

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on April 7, 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 to take the minutes. Twelve 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 March 3, 2021. Kradel motioned to accept the minutes of March 3, 2021. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$247,640.02 but after deposits of \$70,241.35 and checks in the amount of \$70,717.69 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$247,163.68. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$17,131.32 but with deposits in the amount of \$40,590.00 and \$1,225.00 checks leaving an ending balance of \$56,496.32. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$248,803.46 but with interest in the amount of \$10.70, the ending balance is \$248,814.16. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance is \$303,281.21 but with interest in the amount of \$68.55, the ending balance is \$303,349.76. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 CD remained at \$527,665.34 for an Act 13 grand total of \$831,015.10. Rupert motioned to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Lee Kradel stated the Quick Books and Payroll service are due to be updated. Lee Kradel stated she hadn't received the cost for the Payroll service yet but did receive a quote from our computer company in the amount of \$379.99 which she feels will be the total for both but will update next month if this is not correct. Kradel motioned to approve the Quick Books update in the amount of \$379.99. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

AUDITOR REPORT

Beth Dittmer, from MaherDuessel, reported on the Connoquenessing Township audit for the year 2020. Mrs. Dittmer said the Annual Audit Report is submitted to the DCED. Mrs. Dittmer stated this lists all the Township's financial information. Mrs. Dittmer stated the Township also received an "unmodified opinion" which is the type of rating you want. Mrs. Dittmer stated the financial report was also filed with the DCED by March 31, 2021 and advertised in the local paper. Mrs. Dittmer said we had a gain of \$158,000 fund balance for 2020. Mrs. Dittmer reviewed the "Management Letter" and the "Communications of those charged with Governance" report. Mrs. Dittmer stated the Township had no new accounting procedures and said there were very few adjustments to the financial reports which means the financial report the public receives each month is accurate. Lastly, Mrs. Dittmer stated MaherDuessel's auditors had no problems with Township personnel in acquiring information. Steinheiser asked if the audit report is finalized. Mrs. Dittmer said, "yes".

COMMENT PERIOD (three minutes pertaining to agenda)

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Steinheiser stated the Butler County Humane Society submitted a retaining tank permit application and agreement. David Thinner from W.K. Thomas Engineers was present and stated the Humane Society currently has a 16 x 20 pavilion that they are planning to enclose and use as an isolation unit to take in

stray animals. Mr. Thinnes stated they are requesting a retaining tank because the current septic system is at full capacity per our Sewage Enforcement Officer David Ice's comments. Mr. Thinnes stated the addition will have a washer, dryer bathroom and probably a bathtub to wash the dogs but stated the building won't be used everyday. Kradel asked if this is a new addition? Mr. Thinnes said, "yes". Kradel asked if he got his building permit. Mr. Thinnes said, "yes" from Mike Grill, the Township's commercial building inspector. Brenda Davis questioned whether a stormwater or land development plan should be done. The board discussed but stated there was no need for a stormwater or land development plan. Rupert motioned to approve and sign the retaining tank agreement. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Brendan Linton, Planning Commission member and Sewer Authority secretary was present to discuss ideas for the future of Connoquenessing Township which include Transportation Impact Fee and an Access Management Ordinance. Mr. Linton supplied a packet of his presentation to the board and stated the public could request copies. Mr. Linton mentioned our Joint Comprehension Plan that was adopted in 2007 with the Connoquenessing Borough which covered many topics but the main concern was to address the transportation for the commercial growth along the Rt. 68 corridor which includes such things as safety and traffic improvements, timed traffic lights, turning lanes, etc. Mr. Linton said the Transportation Impact Fee which was mentioned in this plan which is a one time charge that is assessed on new developments which is charged to the developer provides money to the Township for expanding roads. Mr. Linton noted that this Impact fee could only be used for any costs that the new development caused, for example the Township having to widen the roads or put in a traffic light. The benefits are that the Developer will pay not the taxpayers. The negative is that the impact fee can be 100% spent on Township roads but only 50% on state roads. Mr. Linton said another negative is that it takes at least 18 months to implement this and an advisory committee would need formed. Mr. Linton said with sewer coming into this area within the next 5 years, which will significantly cause growth, he feels this option should be looked at. Secondly, Mr. Linton discussed the Access Management ordinance which covers the many crashes and fatalities along Rt. 68 and the problems with speed and traffic volume. Mr. Linton stated pedestrian and bicycling has also increased on Rt. 68. Mr. Linton stated the goal is eliminate or reduce the amount of cross traffic onto the highway. Mr. Linton stated if the Township had an Access Management ordinance then this would supersede PennDot's baseline requirements. Mr. Linton stated it reduces crashes up to 50%, increases the road capacity by 45% and reduces your travel delays by 60%. Mr. Linton stated this ordinance is directed towards safety and the highway being able to accommodate traffic volume and new businesses. Mr. Linton stated this all takes time and the time to act is now. Clint McConnell asked if Mr. Linton was referring to parallel access roads. Mr. Linton said those would be included. Mr. Linton stated he will provide presentation copies. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Linton for his time researching this information.

Brendan Linton speaking on behalf of the Sewer Authority talked about how the sewage authority board is moving ahead with the sewage design that is coming to parts of Connoquenessing Township. Mr. Linton stated the pink stakes that many see around the area are where the sewage is planned. Mr. Linton stated if you live around this boundary but not included in the plan and have an interest in being considered in the plan the sewer authority is collecting "Voluntary Sewer Extension Request" forms to possibly factor you into the final design. Mr. Linton said by filling out this form it is not a contract or a guarantee that the resident has to connect or the sewer authority will even allow you connect but at least the Sewer Authority will reach out to you to gather information. Mr. Linton stated the forms must be received at the Township office by Wednesday, April 21st at 4:00 p.m. to be considered.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three minute limit)

Amy Marcinkiewicz was present to introduce herself because she is running for the open District Magistrate position since Wayne Seibel is retiring. Mrs. Marcinkiewicz stated she just retired after

26 years with Channel 11 news and in that position she knows many people and knows the court systems. Mrs. Marcinkiewicz said she is committed to the community and wants to go all in on public service.

Dennis Higgins was present again to ask the board what they have done in the past month about the man living in the trailer across from him that has no septic system. Mr. Higgins said the man approached his son and told him he is allowed a holding tank for his septic system and Mr. Higgins wanted to know what he was told. Mr. Higgins complained about ducks and chickens over there but Kradel said anyone can have ducks, chickens, cows, etc. Kradel stated he was at the site with Dave Ice, Sewage Enforcement Officer, and they did not find any evidence of sewage on the ground and stated the man does have a holding tank in the trailer. Kradel stated the board is looking into the legality of his holding tank and if that type is not permitted, they will take action. Mr. Higgins said the supervisors need to step up and get his neighborhood cleaned up. Mr. Higgins said there is junk everywhere and feels the Township discriminates against the Woodlands. Mr. Higgins stated the board calls the roads in the Woodlands carpaths but they are real roads on the Google map. Steinheiser stated they will always be called carpaths until the community brings the roads up to PennDot conditions so the Township would consider adopting. Mr. Higgins said the Woodlands people pay taxes and deserve some gravel on their roads. Sandi Cox, code enforcement officer, asked to respond to Mr. Higgins as a resident and said she doesn't feel her's or any other residents tax dollars should be spent on these roads. Mrs. Cox explained that the Township gets liquid fuels money to be spent on roads that are state approved and can not get funds for the Woodlands roads because they are not up to standard. Mr. Higgins said he is more concerned with the garbage and vehicles and asked the Township to enforce these issues. Steinheiser said they are still working on his issues. Rupert stated the board has to follow our ordinances in reference to enforcement.

Mark Lupinacci, resident, stated he owns two properties. The one property at the corner of Rose Haven Dr. and Pineview Circle has three sources of stormwater that are dumping water on his property and flooding it. Steinheiser asked how long he has lived there and whether this has been happening the whole time? Mr. Lupinacci said, "yes" and he has lived there 11 years. Mr. Lupinacci said the big one he is concerned about runs from the top of Pineview Circle and runs across parallel with Rose Haven Dr. and dumps into his property. Mr. Lupinacci stated Rick Kradel did come out to meet him at the location. Mr. Lupinacci said there is also a catch basin at 131 Rose Haven and there is a place across Rt. 68 that comes under Rt. 68 and goes across property at Rose Haven Dr. Mr. Lupinacci feels the Township was out and put these Rose Haven catch basins in within the last 5 years but Kradel said he feels all three stormwater pipes were put in over 50 years ago when the state did Rt. 68. Kradel also said he has been to the site everytime it has rained since talking to Mr. Lupinacci and hasn't seen any puddling of water. Mr. Kradel told Mr. Lupinacci that he hadn't walked away from his problem and was still working on this and needed to pull the plans for the Rose Haven development to see if they put any of the stormwater pipes in. Mr. Lupinacci asked if there would be a way if the developer caused this to go back on them. Kradel said, "no", they are long gone. Kradel said they are natural waterways and they are not going to be taken out because the State will not allow water to go across Rt. 68. Mr. Lupinacci said he is just looking for a resolution. Steinheiser stated Kradel will work with you to see if there is a resolution.

PLANS

Rick Kradel was present to represent Eerie Acres Farm Stormwater Plan. Bill Braun stated the plan went through the Planning Commission and only needs the O & M agreement signed, notarized and recorded by the owners and Township. Brenda Davis stated the Kradels' have submitted the signed and notarized agreement and it was in the supervisors packets. Rupert motioned to approve the stormwater plan and have the Township sign, notarize and record the O & M agreement. Steinheiser seconded. Kradel, abstained.

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun stated he has received the permit from DEP for the Lower Harmony Rd. culvert so work can be done when Township is ready.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. presented the board with a new fee schedule for Township fees and stated if they are approved he has prepared Resolution #3-21 to adopt them. After board review, Rupert motioned to adopt Resolution #3-21 for Township fees. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Kradel motioned to approve March invoice in the amount of \$422.44. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in the packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated he needed to ratify hiring two summer/temporary workers that started this past Monday, April 5, 2021. Kradel stated the hiring was approved at a previous meeting. Rupert motioned to ratify hiring two summer/temporary workers. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

- 8-21 - Steven Berresford - Dick Rd. - shed - 3/8/21
- 9-21 - Michael Smith - Timberlee Dr. - shed - 3/10/21
- 10-21 - Joseph Conroy III - Woodlands Rd. - pool - 3/11/21
- 11-21 - Scott Meiser - Eagle Mill Rd. - addition - 3/16/21
- 12-21 - Steven Iman - Dick Rd. - carport - 3/17/21
- 13-21 - Jonathan Smith - Whitestown Rd. - pool - 3/19/21
- 14-21 - Jonathan Smith - Whitestown Rd. - front porch - 3/19/21
- 15-21 - Jonathan Smith - Whitestown Rd. - back porch - 3/19/21
- 16-21 - Mark Capriotti - Buttercup Rd. - inground pool - 3/26/21
- 17-21 - Carol Michael - Evans City Rd. - shed - 3/29/21
- 18-21 - Terry Shirley - Lakeview Dr. - shed - 3/31/21
- 19-21 - Kevin Hepfl - Whitestown Rd. - porch - 4/6/21

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Rupert explained that there was a mistake with the Hydrant Tax on the 2021 tax cards because the County had got a new computer program and the new system billed all tax cards with Hydrant Tax. Rupert stated only residents that live within 780 ft. of a hydrant should have been taxed. Rupert stated the County was not reissuing tax cards so you need to contact Ann Isaacs the Tax Collector to get your correct amount to pay. Rupert feels a Public Notice should be placed in the Butler Eagle. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. agreed that the Township should do this as a public service. The board asked Brenda to write up and then get comments from Ann Isaacs before advertising. Steinheiser motioned to advertise a Public Notice about the Hydrant Tax in the Butler Eagle. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

SEO REPORT

Kradel motioned to release Bob Birckbichler sewage escrow in the amount of \$575.00. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Rupert stated he attended the quarterly CVREMA meeting on March 25, 2021 and their account balance is \$6,747.86. Rupert also stated they are working on their part of the new 5 year Butler County Hazard Mitigation Plan and said the Township will also be updating our part.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Rupert stated that the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau has received an offer of \$600.00 for each of the below 8 parcels that are currently on the Butler County Repository unsold property list and requests the Township to sign off on each parcel either by consenting or **not** consenting to the sale of these parcels.

Below are the parcels:

120-S5-A1211 - Hawk Dr.	120-S6-A663 - Buffalo Rd.
120-S5-A1210 - Hawk Dr.	120-S4-A638 - Raccoon Rd.
120-S6-A662 - Buffalo Rd.	120-S6-A659 - Buffalo Rd.
120-S4-A1377 - Mink Rd.	120-S3-A324 - Grouse Rd.

Rupert motioned to sign and "consent" selling the above parcels for \$600.00 from the Repository. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

Received letter from Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage dated March 2021 stating that Berkshire Hathaway Energy has completed its acquisition of Dominion Energy's Gas Transmission and Storage business in the eastern region. Information is on file at Township office.

Connoquenessing Township, Connoquenessing Borough, Evans City Borough and Forward Township will have their joint annual "Clean-up/Recycling Day" on May 8, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A list of items being accepted and fees will be posted at the Township office in the near future.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn to an executive session at 7:05 p.m. to address code enforcement matters that may result in litigation. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.