

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on August 4, 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. Six 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 July 7, 2021. Kradel motioned to accept the minutes of July 7, 2021. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$227,546.69 but after deposits of \$240,427.34 and checks in the amount of \$308,587.03 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$159,387.00. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$55,981.32 but with a deposit in the amount of \$72.67 and checks in the amount of \$1,910.17, leaving an ending balance of \$54,143.82. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$248,845.18 but with checks in the amount of \$210,354.84 and interest in the amount of \$7.96, the ending balance is \$38,498.30. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance is \$442,360.20 but with interest in the amount of \$78.53, the ending balance is \$442,438.73. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 CD balance remained at \$528,244.33 for an Act 13 grand total of \$970,683.06. Lee Kradel stated a new account has been set up for the American Relief Plan funds (ARP) in the amount of \$203,162.94. Lee Kradel noted the reason the general funds deposits and checks were so high is because the (ARP) funds were deposited to that account and then paid to the new (ARP) account. Rupert motioned to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Lee Kradel stated our Act 13 CD which matures on August 9, 2021 is up for renewal. Mrs. Kradel said she discussed rates with the bank and received a rate of .3% for one year and .2% for six months which is the same interest in the checking account. Mrs. Kradel stated the monies could be withdrawn early without penalty with a good reason. Rupert suggested adding to the CD from the Act 13 checking account. After discussing, Rupert motioned to add \$200,000 to the current CD from the Act 13 checking account and renew the CD for a 1-year term at .3% as long as the Township can early withdraw without penalty if needed. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Secondly, Lee Kradel stated that the ARP funds can be used towards the deficit in our Earned Income Tax (EIT). Mrs. Kradel stated the Township lost 4% in 2020 (\$22,000) and 6.4% so far in 2021 (\$34,000). Rupert stated he feels we should pay back the Township out of the ARP funds once a year preferably at budget time. Rupert also suggested giving some to the Sewer Authority to help with their expenses.

COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit pertaining to agenda
NONE

REQUEST TO BE HEARD - three minute limit
Dennis Higgins was on the agenda but did not attend.

OLD BUSINESS
NONE

NEW BUSINESS
Kradel motioned to approve General Code eCode360 annual maintenance in the amount of \$1,195.00. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Brenda Davis stated the Paris contract who supplies the rugs, towels, hand soap, etc. is coming up for renewal and if we don't cancel between September and December 2021 the Township will automatically renew for another 5-year contract. Ms. Davis stated we have Cintas for the uniforms but their contract does not end until October 31, 2023. After discussing alternatives, Rupert motioned to send Paris a cancellation notice. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Rupert motioned to advertise for what Paris currently provides for a contract to expire on October 31, 2023. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER REPORT

NONE

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he sent a final letter to #1 Cochran on July 13, 2021 per supervisors instructions concerning the work that still needed completed on their plan. He stated his letter stated they had (7) days to respond and he has received numerous responses. Bill Braun stated the conversion of the storm water pond and as-built drawings are the two items still open and stated Neal Jennings from #1 Cochran had called him and said they would have the stormwater completed by the end of August.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the Franchise agreement with Armstrong Cable is up for renewal in January and Mr. Allen Hassler from Armstrong reached out with the new term and changes in the agreement.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he has worked with Armstrong on these agreements in the past and he requires certain terminology in the agreement. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he would work with Armstrong on the agreement and then bring it back to the supervisors at a later meeting for approval. Rupert stated Mr. Hassler noted that the video services (Cable TV) with Armstrong were currently free but in the new contract there would be a charge so the board would have to decide whether to keep this service.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated Governor Wolf signed into law on June 30, 2021 Act 65 of 2021 which amends Section 709 of the Sunshine Act to require every political subdivision to post meeting agendas on website and at meeting location at least 24 hours prior of meeting. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated this goes into affect on August 29, 2021 which will be for our next supervisor meeting in September. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the agenda will have to list specific items that might need action at the meeting or if not on agenda they can not be voted on. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated comments/reports can still be given at the meetings.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said it is important for everyone on the board to let Brenda know by the Monday before the Wednesday supervisor meeting what needs to be on the agenda.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Rupert motioned to approve invoice for July 2021 in the amount of \$288.27. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

Sandi Cox stated Dennis Higgins was on the agenda but did not show and needs guidance from the supervisors on what steps she can take on his complaint. Steinheiser noted Mr. Higgins doesn't own property in the Township. Rupert stated Mr. Higgins seems to complain about all his neighbors. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he would call an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated the road crew continues to berm the newly paved roads and has done extensive work on Whitestown Rd. Ext. by replacing a culvert and widening the road from 16 ft. to 18 ft. Kradel stated the men are still busy brushcutting and mowing the township roads.

Road superintendent report for July 2021 was in the supervisors packets.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

- 36-21 - Frank & Debbie Zbuckvich - Eagle Mill Rd. - pool - 7/12/21
- 37-21 - Denise Hofmann - Lower Harmony Rd. - shed - 7/13/21
- 38-21 - Debra Keibler - Rolling Valley Ln. - mobile home - 7/19/21
- 39-21 - Charles Gellner - Lilac Ln - shed - 7/22/21

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

Kradel motioned to release holding tank escrow for PennEnergy (Bricker pad) in the amount of \$1,800.00. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company representative was on the agenda but did not attend.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Annual operating license applications have been mailed to our four mobile home parks. As they are received, Sandra Cox will go inspect and advise

Received letter from Civil & Environmental Consultants (CEC) dated July 9, 2021 to inform that PennEnergy is applying for coverage for a Permit to Drill and Operate an Unconventional Well from PADEP for six (6) gas wells located in Forward Township (Rape Well Pad). Information is on file at Township office.

Received letter from XTO Energy dated July 12, 2021 notifying they are requesting from the PADEP to obtain a General Plan Approval and Operating Permit for their natural gas well pad (Lesney/Pawlowicz Well Pad) located in Connoquenessing Township. Information is on file at Township office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Steinheiser motioned to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. to an executive session to discuss litigation issues and code enforcement and stated the board would not return. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.