

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on May 3, 2023 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser, Larry Spangler and Ricky Kradel. Also attending were Attorney Kyrie Lokhaiser on behalf of Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr., Engineer Bill Braun, Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Lee Kradel and Secretary/Asst. Treasurer Brenda Davis was present to take the minutes. Thirty-three people signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

Steinheiser asked who was recording the meeting. Four replied which included Angela Fleeger, Gary L. Fleeger, Jr., Brendan Linton and Eddie Trizzino.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of April 5, 2023. Kradel motioned to accept the April 5, 2023 supervisors meeting minutes. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$267,354.72 but after deposits of \$104,899.53 and checks in the amount of \$72,447.82 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$299,806.43. Lee Kradel stated the beginning Escrow account balance is \$19,360.50 but after deposits of \$883.00 and checks in the amount of \$2,666.50 being approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$17,577.00. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$242,218.16 with interest of \$9.29, leaving the ending balance at \$242,227.45. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$484,849.73 but with interest of \$1,357.58, the ending balance is \$486,207.31. Lee Kradel said the Act 13 CD balance remained at \$739,531.35 for a grand total of \$1,225,738.66. Lee Kradel stated the American Relief Plan had a beginning balance of \$415,075.14 but with interest in the amount of \$1,162.21 the ending balance is \$416,237.35. Spangler motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit (PERTAINING TO AGENDA)

NONE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Matt McConnell, Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company representative, stated he submitted the financial report to the board before the meeting. Steinheiser thanked him and stated quarterly reports are good. Mr. McConnell stated a fundraiser community event will be held at Walmart on May 6-7 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and a pancake breakfast will be held on May 20th at the Firehall.

Mr. McConnell stated four members completed the essentials of firefighting involving "live burn".

Mr. McConnell stated one of the four to pass was 17 year old Lucas McConnell. Mr. McConnell stated the state now allows 17 year olds to complete this class so they will be ready to take the next steps at 18.

Mr. McConnell also mentioned the fire fighter 1 & 2 classes that are taken at BCCC. He stated one junior fire firefighter recently passed his EMT certification. McConnell is very pleased with the recruitment of young firefighters and stated in 4 years there is a possibility of having 15-16 nationally certified young firefighters.

BIDS

Brenda Davis publicly opened and read aloud the bids received for the letting of May 3, 2023:

LIMESTONE

Only one bidder

| | | McClymonds |
|-------|----------|-------------------|
| | | Price |
| Tons | Material | per ton |
| 3,000 | 2A | \$22.66 |
| 300 | 8 | \$26.76 |
| 100 | 1 | \$25.31 |
| 800 | 2B | \$25.31 |
| 500 | 3 | \$25.31 |

RIP RAP

Only one bidder

| | | McClymonds |
|------|----------|-------------------|
| | | Price |
| Tons | Material | per ton |
| 100 | #4 | \$25.31 |
| 100 | #6 | \$39.71 |
| 100 | #7 | \$39.71 |

McClymonds enclosed their bid bond which was reviewed and approved by Kyrie Lokhaiser. Kradel motioned to award the Limestone & Rip Rap bids to McClymonds. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

DUST OIL

Only one bidder:

| | | Russell Standard |
|---------|----------|-------------------------|
| | | Price |
| Gallons | Material | per gallon |
| 4,000 | CRS-2 | \$2.87 |
| 4,000 | MC-70 | \$5.43 |

Russell Standard enclosed their bid bond which was reviewed and approved by Kyrie Lokhaiser. Kradel motioned to award the dust oil bid to Russell Standard. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD - three minute limit

Bill Long stated he has a problem with the supervisor of our Planning Commission. Mr. Long feels he can not make sound decisions. Mr. Long asked the supervisors to evaluate whether he can make good decisions for the Township. Steinheiser stated he feels this is a personal issue and that the planning chairman has not done anything derogatory towards the Township that would warrant banning his services to the Township. Attorney Kyrie Lokhaiser explained that the Municipalities Planning Code states an official can be removed from office for malfeasance but the code is vague as to what this is and this situation would be a judgment call of the supervisors. Mr. Long stated there would be more information on him to follow. Steinheiser repeated that he feels this is a personal issue.

Angela Fleeger mentioned her request from last month on why her email was not answered on how the \$415,000 ARP funds were being spent and was told the supervisors didn't have to answer. Mrs. Fleeger stated the supervisors are here to inform the public about the budget and how monies are spent and felt

the answer she received was unprofessional. Mrs. Fleegeer stated Kradel told her last month some of the monies would go for a boom mower and pay for the remainder of the Lower Harmony Rd. culvert project that funding didn't cover and asked for that amount. Kradel stated he did not have that figure until bids for the project are advertised. Mrs. Fleegeer also asked whether the board decided to spend the ARP funds on the mower because she doesn't feel that is covid related. Kradel stated further discussion on the mower will be discussed later.

Roy Gilliland said he feels Cathy Gilliland that was not approved by the Planning Commission or supervisors last month has been unjustly treated. Mr. Gilliland stated she is a relative of his but said the barn she is remodeling is not for a permanent residence. Mr. Gilliland said she is only having guests and won't be receiving mail there so that is not a permanent residence. Mr. Gilliland stated she was told it has the potential of becoming a permanent residence. Mr. Gilliland stated any building could become permanent in the future and then the resident would have to approach the board for a variance. Mr. Gilliland disagreed with the supervisors denying her to use her barn as a vacation house for her guests. Supervisors had no comment.

Dave Dreher passed on commenting.

Kevin Bergbigler, resident of 106 Double Rd. stated he filed a complaint on the commercial building at 1004 Evans City Rd. about the shingles blowing off the roof into his yard and road and the tree that is going through the roof and didn't get an answer back from the Township. Mr. Bergbigler stated he is disabled and can not afford to pay to have this debris picked up. Mr. Bergbigler referenced Ordinance 164.4 which requires the owner of property to keep it safe. Mr. Bergbigler stated it's an eyesore, safety hazard and an act of negligence of the property owner. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Bergbigler for his concerns.

Lambert Rosenbaum thanked the board for permitting CTSA to do quarterly reports.

Brendan Linton addressed Mr. Long's previous comments by stating 95% of what Mr. Long said about him is false. Mr. Linton cautioned Mr. Long on defaming his personal reputation. Mr. Linton told Mr. Long and any others in the future defaming his name will be legally addressed. Mr. Linton said that is not a threat, it is a guarantee. Mr. Linton stated he is not resigning from the Planning Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Linton stated the Planning Commission submitted a letter to the supervisors discussing what they feel the solar farm ordinance should entail. Mr. Linton stated this would be solar panels that are placed on 50-100 acres to collect solar energy. Mr. Linton stated an amendment could be added to our current subdivision and land development ordinance or supervisors could have a stand alone ordinance which the Planning Commission recommends. Bill Braun agreed with Mr. Linton that solar farms are coming and an ordinance should be put in place. Mr. Braun also stated a bond should be required to pay the expenses if the solar farm is decommissioned. More information was discussed. Kradel stated he would like to see a wind ordinance in place. Lee Kradel stated the ordinance recommendations were tailored from the Butler County Subdivision and Land Development ordinance which already has the wind ordinance in place. Kradel stated he agreed with Planning Commission's recommendations for a stand-alone ordinance and made a motion to advertise the ordinance when it is complete. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser stated a new sewer member needs appointed for Calvin Wonderly's remaining term. Spangler stated he reviewed all the resumes and one stood out which he said was Bruce Steinheiser. Steinheiser stated Mr. Steinheiser is a very distant relative and spells his name differently but would abstain from the vote. Kradel motioned to appoint Bruce Steinheiser to the remaining term which ends January 2, 2024. Spangler seconded. Roll call, Kradel yes; Spangler yes; Steinheiser abstained. Steinheiser stated the decision for Connoqueenessing Township to reimburse CTSA for 3 HRG invoices

in the amount \$3,695.83 for Act 537 Plan work was tabled last month and reopened the discussion. Mr. Rosenbaum, chairman of the CTSA stated he checked with the grant provider and old expenses can not be submitted for this grant and stated the Township is responsible for Act 537 costs and requests the Township to reimburse. After discussing, Steinheiser motioned to approve the Township to reimburse CTSA in the amount of \$3,695.83. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Steinheiser stated the Township received an estimate from General Code to codify current ordinances which will cost between \$510.00 and \$595.00. Steinheiser stated he received feedback from Mr. Menchyk, Jr. suggesting to hold off until there are more ordinances to codify. Steinheiser tabled the discussion.

Steinheiser stated a new contract from Statewide Tax Recovery who collects the Township delinquent per capita taxes has been received. Brenda Davis stated they are updating their contracts and the Township was still under the original 2016 contract. Steinheiser motioned to approve and sign the Statewide Tax Recovery contract. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Braun stated the Lower Harmony Culvert Replacement Project was approved and once the contract with the state is received then he can prepare bid documents and advertise for bids. Mr. Braun noted that the PA American Water line will need moved for this project.

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Spangler motioned to approve April invoice in the amount of \$260.92. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in the packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel discussed pricing he received for a Boom Mower. Prices were from \$65,000 (base) to \$82,000 (ginger) model. Kradel said it will mainly be used for grass berms, branches and brush. After discussing the features, warranty, etc. Laura Mason asked if the mower will work well with the tractor. Kradel stated, yes, it will be built for the tractor. Mrs. Mason asked about an extended warranty. Kradel said it would be a term warranty, not hours. Mrs. Mason asked if there were any comparable used ones to purchase. Steinheiser stated he would wonder why a used one was being sold. Kradel stated the current one will be put out on Municibid. Ken Dambaugh asked if this expense is in the current 2023 budget. Kradel said, "no" monies will come from the ARP account. Mr. Dambaugh asked why this wasn't in budget. Kradel stated it was not known that the mower was destroying the tractor and needed replaced immediately at time of budgeting. Kradel made a motion to advertise for a boom mower with the spec sheet provided by the Township. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Road superintendent report for April 2023 in packets.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

They were:

- 9-23 - Stephen Umpirowicz - Lower Harmony Rd. - patio - 4-10-23
- 10-23 - Michael Spinneweber - Evans City Rd. - duplex - 4-11-23
- 11-23 - Robert D. Cotherman - Crab Run Rd. - new home - 4-12-23
- 12-23 - Roxie Gamble - Easy St. - mobile home - 4/12-23
- 13-23 - Reed Soergel - Prospect Rd. - cooler - 4/18/23
- 14-23 - Randy Carr - Lake View Dr. - demolish m. home - 4/24/23

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

Steinheiser stated the Nauman/Master final sewage inspection at 114 Walters Lane was completed.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Butler County Association of Township Officials will hold their 107th Annual Spring Convention on May 18, 2023 at the Butler Country Club. Steinheiser motioned to approve any Township officials to attend at a cost of \$35.00/each. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser stated the Township office will be closed.

Steinheiser stated the below was on the agenda for information.

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

Received letter dated March 30, 2023 from Butler County Conservation District stating Leslie Farms PRD Phase 3 PAG-02 NPDES Permit located in Connoquenessing Borough has been approval. Township was copied. Information is on file at Township.

Received letter from ARM Group dated April 21, 2023 to inform that they, acting on behalf of PennEnergy, is applying for coverage under the "Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment General Permit for utility line stream/floodway/wetland and temporary road crossings from PADEP for the PER L103 well. Information is on file at Township office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.