

Connoquenessing Township Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Rick Kradel at 6:11 PM on July 3, 2024, at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Vice-Chairman Rick Kradel and Supervisor Angela Fleeger. Chairman Larry Spangler was absent. Also in attendance were Solicitor Andrew Menchyk Jr., Engineer Bill Braun, and Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Brenda Davis. Secretary Megan Hineman was present to take the minutes. Twenty-six people signed in on the public record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCE WHO IS RECORDING MEETING

Kradel asked who was recording the meeting. Two responded: Mark Williams and Brendan Linton.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Supervisors met with the Solicitor on June 19, 2024, to discuss legal matters pertaining to the Act 537 Plan

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of June 5, 2024 Supervisors Meeting. Fleeger motioned to approve the June 5, 2024 Supervisors Meeting minutes. Kradel seconded, all agreed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | Beginning Balance | Checks | Deposits | Interest | Ending Balance |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund | \$760,620.12 | \$192,599.44 | \$72,487.31 | - | \$640,507.99 |
| Escrow Fund | \$20,990.81 | \$122.00 | \$1,850.00 | - | \$22,718.81 |
| Liquid Fuels | \$346,619.33 | - | - | \$13.29 | \$346,632.62 |
| Act 13 Impact Fee - Checking | \$370,198.19 | - | \$179,356.92 | \$1,145.88 | \$550,700.99 |
| Act 13 CD #1 | \$774,979.84 | - | - | - | \$774,979.84 |
| Act 13 CD #2 | \$311,014.28 | - | - | - | \$311,014.28 |
| | | | | | |
| Total Act 13 Funds | | | | | \$1,636,695.11 |

- Fleeger motioned to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded, all agreed.
- Fleeger motioned to accept Resolution 6-24: Amendment to the 2024 budget to recognize \$179,346.92 in annual installment of Act 13 funds. Kradel seconded the motion, all agreed.

COMMENT PERIOD (Three-minute limit pertaining to agenda)

- Val Dean Scott:
 - Stated that at the last CTSA meeting another resident questioned the CTSA on why they were still having monthly meetings. Ms. Scott asked the Supervisors if

they have told the CTSA to no longer hold monthly meetings, to which Kradel and Fleeger stated they have not.

- Asked if there are any updates on the sewage surveys, to which Fleeger stated this information will be covered later on in the meeting.
- Chris Klink:
 - Brought up a few concerns regarding proposed Ordinance No. 103-24; The draft ordinance states “new on-lot sewage disposal systems” multiple times but does not mention existing or troubled systems. Additionally, the ordinance also states “...septic tank shall have the tank pumped at least once every three years”. Ms. Klink stated that according to the DEP, it depends on how many people live in the home and how big the tank is, so she feels the ordinance should state every three to five years – it should be dependent on the system. Fleeger provided return comment stating that there are things in the ordinance and language that will need to be updated, including the concerns that Ms. Klink brought up. Fleeger stated that the ordinance will be for all on-lot systems, that three years is not feasible for everyone, and that no one will be entering residents’ property, and that all these items have been addressed with the Solicitor and the proposed ordinance will be updated.
- Fred Hensel:
 - Stated that he would like to see the special on-lot system, which he has discussed previously, be considered for the Act 537 Plan. Stated the system itself is between \$6,000.00 - \$12,000.00. The water is clean, certified and it can be put right into the drainage ditch. The yearly maintenance is a little more at \$300.00 a year, but in the worst-case scenario it would still be less expensive than current system plans. Mr. Hensel stated he would email anyone the information if they are interested.
- Brendan Linton:
 - In regard to proposed Ordinance No. 103-24, specifically property entry, Mr. Linton stated that state law dictates how that has to be handled. He continued on to state that he has already sent the Supervisors a certified letter, and stated “do not come onto my property unless I am there”. Stated he agrees with everyone and does not want anyone on his property when he is not there.
 - Stated that if the Supervisors are going to survey on-lot systems, they need to do all systems in the Township.
 - Stated he has a neighbor that has issues with their on-lot system, and they have been begging for public sewage for years. They have also been trying to tap in with BASA. Mr. Linton said the ordinance would force them to put in a new holding tank, however if public sewage comes through in the next 2 years, they should be able to wait until that time instead of spending the money on a new holding tank.

CONNOQUENESSING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

- Matt McConnell stated the following:
 - The Cornhole Tournament on June 29, 2024, at the Missing Links Brewery went very well and that there were 24 teams that participated.
 - The CVFC will be participating in vehicle rescue training in the near future so do not be concerned if you see “smashed up vehicles”.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Angela Fleegeer stated the last Emergency Management meeting was cancelled and that it will be moved to a later date in July (2024) that is still to be determined.

CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY (CTSA)

Chairman Bruce Steinhiser read the June CTSA monthly update. Information is on file at the Township office.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three-minute limit)

Brendan Linton: Stated that Buttercup Rd. is going to be closed for the All-Saints Parish run on July 26, 2024, and he is concerned that with the upcoming closure of Kriess Rd. as well, there will be no place for trucks to turn around. Mr. Linton is asking that a road closed sign be placed at the end of Stevenson Rd., on Kriess Rd., so that big trucks are aware that there is nowhere to turn around. Questioned what the approved truck route is for the Kriess Rd. closure, because there is an industrial park there and he does not want to see semi-trucks attempting to turn onto Buttercup Rd. from Meridian Rd. Kradel asked Bill Braun if PennDOT is who would be determining the detour routes, to which Mr. Braun stated yes. Kradel stated it would be a good idea to reach out to PennDOT to inquire what the detours will be.

OLD BUSINESS

Act 537 Sewer Design Plan Update: Fleegeer stated she would like to provide a few talking points to hopefully clarify a few questions from residents in the community. Fleegeer stated:

- Last month the Supervisors, Solicitor, and Chad Hanley (with HRG) had an executive session to discuss legalities with the consent decree. They discussed a plan to complete the required sewage surveys within the 150-day DEP timeline. Unfortunately, the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer, Dave Ice, was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, they reviewed the option of having the Township alternate SEO, Colin Fantaskey, to complete the surveys. They also considered other options to ensure that the surveys are completed in a timely fashion.
- Also discussed the necessity and importance of communication to the township residents within the survey area, including a possible mailer with FAQs as well as posting them on the Township website. Some of the FAQs that will be addressed are:
 - The Township will do visual inspections only
 - The Township will not enter anyone's home
 - The Township will not conduct dye tests
 - The surveys can take up to 2 months to complete, weather dependent
- Reviewed some options for grant requests with possible help from the county
- Reviewed some options as far as reaching out and initiating discussions with third party entities that may play a role with the 537 Plan (third party entities would include neighboring sewer authorities and residential authorities)

Fleegeer asked resident Val Dean Scott if she has covered all her previous questions. Ms. Scott asked if the Supervisors have decided what portions of the Township would be receiving the survey. Fleegeer stated that it is mapped out by the DEP as to where the surveys would be done, and that it could be added to the FAQs. Mark Williams asked if the consent decree has been accepted by the DEP. Mr. Menchyk stated that it has, and was effective June 21, 2024. That date

is when the clock started for the 150 days for the surveys to be completed, and the 365 days for the submission to the DEP.

Discuss and possible motion to have the new pavement/blacktop at 127 Double Rd. removed from the Township's Right-of-Way: Kradel asked Fleeger if she has been out to look at the issue, to which she said she has and that she agrees that it is on Mr. Furman's property. Fleeger stated: "I'm not opposed to going out and looking at removing that specific portion of blacktop, that impacted specifically his property line". Fleeger motioned to mill off the encroaching blacktop that impacts Mr. Furman's property. Kradel seconded, all agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Received a letter from Gallagher Law Group, dated June 7, 2024, in regard to the Municipal Code Association; they are requesting a payment of \$445.00 from each municipality to be able to close out their outstanding debt and expenses. Kradel stated that Municipal Code, who used to be the Township's building inspector, went out of business. It is in their bylaws that every municipality that is in it has to pay their fair share. Kradel motioned to make the payment in the amount of \$445.00 to the Municipal Code Association. Fleeger seconded, all agreed.
- Fleeger motioned to approve the renewal of 2 webpage domain names in the amount of \$31.22. Kradel seconded the motion, all agreed.
- Fleeger motioned to ratify the advertisement for the open Road Crew position. Kradel seconded the motion, all agreed.
- Fleeger motioned to ratify the advertisement for summer help for the Road Crew. Kradel seconded, all agreed.
- Ordinance No. 103-24 regarding the regulation, inspection, maintenance and rehabilitation of new on-lot sewage disposal systems. Kradel stated he would like to table this for a month. Fleeger stated she agreed and that the verbiage needs to be updated. Mr. Menchyk stated the process is he will make revisions, send them to the Supervisors to review for next month. If at that time they are comfortable moving forward, then it can be re-advertised, then will be available to the public for review and comment, then it would come back for adoption, potentially in September. Mark Williams asked for clarification on if the ordinance will be updated to state "all" instead of "new", to which Fleeger stated "all".

PLANS

Stan Graff from Graff Surveying was present to present the following plan:

- **H.G. Shannon Estate Plan** (Land Dev. Application 6-24)
 - Kradel motioned to accept the waiver allowing the drawing scale of 1"=100' to 1"=160' due to size of project site. Fleeger seconded the motion, all agreed.
 - Kradel motioned to accept the modification to waive the requirements of Articles V and VI. Fleeger seconded the motion, all agreed.
 - Kradel motioned to accept the non-building waiver. Fleeger seconded, all agreed.
 - Kradel motioned to accept the approval of the DEP Planning module. Fleeger seconded, all agreed.

- Kradel motioned to accept the preliminary and final approval of the H.G. Shannon Estate Plan. Fleeger seconded the motion, all agreed.

ENGINEER REPORT

- Jake Brake Study Update: Bill Braun stated he received a call from PennDOT regarding the study. PennDOT stated that it does meet all the criteria, but PennDOT would like to do a meeting regarding the study.
- Lower Harmony Rd. Project Update: Mr. Braun recommends that the final payment in the amount of \$9,893.75 be paid. He stated that all close-out documentation has been received. Brenda Davis questioned if everyone is happy with the project because complaints have been received. Mr. Braun stated that he hadn't been out today, but that tar and chip was put down to smooth out the lip a little bit. Fleeger asked if a final inspection should be done before issuing payment, to ensure that it is safe. Mr. Braun stated he could go out in a couple of days to do one last inspection. Kradel made a motion to release final payment in the amount of \$9,893.75, contingent on Mr. Braun doing one final inspection. Fleeger seconded the motion, all agreed.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- Mr. Menchyk stated a homeowner on Double Rd. who has a Small Flow Treatment Facility, has not paid their inspection fees. Three letters have been sent to the resident. Kradel motioned to have the Township Solicitor write a letter to collect past due SFTF fees from a resident on Double Rd. Fleeger seconded, all agreed.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- Kradel motioned to approve Sandi Cox's invoice for June in the amount of \$306.95. Fleeger seconded the motion, all agreed.
- Kradel motioned to move the annual inspections for West Park Manor, Golden L, Woodland Meadows and Rolling Valley Estates Mobile Home Parks, from the current inspection month of November 2024 to the month of March 2025. Fleeger seconded, all agreed.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated in the past month they did some cold patching of potholes throughout the Township, fixed driveways and shoulders after paving, mowed throughout the township, and prepped Whitestown Rd. and Lower Harmony Rd. for paving. There is a tentative date of July 25th, 2024 to mill Timberlee Dr. Equipment will be brought in on the 22nd to start the stone and rolling on Welsh Rd. to prep for the millings from Timberlee Dr. Additionally, 5 signs were stolen in the past month.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

Kradel stated there were two building permits applied for this month:

- 25-24: Joe & Roxann Martini – Shannon Mills Dr. – New Home – 06/19/24
- 26-24: Paul & Shirley Rankin – Buttercup School Rd. – Shed – 06/27/24

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT (None)

SEO REPORT (None)

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Final Keep Conno. Clean Trash Pickup Event Update:** The event was held on June 22, 2024. Twenty-seven residents showed up to help. Thank you to Ritenour for allowing the Township to use their parking lot as a meeting location for the event. The clean-up crew tackled Eagle Mill Rd., Kriess Rd. and part of Buttercup Rd. They collected 2 full pickup trucks full of garbage. Thank you to CVFC and FRS for following the volunteers with their lights on for additional safety. Thank you to FRS for allowing the use of their dumpster. Thank you to Tom Huff for taking the tires. Overall, it was a very successful day and event.
- **Fall Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser:** The next event will be a fall pancake breakfast to raise money for the Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company. CVFC probationary social member, Michele Beck, asked and got permission to do the event. Fleeger will be working hand-in-hand with Beck for the event, which has a tentative date of September 21, 2024. Last year they were able to raise \$5,000.00 for the CVFC. If there are any volunteers who would like to lend a hand, please reach out to Angela Fleeger.
- **Reminder:** The 3rd Annual All Saints Parish Twilight 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run will be held on Friday, July 26, 2024. Buttercup Rd. will be temporarily closed from 6:00PM until 8:30PM.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 7:02 PM, Kradel motioned to adjourn to an executive session to discuss personnel. Fleeger seconded the motion, all agreed.