

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on April 5, 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. Engineer Bill Braun did not attend. Forty-one people signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Supervisors met immediately following the March 1, 2023 Supervisors' meeting to consult with the Solicitor involving personnel and code enforcement matters.

### **REVIEW MINUTES**

Reviewed minutes of March 1, 2023. Kradel motioned to accept the March 1, 2023 supervisors meeting minutes. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$250,899.92 but after deposits of \$121,656.42 and checks in the amount of \$105,201.62 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$267,354.72. Lee Kradel stated the beginning Escrow account balance is \$19,263.25 but after deposits of \$1,178.75 and checks in the amount of \$1,081.50 being approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$19,360.50. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$242,207.87 with interest of \$10.29, leaving the ending balance at \$242,218.16. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$483,351.34 but with interest of \$1,498.39, the ending balance is \$484,849.73. Lee Kradel said the Act 13 CD balance remained at \$739,531.35 for a grand total of \$1,224,381.08. Lee Kradel stated the American Relief Plan had a beginning balance of \$413,792.38.38 but with interest in the amount of \$1,282.76 the ending balance is \$415,075.14. Spangler motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to pay the Quickbooks annual payroll update in the amount of \$650.00. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser stated the 2022 audit by MaherDuessel is complete and everything is good. The auditor reports were in the packets.

### **COMMENT PERIOD** - Three minute limit pertaining to agenda

Susan Coen stated the supervisors have put off long enough appointing Laura Mason. Ms. Coen mentioned things not being listed on the agenda last month so they couldn't be approved and feels the supervisors get in the way of letting the CTSA board do their jobs.

Angela Fleeger stated this is the 4<sup>th</sup> month the residents have waited to see Laura Mason appointed to the CTSA board. Mrs. Fleeger stated Mrs. Mason is qualified and has graciously continued to work on the board without a term and stated the supervisors not taking this to a vote seems unprofessional by the board and asks them to rise above any personal issues and appoint Laura Mason to a full term.

Dianna Edwards asked the board for more updates on the Planning Commission meetings during supervisor meetings. Brenda Davis stated the meetings dates are on the bulletin board, website, facebook and minutes are posted on connotwp.com. Ms. Davis stated they have public meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Township building.

Brendan Linton mentioned the Debt Ordinance under "Old Business" that the Township supervisors are planning to co-sign \$1,000,000 on behalf of the Sewer Authority. Mr. Linton advised the supervisors not to do it. Mr. Linton feels the sewer authority has went off the rails and the supervisors need to be aware. Secondly, Mr. Linton thanked Laura Mason for stepping up to help the Sewer Authority but in his opinion feels she is not qualified to serve and knowledgeable in reference to the functions of the Authority and implementation of public sewage in relation to a Second Class Township.

Bill Long stated he is sick of certain people coming to these meetings and have threatening remarks to the supervisors that the township may be sued because they are not handling the Act 537 Plan properly.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Kradel motioned to ratify Debt Ordinance #100-23 advertisement. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated an addendum to the services outlined in MaherDuessel's engagement letter of March 9, 2022 was requested by Connoquenessing Township to prepare a compilation of the special-purpose debt statement as of March 15, 2023 and borrowing base certificate as of December 31, 2022. MaherDuessel's additional fee for this is \$1,000.00. Steinheiser motioned to sign the addendum and pay the additional \$1,000.00. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to reappointment Laura Mason to a full term on the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority board. Spangler seconded. Roll call, Steinheiser, yes. Spangler, yes. Kradel, no.

Steinheiser stated there was a second opening on the CTSA board because Calvin Wonderly resigned. Steinheiser motioned to appoint Bill Long to Mr. Wonderly's term that would end December 31, 2023. Spangler wanted to wait to see if anyone else is interested. Bill Long thanked Mr. Steinheiser but feels Carol Christner is more qualified. Steinheiser rescinded his motion.

Steinheiser said he is proposing to give CTSA board total authority on hiring/firing engineers, solicitors and letting them decide how to use the \$664,000 grant money they received but does not want them coming back to the supervisors until they have several completed plans to present to the supervisors. After discussion, Steinheiser made a motion giving total authority of the Act 537 Plan amendment to the CTSA board and when they have several plans for supervisors to review, then approach the board for approval. Spangler seconded. Roll call. Steinheiser, yes. Spangler, yes. Kradel, no.

Steinheiser stated Mr. Rosenbaum had requested reimbursing CTSA for 3 HRG invoices in the amount of \$3,695.83 for Act 537 Plan work last month but it was tabled and now he asked Mr. Rosenbaum if these could be paid out of the \$664,000 grant money. Mr. Rosenbaum stated he would ask but thinks the money can not be spent on past expenses. Mr. Dambaugh stated the CTSA's new solicitor is going to ask what the funds can be used for. Mr. Rosenbaum stated the Act 537 Plan expenses should be absorbed by the entire Township's taxpayers, not the burden of who is connecting to the sewer. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. however noted that the Act 537 monies from the grant went to the CTSA board and Steinheiser stated the CTSA board should pay. More discussion between sewer authority members, supervisors and solicitor continued until Steinheiser tabled.

Steinheiser asked Mr. Rosenbaum for a monthly report on the progress of CTSA board on the Act 537 plan. Mr. Rosenbaum stated he planned to. Ken Dambaugh agreed everything should be recorded monthly. Mr. Rosenbaum asked the supervisors to let the CTSA board know if they don't like their direction every month so they don't waste time.

Steinheiser stated the election bureau wants to use the Township building for a 2<sup>nd</sup> polling location in the township but he said the residency has not grown and has never seen a line at the Armory. Steinheiser

said it is not safe to cross Rt. 68 and feels one location is fine. He asked attendees for a raise of hands on who agreed with him. Many attendees agreed. Steinheiser motioned to not have 2<sup>nd</sup> polling location at the Township. No one seconded. Spangler tabled the discussion.

Kradel stated the Connoquenessing Flag is complete and showed it to the public. Kradel once again thanked Galen Piovesan, Robin Blose and Mac McNeely from Wise Business Forms for their design work on our flag.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Matt McConnell, said the new building has been staked out. Mr. McConnell said it is just a draft. Steinheiser asked Mr. McConnell to put this on the report to the Township. Mr. McConnell stated he would present the report next month. Dave Cottington, president of Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company, thanked the supervisors for their letter of recommendation and support that he requested to apply for a Federal Community Project grant to use for the fire building. Mr. Cottington stated they could receive up to 75% of \$2,000,000. Mr. Cottington also stated they will then be able to apply for USDA grants. Mr. McConnell mentioned a boot drive at Walmart on May 6-7th and pancake breakfast on May 20<sup>th</sup> are upcoming fundraisers for the fire department.

### **REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three minute limit)**

Jere Lillich was on the agenda but not present.

Terri Schultz, Butler County's Assistant District Attorney for the past 7 years, stated she is running for the Butler County Common Pleas Judge. Mrs. Schultz stated she has 28 years of law experience and asked the public for their vote on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Angela Fleeger asked the supervisors if they received the email on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in reference to her questions on how the ARP fund monies will be spent. Mrs. Fleeger stated the funds have to be obligated by end of year because if funds are not appropriated properly the estimated \$411,000 might need to be paid back. Angela Fleeger asked if supervisors received her email at the Connoquenessing township email address or should another email be used. Steinheiser stated the township email is fine. Mrs. Fleeger stated she did not get a response. Steinheiser stated it does not need responded to. Lee Kradel stated she responded to what she could answer. Mrs. Fleeger thanked Mrs. Kradel for that response. Mrs. Fleeger requests this discussion be put on a future agenda to discuss and questioned if any will be used for sewage. Steinheiser said the board hasn't got there yet and stated the money can be used for a lot of things. Mrs. Fleeger asked when this will be up for public discussion. Steinheiser stated, "whenever we decide". Steinheiser stated it will be used in a proper manner. Spangler stated the money will not be returned.

Bill Long stated the meeting tonight had a lot of accomplishments and good decisions were made. Mr. Long asked the board again to consider Carol Christner for the sewer board.

Susan Coen asked for clarification on who would hire and/or fire a sewer board member. Steinheiser stated only the Supervisors can hire or fire the sewer board members. However, the CTSA board can hire and fire their solicitor or engineer.

Matt DeLorenzo who lives at 132 Winterwood Dr. and a Connoquenessing resident wants to find a way to connect to BASA/PAWC since he is only 120 yards away from Butler Township residents that are connected. Mr. DeLorenzo stated he and his neighbor need public sewage. Steinheiser stated Winterwood should have been fixed years ago but he will have to address his concerns now with the CTSA. Ken Dambaugh told Mr. DeLorenzo if he has a current sewer issue he needs to go to the Township but for long term planning the CTSA board is working on a modified Act 537 Plan.

Christine Klink feels the loan the Sewer Authority currently has for over \$500,000 should be paid by the Township first before the CTSA board uses their grant money. Mrs. Klink stated the Township has money and grant money to pay this loan off. Brenda Davis stated the Township only has one grant that is to be used for the Lower Harmony culvert project in the amount of \$198,800.00.

Lambert Rosenbaum made a positive note that when a tree fell on Double Rd. by his house last Saturday the road crew with a highlift within 1/2 hour had the road open. Mr. Rosenbaum stated that was good teamwork. Steinheiser commended Kradel on his great job as roadmaster.

Brendan Linton stated he was not happy with the boards decision to give the CTSA board complete authority. Steinheiser feels he made a positive decision for the community. Secondly, Mr. Linton stated the election polling place is regulated by State law and the Township may not have a choice. Thirdly, ATV's have been seen riding on township roads and stated if the board wishes to allow this an ordinance can be put in place.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Cathy Gilliland, resident on Cupps Rd., stated she has been to the Planning Commission twice to get permission to turn her barn into a guest house when family or friends visit and also use as a quilting studio for herself. After the first Planning Commission meeting she thought it was approved and since then spent nearly \$25,000 to renovate and got permission to connect another sewer line to BASA. However she was called to come back to a second Planning Commission meeting and was denied because our ordinance states one residence per parcel. Mrs. Gilliland stated the barn may never be a permanent residence. However, Brendan Linton, chairman of Planning Commission and Lee Kradel vice-chairman stated the issue is our current ordinance does not allow two residences on a parcel and if she was allowed it would set a precedent. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated an application/plan would have to be submitted before a hardship and/or modification could be approved. Mrs. Gilliland told Rick Kradel he has been at each meeting. Kradel stated he can not go against the ordinance. Mrs. Gilliland said there is no one living there full time. Steinheiser stated "but the potential is there". Supervisors denied Mrs. Gilliland's request.

Steinheiser stated the Township received a resignation letter from Calvin Wonderly from the CTSA board on March, 28, 2023. Steinheiser motioned to accept Mr. Wonderly's resignation. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. The board thanked Mr. Wonderly for his service.

Steinheiser stated an Ag Security proposal from Benjamin Patton was received on March 17, 2023 and advertised in Butler Eagle on April 3, 2023.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. presented Ordinance #100-23 that reaffirms the incurrence of indebtedness of an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 in support of the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated this has already been advertised and ready to adopt. Steinheiser motioned to adopt debt ordinance #100-23. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser stated the agenda item of "discussing the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority's request to prepare and fund the Township's 537 Plan amendment and possible action" was previously done.

### **PLANS**

David Schultz was present to present the David & Jody Schultz - Plan of Subdivision 2. The plan was previously approved by Planning Commission and the surveyor has addressed Bill Braun's review letter and only two items still need addressed. Steinheiser motioned to approve capacity letter from BASA and submit post card mailer to DEP. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser motioned to approve

easement/maintenance agreement previously approved by Mr. Menchyk, Jr. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser motioned to approve David & Jody Schultz Plan of Subdivision 2 for preliminary and final approval contingent on approval from DEP. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Tom McConnell was present to present the South Monroe Holdings, LLC - Sherwin McConnell - lot line revision. The plan was previously approved by Planning Commission and Bill Braun's review letter. Kradel motioned to approve request for modification to not have to comply with section 245-14 Articles V & VI because this plan is a lot line revision. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Spangler motioned to approve easement/maintenance agreement on Hoch Lane previously approved by Mr. Menchyk, Jr. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel motioned to approve South Monroe Holding, LLC lot line revision for preliminary and final approval. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **ENGINEER REPORT**

Kradel stated we received the LSA grant for Lower Harmony Rd. culvert in the amount of \$198,800. Kradel motioned to advertise for this subject to Bill Braun's final completion of bid specs. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel stated he would like the ARP money to pay for the matching % amount and any other additional charges.

### **SOLICITOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Spangler motioned to approve March invoice in the amount of \$419.34. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in the packets.

### **ROAD MASTERS REPORT**

Kradel motioned to advertise for limestone.

- 3,000 tons, more or less, washed crushed limestone AASHTO #2A
- 300 tons, more or less, washed crushed limestone AASHTO #8
- 100 tons, more or less, washed crushed limestone AASHTO #1
- 800 tons, more or less, washed crushed limestone AASHTO #2B
- 500 tons, more or less, washed crushed limestone AASHTO #3
- 100 tons, more or less, rip rap #4
- 100 tons, more or less, rip rap #6
- 100 tons, more or less, rip rap #7

Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to advertise for dustoil.

4,000 gallons, more or less, CRS-2.

4,000 gallons, more or less, MC-70

Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel stated the township desperately needs a boom mower. The current one on the highlift is twisting and ruining the mower. Kradel stated it could cost between \$66,000 - \$79,000 just for the mower to attach to the John Deere. Kradel stated he would have the bid documents ready for advertising at next month's meeting. Kradel stated he would like to use ARP money for this. Ken Dambaugh asked why not have a capital account set up to purchase equipment and not use the covid dollars? Steinheiser stated capital purchases are discussed during budgeting time but nothing was foreseen at that time. Lee Kradel stated Act 13 funds that are received each year are put into a capital reserve account to be used for these type of purchases.

Kradel stated he would like to ask last year's two summer helpers to return this year. Kradel made a motion to hire two temporary summer help. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Road superintendent report for the month of March was in packets.

### **BUILDING PERMIT REPORT**

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

They were:

- 3-23 - Gary Brenckle - Shannon Rd. - inground pool - 3-8-23
- 4-23 - Shelley Patrick - Woodlands Rd. - addition - 3-10-23
- 5-23 - Jeffrey Vargo - Fox Dr. - pole barn - 3-13-23
- 6-23 - Jacob Olexsak - Blair Ln. - pole barn - 3-24-23
- 7-23 - David Carr - Evans City Rd. - carport - 3/30/23
- 8-23 - Terry Jackson - Timberlee Dr. - inground pool - 3/30/23

### **TAX COLLECTOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

### **SEO REPORT**

\*NONE\*

### **MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

Steinheiser stated Butler County Tax Claim Bureau has received an offer of \$600.00 for each of the below 2 parcel's that are currently on the Butler County Repository unsold property list and requests the Township to sign off on each parcel either by consenting or **not** consenting to the sale of these parcels. Steinheiser motioned to consent to the sale of parcel # 120-S5-A1064 Pigeon Dr. and parcel # 120-S6-A1233 Spring Valley Rd in the amount of \$600.00/each. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

#### **Steinheiser stated the below was on the agenda for information.**

Received letter dated March 17, 2023 from Gateway Engineers to inform that MarkWest submitted an application for an Erosion and Sedimentation Control General Permit ESCGP-3 for earth disturbance, etc. The project "Shannon to Sarsen Pipeline" is located in Forward and Connoquenessing Townships. Information is on file at Township office.

Connoquenessing Township, Connoquenessing Borough, Evans City Borough and Forward Township will have their joint annual "Clean-up/Recycling Day" on May 13, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 1: 00 p.m. at the Forward Township facility. A list of items being accepted and fees will be posted at the Township office in the near future.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

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