

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Larry Spangler at 6:00 p.m. on September 7, 2022 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Larry Spangler and Ricky Kradel. Supervisor Terry Steinheiser did not attend. Also attending were Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr., Engineer Bill Braun, Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Lee Kradel to record the minutes. Secretary/Asst. Treasurer Brenda Davis was absent. Thirty-nine people signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Lambert Rosenbaum said the Prayer.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Supervisors met immediately following the August 3, 2022 Supervisors' meeting to consult with the Solicitor. Spangler stated they discussed the PennDot condemnation of township land for Rt. 68 expansion which Kradel said we will get an appraiser before accepting the \$49,000 guarantee. Other items discussed were personnel, collective bargaining agreement and litigation.

### **REVIEW MINUTES**

Reviewed minutes of August 3, 2022. Kradel motioned to accept the minutes of August 3, 2022. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$250,055.38 but after deposits of \$124,172.00 and checks in the amount of \$84,129.42 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$290,097.96. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$57,411.59 but with deposits in the amount of \$1,141.00 and checks in the amount of \$1,236.75, the ending balance is \$57,315.84. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$34,190.31 but with interest in the amount of \$1.55, the ending balance is \$34,191.86. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance is \$475,183.31 but with interest in the amount of \$902.20, the ending balance is \$476,085.51. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 CD beginning balance was \$730,478.47 but with interest in the amount of \$552.36, the ending balance is \$731,030.83 for an Act 13 grand total of \$1,207,116.34. Lee Kradel stated the beginning balance in the American Relief Plan was \$203,962.66 but with interest of \$387.25, the ending balance is \$204,349.91. Kradel motioned to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Lee Kradel stated the annual Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) needs reported each year so it can be added to the 2023 budget. Kradel motioned to accept the MMO in the amount of \$15,453.90 for the 2023 budget. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

Carol Christner stated she gave the supervisors a cost analysis tonight for the Rt. 68 corridor but knew they didn't have time to review so she gave a brief summary. Ms. Christner stated the plan is in 2 segments: a. sewage going to Shannon Mills and b. sewage going to Brandywine. The estimated cost is extremely lower than any HRG plan with a cost estimate of \$7,000,000. In addition, Ms. Christner said Winterwood would be on a grinder pump system which would cost around \$350,000 plus \$16,000 from each homeowner which currently has 22 homes for an approximate total of \$700,000. Kradel stated that the township received a letter from BASA years back stating the Township would have to upgrade the two pump stations used for Winterwood at possibly 2 million dollars before BASA would take the Winterwood homes. Ms. Christner stated Gateway Engineers who she is working with said that BASA would not require this. Kradel asked if BASA is doing this for free? Ms. Christner said she did not know but someone would have to pay for the infrastructure. Lambert Rosenbaum stated he had seen the cost estimates in the BASA letter and the costs were not feasible. Ms. Christner stated Gateway told her that BASA is willing to work it out. Kradel said he was told that the Brandywine and Shannon Mills Plants would not be big enough and cost a lot to fix. Lambert Rosenbaum said he will review her plan but wondered if DEP would approve. Mr. Rosenbaum said the other two engineers, HRG and Senate Engineering said only covering the Rt. 68 corridor would not be accepted by the DEP. Kradel noted that the township currently has a ACT 537 Plan approved by the DEP.

Ms. Christner feels this smaller scope should pass through the DEP. Ms. Christner said you just need to show them a plan such as starting with Winterwood and then progressing. Kradel said this plan will be looked at by the sewer board and stated the township needs to keep moving forward.

Roy Gilliland liked Carol Christner's plan. Mr. Gilliland stated the other plans are out of sight for everybody.

Robert Kosar, Jr. stated he can't afford the big plan. Spangler stated that is why the supervisors are having the sewer board look at different plans, other avenues.

Lambert Rosenbaum stated the supervisors can't be blamed for the increase in the project cost because materials and labor have increased and that is why it seemed affordable around \$18,000,000 but not at \$51,000,000.

Fred Hensel questioned whether a study was ever done stating a need for public sewage and said this is a lot of money. Mr. Hensel questioned if public sewer is coming to accommodate commercial growth. Mr. Hensel stated he developed his farm in the past and paid for his sewer system and feels this should not be government's job. Mr. Hensel feels individuals/businesses who need sewage should pay for their own and other residents shouldn't be charged. Board had no comment.

**REQUEST TO BE HEARD** - three minute limit

Bill Long asked the supervisors why we need public sewage throughout the township and where is the needs study. Kradel stated we have an approved Act 537 Plan in place and working on revising the plan but until we meet with the DEP it is our current plan. Spangler stated the Act 537 Plan started in 2005 and the township is still trying to make it work. Mr. Long said he likes Ms. Christner's plan. Mr. Long mentioned the old dots on a map representing failed systems and asked if these places have been fixed or was there ever an actual dye test done on them to prove they were failed systems. Mr. Long stated he has never met the SEO to get these answers. Kradel assumed a needs study was done. Spangler stated he wants to get together with the sewer authority and DEP to learn more and move ahead.

Jim Marburger - below, comments were submitted by Mr. Marburger

Friends, neighbors and fellow longtime residents of Connoquessing Township.

- We the residents of Connoquessing township, ask that you stop all spending regarding the city sewer initiative!
  - o How could you in a clear conscience put our community in such financial distress to benefit the few not the many?
- I Understand that the 537 was filed many years ago and that we are under no EPA or other agency mandates to do this.
  - o Revise stating premature filing of the initial 537
    - No proper impact study was done before this filing.
    - After further study and options. It proves too costly for the community.

- proper evaluation and community vetting was not present before the first filing and proves to be too much of a financial burden for many longtime and elderly residents.
- Something of this magnitude should be put to a vote before going any further
- I would ask the consulting firm that we have invested over \$600,000 With, to revise the current 537 to state at this time it proves to be too costly for the community to put in city sewer.
  - Each property owner shall be responsible for their own sewage system, including the route 68 corridor.
  - I would ask this to be done pro bono and remind them how we shut this down or pause this will determine who we use going forward if and when revisited.
- I would recommend that the city sewage committee stay intact and that they investigate any grants or funding made available possibly by the build back better funding?
  - Any persons with a conflict of interest or that would financially gain from this should remove themselves from the committee or be removed.
  - this committee could help evaluate possible connections with Butler township sewage for those problem areas that that may be feasible for them.
- Regarding route 68 corridor, if those businesses along Route 68 need to come up with a sewerage alternative, let that be at their expense. possibly several of them could join forces and get together for a solution and NOT have it be at the community's expense.
- If city sewage does ever come to our area, it needs to be on a voluntary basis and not mandated.
  - If you want to tap into city sewage, that is your option.
  - Otherwise, you are free to keep your working septic systems and not be forced to pay for city sewer.
- Possibly form some kind of sewage co-op
- How many of our residents work their entire life to pay for their homes and property just to possibly lose it over providing city sewage for others?

Joe Huth said he is opposed to all solutions presented. Mr. Huth said they are too costly and too intrusive. Mr. Huth feels Brandywine was considered in all scenarios for their 250 EDU's. Mr. Huth said expanding that system could cause offensive odors and traffic running through his community. In addition, Mr. Huth stated BASA pump station is only 1,600 ft. from the Winterwood Connoquenessing Township residents and feels the township should be working with them to take over these residences. Mr. Huth stated he has read that DEP wants the Rt. 68 corridor area done and there is no plan that was presented to do this area. Mr. Huth said to focus on the Winterwood and Rt. 68 corridor areas and leave the rest alone.

Christine Klink stated again that in 2007, 2015, 2016 the SEO only found 25 confirmed malfunctioned systems but did not do a dye test. Mrs. Klink stated Dave Ice, SEO surveyed over 367 houses so that is only approximately 5% failed systems. Mrs. Klink asked if any one of these 25 been tested again since 2016 or

have they been fixed. Mrs. Klink feels spending \$51,000,000 is unrealistic when there are such a small percentage of failed systems that could be fixed. Mrs. Klink said this is the supervisors responsibility to get these systems checked. Spangler asked Mrs. Klink if she wants the supervisors to test everyone's system. Mrs. Klink stated it would only cost around \$100-\$150 to have Dave Ice come out and do a dye test and she would be the first to have her system checked. Spangler asked Mrs. Klink if the residents would need asked to do this test on their system. Mrs. Klink stated the meeting would have to be coordinated between the SEO, Supervisors and resident. Spangler said this could be looked into.

Estle Harp stated the map states that two of his sewage systems on his property are failing but said they are not failing so that part of the report is incorrect.

Mark Williams says he has heard these plans are unaffordable but has never heard "what is affordable"?

Robert Kosar, Jr. was called on but stated he had already talked.

Jennifer Kosar asked the board to look at the residents faces when they are making their decisions. Mrs. Kosar said there are people on fixed incomes and we are asking the board to make the right decisions for the community.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Kradel said there were no other updates on the Act 537 sewer design plan.

Kradel updated on the Comprehensive Plan. Kradel stated a community meeting to get public input on the Plan will be held on September 21, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Township building. Kradel stated postcards will be sent to all residents but the cost approved previously was \$1,000 and now will be approximately \$1,235. Lee Kradel stated the postcard will have a QR code on it that can be scanned to take a survey. Kradel stated if you can't access the QR code a paper copy can be picked up at township office. Kradel motioned to ratify the cost and approve the cost of mailing the postcards to approximately \$1,235.00. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Brendan Linton stated the meeting on the 21st will immediately follow the Planning Commission meeting held at 6:00 p.m. and will be informational only. Secondly, Kradel motioned to approve the postcard's content and format. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel discussed the Connoquenessing Township flag which has been shown to the public for several months and received suggestions from them and since there hasn't been any bad feedback he is ready to approve the flag's design provided by Wise Business Forms. Spangler asked if the tractor is staying red or changing to green. Kradel stated, "red". Kradel motioned to approve the flag design with correcting the spelling error of "along" to "a long". Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel motioned to approve finding a flag maker to make flag. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Lambert Rosenbaum stated at the last sewer meeting the sewer board made two motions contingent on supervisors' approval. One of the motions was to ask HRG to do further study on Scenario 4 (going to Saxonburg Sewer Authority) using pressure sewers instead of gravity to reduce cost and evasiveness. Rosenbaum stated that is an estimated cost of \$10-15,000. The second motion was to do a study of the Rt. 68 corridor using pressure sewers in the existing Shannon Mills and Brandywine sewage plants. Rosenbaum stated this study would also form a committee of two sewer board members and two residents to define the project scope and service area. Rosenbaum stated this study could cost **\$15-30,000**. Mr. Rosenbaum stated he reached out to DEP for a meeting to discuss the Act 537 Plan when Mr. Menchyk, Jr. has already corresponded with them back in October 29, 2021 in regards of a meeting. Mr. Rosenbaum questioned if he should set up the meeting or if Mr. Menchyk, Jr. should handle. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated Mr. Rosenbaum had emailed DEP last Thursday and he could work with them on setting up a meeting. Kradel feels a meeting should be held with DEP first before spending any more money on studies.

Spangler agreed.

Spangler stated applications are being accepted for a sewer authority member to fill the vacancy created by resignation of Brendan Linton. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. noted that Mr. Linton's term would have ended on December 31, 2022 therefore the new member would only be appointed to a two month term. Kradel said deadline to get applications in are by next month's supervisor meeting. Kradel made a motion to accept Brendan Linton's resignation. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel and Spangler thanked Mr. Linton for all his hard work and the service he gave to the sewer authority. Lambert also said Mr. Linton did a lot of work and he would miss him.

Kradel motioned to advertise for 1,000 tons "more or less" of "anti-skid". Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Ed Brewer was on the agenda to request a building setback modification but did not attend. Spangler tabled the discussion.

### **PLANS**

Kradel stated the Lloyd Eagal Stormwater Plan is requesting approval. Bill Braun stated Gateway Engineers, Mr. Eagal's representative has completed the project in accordance with our Stormwater Ordinance. Mr. Braun stated an **O & M** Agreement still needs completed and recorded. Kradel motioned to approve the Lloyd Eagal Stormwater Plan contingent on getting the **O & M** Agreement signed and executed. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler stated that the Anita Gilliland Sewage Planning Module has been approved as final by DEP.

### **ENGINEER REPORT**

Bill Braun stated all physical work/improvements have been done at #1 Cochran and recommends their bond be released. Kradel motioned to release #1 Cochran's cash bond in the amount of \$36,960.00 **minus** negative escrow balance of \$261.23 for a check in the amount of \$36,698.77. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **SOLICITOR REPORT**

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the Collective Bargaining Agreement was tabled last month until an issue with the dental insurance could be rectified. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated an agreement has been reached where Connoquenessing Township will pay up to 1/2 of the current plans cost for current employees only (hired before July 1, 2022) to choose their own plan. Lee Kradel asked if the Township has to find them a plan. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated, "no" and noted that the plan of their choice has to include all eligible employees. Kradel motioned to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the covered township employees and to authorize the Chairman or Vice-Chairman to execute on behalf of the Township. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. updated that he sent a letter to the PennDot secretary per the supervisors request on July 14, 2022 to let them know the supervisors were disappointed that PennDot would not install a traffic light at Rt. 68/Stevenson/Double Roads intersection and received a response letter back on August 17, 2022. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said they are not going to install the signal. Kradel stated the supervisors have exhausted all avenues. Roy Gilliland said they will spend more money altering the road than a traffic light would cost. Kradel wondered the same thing but said, "that's PennDot". Spangler thanked Mr. Menchyk, Jr. for his efforts.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Did not address

## **ROAD MASTERS REPORT**

Kradel discussed the possibilities of 2023 paving projects. Kradel said he would like to binder Whitestown Rd. Ext. in 2023. The estimate to do the milling and binder is estimated at \$235,080.00. Kradel mentioned the culvert problem on Lower Harmony Rd. that when it crashes in the public will have to use Crab Run Rd. or Whitestown Rd. Ext. Kradel feels Crab Run Rd. should also be bindered at an estimated cost of \$96,000. Kradel wanted to bring this to the boards attention so he may have an answer by end of year in order to advertise for bids early.

Calvin Wonderly asked if the lines at the end of Brandywine Blvd. could be repainted now that the Township adopted the road. After much discussion and Brendan Linton commenting that PennDot would have the markings designed, he suggested the Township letting PennDot complete the road work first. A discussion about the timing of the traffic signal at this intersection was also discussed. Some residents stated they have waited 3 minutes at the red light when turning left. Kradel said Bruce & Merrilees could possibly be contacted. Bill Braun stated that when the Township got the ARLE grant for the timing of the signals PennDot would have set them. Brendan Linton stated you can call 1-800-fixroad with your complaint, but timing of a traffic signal would just come back to the Township. Kradel told Mr. Wonderly the township would hold off until after PennDot construction is complete.

Kradel stated a resident at 153 Cupps Rd. asked for a deaf child road sign. Kradel stated putting up the sign does not have to go through any certain procedures but it must be a PennDot approved sign. Kradel motioned to buy two hearing impaired signs at 153 Cupps Rd. and install them. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Road superintendent report for August 2022 were in the packets.

## **BUILDING PERMIT REPORT**

Spangler stated there were two building permits applied for this month.  
45-22 - Terry Raymer - Silver Oak Dr. - deck - 8/5/22  
46-22 - Richard Stair - Upper Harmony Rd. - addition 8/24/22

## **TAX COLLECTOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

## **SEO REPORT**

\*NONE\*

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

Matt McConnell working on a 2nd revision for the building plans and getting pricing. Mr. McConnell stated the Halloween parade is October 30th at the Connoquenessing Park and will have a "not so spooky haunted trail". Matt McConnell also mentioned the passing of a firefighter Neal Nanna who will be missed a lot.

## **MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

Spangler stated the BCATO 38th Annual Safety Seminar will be held on Wednesday October 12, 2022 at the Herman Fire Hall. Cost is \$15.00/each. Kradel motioned to pay for any eligible Township personnel to attend. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to release sewage escrow to Lisa Armstrong in the amount of \$150.00. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company will hold their Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 30, 2022 at the Connoquenessing Park. Line up is 1:30 p.m. - Parade begins at 2:00 p.m. In addition, Connoquenessing Township will hold their -Trick-or-Treat on Monday, October 31, 2022 from 6:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Kradel motioned to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Spangler, seconded. Roll call, yes.