

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on October 4, 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. Seventeen 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. Brendan Linton stated he was.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steinheiser stated the Supervisors met immediately following the September 6, 2023 Supervisors' Meeting to discuss possible litigation and personnel.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of September 6, 2023. Spangler motioned to accept the September 6, 2023 supervisors meeting minutes. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$802,414.69 but after deposits of \$90,543.18 and checks in the amount of \$94,349.48 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$798,608.39. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$17,479.00 but with a check in the amount of \$700.00, the ending balance is \$16,779.00. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$139,870.57 with interest of \$5.56, the ending balance is \$139,876.13. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$359,374.47 but with interest of \$1,273.84, the ending balance is \$360,648.31. Lee Kradel said the Act 13 CD beginning balance was \$747,990.10 plus Act 13 CD #2 in the amount of \$300,000 for an Act 13 grand total of \$1,408,638.41. Kradel motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit (PERTAINING TO AGENDA)

Brendan Linton stated at the last sewer meeting he attended the CTSA board discussed having a constable at their future meetings. Mr. Linton said this could be good because the public will not be happy when they see the Gibson-Thomas report the CTSA board received which the board did not share with the public. Mr. Linton stated he received a copy of the Gibson-Thomas report from the Township office through the Right-to-Know act and said he would brief the public tonight. Mr. Linton stated there were four alternatives which 2 of them involve retaining the Shannon Mills and Brandywine treatment plants. Mr. Linton stated one of the options has an upfront cost of 8 million that won't roughly serve 1/3 of the area that the DEP has stated is in violation of the PA Sewage Facilities Act. The second option mentions sending to Saxonburg Sewer Authority by using grinder pumps but that is a 6.3 million upfront cost. The fourth option cuts out 2/3 of the area stated in the current Act 537 Plan. Mr. Linton stated it covers Rt. 68, Stevenson Rd., a few houses at intersection of Stevenson and Kriess Rd.'s but doesn't cover anything across Rt. 68 (ex. Double Rd.). Mr. Linton called it a bandaid fix. Mr. Linton stated these are the options taxpayers just paid \$30,000 to see. Mr. Linton re-iterated that the supervisors need to get rid of the Sewer Authority because they are wasting time and money. Mr. Linton feels the CTSA board is incompetent and supervisors need to take the control back. Mr. Linton stated he believes in transparency and wanted the public to be informed.

Bill Long is tired of the sour grape comments that come out of the ex-chairman's mouth of the CTSA board. Mr. Long stated the CTSA board requested Mr. Linton to resign and he did. Mr. Long asked the supervisors to let the CTSA board do their job. Kradel asked if Mr. Long has seen the Gibson-Thomas reports. Mr. Long said, "no". Kradel stated he has and agrees with Brendan Linton that they say the same

thing and feels they were a waste of our tax dollars. Mr. Long feels the CTSA board should be covering the areas the DEP has stated are in need and have a 30 year plan. Mr. Long stated the residents can't afford a \$50,000,000 plan and wants to see a more affordable plan but it needs to cover 30 years. Kradel said he has previously asked this question but hasn't received an answer. Kradel stated no Sewer Authority board members were present tonight to ask this question again. Mr. Long stated he was on the same page as Kradel.

CONNOQUENESSING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Mr. Dave Cottington, president, still working on the building plans. Mr. Cottington stated they have been having fire training at a residence on Reiber Rd. for approximately 5 weeks and will be a control burn there on Saturday October 28th. Mr. Cottington also mentioned the Halloween parade to be held on October 29th at the Connoquenessing Borough Park. Steinheiser suggested announcing the house burning on the local radio to inform the residents. Mr. Long asked about the preliminary plans they mentioned putting out for bid in the Butler Eagle. Mr. Cottington stated the bid will request a list of what materials are needed and the cost. Mr. Cottington stated they are still waiting to hear from the Governor if they will be awarded the \$2,000,000 grant.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

NONE

CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY (CTSA)

Steinheiser read aloud the CTSA September monthly update supplied to the Township by Lambert Rosenbaum, CTSA, Chairman. Update is on file at Township. Bill Long asked if the Gibson-Thomas report is available. Steinheiser stated, "yes" but you will need to put in a Right-to-Know request.

BIDS

Brenda Davis opened one bid submitted for 1,000 tons more or less Anti-Skid (AS1) which was from McClymonds Supply & Transit in the amount of \$20.44/ton. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. reviewed and approved their bid bond. The rate last year was \$18.35/per ton. After discussing, Kradel motioned to award the 1,000 ton, more or less, Anti Skid (AS1) bid to McClymonds Supply & Transit in the amount of \$20.44/ton. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Brenda Davis opened bids for Uniform/Textile Products. Two companies, Cintas and Paris Uniforms submitted bids. After reviewing some of the prices of items and Mr. Menchyk, Jr. reviewed the agreements, it was determined that the bids were not comparable. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated these should be reviewed and then, if needed, be re-advertised. Steinheiser table the bids.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD - three minute limit

Dave Dreher stated the Township is one community and the CTSA board should have been able to present the Gibson-Thomas findings themselves at their upcoming October meeting. Mr. Dreher stated the CTSA board was selected to revise the Act 537 plan and should be allowed to continue.

OLD BUSINESS

Steinheiser asked Brendan Linton to update on the Comprehensive Plan since he is a member of the Steering Committee. Brendan Linton stated the Steering Committee and The EADS Group have had several meetings and reviewed survey responses. Mr. Linton stated possibly one more strategic meeting will take place then a formal adoption will take place that will include public hearings. Steinheiser asked for a time frame for finalization. Mr. Linton stated they plan on having something to review by end of calendar year.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun stated that Senate Engineering is now a subsidiary of LSSE. Mr. Braun stated the firms are very similar however they have 140 employees. Mr. Braun stated some will relocate to Senate's office to help their workload. Mr. Braun stated their rates are very comparable to Senate's. Mr. Braun feels this is a good move and stated it took affect on September 29th.

Secondly, Mr. Braun stated a LSA grant can be applied for before November 30th. Mr. Braun stated it can be for anything that enhances the community and the amount to be awarded is between \$25,000 and \$1,000,000 and there is no match required. Kradel suggested a new building. Mr. Linton suggested going for something that has a high need like the Lower Harmony culvert project and a request for a lower amount. Bill Braun stated you can put in a \$300,000 project and possibly get awarded \$200,000. Steinheiser stated our new Township building has been designed but was put on hold because of the property PennDot is taking from the Township and the increase in material costs due to covid.

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Kradel motioned to approve September 2023 report in the amount of \$311.88. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated he is not ready to discuss next year's paving projects until he meets with the State and road crew and hopefully have a full update next month. Kradel stated a new Turbo was put in White Peterbilt, road crew continues to widen Whitestown Rd. Ext., replaced stolen signs on Camp Fatima, shoulder work and grass cutting. Bill Long asked when work on Rt. 68 will begin. Steinheiser stated next spring and will be done by Glenn O. Hawbaker. Steinheiser stated the project will be two years and will be inconvenient and challenging to the drivers until complete. Brendan Linton stated he has a map he will forward the Township on how the traffic will be directed. Bill Long concerned about the Township roads getting tore up. Steinheiser stated he put in a request to lower the speed limit also. Steinheiser stated he has worked diligently on the Route 68 corridor for 12 years. Bill Braun advised the board to video the roads that will be subject to detouring before the start of construction.

Road superintendent report for September 2023 in packets.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

They were:

51-23 - Worsley, Cheryl - Whitestown Rd. - 2 decks - 9/7/23

52-23 - Uram, Michael - Double Rd. - shed - 9/11/23

53-23 - Weiss, Michele - Stephenson Rd. - horse shelter - 9/19/23

54-23 - Hanchosky, Joseph & John - Whitestown Rd. - demo. house - 9-19-23

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

NONE

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Steinheiser motioned to advertise Budget Workshop. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser stated the below was on the agenda for information.

Steinheiser stated the BCATO 2023 Fall Convention has been canceled. Lee Kradel stated there was low attendance last year and hard to find enough speakers to warrant having it this year.

Steinheiser stated the Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company will hold their Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at the Connoquenessing Park. Line up is 1:30 p.m. - Parade begins at 2:00 p.m. In addition, Connoquenessing Township will hold their -Trick-or-Treat on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Spangler motioned to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. to an executive session to discuss personnel issues and possible litigation. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.