

Connoquenessing Township’s Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on March 3, 2021 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser, Ed Rupert and Ricky Kradel. Also attending were Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr., Engineer Bill Braun, Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Lee Kradel and Secretary/Asst. Treasurer Brenda Davis was present to take the minutes. Fourteen 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 February 3, 2021 supervisors meeting. Kradel motioned to accept the February 3, 2021 supervisors meeting minutes. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$251,774.69 but after deposits of \$100,270.11 and checks in the amount of \$104,404.78 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$247,640.02. Lee Kradel stated the beginning Escrow account balance is \$24,261.82 but with no deposits and checks in the amount of \$7,130.50 being approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$17,131.32. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$47,757.86 but with interest of \$1.83 and receiving our annual liquid fuel deposit of \$201,043.77, the ending balance is \$248,803.46. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$303,223.06 but with interest of \$58.15, the ending balance is \$303,281.21. Lee Kradel said the Act 13 CD beginning balance was \$527,067.52 but with interest of \$597.82 totaled \$527,665.34 leaves a grand total of \$830,946.55. Rupert motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Lee Kradel mentioned the Quickbooks 2018 program which is currently being used needs updated by May 31, 2021. Mrs. Kradel did not have a cost yet and stated this was just for information.

COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit pertaining to agenda
NONE

BIDS

Following are the sealed bids that were publicly opened and read aloud by Brenda Davis for the letting of March 3, 2021:

PAVING

The bidders and amounts are below:

	Wiest	Shields	Youngblood Paving
2,614 ton	\$58.82	\$59.96	\$67.00

SEALCOAT

The bidders and amounts are below:

	Youngblood	Suit-Kote	Russell Standard
15,679 s.y.	\$2.15	\$1.384	\$1.397
9,610 s.y.	\$6.11	\$4.00	\$3.997
Total Cost:	\$33,709.85	\$21,699.74	\$21,903.56
	<u>\$58,717.10</u>	<u>\$38,440.00</u>	<u>\$38,411.17</u>
	\$92,426.95	\$60,139.74	\$60,314.73

All above bidders enclosed their bid bonds which were approved by Andrew Menchyk, Jr. Kradel motioned to award Wiest Asphalt with the paving bid in the amount of \$58.82/ton. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes. The board further discussed whether the sealcoat bid should be considered individually because of the two different types or as a total project. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated since it was advertised as one project it should be awarded as one. Kradel motioned to award Suit-Kote the sealcoat bid in the amount of \$60,139.74. Rupert seconded and stated both lowest bidders were awarded. Roll call, yes.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Lou Zimmerman and Matt McConnell were present to report on Connoquenessing Fire Company for 2020. Mr. Zimmerman distributed a packet to the board that included a Type of Call Report, Mutual Aid Received Report, Mutual Aid Given Report, Number & Average Number of Members Per Call/Training Report, Incident Time Period Report and Volunteer Staff Hours Report. Mr. Zimmerman stated out of 119 calls an average of 8 volunteers were present which that number has doubled in the last 2 years. Mr. Zimmerman also said the Total Volunteer Staff Hours were 4,442.1 for an average of 29 staff hours per call which only involves documented time. Mr. Zimmerman stated it does not include training time, administrative time or maintaining the station. Steinheiser stated this information is available for the public to request and thanked Mr. Zimmerman and Matt McConnell for presenting this and volunteering to protect the general public. Mr. Zimmerman continued with these additional comments: 1. thanked the board for the generous donation, 2. stated they replaced their self contained radio apparatus for \$78,000, 3. stated the 1994 engine needs replaced but they will need a new building first, 4. stated they bought 4 sets of turnout gear totaling \$15,000. 5. stated the fire company did receive a \$10,000 grant from the county and spent it on replacing 3 sets of bumper gear, 6. stated they have applied for a \$15,000 PEMA grant to be used on more turnout gear and a \$130,000 FEMA grant for a new Rescue truck. Matt McConnell stated he has started working with engineers on feasibility studies for the new fire station. Mr. McConnell said he appreciated the donation but would still like the supervisors to increase the fire tax. Steinheiser thank them both for their time.

Steinheiser stated the Township received the agreement/proposal from Bruce & Merrilees for a 12 month term starting January 1, 2021 for maintenance and repairs to our traffic signals and the rate remained the same at \$4,320.00/yr. Bill Braun noted that Pg. 4 of the agreement had two of the intersection locations listed incorrectly. Rupert motioned to ratify the signing of the agreement in the amount of \$4,320/yr. with the modification to Pg. 4. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three minute limit)

Dennis Higgins was back again to ask what was going on with the camper that is parked across from him. He stated he was told the guy would be considered permanent at 6 months and be required to have sewage. Mr. Higgins stated he hears his generator running 24 hours a day and knows he is not hauling out his sewage. Mr. Higgins also stated neighbors are burning their food and it stinks. Mr. Higgins told the board they need to step up and take care of these nuisances. Mr. Higgins stated there is garbage everywhere and his one neighbor has five junk cars in his yard. Steinheiser stated the board needs to take one step at a time and suggested sending the Sewage Enforcement Officer out to inspect but feels he should take some type of representation (sheriff, constable). Rupert also told Mr. Higgins that since the camper has been there for over six months the county assessment office has been contacted that it is considered permanent and needs to be taxed. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated sending the SEO out is the first step and then if it is found that the sewage is being dumped illegally then a citation can be put in place and court action taken to have the camper removed. Mr. Higgins thanked the board for their help.

Kurtis Sintz, resident on Shannon Rd., presented a safety concern of traffic flying down Rt. 68 and veering off onto Shannon Rd. and there is a bus stop at the intersection of Shannon Rd. and Dick Rd. and stated his daughter almost got hit by a car traveling 65 mph walking to the bus. Mr. Sintz stated the bus driver got footage of this incident and a police report was done. Mr. Sintz stated the police officer suggested asking the Township to put in a 3-way stop. Rupert stated reducing the speed limit or getting a stop sign would require a costly road study. Rupert stated Rt. 68 coming off Shannon Rd. should have been done differently by PennDot. Mr. Sintz stated he approach PennDot first since this is a state road but they sent him to the Township. Rupert asked Lou Zimmerman from the Fire Company if this area was a hot spot for accidents. Mr. Zimmerman said "no" but agreed that the traffic is too fast on that stretch of road. Steinheiser suggested writing a letter to the State Representatives and possibly having the Fire Company write one and the Township could write one. Brendan Linton volunteered to help comprise the letter. He stated he has sent letters to PennDot and Commissioners in the past concerning the Rt. 68 corridor and has received replies directly from the Secretary of Transportation. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Linton for assisting Mr. Sintz to try to get this safety issue resolved. Rupert suggested putting a copy of the Police Report in with the letter.

Brendan Linton, planning commission and sewer authority member, stated Connoquenessing Township is entering a very interesting point in development and said with sewer coming in the Township development will explode.

Mr. Linton stated he is concerned that the Township needs to address the ordinances because some of the current ones would not stop an apartment complex being built on a 100 acre parcel off Whitestown Rd. Mr. Linton assured the public that he is not looking to bring major zoning to Connoquenessing Township but would like the Township to review their Subdivision Land Development ordinance to not allow certain types of businesses in certain locations. Mr. Linton stated he is not looking for heavy zoning that would prohibit burning or home based businesses. Mr. Linton stated he would like to keep commercial businesses on Rt. 68 and other locations would be residential or agricultural. Mr. Linton also stated that he would like to see an Access Management Ordinance also discussed to cover transportation issues. Steinheiser stated he agrees with the growth that sewage will bring to the township and agreed that Mr. Linton's concerns should be looked at.

Richard Goldinger stated he is the current District Attorney in Butler County and is seeking the seat of the Judge that is open for 2022. Mr. Goldinger stated he opened his private law firm in 1995 and said he has done civil jury trials, arbitration, custody trials and over 100 criminal defence trials. District Attorney Goldinger was elected in 2007 and was re-elected in 2011, 2015 and 2020. Mr. Goldinger stated in his current position he has prosecuted drunk drivers, drug dealers and murderers. Mr. Goldinger said a Judge should know their way around a court room and he does. Mr. Goldinger stated he has to make tough decisions now and a Judge also has to make tough decisions. In closing District Attorney asked for the publics vote on May 18, 2021. He stated he is cross-filing but is a registered Republican.

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun stated Senate has completed the Lower Harmony culvert drawings and the permit application. Mr. Braun stated the projects cost is estimated between \$170,000 - \$190,000. Mr. Braun stated the permit should be good indefinitely as long as DEP doesn't change their regulations. After discussing, Steinheiser motioned to approve Kradel signing the permit application and sending to the DEP for the Lower Harmony culvert. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated that at last month's meeting the board increased the Tax Certification and Municipal Lien letters from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per parcel. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. presented Resolution 2-21 to adopt these new fees. Rupert motioned to ratify Resolution 2-21 effective February 3, 2021. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Steinheiser motioned to approve February invoice in the amount of \$86.11. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated the road crew spent 14 days this month plowing/salting. Kradel stated they had small breakdowns, patched potholes and stated the hydraulic pump has been installed on the brushcutter. Kradel stated the road crew is cutting roads where they will be crossing with culverts to prepare roads for paving.

Kradel motioned to advertise for dustoil. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

Steinheiser stated there was one building permit applied for this month.

It was:

7-21 - Jonathan Kasing - Fassinger Rd. - shed - 2/5/21

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Ann Isaacs stated the tax cards that were recently mailed out had an error. Mrs. Isaacs stated only residents within 780 ft. of a fire hydrant currently get hydrant tax but an error in the County put fire hydrant tax on every tax card. Mrs. Isaacs stated only 968 should have been taxed but 2,768 were taxed that shouldn't have been. The County said

they can't reprint. Mrs. Isaacs said there is no good solution. Mrs. Isaacs said she has to manually fix all these amounts in her tax system. Rupert felt the County could redo and mail new cards. Mr. Menchyk, Jr.'s concern was mortgage companies that have already sent the incorrect amount in. Mrs. Isaacs said those actually are the easiest to correct because she can just send the money back. Rupert stated he could figure his amount minus the 2% or face but his amount might still be \$.01 off. Mrs. Isaacs said she could not accept that and that is why she needs to let everyone know what the correct amount is. Mrs. Isaacs said the amount of time is a concern to her. Rupert also stated the Township will not be getting revenue until this is straighted out. Mrs. Isaacs did say that the County made a resolution that tax collectors have until March 24, 2021 to send monies to the Township. Mrs. Isaacs said she is not accepting any payments yet until she gets a specific roll count from the County. Mr. Roy Gilliland asked Mrs. Isaacs what this all means? Mrs. Isaacs said everyone was billed hydrant tax and only 968 should have been. Mr. Ken Tressler asked when this happened? Rupert stated just this year because the County changed their computer system and did not catch this error. Steinheiser and the board sympathized with Mrs. Isaacs and wished her the best.

SEO REPORT

NONE

EMERGENCY MGMT REPORT

NONE

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Kradel motioned to release JB Mill road bond on Eagle Mill Rd. in the amount of \$8,750.00. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to release Lipinski Logging road bond on Lower Harmony Rd. in the amount of \$15,000.00. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Rupert motioned to refund escrow to Weaver Master Builders for ESB Bank escrow in the amount of \$3,074.50. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Rupert motioned to release UPG land development escrow in the amount of \$4,056.00. Bill Braun stated he went to inspect and UPG had not built their third addition in the plan and stated they had no present plans to do so. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

PSATS has canceled annual convention in Hershey.

Butler County Association of Township Officials has canceled their Annual Spring Convention in May.

Forward Township facility will host the annual recycle day on Saturday, May 8, 2021. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Connoquenessing Township office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Rupert motioned to adjourn to an executive session at 7:12 p.m. to discuss litigation issues. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.