

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on August 2, 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 and Secretary/Asst. Treasurer Brenda Davis was present to take the minutes. Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Lee Kradel did not attend. Twenty-one people signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

ANNOUNCE WHO IS RECORDING MEETING

Steinheiser asked who was recording the meeting. Two replied which included Brendan Linton and Eddie Trizzino.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steinheiser stated the Supervisors met immediately following the July 5, 2023 Supervisors' meeting to consult with the Solicitor concerning possible litigation.

REVIEW MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Brenda Davis reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$383,509.75 but after deposits of \$29,666.38 and checks in the amount of \$45,815.94 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$367,360.19. Brenda Davis stated the beginning Escrow account balance is \$17,094.00 but with deposits in the amount of \$960.00 and checks in the amount of \$575.00 being approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$17,479.00. Brenda Davis said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$242,248.36 with check for paving in the amount of \$102,395.00, leaving the ending balance at \$139,853.36. Brenda Davis stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund balance remained at \$489,352.73. Brenda Davis said the Act 13 CD balance remained at \$743,678.80 for a grand total of \$1,233,031.53. Brenda Davis stated the American Relief Plan remained at \$418,930.12. Brenda Davis stated the American Relief Plan funds will be transferred to the General Fund by next month's financial report. Kradel motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler motioned to ratify Resolution #3-23 for budget amendment to 2023 budget to recognize \$306,608.10 Act 13 fees. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD

Three minute limit (PERTAINING TO AGENDA)

Carol Christner stated she picked up a draft copy of our solar ordinance and stated the Township did a nice job. Ms. Christner stated she attended a Butler County commissioners hearing in reference to adopting their solar ordinance but they tabled voting on it. Ms. Christner asked under our permit requirement section if only the current solar facility will follow the ordinance and any additional additions to it or new solar farms would be required to follow a revised ordinance. Ms. Christner would like the permit application to require a picture of what the solar farm is going to look like. Ms. Christner stated the permit application should require a history of the personnel who are running the solar farm.

Ms. Christner worries about long term contamination and would like the supervisors to require them to have environmental insurance. Ms. Christner stated our ordinance states they have insurance to cover 50% of decommissioning but what if they go bankrupt? Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated these issues can be addressed later.

Brendan Linton strongly suggested the board pass the adoption of the BASA/PAWC Act 537 plan.

Mr. Linton stated it is merely a change of name document. Secondly, Mr. Linton suggested passing the Solar ordinance before solar farms come into the Township without any regulations. Lastly, he discussed how the Bureau of Elections can have different voting precincts and voting locations and there is nothing the supervisors or public can do to fight this. Mr. Linton read the election laws from June 3, 1937 which stated the Election Bureau can change a polling place within a district and stated this is a battle you can't win.

Steinheiser stated he was informed that the polling location will be at the Armory this fall but they are petitioning the court to have Connoquenessing Township voters divided into two precincts within the Armory building.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD - three minute limit

Dave Brady, resident on Welsh Rd., asked the 3 supervisors to collectively make a plan to permanently fix Welsh Rd. Mr. Brady stated he is happy with our road crew but feels some of the Act 13 monies could be used to permanently fix the bad area on Welsh Rd. Mr. Brady stated Forward Township repaired their side from Harmony Rd. Steinheiser stated this would be discussed in detail later under the "roadmasters report" section.

Brendan Linton strongly suggests the supervisors dissolve the CTSA board. Mr. Linton stated CTSA board is currently redoing work 2 or 3 times and costing taxpayers money. CTSA board is spending money from a previous First Commonwealth Bank loan that was supposed to be used to implement the current Act 537 plan. Mr. Linton stated the Township has pledged unlimited funds to them as a cosigner. In addition, he stated permitting is 9-18 months down the road and until long term financing can be obtained. Mr. Linton asked the supervisors to look at the sewer authority and feels it is a total disaster and poorly run. Mr. Linton thanked the members for their volunteer hard work but stated they have no idea what is going on and stated the supervisors need to get rid of them. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Linton for his comment.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Dan Cox, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Connoquenessing Valley Regional Emergency Mgmt Agency (CVEMA) was present to update the Township. Mr. Cox stated the agency received a generator and utility trailer a few years back from Evans City Borough but the generator was too large and has been exchanged for a smaller one from the Evans City Water & Sewer Authority and will be installing at the Connoquenessing Borough building (where the CVEMA office is) to be used for electric in an emergency. Mr. Cox also stated the Borough is looking into solar usage. Mr. Cox stated once the generator is removed from the trailer the utility trailer can be used for transporting equipment during an emergency. Mr. Cox stated the next CVEMA meeting will be held on September 28, 2023 and invited Terry Steinheiser to come if Larry Spangler, Township EMC representative, can not attend. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Cox for his report.

Matt McConnell, Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company representative, stated that the Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company is a totally separate entity from the CVEMA. Mr. McConnell provided copies of the Fire Company's financial report for the last quarter. Mr. McConnell stated they are still waiting on a response from their grant application. Mr. McConnell stated they have done a lot of public relations and public safety training. Mr. McConnell stated they currently have 4 new jr. firefighters in the "Essentials of Fire Fighting" class and 2 new fire fighter II's that just passed the test. Mr. McConnell stated there is a major EMS shortage in PA and therefore the Fire Company's personnel "quick response" duties have increased. Mr. McConnell stated there is a shortage of staffed ambulances so Fire Company gets the call. Mr. McConnell stated there have been several fires recently and asked the board to start considering another 1/2 mill tax increase during budget time. Steinheiser thanked Mr. McConnell for his report.

OLD BUSINESS

Mason Miller representing BASA and Dan Hufton representing PAWC were here to ask supervisors to sign a resolution adopting their Final ACT 537 Plan that was tabled at last month's meeting.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked Mr. Hufton about the proceedings taking place the previous Friday. Mr. Hufton stated they were between Center and Summit Townships that were not wanting PA American to purchase BASA. Mr. Hufton stated they were heard and will be settled August 7, 2023. Mr. Hufton stated by signing/adopting this it is just a name change, no service changes. Ken Dambaugh asked a time frame of when other municipalities have signed. Mr. Hufton stated they were mostly tabled at July meetings and had about 5 meetings this week to hopefully get approvals. Steinheiser stated the board needed more time and tabled until next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Steinheiser stated "Discuss Board of Elections petitioning the Court to divide Connoquenessing Township's election district into 2 precincts" listed under new business was discussed earlier.

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun updated on Lower Harmony Rd. culvert project. Mr. Braun stated he is reviewing the shop drawings and once they are submitted he will know of a lead time for the project.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. explained that an ordinance needed prepared to name change Church Rd. in the Township to Church Hill Rd. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated this road runs between Lancaster Township and our Township and since the residents use Church Hill Rd. and Lancaster Township calls it Church Hill Rd. this will make the PennDot maps more consistent. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the draft ordinance was advertised and all abutting property owners were notified of the change. Spangler motioned to adopt "Ordinance #101-23 to rename Church Rd. to Church Hill Rd. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the solar/wind farm ordinance has been advertised and ready for adoption. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated there were good points raised earlier in reference to possible changes/additions and can be added in the future. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. suggested time is of the essence and before a solar/wind farm application is applied for he suggests moving forward. Steinheiser asked Ms. Christner if this satisfied her. Ms. Christner said she just doesn't want the Township to omit anything. Spangler asked if the County ordinance would supersede ours? Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated, "no", ours is a stand alone ordinance. Kradel motioned to adopt "Ordinance #102-23. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Spangler motioned to approve invoice for July 2023 in the amount of \$452.81. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Reports are in packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated Whitestown Rd. Ext. has been milled and bindered. Also put 2A in shoulders and shot with MC-70. Kradel stated routine maintenance around Township, cutting grass, cleaning catch basins and replacing signs were done during the month.

Kradel told Mr. Brady that he is getting a cost estimate together to repair Welsh Rd. next year. Dave Brady asked if anything could be done in the interim to keep the dust down? Kradel stated he talked to Russell Standard and they stated shooting MC-70 wouldn't last for more than a month. Mr. Brady said if

you wash your car before going up the road then you have to wash it again. Steinheiser stated this project is on our radar for next year. Mr. Brady thanked the board.

Road superintendent report for July 2023 in packets.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

They were:

37-23 - Butler Co. Redevelopment Authority - Rosehaven Dr.- deck- 7/12/23

38-23 - Toby Wehr - Shannon Mills Dr. - new home - 7/20/23

39-23 - James Anzaldi - Cupps Rd. - deck - 7/26/23

40-23 - Adam Luntz - Boy Scout Rd. - deck - 7/28/23

41-23 - Nicholas Mike - Cupps Rd. - shed - 7/28/23

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

Kradel motioned to refund Kim Bloom sewage escrow in the amount of \$575.00. Spangler seconded.

Roll call, yes.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Steinheiser stated the below was on the agenda for information.

Annual operating license applications have been mailed to our four mobile home parks. As they are received, Sandra Cox will inspect and advise.

Received letter from Bureau of Elections stating they are doing a series of voter education presentations throughout the County. A flyer with locations and times is located on bulletin board.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. to an executive session to discuss personnel and possible litigation and stated the board would not return. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.