

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:21 p.m. on January 3, 2023 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser, Larry Spangler and Ricky Kradel. Also attending were 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 four people signed in on the public sign in record on file.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of December 28, 2022 "close of business" meeting. Kradel motioned to approve the December 28, 2022 minutes. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$279,386.26 but with deposits in the amount of \$1,773.60 and checks in the amount of \$39,079.23 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$242,080.63. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account balance remained at \$19,004.00. Lee Kradel stated the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$34,196.13 and with \$141 in interest, the ending balance is \$34,197.54. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee beginning fund balance was \$479,371.45 but with \$1,273.95 interest, the balance is \$480,645.40 and the CD remained the same at \$735,268.81 leaving a total of \$1,215,914.21 in the Act 13 account. Lee Kradel stated the American Relief Plan had a beginning balance of \$410,385.24 but with interest in the amount of \$1,090.61 the ending balance is \$411,475.85. Spangler motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD (three minute limit pertaining to agenda)

Brendan Linton stated his comments are directed towards hiring an engineer for the Act 537 plan. Mr. Linton feels the DEP meeting gave the Township a clear direction to take. Linton stated the supervisors need to hire an engineer for preparing the Act 537 Plan and any amendments and have the sewer authority implement the plan. Mr. Linton commended the current supervisors and asked them to keep the train moving forward.

Mr. Long feels the DEP, sewer authority board and supervisors had a wonderful meeting and all agree \$51,000,000 is not doable. Mr. Long said he agrees that Saxonburg may be the best way to go considering costs. Mr. Long stated he is sorry to hear that the supervisors chose to not reappoint Laura Mason to the 5 year term on the Sewer Authority board. Steinheiser stated he was not limiting the comment time to three minutes tonight as promised because HRG Engineering was attending and residents would have questions.

Mr. Long stated that HRG was never asked to do a down sized plan. Mr. Long stated he favored Carol Christner's plan from Gateway Engineers. Mr. Long asked the supervisors to look into phases and what is affordable. Steinheiser stated the board will move forward the best way they can.

Lambert Rosenbaum thanked supervisors for not moving forward with the \$51,000,000 plan because the plan is not fundable. Mr. Rosenbaum stated DEP recognized this was not fundable. Mr. Rosenbaum stated HRG will attend the workshop Act 537 meetings to be held before the monthly sewer meetings.

Richard Carron, 2054 Sonoma Valley Dr., told the board to keep the momentum going and if you have a good team, keep them. Mr. Carron said there are all kinds of ways to handle sewage and feels a second opinion may be a good idea. Mr. Carron told the board he was there if they needed any help or had questions. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Carron for his concern.

Angela Fleegeer questioned the financial statement line item "American Rescue Plan". Mrs. Fleegeer stated these funds can only be used for certain items and asked if the board has plans for their use. Mrs. Fleegeer asked if any of the monies will help the current sewage project burden. Kradel said he would like to use some on Lower Harmony Rd. Kradel stated the money could all be used on roads and nothing has been discussed on using it for sewage. Mrs. Fleegeer closed by stating she hopes the supervisors will reappoint Laura Mason to the sewer board. Steinheiser thanked Mrs. Fleegeer for her comments.

Laura Mason opened by saying she feels as Vice-Chairman of sewer board her duties are to do research, ask questions, do homework to present options to supervisors. Mrs. Mason said two major areas need addressed now and they are Rt. 68 and Winterwood and the DEP agrees. Mrs. Mason feels Carol Christner's Gateway Engineering plan should be explored. Mrs. Mason feels it would be advantageous to meet with BASA/PA American Water. Mrs. Mason stated Saxonburg Authority may have the capacity but it is a long distance and doesn't have the numbers. Mrs. Mason stressed talking to PA American Water. Steinheiser thanked Mrs. Mason for her research.

Lee Kradel questioned Mrs. Mason on the rate residents would pay to PA American Water since they already increased their customers 30%. Lee Kradel stated they will be charging \$106/month for sewage. Mrs. Mason said that would need discussed with them before we assume what the rate will be.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

Act 537 sewer design plan update listed on agenda already covered

NEW BUSINESS

Steinheiser stated Chad Hanley from HRG Engineers is present to discuss a scope of work he will do to revise the ACT 537 Plan. Mr. Hanley stated he attended the Township/DEP meeting and DEP agreed revisions to the Plan were necessary and stated parts of the current plan could be used. Mr. Hanley stated he will use the DEP form (Task Activity Report - TAR) and work with the sewer board, DEP and supervisors to see what components can be eliminated, recycled or need evaluated and gather new requests at the workshop meetings and submit a formal proposal to the board next month. Kradel asked how HRG will charge. Mr. Hanley stated a proposal will be submitted but currently they will invoice on time and materials. Mr. Hanley said a lump sump proposal to redo the Plan will be submitted and he will incorporate the cost of his proposal in that amount. Kradel stated Mr. Hanley should attend the workshop meetings that start at 4:30 p.m. before each Sewer meeting. Mr. Hanley stated he would have the DEP TAR worksheet and also his recommendations to start the workshop.

Lambert Rosenbaum agreed Mr. Hanley is needed at the workshop meetings but he needs to know what the supervisors want him to propose and make sure it is fundable and affordable. Mr. Hanley said the DEP doesn't want a 5 year plan - they want what needs done now - started now (immediate need). Mr. Hanley stated anything that is done needs to last as long as the loan. (example - 20 years). Steinheiser motioned to authorize Mr. Hanley to attend the Act 537 workshop meeting and submit a formal proposal to the Township at their February 1, 2023 supervisor meeting. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel stated he has seen in the Butler Eagle where other Townships are being approached by solar farms and feels the Township should have control of what they can do. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated since the Township doesn't have zoning this would have to addressed in our Subdivision/Land Development ordinance. Steinheiser motioned to have Mr. Menchyk, Jr. research how to regulate a solar farm through an ordinance. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

PLANS

Estle Harp was present to present his lot line revision. Mr. Braun stated the Planning Commission and Senate has recommended approval but the plan will need a modification waiver and maintenance agreement on North Ridge Dr. approved by Mr. Menchyk, Jr. Steinheiser motioned to waive the requirements of Articles V & VI of section 245-14 because the plan is subdividing 3 or less lots. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser motioned to approve lot line revision plan as preliminary and final approval contingent on the approval of the maintenance agreement on North Ridge Dr. by Mr. Menchyk, Jr. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

ENGINEER REPORT

NONE

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Kradel motioned to approve invoice for December 2022 in the amount of \$342.42. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated the road crew has removed trees from roadways and snow plowed through the storm.

Road superintendent report for December 2022 in packets.

BUILDING APPLICATIONS APPLIED FOR DURING THE MONTH

NONE

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

NONE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Matt McConnell from Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company presented the board with a financial report and a list of what has been completed on the building so far. Spangler asked how 2022 compares financially to 2021. Mr. McConnell stated there is an increase. Kradel asked if there is a date for the groundbreaking. Mr. McConnell stated Gateway Engineers is still working on the site plan. Mr. McConnell introduced David Cottingham as the new 2023 President of the Fire Dept. and said he will be spearheading the financing for the new building. Evelyn Hockenberry asked how the recruiting is. Mr. McConnell stated the junior volunteer fire members are up to 12-15 and the State just passed a law where a 17 year old can take the structural burning class now so they will be ready at 18 to be a firefighter.

Spangler motioned to pay our share of CVREMA Admin/Operations expenses for 2023 in the amount of \$2,219.09. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Kradel motioned to pay Connoquenessing Borough for Township's share of 2023 Auto and Workers' Compensation and Liability Insurance Premium in the amount of \$13,207.38. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler motioned to pay for Secretary/Assistant Treasurer bond effective 2/23/23 - 2/23/24 in the amount of \$625.00. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to pay PSATS invoice for 2023 membership in the amount of \$1,439.00. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler motioned to pay the BCATO dues for 2023 in the amount of \$35.00. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to approve to pay for eligible officials to attend the PSATS convention in Hershey in April of 2023. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser noted there was an executive session held after the last meeting on December 28, 2022 to discuss potential litigation.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. to an executive session to discuss personnel issues and stated the board would not return. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.