

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on March 2, 2022 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser, Larry Spangler 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. Twenty-nine 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 2, 2022. Kradel motioned to accept the February 2, 2022 supervisors meeting minutes. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$124,938.66 but after deposits of \$186,270.84 and checks in the amount of \$106,309.29 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$204,900.21. Lee Kradel stated the beginning Escrow account balance is \$56,496.50 but after deposits of \$750.00 (which Lee stated the formula did not total on the financial report) and checks in the amount of \$100.00 being approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$57,146.50. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$38,511.69 with interest of \$1.48 and the annual allocation in the amount of \$202,190.90, leaving the ending balance at \$240,704.07. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$242,695.56 but with interest of \$37.24, the ending balance is \$242,732.80. Lee Kradel said the Act 13 CD beginning balance is \$729,392.97 but with interest of \$551.54 the ending balance is \$729,944.51 for a grand total of \$972,677.31. Lee Kradel stated the American Relief Plan had a beginning balance of \$203,374.54 but with interest in the amount of \$31.20 the ending balance is \$203,405.74. Spangler motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **COMMENT PERIOD** - Three minute limit pertaining to agenda

Bill Long stated the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority meetings are going excellent. Mr. Long stated the communication between the members and residents is better. Mr. Long stated hiring HRG for a second opinion on the Act 537 Plan has been well received and the residents are happy that the Sewer Authority is looking at downsizing the sewer project and concentrating on the Rt. 68 corridor. Mr. Long feels the Sewer Authority is trying to cut down on the invasiveness of property and the cost. Mr. Long stated that Carol Christner, one of the largest property owners in the Township, hired a private engineer to do a cartoon drawing of how the Act 537 Plan can be downsized and is going to turn it over to the Sewer Authority for their review. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Long, Carol Christner and everyone included with working together on this project. Mr. Long noted that the original Act 537 Plan is still in place and unless the DEP accepts a new proposal to downsize, things may not change. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Long for his past help on Sewer Authority Board and being currently helpful and explained that he voted to appoint Ed Tanski as the new member because of his experience but would consider Mr. Long again at another opening. Mr. Long stated that Mr. Tanski shined at the last Sewer Authority meeting and belongs on the board.

Christine Klink stated she mentioned at the Sewer Authority meeting that the Township needs to make the DEP aware that they are wanting to correct the failed systems, don't want Public Sewer and it is cheaper to fix the failed systems. Mrs. Klink would like the supervisors to create an ordinance that would let the Sewer Authority look at the failed systems and get them corrected. Steinheiser stated several failed systems can not be repaired due to not having another site available on their property. Mrs. Klink asked if the Sewage Enforcement Officer has been to these sites. Mr. Steinheiser said, "yes". Mrs. Klink stated DEP has more new designs for on-lot systems available to correct failed systems. Mrs. Klink stated the Township's SEO is one of the best in the County and will work with anyone to find a solution.

Mrs. Klink feels before going to the DEP to reduce the scope of the project, the Township needs an ordinance to address the failed systems. Steinheiser said he appreciated Mrs. Klink's opinion.

Kradel question Mr. Long on the cartoon drawing of Carol Christner's plan and Bill Long said it would go from Shannon Mills to Brandywine. Kradel asked if this plan would take the Township 20 years down the road. Mr. Long said there was no question that would have to be looked into. Carol Christner, who arrived during the discussion, came forward and stated her engineer looked at the foreseeable future of commercial business on Rt. 68 from around White Oak Church towards Whitestown Rd. Mrs. Christner said they looked at flows, elevations, man holes, inverts and divided it in two using both Shannon Mills and Brandywine plants. Mrs. Christner stated the NPDES permits for these facilities show Shannon Mills only being at 11% capacity and Brandywine is 40%. Mrs. Christner said most sewer will be by gravity and one short section of pressurized line. Kradel said this is promising and hopes the "second opinion" engineer (HRG) for the Sewer Authority will look into this. Steinheiser thanked Mrs. Christner for doing this and thanked Brendan Linton for doing a great job as the new Chairman of the Sewer Authority. Spangler thanked Bill Long for all his work. Mr. Long stated, "it's not me, it's the group". Steinheiser asked if a date with the DEP has been set. Mr. Long stated it is on hold until the Sewer Authority Board has something to present. Estle Harp asked what minimum acreage would be required for residential development when sewage goes through. Lee Kradel stated the current ordinance states 1/2 acre. It was noted that currently you have to have 1 acre for on-lot sewage systems.

### **BIDS**

Kradel noted that oil has skyrocketed so he is not planning to seal coat this year. Kradel said he is planning on doing less than 1 mile on Eagle Mill Rd. with 2-1/2" binder and 1-1/2" wear coat and put wedge curbs in. Kradel stated this project may be slightly over budget. Steinheiser stated this is one of the most traveled and dangerous roads and needs attention. Kradel motioned to advertise for paving when final numbers are completed by PennDot. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Ed Gilliland asked if Eagle Mill Rd. will still be slippery. Kradel said he hopes not but feels speeding is the main reason it's slippery for cars.

### **REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three minute limit)**

Robert and Jamie Fetter, 120 Fawn Dr., were present asking the Township for their assistance in cleaning up 133 Fawn Drive. Mr. Fetter stated two mobile homes have burned at this location and all the debris is piled up. Mr. Fetter stated two dogs perished in the fire and requests they be located and given the proper burial. Mr. Fetter stated they had this complaint last year when the dogs were running free and the Dog Officer was over but did nothing. Mr. Fetter stated Sandi Cox, code enforcement officer, has also been over but after confrontation with the woman at this location has not returned. Mr. Fetter states she is scared of her safety. Mr. Fetter stated the residents have no electric, sewage or water. Mr. Fetter stated the woman runs around nude and they both go to the bathroom in the street. Mr. Fetter said they burn their garbage including feces, either live in a 8x8 shed or in their car with it running. Mr. Fetter stated they run a generator 24/7. Mr. Fetter said he can't sell his place because of this eyesore. Jamie Fetter said they have a nice place and 133 Fawn Drive is gross. Mrs. Fetter said they live like mountain people. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. told the Feters they need to report this to the State Police and provide the photographs. He said that is textbook "indecent exposure" and noise complaints are disorderly conduct. Steinheiser told Mr. Fetter that he would have Sandi Cox contact him for all the information and he requires her to bring the constable with her when approaching the residents at 133 Fawn Drive. Steinheiser stated he wants to keep Mrs. Cox safe. Steinheiser promised that the Township will move forward to help the Feters once a report comes back from Sandi Cox and the constable. Kay Double suggested Mr. Fetter calling the Crisis Hotline when the woman is running around naked or 211 and they will come out and call the police if necessary.

Evelyn Hockenberry asked Mr. Menchyk, Jr. if the Airport "Board of Adjustment" needed to advertise to appoint titles since there was one new member, Brenda Davis. Brenda Davis stated the meeting was held last year and appointments were done at that meeting and all members are currently for 3 years and no meeting is needed unless some conflict would arise with the Airport. Brenda Davis stated she was appointed secretary and Mrs. Hockenberry is Vice-Chairman.

Secondly, Mrs. Hockenberry stated the Agricultural Security ordinance needs attention.

Mrs. Hockenberry said since zoning may be in the future, the Township needs to be sure our farmers are still farming the properties that are registered and that their work routines are being considered.

Mrs. Hockenberry asked Mr. Menchyk, Jr. what would happen to the AG Security properties if zoning came in. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated they would more than likely be put in an agricultural zoning district. Steinheiser thanked Mrs. Hockenberry for her comment.

Mark Williams stated his question was already answered.

Angela Fleegeer thanked Steinheiser for the moment of prayer for Ukraine and commended Brendan Linton on being the Chairman of the Sewer Authority Board and how well he runs the meetings. Mrs. Fleegeer asked if everything requested from Senate Engineering by the Sewer Authority Board has been received. Brendan Linton stated he feels most has been received and this information will be turned over to the "second opinion" engineer and then they may request more information. Mr. Long questioned the amount of files that were turned over didn't seem to be enough. Mr. Linton stated there were a lot of files turned over by Senate Engineering and after the Sewer Authority Board and "second opinion" engineer review, if anything seems to be missing, the Sewer Authority Board will request the files. Mrs. Fleegeer mentioned the \$38,000 invoice from Senate Engineering that was approved to be paid in January by the Sewer Authority Board even though it was not a detailed invoice but was told that would be the last invoice paid to Senate because they are on hold. Mrs. Fleegeer stated now a \$3,900.00 invoice was presented at the last Sewer Authority meeting and it was tabled by Mr. Dambaugh until more detail can be obtained. Steinheiser told Mrs. Fleegeer she was addressing the wrong board. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the supervisors appoint the members of the Sewer Authority Board but supervisors do not run the Sewer Authority. Brendan Linton stated some municipalities Township's/Boroughs do run their Sewer Authority but Connoquenessing Township's Sewer Authority stands on its own. Mrs. Fleegeer stated she was concerned about other Senate Engineering invoices sneaking in when we have a new "second opinion" engineer and said as a concerned citizen she will address these same questions to the Sewer Authority Board.

Gary Fleegeer mentioned he has noticed past workers that were installing gas lines on his property partaking in drugs and asked the board to require drug testing for the people who will be doing the surveying, construction, etc. for the Sewer Project. Steinheiser stated that is their employers' responsibility. Secondly, Mr. Fleegeer suggested putting a stop sign on Eagle Mill Rd. to slow drivers down. The board stated that would be more dangerous and you can't just put one in without approval.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Steinheiser stated there are no new updates on the Act 537 sewer design plan.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

\*NONE\*

### **PLANS**

Richard Daugherty, future property owner of lots 109 & 110 Shannon Mills Dr., was present to ask for approval of the Lezzer Martin LP Lot Consolidation Plan. Mr. Braun stated they are just removing the line between 2 properties and the Plan has been reviewed and recommended for approval from the

Planning Commission. Kradel motioned to approve their modification to not provide contours listed in section 245, Articles V & VI because no new lots are being proposed. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Spangler motioned to approve the Lezzer Martin LP Lot Consolidation Plan for Preliminary and Final approval. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **ENGINEER REPORT**

Mr. Braun stated he has emailed #1 Cochran's engineer twice for an update on correcting their stormwater issues and has not received an answer. Board directed Mr. Braun to advise #1 Cochran that if he does not receive a plan by Monday that the Township will move forward with using their cash bond in the amount of \$34,000 to rectify the issues. Steinheiser motioned to have Mr. Menchyk, Jr. send a letter advising them of this if Mr. Braun has not had a response by Monday. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Bill Braun stated he is finalizing the LSA grant application to submit to use on the Lower Harmony Culvert. Mr. Braun stated the estimated cost is \$229,000 and said this grant is a no-match grant but it is normally favorable if the applicant (Township) is willing to put up an amount towards the project. Mr. Braun suggested a percentage of 15-20% or agree to pay the engineering fees that could be between \$8,000-\$10,000. Kradel would like to put up \$40,000 (20%) that would show good faith in the project. Kradel stated the job needs done and it will cost the whole \$229,000 if we don't get the grant. Mr. Braun stated Senate Engineering has completed 20 applications so far for their clients stating a lot of companies have applied. After the board discussed, Spangler made a motion to allocate \$30,000 towards the Lower Harmony Rd. culvert if the LSA grant is awarded. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Lastly, Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated a resolution will need adopted showing this \$30,000 dedicated funds so it can be enclosed with the LSA grant application. Kradel motioned to adopt resolution #2-22 for inclusion in LSA grant application. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **SOLICITOR REPORT**

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he advised Armstrong that the supervisors were only favorable to signing a 5-year franchise agreement and the agreement would need updated before signed. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he has heard back from Armstrong requesting to meet with the Township to discuss but could not make tonight's meeting so there is no action tonight.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the EADS Group, who was hired to do the Township's Comprehensive Plan, had not responded back to him from the January 31<sup>st</sup> letter he sent them with his recommendations to amend the Agreement between them and the Township so he emailed a letter to them yesterday, March 1st and received a new amended agreement today but did not have time to review before tonight's meeting so no action can be taken.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated ordinance #99-22 to change PennDot's map in relation to having their map rename our part of Constitution Ave. (which they called Reiber Rd.) to what we have always called Constitution Ave. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the ordinance has been advertised and letters have been sent to owners of property on Constitution Ave. that was required before it can be adopted. Steinheiser motioned to adopt ordinance #99-22. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. noted the Township received a letter from the PADEP January 31, 2022 inquiring about the meeting to discuss the Act 537 Plan and Mr. Menchyk, Jr. responded to the email by letter on February 16, 2022 stating Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority has retained a "second opinion" engineering firm to review the current plan and asked that the meeting be postponed until their findings can be reviewed and then the Supervisors will contact the PADEP to meet.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Spangler motioned to approve February invoice in the amount of \$416.46. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in the packets.

**ROAD MASTERS REPORT**

Kradel mentioned the Lower Harmony Rd. damage from the flooding last week and stated the road crew had to build up certain areas of the road by 3 inches. Kradel said the road crew continues to cold patch pot holes. Kradel said Bill Chuba has been working with PennDot representative to finalize the paving project for this year.

Kradel stated the Salt Contract that is ordered through CoStars needs to be ordered for next year by March 15, 2022. Lee Kradel stated you must order at least 60% of this amount but can order 140% of this amount at the same rate. After board discussion, Kradel motioned to complete the CoStars contract application to order 700 ton. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

**BUILDING PERMIT REPORT**

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

They were:

- 1-22 - Gary Cygan - Double Rd. - garage - 2/7/22
- 2-22 - James Russell - Winterwood Dr. - shed - 2/18/22
- 3-22 - Lloyd Eagal - Isaac Ln. - garage - 2/24/22
- 4-22 - April Roccia - Rolling Valley Ln. - deck - 2/24/22

**TAX COLLECTOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**SEO REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**EMERGENCY MGMT REPORT**

Matt McConnell from Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company was present. Bill Long stated he was disappointed that the supervisors reduced the LST allocation to 25% from 75% after increasing the the fire tax to 2 mill from .05 mill. Steinheiser stated they had always received the 25% per year but were given a one time 75% last year to help them since a fire tax was not awarded. Mr. Long also want to put a rumor to rest that the new fire company building was going to have a "gym". Mr. Long and Mr. McConnell agreed there will not be a "gym". The exercise area will be a closet size room with weights and an elliptical.

**MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

Spangler motioned to ratify the release of sign escrow for Bill Long in the amount of \$50.00. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser asked Gary Fleeger, who has one of Bill Long's signs on his truck if he removed it. Mr. Fleeger said, "no". Someone asked why a personal sign on a personal vehicle is in violation. Mr. Steinheiser stated this sign was under the temporary sign permit application of Bill Long, which has now ended and the sign needs removed.

Bill Long asked Steinheiser to state what happened in Executive Session after last month's meeting. Steinheiser stated he forgot to say at the beginning of the meeting but it was concerning a potential lawsuit that did not transpire. Dave Dreher thanked the Fire Company for their great efforts to the fatal house fire on Reiber Rd. The crowd clapped in appreciation.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Kradel motioned to adjourn to an executive session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss litigation issues and stated the board would not return. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.