

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on November 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., 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 Moment of Silence.

### **ANNOUNCE WHO IS RECORDING MEETING**

Steinheiser asked who was recording the meeting. Four responded: Brendan Linton, Angela Fleeger, Ken Dambaugh and Ed Trizzino.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Steinheiser stated the Supervisors met immediately following the October 4, 2023 Supervisors' Meeting to discuss possible litigation and personnel.

### **REVIEW MINUTES**

Reviewed minutes of October 4, 2023. Spangler motioned to accept the October 4, 2023 supervisors meeting minutes. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$798,608.39 but after deposits of \$29,282.09 and checks in the amount of \$73,183.97 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$754,706.51. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account balance stayed the same at \$16,779.00. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$139,876.13 with interest of \$6.13, the ending balance is \$139,882.26. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$360,648.31 but with interest of \$1,233.12, the ending balance is \$361,881.43. Lee Kradel said the Act 13 CD#1 stayed at \$747,990.10 plus Act 13 CD #2 in the amount of \$300,000 for an Act 13 grand total of \$1,409,871.53. Steinheiser motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit (PERTAINING TO AGENDA)**

Laura Mason stated the agenda item under new business about possible HRG agreement has caused a recent distraction. The CTSA board hired an engineer, came up with alternate scenarios and have 5 PA American Water engineers coming up with a solution and will respond back to the supervisors with their recommendations. Mrs. Mason asked the supervisors to let the CTSA board continue to do the work they were assigned and come back with a recommendation.

Lambert Rosenbaum was surprised to see the Act 537 HRG agreement on the agenda. Mr. Rosenbaum stated the sewer authority is still collecting information and HRG is too costly. Mr. Rosenbaum stated they are working with Gibson-Thomas and PA American Water to get the supervisors a plan.

Mr. Rosenbaum hopes the supervisors will not vote on HRG until CTSA board has provided options.

Bill Long stated he was set back by the HRG agenda item when the supervisors gave the CTSA board the authority and wants them to be given a chance.

Carol Christner stated the supervisors were anticipating a CTSA board plan by October but stressed this was not attainable because of the BASA acquisition by PA American Water so please wait before going back to HRG.

Fred Hensel can't understand the stupidity of spending \$50 million on a sewer project. Mr. Hensel feels the sewer should be paid for by developers (private).

Dave Dreher said the best thing out of the sewer meetings is Lambert Rosenbaum who brings a wealth of knowledge and information to our sewer authority. Mr. Dreher feels the current sewer board is very qualified.

Angela Fleeger stated the agenda item about HRG was very discerning because of how unaffordable it is. Mrs. Fleeger commended the supervisors for selecting the current sewer board members. Mrs. Fleeger asks the supervisors to hear them out and not make any premature actions or decisions.

Mark Williams asked if sewer plans would need to be put out to bid. Steinheiser stated this time is for comments not questions and answers. Secondly, Mr. Williams requested future meetings, such as the Budget Meeting, be held at an appropriate time.

Ken Dambaugh wanted to re-iterate as a resident the comments of Laura Mason and Angela Fleeger.

Brendan Linton said his comment is under "new business" in relation to Shannon Mills roads being adopted by the township. Mr. Linton suggests the supervisors make sure the developer brings the roads and ADA requirements up-to-date before adopting the roads.

Bill Long thanked Mr. Steinheiser for the work he has done on Rt. 68 project referencing the article in the Butler Eagle. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Long for his recognition.

#### **CONNOQUENESSING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

Matt McConnell submitted the quarterly report and updated on the status of the building. Mr. McConnell stated the house at 314 Reiber Rd. was burned down on Saturday. Mr. McConnell said the Halloween Parade was held on Sunday. Mr. McConnell asked for the .5 mill increase for 2024.

Lee Kradel stated the township now has an AED in the building in case it is needed. Matt McConnell said it is easy to use and self-explanatory.

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

Steinheiser stated the township received the CVREMA 2024 budget and the township's share is \$2,397.46. Kradel motioned to put the \$2,397.46 on township budget for the CVREMA. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

#### **CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY (CTSA)**

Ken Dambaugh, treasurer of CTSA, read CTSA board's October monthly update. Update is on file at Township.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he had talked to the county solicitor and she noted the commissioners are eager to receive the grant reimbursement information from the CTSA board A.S.A.P.

Spangler asked if sewage can be stopped. Mr. Rosenbaum stated "no" but the CTSA is looking into a smaller scope and more affordable. Mr. Hensel asked why this is a public tax problem other than a personal problem.

Kradel asked Ken Dambaugh why the CTSA is putting off not showing the Gibson-Thomas plans? Ken Dambaugh had no comment. Kradel stated there is nothing in these Gibson-Thomas plans that HRG hasn't already covered. Kradel asked if Plan Z to upgrade Brandywine for \$22 million or Plan W upgrading Brandywine & Shannon Mills for \$42 million would that be a total of \$66 million or \$42 million. Ken Dambaugh stated none of the CTSA members are prepared to answer those questions tonight. Mr. Rosenbaum asked the supervisors to get a date and time that everyone can have another

informational meeting with Gibson-Thomas because he is not an engineer to answer there questions. Kradel stated Bill Long complains about going through farms but Gibson-Thomas shows going through the Zang and former Kaltenbaugh property right on Stevenson Rd.

Ken Dambaugh stated for the public that all three supervisors were personally invited to these informational meetings. Mr. Dambaugh stated the CTSA board has been wisely advise by their counsel that individual CTSA board members can not comment in this sort of format individually. Kradel told the public to go complain to the CTSA board and not the supervisors. Kradel stated reviewing the plan the first phase will pickup Larry Spangler and his residence. However, none of the current sewer board which includes Lambert, Ken D., Bruce Steinhiser, Laura or the future supervisor Angela Fleegeer's two properties will not be in Phase 1. Kradel also mention the "conno sewer concerns" Facebook page people like Bill Long, Dave Dreher, Mark Williams and Chris Klink are also not on Phase 1. Brenda Davis said as a resident and secretary that so many residents come in and want sewage and thought they were on the plan and now unhappy to find out they may not be on the plan. Spangler said he doesn't want it either but it is coming down Rt. 68 and he has to be a team player.

**REQUEST TO BE HEARD - three minute limit**

Mr. Hensel said he is against spending all this money and asked how three supervisors can make a decision to put this expense on the taxpayer. Mr. Hensel asked why government money is needed? Lee Kradel said, "to pay for the infrastructure". Laura Mason commented that the solutions their engineer came up with will meet the needs of the township. Kradel stated he talked to Tomisa at DEP and she is very concerned the CTSA new plan is not going to cover enough of Rt. 68 corridor.

Steinheiser said the supervisors have been sitting up here totally criticized by members of the sewer board and the public and tired of getting beat up over this.

Dianna Edwards said the new sewer board of 9 months has done more work than the previous one did in 4 years and inherited the expenses and should be appreciated.

Mr. Dave Dreher stated the supervisors asked the sewer board for answers on running the sewer to Saxonburg before they had time to evaluate. Mr. Dreher said the sewer board is making progress. Kradel said he is willing to stay over tonight to show anyone the Gibson-Thomas plans.

Steinheiser stated that is why the supervisors are looking to bring HRG on board for checks and balances.

Mr. Bill Long stated the Rt. 68 corridor has never been determined. Mr. Long stated you have to look at your return on investment before you run pipes the whole way down Rt. 68. Mr. Rosenbaum said he is looking to spend the least cost.

Laura Mason asked the board again to hold off on hiring HRG until the CTSA board presents their scenarios.

Brendan Linton stated the sewer authority has spent 100's of thousand of dollars to get no further than Senate Engineering already did. Mr. Linton stated the sewer board has wasted time, money and oxygen. Mr. Linton stated he is entitled to his 6 minutes to talk each month. Donna Zang interjected and said "no one is getting anywhere if this dialog in the meetings doesn't end". Mrs. Zang told Rick Kradel that he is being rude to volunteers on the sewer board that are trying to do a job. Mrs. Zang also feels the supervisors are getting bashed and it's not right.

Mr. Linton continued his time and said the law requires you to put in sewer and the supervisors need to take the reigns back and get HRG on board.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Steinheiser stated after reviewing the Textile/Uniform bids that were tabled at last month's meeting, Cintas and Paris both want 5-year contracts but Cintas came in cheaper. Steinheiser stated Mon-D-Aid which is local came in cheaper for cleaning products. Steinheiser made a motion to award the Textile/Uniform 5-year contract to Cintas and the cleaning /paper products to Mon-D-Aid. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Steinheiser stated the Township received a letter from Lezzer Martin requesting Township to consider the take-over of roads within the Shannon Mills development. Kradel suggested having Bill Braun inspect the roads thoroughly to make sure everything is up to standard. Mr. Braun stated ADA requirements will need met, catch basins need checked, asphalt may need core tested and an 18-month maintenance bond will have to be put in place. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated a developers agreement will go with the maintenance bond and 15% of construction costs will be the bond amount. Steinheiser tabled a response to Lezzer Martin until Bill Braun and Bill Chuba can inspect the roads.

Steinheiser stated the road crew has township phones and feels the supervisors should also have them and not use their personal phones. Steinheiser motioned to get company phones for the supervisors. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to hire HRG for consulting on the Act 537 plan. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated by hiring HRG they will only be a consultant to the supervisors, they will not prepare the Act 537 plan or take on the responsibilities of the Sewer Authority. Mr. Rosenbaum thinks this is a good idea to have two engineers looking at Act 537 plan. Ken Dambaugh and Laura Mason have concerns that Gibson-Thomas may bill them more since they have to answer questions to HRG. Ray Kroll asked the supervisors why they don't use Senate who is already our engineer look over the plans. Dianna Edwards requested hiring an unbiased engineer. Kradel returned to the motion to hire HRG for consulting on the Act 537 plan. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser stated the Township received a notice from Dave Hazlet (Municipal Code Association) who is our 3<sup>rd</sup> party building inspector, they will dissolve on December 31, 2023. Effective November 1, 2023 they are not accepting any new building permits. Mike Grill, our commercial building inspector, has offered to step in and take new applications. Steinheiser made a motion to appoint Mike Grill to take over the Township's residential permits immediately. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

**PLANS**

\*NONE\*

**ENGINEER REPORT**

Mr. Braun stated the contract that was awarded to Sure Shot Excavating for the Lower Harmony Rd. culvert last month needs signed/executed and then he will send to them to proceed. Mr. Braun stated the pipe is being fabricated now and will be held at plant until needed. Mr. Braun stated the water line has not been moved yet. Mr. Braun stated Sure Shot may ask for a time extension to complete if material is delayed.

**SOLICITOR REPORT**

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated Golden L. Mobile Home Park once again has not paid their application fee for occupancy inspections and needs supervisors to approve him sending a letter. Steinheiser motioned for Mr. Menchyk, Jr. to send collection letter to Golden L Mobile Home Park. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Kradel motioned to approve invoice for October 2023 in the amount of \$373.84. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

**ROAD MASTER REPORT**

Kradel stated he would like to get Timberlee Plan roads done this year but would like Larry Spangler to go out and see if he agrees with Bill Chuba's recommendations and the cost will be around \$400,000. Kradel stated Whitestown Rd. Ext. needs tarred and chipped this year. Kradel also said it was discussed to do something on Welsh Rd. Steinheiser told Spangler and Kradel to look at Timberlee and update next month.

Road superintendent report for October 2023 in packets.

**BUILDING PERMIT REPORT**

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

They were:

55-23 - Gamble, Roxie - Easy St. - deck - 10/13/23

56-23 - Douglas Erdley LLC - Shannon Mills Dr. - new home 10-16-23

**TAX COLLECTOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**SEO REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

Butler County Tax Claim Bureau has received an offer for each of the below 4 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. Below are the parcels:

120-S3-A305 - Rabbit Rd. - \$652.00

120-S5-A845 - Doe Dr. - \$610.00

120-S5-A1108 - Fox Dr. - \$610.00

120-S6-A1155 - Pidgeon Dr. - \$610.00

Steinheiser motioned to consent to the sale of the above parcels. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to advertise to appoint a certified public accountant to audit Township financial records for 2023. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler motioned to advertise appointed positions. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler motioned to advertise proposed 2024 budget. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler motioned to advertise "close of business" meeting - date and time TBD. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to advertise organizational meeting which will be held Tuesday, January 2, 2024 time TBD. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to advertise first supervisors meeting of 2024 on Tuesday January 2, 2024 immediately following organizational meeting time TBD. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to advertise elected auditors meeting which will be January 3, 2024 time TBD. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

Received thank you note from Meals on Wheels for our donation of \$1,200.00.

Received thank you note from Butler County Humane Society for our donation of \$500.00.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Spangler motioned to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. to an executive session to discuss personnel issues and possible litigation and stated the board would not return. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.