing Valley Regional Emergency Management Agency is still looking for Deputies.

**MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

Kradel motioned to release sewage escrow to Robert Whittington in the amount of \$700.00. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

BCATO Annual Safety Seminar is canceled this year due to Covid 19. Lee Kradel stated the Fall Convention is also canceled.

Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company will hold their Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 25, 2020. Line up is 1:30 p.m. - Parade begins at 2:00 p.m. In addition, Connoquenessing Township will hold their -Trick-or-Treat on Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Rupert motioned to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. to an executive session to discuss litigation issues and stated the board would not return. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

