

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on February 1, 2023 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser, Larry Spangler and Ricky Kradel. Also attending were Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr., Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Lee Kradel and Secretary/Asst. Treasurer Brenda Davis was present to take the minutes. Bill Braun, engineer, was excused. Thirty eight people signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steinheiser stated the Supervisors met immediately following the January 3, 2023 Supervisors' Meeting to consult with the Solicitor to discuss personnel issues.

Steinheiser stated the Supervisors and solicitor met on January 18, 2023 with the union representative to discuss Collective Bargaining Agreement and to discuss personnel matters.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of January 3, 2023 organizational and supervisors meetings. Kradel motioned to accept the January 3, 2023 organizational meeting minutes and the January 3, 2023 supervisors meeting minutes. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$242,080.63 but after deposits of \$104,784.38 and checks in the amount of \$52,587.98 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$294,277.03. Lee Kradel stated the beginning Escrow account balance is \$19,004.00 but after deposits of \$1,850.00 and checks in the amount of \$1,715.75 being approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$19,138.25. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$34,197.54 with interest of \$1.50, leaving the ending balance at \$34,199.04. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$480,645.40 but with interest of \$1,411.65 the ending balance is \$482,057.05. Lee Kradel said the Act 13 CD remained at \$735,268.81 for a grand total of \$1,217,325.86. Lee Kradel stated the American Rescue Plan had a beginning balance of \$411,475.85 but with interest in the amount of \$1,208.50 the ending balance is \$412,684.35. Spangler motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser stated MaherDuessel will be auditing the 2022 books on Feb. 16, 17 & 20, 2023.

COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit pertaining to agenda

Angela Fleegeer stated Laura Mason brings strength and trust to the CTSA board and requests the board appoint her to a full 5 year term. Mrs. Fleegeer asked how Spangler and Steinheiser feel about appointing Mrs. Mason. Spangler told Mrs. Fleegeer he did not attend the meeting when the 5 year term was voted on and Steinheiser stated he didn't vote for or against Mrs. Mason, he voted to keep her on as a retainer.

Bill Hyatt stated he wants Laura Mason appointed for a full term.

Roy Gilliland stated he also wants Laura Mason to be appointed for a full term.

Bill Long commented on the Act 537 workshop and stated he did not get much out of the meeting except what Dave Bocci discussed. Mr. Long asked the supervisors to bring sewage in slowly and have it be fundable.

Susan Coen stated the way the board went about not appointing Mrs. Mason for a full term does not make them look good from a managerial point of view. Mrs. Coen stated Mrs. Mason has the experience and can make the Act 537 plan go from A to B.

Deborah Buckley, resident of Sonoma Valley, said she attended a sewer meeting and listened to Mrs. Mason's comments and said she is very valuable. Mrs. Buckley stated she is a past engineer for Westinghouse and an expert in Water Treatment and is willing to help Mrs. Mason.

Dianna Edwards asked the board to appoint Laura Mason and feels if they don't it will be a great disservice to the sewer board.

Evelyn Hockenberry asked Mr. Menchyk, Jr. two questions: 1. has the township been mandated by any authority to install public sewage into Connoquenessing Township. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said, "no". 2. is Connoquenessing Township obligated to update its Act 537 plan. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the Township currently has an Act 537 plan in place but sent it back to the Sewer Authority in October 2021 to reevaluate and possibly submit an amendment to the DEP and told Mrs. Hockenberry the DEP did not set a time frame for completion but they want to see progress. Mrs. Hockenberry stated a small group have no concern over what the majority of people want for Connoquenessing Township. Mrs. Hockenberry feels small dwelling plans are being pushed to pay for public sewage again and does not feel this is right. Mrs. Hockenberry feels some members of the sewer authority want a new solicitor and auditor but she feels they both do a fine job. Mrs. Hockenberry is not in favor of retaining Laura Mason.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three minute limit)

Lambert Rosenbaum stated some of the comments made on the Facebook page of "Conno Sewer Concerns" is not appropriate. Secondly, Mr. Rosenbaum stated the CTSA did receive the \$664,000 grant from the County but must have an engineering agreement between the CTSA and an engineer in place by December 31, 2023 to work on design but needs the plan first. In addition, the grant monies must be spent by 2026. Mr. Rosenbaum stated the supervisors and sewer board need to work together.

Angela Fleeger asked the board if any further plans were decided on how to spend the ARP funds and asked if they would use on current sewer debt and/or future sewer plans.

Laura Mason thanked the community for their support on wanting her to be reappointed to the CTSA board. Mrs. Mason thanked Dave Bocci for his time and knowledge shared at a meeting with supervisors and sewer board.

Ken Dambaugh stated the short time Mrs. Mason has been on the board she has been very helpful.

Steinheiser said he appreciates all the sewer members and everyone needs to work together.

Bill Long mentioned he put the word out about the "Conno Sewer Concerns" Facebook page for the people to express themselves without causing hurt feelings.

Evelyn Hockenberry stated she attended the January 23rd CTSA board meeting where they discussed looking for a new solicitor and auditor and her opinion of the meeting was not about Connoquenessing Township's needs or wants for public sewage but it is about control.

Susan Coen was on the agenda but had no further comment.

Deborah Buckley restated that she will help Laura Mason with technical issues.

Ken Norman, secretary of CTSA, told Mrs. Buckley it would be helpful if she attended the workshop meetings held before the monthly sewer meetings.

Mark Williams stated since Laura Mason has been on the CTSA board she is keeping things moving along and recommends her being reappointed.

Fred Hensel questioned how a few board members are appointed to design a \$51,000,000 plan. Mr. Hensel was discouraged with HRG's findings. Mr. Hensel feels a needs study is needed. Mr. Hensel stated if a big development comes along they should pay to put sewer in. Mr. Hensel stated he likes Laura Mason's involvement with the CTSA board.

OLD BUSINESS

In reference to the Act 537 sewer design plan update Spangler wants the CTSA board to move forward and do what the Township needs.

Kradel updated on EADS Group Comprehensive Plan. Kradel stated at their last meeting with the committee they discussed ordinances and what may need changed when adopting the Comprehensive Plan.

Kradel stated the design seal and colors have been decided for the Township flag but the background color still needs decided and asked the public for any input. Kradel then said it will go into production.

NEW BUSINESS

Maggie Weitzel, engineer from GD&F (Gwin, Dobson & Foreman) and representing PA American Water Company (PAWC) and Sam Miller from PAWC were present to inform that the current Act 537 Plan that is currently between several municipalities including Connoquenessing Township and BASA has been updated to one between PAWC and the municipalities since PAWC is in the process of acquiring BASA. Ms. Weitzel stated there is a public review process and the advertisement for comments on this is in the Butler Eagle today. Ms. Weitzel said after comments are in then each municipality will have to adopt a resolution to accept the new Act 537 plan between them and PAWC. Ms. Weitzel asked the community to send any comments to their local municipality or BASA. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if plan was on BASA website. Ms. Weitzel said she left a copy and a flash drive here at the Township available for anyone. Mr. Ken Norman asked for the Township to forward a copy to all sewer board members. Steinheiser asked if more EDU's could be added. Mr. Miller said not at this time, this is just the existing plan being converted to PAWC. Spangler asked when the acquisition is taking place. Mr. Miller stated looking at end of year 2023. Lambert Rosenbaum asked if PAWC would be open to all treatments like Connoquenessing Township maintaining the lines and PAWC treat the water. Mr. Miller said he would have to follow up. Mr. Wonderly asked if Mr. Miller was part of PAWC that met with Sonoma Valley and Brandywine. Mr. Miller said, "no". Mr. Joe Huth asked how much PAWC is paying for BASA and who is getting the proceeds. Mr. Miller stated \$230,000,000 and proceeds go to Butler City and Butler Township. Mr. Wonderly asked if the fees would increase. Mr. Miller stated he is not part of that decision. Laura Mason asked what the Resolution will pertain to. Ms. Weitzel said it will only mention the customers in Connoquenessing Township that BASA is currently serving. Mrs. Mason asked if there is an EDU count in there for Connoquenessing Township. Ms. Weitzel thinks only a population chart is included. Mrs. Mason asked if the actual Act 537 plan has been revised/updated or if it is the same. Ms. Weitzel stated the ACT 537 was last updated in 2009 and was recently reviewed but it will just be transferred to PAWC for them to continue with the plan. Ms. Weitzel stated once they receive all comments back from the different planning commissions and public they will attend the April or May meeting to request the Resolution be adopted. Steinheiser thanked Ms. Weitzel and Mr. Miller for their time.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. presented the board a copy of a "Union Memorandum of Understanding" that would be attached to the union contract. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated this was needed in order to clarify the description

of holiday pay. Spangler made a motion to sign and approve the "Union Memorandum of Understanding". Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, Steinheiser yes, Spangler yes, Kradel no.

Kradel wants more action in finding grants for our Township. Spangler stated he knows the manager from Jackson Township that seeks grants as part of his job and he can request him to assist us.

Lambert Rosenbaum asked the board to hold off on hiring HRG at this time until Mr. Rosenbaum finds out from the state if the \$664,000 grant CTSA is receiving from the Butler County Infrastructure Bank can be used for updating the Act 537 and whether a requirement may be that the engineer would need to be in contract with CTSA and not the Township. Ken Dambaugh stated the CTSA plan is to present a couple revised suggestions for downsizing the Act 537 within a few months so the supervisors can vote on which direction the CTSA board should go. Steinheiser tabled discussion until Mr. Rosenbaum hears from the state.

Kradel stated he attends Planning Commission meetings and hears their board stating some ordinances need updated. Kradel asked the other supervisors if the Planning Commission and Bill Braun could start reviewing them and suggest changes. Steinheiser agrees they need reviewed but any revisions would need to be coordinated with the solicitor. The board agreed to pay Bill Braun's time during the planning meeting.

PLANS

Steinheiser stated all contingencies have been met on Estle Harp's lot line revision plan from last month's meeting when it was approved for preliminary and final approval with contingencies.

ENGINEER REPORT

NONE

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Kradel motioned to approve Sandi Cox's invoice for January in the amount of \$365.23. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel discussed what 2023 paving projects he would like to do. There was much discussion and disagreement between supervisors. Spangler would rather put more money into new equipment and feels some of the roads don't need what was planned. Kradel stated a boom mower is the most needed equipment. Kradel said there is \$330,000 in the budget for roads. After further discussion, Kradel motioned to mill and binder 3/4 mile on Whitestown Rd. Ext. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Secondly, Kradel motioned to tar and chip various roads in Township. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to hire Lucas Langer as a new full time road crew member. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel read the road superintendent's report for the month of January 2023 which is on file at Township office.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

Steinheiser stated there was one building permit applied for this month.

It was:

1-23 - Travis Zeigler - Kriess Rd. - garage - 1-3-23

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

Spangler motioned to release Larrie Lefever's estate sewer escrow in the amount of \$150.00. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to release George White's sewer escrow in the amount of \$125.00. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Matt McConnell, Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company Representative, stated the infiltration testing has been done at the new building site.

Steinheiser stated Township received an invitation from the Connoquenessing VFC for local municipal and government leaders to attend their annual officer installation & member appreciation dinner on March 11, 2023. R.S.V.P. by February 11, 2023.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

NONE

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Spangler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.