

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on November 2, 2022 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser and Ricky Kradel. Larry Spangler, supervisor, did not attend. Also attending were Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr. and Secretary/Asst. Treasurer Brenda Davis was present to take the minutes. Lee Kradel Treasurer/Asst. Secretary and Engineer Bill Braun did not attend. Twenty seven people signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

REVIEW MINUTES

Steinheiser made a motion to accept the September 14, 2022 Ag Security "special meeting" minutes. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser motioned to approve the October 12, 2022 supervisors meeting minutes. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steinheiser stated the Supervisors met immediately following the October 12, 2022 Supervisors' meeting to consult with the Solicitor to discuss collective bargaining agreement and litigation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Brenda Davis reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$292,060.79 but after deposits of \$21,523.67 and checks in the amount of \$54,356.56 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$259,227.90. Brenda Davis stated the beginning Escrow account balance is \$17,779.07 but with deposits in the amount of \$2,472.00 and checks in the amount of \$1,872.75 being approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$18,378.32. Brenda Davis said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$34,193.27 with interest of \$1.45, leaving the ending balance at \$34,194.72. Brenda Davis stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$477,005.07 but with interest of \$1,154.61, the ending balance is \$478,159.68. Brenda Davis said the Act 13 CD balance remained at \$731,030.83 for a grand total of \$1,209,190.51. Brenda Davis stated the American Relief Plan had a beginning balance of \$204,744.61 but with the ARP deposit in the amount of \$203,805.29 and interest in the amount of \$797.95 the ending balance is \$409,347.85. Evelyn Hockenberry asked if the Budget was approved. Steinheiser stated there was a budget meeting held and the draft budget has been approved to advertise. Mrs. Hockenberry asked if she could review the budget? Steinheiser said "yes". Kradel motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit pertaining to agenda
NONE

REQUEST TO BE HEARD - three minute limit

Bill Long stated he was the only citizen that attended the budget meeting and he got a wake up call on how Terry Steinheiser, the other supervisors and office girls worked together to balance the numbers. Mr. Long told the residents they should attend the next budget meeting and see where the numbers go and the amount of money the township has. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Long for the positive comment.

Dave Dreher thanked the board for holding taxes and spending to a minimum but asked them not to hold back on supporting the fire department tax. Mr. Dreher reinforced that the \$51,000,000 sewer plan costs don't make sense. Mr. Dreher also thanked Lambert Rosenbaum, Ken Dambaugh and Calvin Wonderly from the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority for recognizing that the public hadn't been given a reduced smaller scope plan and are working together and hearing the public's concerns. Mr. Dreher asked Steinheiser to please appoint 2 new members to the sewer board tonight and hopes the supervisors pick residents that attend the meetings and respects public comment. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Dreher for his positive feedback.

Christine Klink was on agenda but did not attend.

Carol Christner stated the DEP meeting with the supervisors and sewer board members is going to be held in the future and feels they should bring suggestions to DEP, present DEP with a smaller plan to show you are working on it and will have the new Act 537 Plan done in phases of a long term plan.

Ms. Christner said her plan she did with Gateway Engineers just covers the Rt. 68 corridor which includes 560-600 EDU's and only cost \$7,000,000. Ms. Christner suggested presenting the Winterwood and Rt. 68 corridor as the first two stand alone phases. Steinheiser stated he doesn't support the \$51,000,000 plan and is willing to listen to everyone. Kradel stated every plan is on the table and each one will be studied.

Ms. Christner mentioned the cost estimate to do Winterwood would be \$700,000 but the Winterwood residents would cover roughly \$352,000 of it and the other \$350,000 would be used for infrastructure (pressurized lines). Ms. Christner stated \$100,000 included in the second \$350,000 is for contingencies so there may be some money left. Brenda Davis asked how many residents have to split the cost of \$352,000? Ms. Christner said "22". Ms. Davis said there is no way they will do that. Lambert Rosenbaum said he does not agree with charging residents involved with the sewer plan different amounts. Mr. Rosenbaum stated from a financial side a number should be figured out and all residents pay same amount. Mr. Rosenbaum said he does not support Ms. Christner's plan. Kradel said he doesn't want any of his residents to pay that kind of money. Ms. Christner stated this would allow Winterwood residents having problems with their septic to be able to sell their homes and/or finding alternatives to their septic system. Mr. Rosenbaum stated maybe you could approach BASA just to take Winterwood but he said once the board sets a precedent that the residents are not paying an equal amount, he feels it would not look good to the Federal Government and may not approve future funds. Ms. Christner said there are infrastructure loans for individuals to improve their property that these residents could possibly obtain. Ms. Christner said if BASA would take these residents that could pay BASA the \$22,000 and BASA would pay half of the infrastructure and Township the other half could still be a savings to the Township. Kradel said this plan is not off the table and said all plans will be looked at. Steinheiser said all plans need looked at and we need feedback from the DEP before he will approve anything. Mr. Rosenbaum said every resident needs on same plan and treated equally.

Laura Mason asked why the board says \$16,000 now per household but 2 months ago it was \$42-50,000. Mr. Rosenbaum said the \$42,000 stated was the cost before the board would get financing and grants which is not feasible. Kradel stated he never agreed to \$42,000. Steinheiser said he didn't either. Ms. Mason said the plan should identify "where and if" there are problematic areas and then propose solutions. Kradel stated there is already an Act 537 Plan in place covering the big area and until they meet with the DEP, it is the current plan. Steinheiser said comments and suggestions should be directed to the Sewer Board and to do so before the tentative meeting set for December 13, 2022 with DEP.

Mark Williams agreed the Township has an Act 537 Plan but stated the cost of \$51,000,000 is not acceptable.

OLD BUSINESS

Steinheiser said two new sewer authority members need appointed. Kradel said he wanted this done last month so he is ready. Steinheiser and Kradel both stated that all applicants had the credentials but they needed to make a decision. Kradel motioned to appoint Ken Norman to the unexpired term of Ed Tanski which goes through 2026. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel motioned to appoint Laura Mason to fill the unexpired term of Brendan Linton ending this year. Mark Williams asked if there could be more members on the board? Andrew Menchyk, Jr. stated "no" because everything would need restructured. Calvin Wonderly asked if the next meeting should be a reorganizational meeting? Andrew Menchyk, Jr. stated "no" but the board will need to appoint officers. Ken Dambaugh questioned if Laura Mason's term ending this year could be extended now to 5 years. Andrew Menchyk, Jr. stated, "no"

because there is only a current vacancy open now until the end of the year. Steinheiser asked Bill Long if he was okay with the board selecting Mrs. Mason since he had previously told Mr. Long if another opening came up, he would be considered. Mr. Long said, absolutely, I'm happy you're choosing Mrs. Mason. Mr. Long stated he is not jumping up and down to be on the board. Lambert Rosenbaum stated he is happy to have a woman on the board because they connect the dots better than men. Laura Mason stated she is honored to be selected but feels Carol Christner with her engineering background and the thorough work she has already done looking into a smaller sewer plan using Gateway Engineers feels her expertise is far beyond hers in reference to the engineering of a sewer system. Joe Huth said we are not looking for an engineer, we are looking for someone who has objectivity and piece together various options in a manner beneficial to everybody. Steinheiser seconded Kradel's previous motion to appoint Laura Mason to complete Brendan Linton's term. Roll call, yes.

Kradel stated he did not attend the last Comprehensive Plan meeting so there were no updates.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER REPORT

NONE

SOLICITOR REPORT

Andrew Menchyk, Jr. presented Resolution #11-22 which states that the governor signed Act 57 into law effective 2023 tax year which imposes duties upon the township tax collector. This law states that if new property owners are not provided a tax bill, the 10% penalty for late payment will not be charged.

Andrew Menchyk, Jr. stated if the taxpayer attests to not receiving the tax bill, completes a proper waiver request form and provides tax collector copy of title/deed and pays the full face amount, the local tax collector will waive the penalty. Kradel motioned to enact Resolution #11-22. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Andrew Menchyk, Jr. stated Golden L Mobile Home Park has once again not paid for their occupancy permit application. Steinheiser motioned to have Mr. Menchyk, Jr. send a formal notice to Golden L demanding payment. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

No report submitted for October 2022

ROAD MASTER REPORT

Kradel stated the men have been busy with maintenance and greasing trucks getting trucks ready for snow removal. Kradel stated 2 trucks are currently built for snow removal. Kradel stated men are mixing the anti-skid and salt. Kradel said men are blowing leaves out of ditches and storm drains, pothole patching and all 3 attended a safety meeting this month. Mr. Long stated there is one bad hole over on Kriess Rd. to fix. Kradel stated the contractor for the gas company will be around to fix. Steinheiser asked Brenda to contact them about fixing it.

Road superintendent report for October 2022 in packets.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

They were:

51-22 - Ed Brewer - Prospect Rd. - garage - 10/12/22

55-22 - Jones Estates - Oak Ln. - demolish mobile home - 10/10/22

56-22 - John Hillwig - Reiber Rd. - carport - 10/12/22

57-22 - Robert Emswiler - Little Creek Rd. - carport - 10/20/22

58-22 - Redevel. Authority of Butler Co. - Rose Haven Dr. - foundation - 10/24/22

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

NONE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Matt McConnell with the Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company supplied the board with an expenditure report they requested at last month's meeting. Steinheiser stated with the .5 mill increase last year the fire company got about \$20,000 more in 2022. Mr. McConnell stated spending for the new building in 2021 was \$5,778 and 2022 is \$9,655. Mr. McConnell said these are design costs, engineering, site plan and working on getting a NPDES permit. Mr. McConnell asked for another .5 mill this year and then another .5 next year. Mr. McConnell also mentioned changing back to give the fire company 75% of the LST instead of 25%. Steinheiser stated he feels the public agrees with supporting the fire company and they won't object to a .5 mill increase. Kradel motioned to increase the fire tax another .5 mill for 2023. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes. Mr. Rosenbaum asked if that extra \$20,000 was an annual amount. Steinheiser said "yes" but that additional \$20,000 was due to the assessment going up, not the .5 mill increase that he stated earlier. Kradel asked Mr. McConnell what the current fire tax is? Mr. McConnell stated it is 2 mill this year and will go to 2.5 mill in 2023. Steinheiser asked Mr. McConnell to submit his expense report quarterly. Kradel thanked Mr. McConnell for the great Halloween parade held at the Connoquenessing Park. Mr. McConnell said it's a great community event.

Kradel motioned to approve CVREMA's 2023 budget discussed at budget workshop meeting on Oct. 27th. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Steinheiser motioned to advertise to appoint a certified public accountant to audit Township financial records for 2022. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to advertise for appointed positions. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to advertise proposed 2023 budget. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Mr. Long asked if extra funds were added for the Act 537 plan. Kradel stated the budget will still be tweaked before advertising and then residents have 20 days to review and comment.

Steinheiser motioned to advertise "close of business" meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to advertise organizational meeting which will be held Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to advertise first supervisors meeting of 2023 on Tuesday January 3, 2023 immediately following organizational meeting at 6:00 p.m. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Laura Mason asked if the supervisors plan on keeping the supervisors meeting on Wednesday's in 2023. Steinheiser feels there is no reason to change the day.

Steinheiser motioned to advertise elected auditors meeting which will be January 4, 2023 (TBD). Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser stated the below was on the agenda for information.

Received thank you note from Meals on Wheels for our donation of \$1,200.00.

Received thank you note from Butler County Humane Society for our donation of \$500.00.

Received letter from KDH Consulting Engineers, Inc. dated October 4, 2022 to inform that People Natural Gas is applying for a GP-5 Stream Crossing General Permits to the PADEP for Utility Service Installation - CM13038 Boy Scout Road. Information is on file at Township office.

Kradel motioned to have solicitor define what an accessory building is. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Steinheiser motioned to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. to an executive session to discuss, litigation and real estate issues. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.