

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

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Steinheiser read these announcements that were listed on the agenda:

The Supervisors met immediately following the March 2, 2022 Supervisors' Meeting to consult with the Solicitor involving matters of ordinance litigation or with issues on which identifiable complaints are expected to be filed.

On March 23, 2022 the Supervisors met to discuss issue on which identifiable complaints are expected to be filed in regard to PennDot condemnation of Township owned real estate. Steinheiser stated everyone has been working diligently to get a traffic light at this location and trying to work this into the agreement.

On March 28, 2022 two of the Supervisors met jointly in executive session with Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority Board immediately after the Sewer Authority's meeting to discuss personnel matters involving professional services, issues on which identifiable complaint are expected to be filed, and real estate for public sewage system facilities.

Mr. Roy Gilliland asked where the light will go? Steinheiser stated at Stevenson and Rt. 68. Steinheiser said PennDot offered the Township \$49,000 to take the Township property out front for squaring up the crossroads, road widening and a turning lane but will not bend on allowing the Township to have a traffic light. Steinheiser stated a representative from PennDot asked him to sign for the \$49,000 but he told him, "no" and said to use the money towards the installation of a traffic light. Mr. Spangler stated the supervisors are even willing to go to Indiana, PA to meet with PennDot engineers. Mr. Steinheiser said he has not heard back from PennDot. Mr. Steinheiser told the public that the Township will go to court if PennDot refuses a traffic light.

Mr. Steinheiser told Mr. Bill Long and the public he was explaining these executive sessions per the Sunshine Act. Mr. Steinheiser said the supervisors work diligently to protect our citizens. Mr. Long said the explanation above on the agenda in reference to the executive sessions is perfect and how the Sunshine Act is supposed to work.

### **REVIEW MINUTES**

Reviewed minutes of March 2, 2022. Spangler motioned to accept the March 2, 2022 supervisors meeting minutes. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$204,900.21 but after deposits of \$95,849.53 and checks in the amount of \$129,636.49 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$171,113.25. Lee Kradel stated the beginning Escrow account balance is \$57,146.50 but after deposits of \$400.00 and checks in the amount of \$16.50 being approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$57,530.00. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$240,704.07 with interest of \$10.22, leaving the ending balance at \$240,714.29. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$242,732.80 but with interest of \$41.23, the ending balance is \$242,774.03. Lee Kradel said the Act 13 CD balance remained at \$729,944.51 for a grand total of \$972,718.54. Lee Kradel stated the

American Relief Plan had a beginning balance of \$203,405.74 but with interest in the amount of \$34.55 the ending balance is \$203,440.29. Kradel motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

Mark Williams, resident on Powdermill Rd., first thanked the supervisors for the hard work they do. Mr. Williams said the comments brought forward are not a personal attack just concerns that the citizens need to know. Mr. Williams said he did not see the check listed on the financial report for the \$159.00 that was paid to the DEP for a copy of the Act 537 Plan. Lee Kradel stated it was on last month's report but she had the wrong payee name and will correct on next month's report. Mr. Williams questioned why the Township had to pay for a copy of the Act 537 plan when we should already have a complete one from Senate Engineering. Rick Kradel stated there is one on CD at the office and can be emailed. Kradel stated the \$159.00 got the Township files back from 1998 from the DEP and will be valuable to the Township moving forward with the second opinion engineer. Brenda Davis stated the Sewer Authority is reimbursing the Township for this \$159.00. Mr. Williams stated it is still spending money that will be charged back to the community residents getting sewer. Mr. Williams also stated he submitted a right-to-know request for the amount that was spent on the whole development of the Act 537 plan and said there is no exact amount that can be determined. Mr. Williams feels there should be a fiduciary responsibility on such a large project. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Williams for his comments.

Mr. Steinheiser stated the Township was turned into the ACLU and stated that was not proper but he would deal with it. Evelyn Hockenberry asked who they are? Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said the American Civil Liberties Union.

Brendan Linton, speaking only on his behalf, stated PennDot will win at condemning the land and suggests looking into a roundabout instead of a traffic signal. Mr. Linton said there is always community resistance to these but said from his personal experience they work better than a signal. Mr. Linton stated the PennDot figures for this intersection would allow a single lane roundabout. Mr. Linton stated roundabouts reduce fatal collisions by 90%, injury crashes by 75%, pedestrian crashes by 30-40% and bicycle crashes by 10%. Mr. Linton said roundabouts also increase traffic flow by 30%. Mr. Linton stated if PennDot is going to take a large chunk of Township land, he feels a roundabout would be a good alternative. Mr. Linton supplied an informational packet about the roundabout to the supervisors. Steinheiser told Mr. Linton he feels more land is needed for a roundabout. Mr. Linton stated it will work and will help reduce the speed and rear end collisions. Mr. Braun asked if PennDot hadn't already looked into this option. Mr. Linton stated they do have a roundabout committee but not sure if they were engaged or not. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Linton for his homework and told the public he is fighting for them. Kradel feels we should contact PennDot with this option and explore all options.

Lee Kradel addressed Mark Williams' earlier question about the \$159.00 check to the DEP not seen on the financial report from last month. Mrs. Kradel stated it was check #24460, dated February 24, 2022 and payable to Commonwealth of PA but listed Penn Power as the payee incorrectly. Lee stated it will be corrected on the next report.

Steinheiser asked Lambert Rosenbaum to stand up for applause for being a Vietnam veteran. Steinheiser stated his picture was on the front page of the Butler Eagle.

**BIDS**

Following are the sealed bids that were publicly opened and read aloud by Brenda Davis for the letting of April 6, 2022:

**PAVING**

The bidders and amounts are below:

	<b>Youngblood</b>	<b>Shields Paving</b>	<b>Wiest Asphalt</b>	<b>Protech</b>	<b>Hawbaker</b>
1,786 ton binder	\$71.05	\$71.00	\$72.26	\$86.38	\$74.35
1,335 ton wearing	\$79.76	\$71.00	\$72.26	\$99.47	\$91.20

All above bidders enclosed their bid bonds which were approved by Andrew Menchyk, Jr. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. noted that Shields Paving is a client of his. Kradel motioned to award Shields Paving, the lowest bidder, with the paving bid in the total amount of \$221,591.00. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

Bill Long mentioned the stop sign that was recently put up at Reiber and Moose Roads was a good idea for safety reasons. Steinheiser stated he did not realize the road crew put it in and he had them remove it because you have to go through the proper procedures before putting a stop sign up. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the Township needs PennDot approval before installing a stop sign. Kradel stated he is moving forward with the approval process but it will take time. Val Dean Scott from Moose Rd. said she has lived there 30 years and doesn't really like the stop sign there. Mrs. Scott stated her biggest concern on Moose Rd. is her safety with the dragsters. Mrs. Scott said they also drag strip on Kriess Rd. Kradel stated the Township can't enforce that, it would be the state police. Bill Braun said following the PennDot guidelines for putting up a sign include a traffic study conducted, advance warning signs for about a month and a notice in the local paper stating it will be installed. Mr. Roy Gilliland asked why follow PennDot regulations on a Township road. Mr. Braun said mainly for liability reasons and Brendan Linton stated the Township receives liquid fuels money from PennDot for Township roads.

Mark Williams spoke earlier and had no additional comments.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Steinheiser previously explained the PennDot condemnation of Township owned real estate that was listed under this section on agenda.

Kradel stated the Township has to prepare a Hazard Mitigation Plan or can adopt the Butler County Plan. Kradel stated you need one in order to get federal funding in case of natural disaster or qualify for grants/funding from FEMA. Evelyn Hockenberry asked where she could see the County Plan. Lee Kradel said on the Butler County website. Kradel motioned to adopt Resolution #3-22 which states the Township is adopting the 2021 Butler County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kelly Livermore, representing the All Saints Parish on Buttercup Rd., requested temporary closure of Buttercup Rd. from church driveway to 198 Buttercup Rd. on July 29<sup>th</sup> for a Twilight 5K Run. Ms. Livermore supplied a diagrammed map of the run to supervisors. Kradel asked if church would put up road closed signs. Ms. Livermore said if they could borrow some that they would put up.

Ms. Livermore also said she is working with Matt McConnell from fire dept. with traffic control/closures and emergency contact information. Steinheiser motioned to allow the temporary road closure of Buttercup Rd. between 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on July 29, 2022. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **PLANS**

Anita Gilliland, owner of property at 611 New Castle Rd. was present stating her on-lot septic system has failed and Gateway Engineers is working on a Sewage Planning Module and related documents for her to connect into BASA. Bill Braun stated they had been at Planning meeting and Sewage Planning Module was not complete at that time and Dave Ice needs to inspect the site and state there is no other alternative than to connect to BASA. Brenda Davis stated Dave Ice was going there this coming Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to do his report. Bill Braun said an easement will also need done between Anita Gilliland and the neighbor Brian Skal's property who is allowing the sewer line to run through his property to connect to BASA. Mr. Braun said he feels the plan is premature but could be approved with several contingencies. Ms. Gilliland stated Attorney Coulter and Gateway Engineers have prepared the easement but still needs signed. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the easement will need reviewed and approved by him. Steinheiser tabled this until all documents are complete.

### **ENGINEER REPORT**

Mr. Braun stated there is no new update on #1 Cochran. Kradel asked what exactly needs done. Mr. Braun said the outlet structure on the stormwater management pond needs looked at because the holes are at the wrong elevation and wrong size and pond needs cleaned out. Kradel feels it is time to take action. Kradel motioned Mr. Menchyk, Jr. to write #1 Cochran a letter giving them 60 days to correct the problem or Township will fix the problem and use their security. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Mr. Braun stated the LSA Grant application for the Lower Harmony Rd. culvert was submitted on time by March 15, 2022. Mr. Braun stated the total project is \$229,000 but Township agreed to contribute \$30,000. Mr. Braun stated 3,600 applications were submitted to receive an estimated \$140 million in funds so keep your fingers crossed. Kradel asked when the Township will know if they were awarded. Mr. Braun said late fall or end of year. Kradel suggested calling Dan Cox, director of the Connoquenessing Valley Regional Emergency Mgmt. Agency and ask him if there are any other grants we can apply for for flood mitigation/hazards.

### **SOLICITOR REPORT**

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated a representative from Armstrong is to contact supervisors concerning the term of the Armstrong Franchise Agreement that has been discussed for several months. Steinheiser stated someone from Armstrong had talked to him but he was not going to negotiate and told him to call Mr. Menchyk, Jr. After discussing, the board instructed Mr. Menchyk, Jr. to let Armstrong know that the supervisors only agree to a 5 year term.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he reviewed the new updated EADS Group Agreement that was submitted the morning of last month's meeting and after reviewing stated that the EADS Group agreed to and changed all his recommendations and is ready to sign if approved by the supervisors. Spangler motioned to approve signing the EADS Group agreement. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Kradel motioned to approve March invoice in the amount of \$284.05. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in the packets

## **ROAD MASTERS REPORT**

Kradel stated a guardrail was damaged on Whitestown Rd. this past winter and it has been replaced and paid for by the liable person's insurance company. Kradel stated the road crew is cleaning the anti-skid from the roads.

Kradel stated a sink hole is on Camp Fatima Rd., a newly paved road, and road crew is currently patching with limestone until determined whether to tar & chip or pave over it.

Kradel noted that there were issues with Suit Kote's tar & chip on Camp Fatima and Kniess Roads last year and meeting with them next week to discuss.

Kradel stated we had a costly repair month - re-build the broom attachment for the CAT highlift and the mower/blower attachment for the John Deere (gear box) is down.

Kradel stated road crew are putting drain pipe in on Eagle Mill Rd. in preparation of paving.

Steinheiser asked Spangler if the oil used for tar & chip now is any good. Spangler stated that is what is approved by the State. Spangler says it's not as good because they have gone "green" and environmentally safe. Kradel asked if the new CRS-P is better than the CRS-2 we currently use. Spangler stated it is new and he'd rather use the CRS-2 until the other is tested for a few years. The supervisors discussed the best way/material to use to correct the Eagle Mill Rd. section (the two hillsides) for the paving project this year.

Kradel motioned to advertise for limestone.

3,000 tons, more or less, washed crushed limestone AASHTO #2A  
 300 tons, more or less, washed crushed limestone AASHTO #8  
 100 tons, more or less, washed crushed limestone AASHTO #1  
 800 tons, more or less, washed crushed limestone AASHTO #2B  
 500 tons, more or less, washed crushed limestone AASHTO #3  
 100 tons, more or less, rip rap #4  
 100 tons, more or less, rip rap #6  
 100 tons, more or less, rip rap #7  
 Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to advertise for dustoil.

4,000 gallons, more or less, CRS-2.  
 4,000 gallons, more or less, MC-70  
 Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

## **BUILDING PERMIT REPORT**

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

They were:

5-22 - Ronald Paule - Oriol Ct. - shed - 3/14/22  
 6-22 - Lloyd Eagal - Isaac Ln. - house addition - 3/14/22  
 7-22 - Lezzer Martin LP - Shannon Mills Dr. - new house - 3/16/22  
 8-22 - Missing Links - Evans City Rd. - porch roof - 3/21/22  
 9-22 - Richard Daugherty - Shannon Mills Dr. - new house - 3/30/22

**TAX COLLECTOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**SEO REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Steinheiser congratulated the Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company for receiving an award for having 50% of their active firefighters certified to the state standard and they are one of only three fire companies in Butler County to receive this award. Steinheiser stated we have one of the best fire companies around.

Kradel asked Matt McConnell if there is any new movement on the new firehall. Mr. McConnell said, "no".

**MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

Lambert Rosenbaum made a comment that "one infantry unit takes nine service members to support it" and he did not want to be the only one recognized earlier in the meeting for his service. Mr. Rosenbaum asked Steinheiser to recognize all service members/veterans, not only the ones during the Vietnam war. Steinheiser stated he wanted to recognize Mr. Rosenbaum and all other veterans present.

**Steinheiser stated the below was on the agenda for information.**

Connoquenessing Township, Connoquenessing Borough, Evans City Borough and Forward Township will have their joint annual "Clean-up/Recycling Day" on May 7, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Forward Township facility. 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 at 7:30 p.m. to an executive session to discuss possible litigation and personnel issues and stated the board would not return. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.