

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on May 4, 2022 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser, Larry Spangler and Ricky Kradel. Also attending were Attorney Kyrie Lokhaiser on behalf of 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-six 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 stated the Supervisors met immediately following the April 6, 2022 Supervisors' Meeting to consult with the Solicitor involving ordinance related matters of litigation or with issues on which identifiable complaints are expected to be filed. Steinheiser stated union negotiations are currently going on and that was also discussed.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of April 6, 2022. Kradel motioned to accept the April 6, 2022 supervisors meeting minutes. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$171,113.25 but after deposits of \$98,165.12 and checks in the amount of \$97,818.54 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$171,459.83. Lee Kradel stated the beginning Escrow account balance is \$57,530.00 but after deposits of \$1,000.00 and checks in the amount of \$683.50 being approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$57,846.50. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$240,714.29 with interest of \$9.56, leaving the ending balance at \$240,723.85. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$242,774.03 but with interest of \$38.58, the ending balance is \$242,812.61. Lee Kradel said the Act 13 CD balance remained at \$729,944.51 for a grand total of \$972,757.12. Lee Kradel stated the American Relief Plan had a beginning balance of \$203,440.29 but with interest in the amount of \$32.33 the ending balance is \$203,472.62. Spangler motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Christine Klink questioned what the Fire Department's payment on tonight's financial report was for. Lee Kradel said this is 75% of the LST tax received in 2021 minus the amount of insurance the Township pays on their behalf. Lee stated they were entitled to this because of the decision in 2020. Lee Kradel stated for 2022 it will be reduced to 25% but receive the 2 mill fire tax increase.

Kradel motioned to approve paying the Quickbooks annual payroll update in the amount of \$650.00. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

AUDITOR REPORT

Beth Dittmer from Maher Duessel reported on the Connoquenessing Township audit for the year 2021. Mrs. Dittmer mentioned there are several reports that include the "Communications to Those Charged with Governance" and summary reports that need submitted to the DCED. The "Management Letter" stated there were 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. Mrs. Dittmer stated the Annual Audit report was filed with the DCED by March 31, 2022 and advertised in the local paper. Mrs. Dittmer stated the Township also received an "unmodified opinion" which is the type of rating you want. Lastly, Mrs. Dittmer stated Maher Duessel's auditors had no problems with Township personnel in acquiring information. Steinheiser asked Mrs. Dittmer how the audit went. She said very well and the way the Township would want it to be. Spangler motioned to accept the 2021 Audit Report. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit pertaining to agenda

Mark Williams stated he heard that the Sewer Authority has not received everything from Senate Engineering pertaining to the Act 537 Plan and Senate Engineering had asked the Sewer Authority sign an agreement that would not share the information with a third party and questioned how the new second opinion engineers can move forward without having all the information. Brendan Linton stated everything has now been received. Kradel stated this was a question for the sewer board because the township supervisors only duty is to appoint the sewer members. Kradel stated it will be the supervisors decision on what direction to go in when the second opinion engineers report their findings.

Bill Long complimented the supervisors on their hard work, dedication and good communication to get a good working Act 537 Plan and feels the sewer authority members are doing a good job and listening to the residents. Mr. Long stated he is glad the supervisors put a moratorium on the current project and hopefully the new Act 537 Plan won't bankrupt the Township.

Steinheiser stated he has done a lot for the Township in the last 12 years and has worked diligently on the Rt. 68 corridor to get a traffic light and has never received one compliment. Bill Long wanted to be the first to compliment him and stated he did not know that Steinheiser was the one who spear-headed the project. Steinheiser stated the project will be done by next year and told Mr. Long he appreciated his compliment. Mark Williams stated he was unaware of the Rt. 68 corridor project and suggests Steinheiser share this information with the residents at future meetings. Mr. Williams thanked the board for all they do.

Roy Gilliland was glad that the Township is going to straighten out the current sign ordinance where it required a resident to get a permit for a political sign. Kradel stated when the Township ordinance was put in in 2013, it was legal but a ruling in 2016 prohibited this and it was an oversight of the Township that missed this but stated once it was brought to the Township's attention, we took immediate action.

Roy Gilliland mentioned that Christine Klink has been questioning the supervisors on having the Sewage Enforcement Officer test the sewage problems in the Township to see if they can be fixed or another type of system can be put in place before going to the DEP and requesting public sewage. Mr. Gilliland said she asked the same question at the Sewer Authority Board meeting and was sent back to ask the supervisors. He said she is getting the run around. Kradel stated a protocol is set at the Township that if there is a sewer complaint, someone has to fill out a sewer complaint form and pay \$50.00 and then if found to be a true complaint the \$50.00 will be returned. Mr. Gilliland stated he does not feel it is necessary to have a written complaint. Kradel stated the road crew recently smelled sewage and the SEO was called out to test so the Township did pay Dave Ice and the lab for testing. Kradel stated the results were negative for sewer so nothing further was done. Spangler asked how much it would cost to test everyone's system? Mr. Gilliland said he wasn't asking the Township to do that. Kradel told Spangler it is \$150.00 to Dave Ice for the dye test and \$100.00 in lab fees.

Mr. Gilliland questioned the board having to accept the lowest bid for paving at last month's meeting. Mr. Gilliland said some bidder unknown to the Township could be lower and the Township wouldn't know how their work is. Kradel stated the lowest bidder must be accepted. Bill Braun stated the bid packet is from PennDot which requires the bidder to be a pre-qualified bidder.

Mr. Gilliland asked if the SEO and building inspector turn in time sheets to the Township. Kradel stated the SEO does but the building inspector is a third party appointed by the Township and he bills the resident directly but sends his reports to the Township. Mr. Gilliland said he is just looking out for the taxpayers.

Mr. Gilliland said he and probably lots of other residents were never aware of the Rt. 68 corridor project. Estle Harp feels PennDot is to start this fall. Brendan Linton said they are only temporarily patching/paving and general resurfacing at this time. Larry Spangler stated PennDot has been acquiring some land from residents and paying them for the last year in order to do this project. Spangler said the surveys are done and a turning lane is coming at the intersection of Double/Stevenson Roads.

Brendan Linton stated the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority is an independent municipal authority that is incorporated under the Municipalities Authority Act of 1945. Mr. Linton stated the supervisors of the Township appoint members to the Sewer Authority Board but do not have any day-to-day authority over the tasks of the Sewer Authority Board. Linton stated the Township and Sewer Authority are two different entities. Linton stated the residents, supervisors, sewer board are all working together to come to the best decision. Spangler feels our Sewer Authority Board is the best. Kradel agreed but Wayne Kaltenbaugh, resident, did not agree.

Don Spangler stated the Rt. 68 project has been in process for 20 years and it is a State project, not the municipality. Steinheiser said he has worked on this tremendously.

Lambert Rosenbaum thanked the supervisors for their leadership for a job that isn't easy. Secondly, Mr. Rosenbaum presented a letter to the Supervisors on behalf of the Sewer Authority Board requesting the Township to pay the yearly interest payments for a \$4,000,000 loan at 1.2 % from the Butler County Infrastructure Bank for the Sewer Project. Mr. Rosenbaum stated the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority (CTSA) will repay the interest from the sewer tap fees once the public sewer system is operational. Mr. Rosenbaum is asking the Township to assist the CTSA during this non-income time. Mr. Rosenbaum had a breakdown of the estimated interest cost each year for 4 years at an estimated total cost of \$120,000. Mr. Rosenbaum also said this \$4,000,000 would pay off the current loan that has accumulated roughly \$500,000 that is due and payable by March 2023 and would start to charge 3% if not paid in full. Steinheiser stressed that the Sewer Authority needs to get grants. Rosenbaum stated they have applied for the LSA grant and looked into many options but interest is not an eligible expense that can be covered. Kradel asked Mr. Rosenbaum when he needs the final answer if the Township agrees to fund this. Mr. Rosenbaum said by the time he submits the application in July and will need a resolution from the Township committing to this by next meeting.

Calvin Wonderly explained the Sewer Authority has no money and asked why borrow more. Steinheiser stated we have to keep moving forward with the Sewer Plan. Roy Gilliland said the residents accept that this needs to move forward but they were upset about the \$28,000,000 cost.

Brendan Linton said this loan that the Sewer Authority can possibly get from the Butler County Infrastructure Bank is really unbelievable because no other infrastructure bank will lend money to a start up authority. Mr. Linton stated this money will hold the sewer authority over so we can apply for this low financing today. Don Spangler asked Lambert if the interest on the \$4,000,000 loan would be only on what is drawn from the account? Lambert said, "yes". Lee Kradel asked Lambert if the current amount of \$500,000 borrowed from First Commonwealth needs to be paid by March 2023? Lambert said, "yes" that is another reason why he hopes to get this 1.2% loan so First Commonwealth can be paid off. Lambert stated the First Commonwealth may re-write the loan but wouldn't be for this low of interest. Lee Kradel stated, so the Township either pays \$500,000 + next March or the schedule of payments (interest) you just proposed. Lee Kradel stated, "it's a no brainer". Lee told Lambert that his success with getting this loan rests on the Township's shoulder. Lambert said, "exactly". Kradel asked Kyrie Lokhaiser what the next step would be. Kyrie Lokhaiser stated a resolution would need made and presented at a meeting. Brendan Linton told Kyrie Lokhaiser that he could send her a sample resolution that the supervisors will need to approve at the next meeting. Kradel motioned to have the solicitor

prepare a resolution that agrees to make the interest payments on behalf of the Sewer Authority for the next four years. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Christine Klink stated she and some residents are stressed worrying about their property being destroyed and how their finances will be affected with this Sewer Plan. Mrs. Klink stated the board sent Dave Ice, SEO, in 2007, 2015 & 2016 and found out there were 25 malfunctions and the Township hasn't followed up with fixing any of them. Mrs. Klink said the Township needs to make an ordinance to enforce residents to fix their malfunctioned systems. Mrs. Klink stated this would assure DEP that the Township does address these malfunctions and allow the Township to go with a smaller Act 537 Plan area. Mrs. Klink stated the reports that Dave Ice did only showed 6.8% of failed systems so 93% of the Township systems are okay. Mrs. Klink wants the supervisors to show DEP they are addressing the malfunctioned systems and only get public sewage through the Rt. 68 corridor. Mrs. Klink said the DEP approves many more systems today that can work well to fix these malfunctioned systems. In closing she wants something written that the Township will address these malfunctioned systems and put it in the Act 537 Plan. Kradel stated he gets a different story from the SEO that says these systems can't be fixed. Kradel feels that the new second opinion engineer should question the DEP on whether these systems can be repaired. Kradel feels the DEP wants the whole State on Public Sewer. Mrs. Klink did not agree. Mrs. Klink said the DEP wants to see the supervisors address the malfunctioned systems in our Act 537 Plan. Spangler told Mrs. Klink it could be a problem if the Township enforces these residents to fix their systems and then when they get the repair bill they will report another neighbor and it will snowball. Mrs. Klink said they would rather pay for the repair than hook up to the costly public sewage. Kradel stated he feels the residents who have to spend \$10,000 or \$25,000 for a sandmound would be happier with public sewage. Steinheiser stated many places do not have the space to put another system in. Mrs. Klink said they need to be tested to make sure and asked again if anything will be done. Steinheiser thanked Mrs. Klink for her comment.

BIDS

Brenda Davis publicly opened and read aloud the bids received for the letting of May 4, 2022:

LIMESTONE

Tons	Material	Allegheny Mineral	McClymonds	Metarko
		Price per ton	Price per ton	Price per ton
3,000	2A	\$23.80	\$21.32	\$22.50
300	8	\$29.30	\$25.82	\$26.50
100	1	\$26.30	\$23.32	\$24.50
800	2B	\$26.30	\$23.32	\$24.50
500	3	\$26.30	\$23.32	\$24.50

Tons	Material	Kozar Excavating	IA Construction
		Price per ton	Price per ton
3,000	2A	\$24.00	\$30.50
300	8	\$30.00	\$33.50
100	1	\$25.75	\$33.50
800	2B	\$25.60	\$33.00
500	3	\$25.65	n/a

RIP RAP

		Allegheny Mineral	McClymonds	Metarko
		Price	Price	Price
Tons	Material	per ton	per ton	per ton
100	#4	\$26.30	\$23.32	\$24.50
100	#6	\$38.30	\$37.57	\$33.00
100	#7	\$38.30	\$37.57	\$34.00

		Kozar Excavating	IA Construction
		Price	Price
Tons	Material	per ton	per ton
100	#4	\$26.25	\$33.00
100	#6	\$35.00	\$43.50
100	#7	\$36.00	\$43.50

All bid bonds were reviewed and approved by Kyrie Lokhaiser. Kradel motioned to award the Limestone & Rip Rap bid to McClymonds. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

DUST OIL

Only one bidder:

		Russell Standard
		Price
Gallons	Material	per gallon
4,000	CRS-2	\$3.33
4,000	MC-70	\$5.23

Russell Standard enclosed their bid bond which was reviewed and approved by Kyrie Lokhaiser. Kradel motioned to award the dust oil bid to Russell Standard. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD - three minute limit

The below names were listed on the agenda but spoke under comment period:

Bill Long
 Mark Williams
 Roy Gilliland
 Brendan Linton
 Lambert Rosenbaum
 Christine Klink

OLD BUSINESS

Steinheiser stated there was nothing to report on the Act 537 sewer design plan.

Steinheiser stated PennDot said a roundabout at Rt. 68 is a "no go". Kradel stated he has asked PennDot for a specific reason why but they haven't answered. Kradel said Brendan had brought this roundabout suggestion up and feels every idea at this intersection needs looked at. Steinheiser stated a roundabout is not going to work and feels sure after his last meeting with PennDot that we will get a traffic signal.

NEW BUSINESS

Steinheiser mentioned creating a Township Flag and having a school or anyone help design it. Calvin Wonderly suggested getting kids who are well versed in civics at Connoquenessing Elementary design the

Flag. Kradel stated he recently attended the PSATS Convention in Hershey and they had a parade with Township flags and thought it would be good to go to the elementary school and get some ideas from all the grades. Kradel said this is open to any resident and hopefully there is a graphic artist in the Township to step forward. Steinheiser asked Kradel if he would be in charge of this. Kradel said, yes. Evelyn Hockenberry said there is a quilt at the County Courthouse that has each square representing a Township and some ideas could be used from that.

Kradel stated the supervisors needed to appoint a Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Plan. Kradel said EADS Group who is doing the Comprehensive Plan asked the Township to select a diverse group to be on this committee. Kradel stated the supervisors searched out a list of 10 people to be on the committee. Kradel stated there is a fireman, farmer, businessman, etc. Kradel stated there should only be four meetings for these people to attend. EADS Group is going to ask this committee where the Township has been, where the Township is now and where the Township is going. Hockenberry asked if the group was chosen. Kradel said he had a list of ten people willing to be on the committee but would need approved and appointed. Donna Zang asked if this was advertised or were members handpicked. Kradel said EADS Group said it didn't need advertised and just chose these people. Kradel asked if she was interested in being a member. Mrs. Zang said, "sure, why not". Kradel asked if anyone else wanted on the committee. Evelyn Hockenberry said she was interested. Kradel read the list which included 1. Sandi Cox, 2. Fred Santilo, 3. Matt McConnell, 4. Vaughn Badger, 5. Kyrie Lokhaiser, 6. Brendan Linton, 7. Ken Norman, 8. John Hicks, 9. Steve Lesney, Jr., 10. Evelyn Hockenberry, 11. Donna Zang and himself, 12. Rick Kradel. Brenda Davis stated the first meeting will be during the Planning Commission meeting on May 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township building.

Brenda Davis stated PSATS would like the Township to adopt an "America250PA Resolution" to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States in 2026 and Pennsylvania's leading role in commemorating this event. Ms. Davis said this is a request and not urgent. Steinheiser stated he did not have time to review and tabled this until next meeting.

PLANS

Bob Maher from Gateway Engineers was present to represent Anita Gilliland at 611 New Castle Rd. on-lot system failure and get final approval on her Sewage Planning Module and related documents that were tabled at last month's meeting. Mr. Maher stated he needed three items to finalize the Gilliland Sewage Planning Module. Mr. Maher stated 1. Resolution, 2. sign and date the checklist and 3. sign the transmittal letter. Mr. Maher stated BASA and Butler County Planning have already approved their part. Bill Braun stated an easement also needs done between Anita Gilliland and the neighbor. Mr. Maher said it is completed and will forward a copy to the Township. Brenda Davis told the board that Andrew Menchyk, Jr. has reviewed and approved this easement. Bill Braun also noted that our Planning Commission was to change the date on their section after Dave Ice did the inspection on April 8, 2022 stating no other alternatives but BASA was available. Brendan Linton, Chairman of Planning Commission said Dave Ice turned in his report and he has signed with the new date.

Spangler motioned to approve the Gilliland Sewage Planning Module on condition it is approved by the DEP. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel motioned to adopt Resolution #4-22 to be included with the Sewage Planning Module. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun stated Mr. Menchyk, Jr. sent a letter to #1 Cochran stating the unfinished work needed completed by June 15th and Mr. Braun said the #1 Cochran engineer contacted him and said it will be completed by this date.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Kyrie Lokhaiser stated there are no new updates with the Armstrong Agreement. Steinheiser stated Armstrong has not agreed to the Township's terms at this point so he tabled the discussion.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Kradel motioned to approve April invoice in the amount of \$321.15. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in the packets

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated road crew has been working on storm drains and catch basins on Eagle Mill Rd. to prepare for the upcoming paving to begin the first of July.

Road superintendent report for April 2022 in packets.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

They were:

10-22 - Robert Luktisch - Dick Rd. - new mobile home - 4/7/22

11-22 - Aaron Kniess - Lower Harmony Rd. - garage - 4/8/22

12-22 - Butler Farm Show - Evans City Rd. - picnic shelter - 4/14/22

13-22 - Adam Guiher - Whitestown Rd. - barn - 4/25/22

14-22 - Frank Zbuckvich - Eagle Mill Rd. - pool deck - 4/27/22

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

Calvin Wonderly asked who the SEO works for. Kradel stated he is an independent contractor working for Township. Mr. Wonderly asked for his qualifications. Steinheiser said he is a certified SEO. Mr. Wonderly asked if he works with the Sewer Authority. Brendan Linton said he has met with him but unless the supervisors instruct him to do any testing on sewer systems he doesn't contact him. Mr. Wonderly stated he has never been seen at any meetings. Kradel said he would be here if requested but that would cost the Township. Kradel said Dave Ice follows the laws and guidelines of the DEP.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Kradel stated no Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company Representative was present because they are doing mock rescues.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Butler County Association of Township Officials will hold their 106th Annual Spring Convention on May 19, 2022 at the Butler Country Club. Kradel motioned to approve all Township officials to attend at a cost of \$28.00/each. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser stated the Township office will be closed so office personnel can attend.

Spangler motioned to refund Bill Long \$30.00 application fee for political sign. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to refund Gateway Engineers for Daugherty lot line consolidation in the amount of \$193.00. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

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" this Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A list of items being accepted and fees **IS** posted on the outside bulletin board at the Township office.

Received letter dated April 7, 2022 from GAI Consultants on behalf of PennDot stating they are submitting a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) PAG-02 General Permit for project name (State Route (SR) 0068 Corridor Improvements). Information is on file at Township office.

Received letter dated April 15, 2022 from Moody and Associates, Inc. that Penn Energy Resources is applying for a Permit to Drill and Operate an Unconventional Well from the PADEP for five wells located on Upper Harmony Rd. Information is on file at Township office.

Kradel motioned to appoint the twelve Steering Committee members mentioned earlier in the meeting. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.