

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors "Close of Business" meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on December 28, 2022 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser, Larry Spangler and Ricky Kradel. Also attending was Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr., Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Lee Kradel and Secretary/Asst. Treasurer Brenda Davis to take the minutes. Engineer Bill Braun did not attend. Twelve people signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Steinheiser stated the Supervisors met immediately following the December 7, 2022 Supervisors' Meeting to discuss personnel, real estate and code enforcement issues.

Secondly, Steinheiser stated a virtual meeting was held on December 13, 2022 at township office which included the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority board members (CTSA), Connoquenessing Township Supervisors and DEP to address our ACT 537 updates and revisions.

REVIEW MINUTES

Spangler motioned to accept the supervisors meeting minutes of December 7, 2022. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$262,261.21 but after total deposits of \$53,985.42 and checks in the amount of \$36,860.37 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$279,386.26. The Escrow account beginning balance was \$18,250.32 but after deposits of \$1,767.18 and checks in the amount of \$1,013.50, the ending balance is \$19,004.00. Lee Kradel stated all other accounts stayed the same from the December 7, 2022 meeting. Kradel motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser stated the 2023 budget has been advertised and is ready to adopt.

COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit pertaining to agenda
NONE

REQUEST TO BE HEARD - three minute limit

Lambert Rosenbaum stated he submitted a letter to the supervisors to discuss three items the Sewer Authority needs direction on. Mr. Rosenbaum first stated after meeting with the DEP the Sewer Authority decided to move forward by meeting monthly in a 1-1/2 hour public session prior to their monthly meetings to discuss ideas for making the Act 537 plan affordable and a fundable project. Item #1. Mr. Rosenbaum asked if the supervisors want CTSA to work with an engineering firm on this plan? If so, will the supervisors or CTSA hire the engineering firm?

Secondly, Mr. Rosenbaum requested the Township to reimburse the CTSA in the amount of \$15,500 for HRG's second opinion review study and evaluation of a reduced-scope plan of Connoquenessing Township's Act 537 Plan that was completed on July 22, 2022 and also \$2,885.70 billed from HRG for their attendance at the meetings.

Lastly, Mr. Rosenbaum is requesting the supervisors to waive the \$100 monthly building rental fee charged to CTSA when it uses the township building for meetings. Mr. Rosenbaum said he doesn't feel any funding sources will accept to pay this \$100 rental fee so it would be coming from township taxpayers. Steinheiser made a motion to waive the \$100 monthly building rental fee for the year of 2023 and revisit fee next year. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser asked board to address other 2 issues. Kradel referenced item #1 and stated he does want the sewer authority board involved but he will be relying more on the professional engineer. Steinheiser and Spangler agreed the sewer authority board is very knowledgeable and also wants them involved.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the DEP will require engineer drawings before anything is approved.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the sewer authority needs to know if the Township will retain the engineer to do the studies or do the supervisors want the Sewer Authority to retain the engineer. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said he took from the DEP meeting that they will require a study from an engineer. Kradel feels the Township should hire and pay for the engineer. Kradel stated the first objective is to determine where our 30 year sewage plant is going to be. Mr. Rosenbaum said everyone knows the 1-5 year plan needs to take care of Rt. 68 and Winterwood. Steinheiser stated DEP stressed to keep on moving and Kradel stated they said they need a legal document signed by the engineer to move forward. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if the engineer would attend township meetings? Mr. Rosenbaum stated he would like them to attend the sewer authority workshop meetings because the public will be there and questions and issues can be worked on and then there is no need for them to attend the regular sewer meeting. The board agreed. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked the supervisors if they are interested in using HRG Engineers who did the second opinion and is familiar with the project or put out RFP's again? Kradel and Steinheiser feels HRG would be good. Kradel suggested asking HRG to attend the next supervisors meeting to discuss what they could propose. Mr. Rosenbaum said we need an engineer that will find the township an affordable/fundable plan.

Kradel stated people have given Senate Engineering a bad name and he thinks that is wrong. Bill Long stated supervisors wanted HRG to downsize the Senate plan but HRG was not asked to do that. Spangler stated HRG was hired to review the Senate Engineer Plan and give other scenarios that could be done. Kradel said he wants their advice, they are professional. Spangler said DEP already told us what to do and we need an engineer to get us there.

Kradel made a motion to have Brenda Davis, secretary, contact HRG in regards to submitting a proposal in regards to amending the Act 537 Plan. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated this is just to see if HRG is interested in submitting a proposal.

Kay Double said the only issue she had with Senate is when they were asked for their files on the Act 537 Plan it took too long. Kay Double also stated if the new plan still has those pads on her family farm, there will be litigation. Steinheiser said there is always the potential that they will still be there. Kradel stated if pressurized systems are used the lines will be closer to the road and said he is not in favor of going in the back of residents' yards.

Steinheiser stated when HRG is present and asked questions, he will not limit residents to 3 minutes on this subject.

Steinheiser went back to Mr. Rosenbaum's request to have the township reimburse the CTSA for HRG's expenses of \$15,500 for second opinion review study and HRG's meeting expenses of \$2,885.70. Kradel motioned to reimburse CTSA for the total of \$18,385.70. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to adopt 2023 budget as resolution #1-23, in the total amount of \$1,241,529.00 subject to review by the treasurer of the above approved expenses of the CTSA. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said budget needs adopted at this end of year meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Act 537 sewer design plan update was stated on agenda but reviewed earlier in meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Steinheiser stated a proposal was received from Bruce & Merrilees for a 12 month term starting January 1, 2023 for maintenance and repairs to our traffic signals. Steinheiser stated Bruce & Merrilees has increased their rate by 7.5% for an annual cost of \$4,644.00. Spangler motioned to approve and sign agreement to use Bruce & Merrilees services for the annual cost of \$4,644.00. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER

NONE

SOLICITOR

NONE

ROADMASTER

Kradel stated he would update at 1st Supervisor meeting of 2023. Steinheiser personally thanked Kradel and the road crew for doing an exceptional job on the roads. Several residents echoed the same feedback.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

NONE

TAX COLLECTOR

NONE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Kradel said he really enjoyed the "Santa Run" the fire company did on December 17th and hoped the public was able to see them.

Spangler updated on the end of year annual meeting Connoquenessing Valley Regional Emergency Management Agency (CVREMA) he attended in December. Spangler stated they reviewed and passed their budget and stated they work with a limited availability of help and income.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

They were:

61-22 - Carolyn Wincer - Silver Oak Dr. - addition - 12/5/22

62-22 - Clinton McCarren -Eagle Mill Rd. - 2 sheds - 12/6/22

63-22 - Leah Perez - Reiber Rd. - deck - 12/13/22

64-22 - Tricia Brennan - Lower Harmony Rd. - addition - 12/22/22

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Kradel motioned to release Dave Benson Lot Line Revision Plan escrow in the amount of \$106.50. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser said the below, which was on the agenda, is for information:

PSATS annual "Youth Awards Contest" are accepting youth group entries until January 15, 2023. If interested, information is at Township office.

2023 Organizational meeting will be held Tuesday January 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. followed by the first Supervisors meeting of 2023.

Elected Auditors meeting will be held January 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Spangler said he has a year of service in now and never realized how much there is to learn. Spangler said the job is a handful but happy to do it.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Steinheiser motioned to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. to an executive session to discuss potential litigation and stated the board would not return. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.