

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 6:00 p.m. on December 6, 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. Twenty-two 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. Three responded: Brendan Linton, Angela Fleeger and Ed Trizzino.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steinheiser stated the Supervisors met immediately following the November 1, 2023 Supervisors' Meeting to discuss personnel and code enforcement issues.

The Supervisors met immediately following the Budget Workshop meeting on November 30, 2023 to discuss personnel.

The Supervisors met December 1, 2023 to discuss personnel.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of November 1, 2023 and November 20, 2023 (special meeting). Spangler motioned to accept the November 1, 2023 supervisors meeting minutes. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler motioned to accept the November 20, 2023 (special meeting) minutes. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$754,706.51 but after deposits of \$125,394.42 and checks in the amount of \$64,094.04 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$816,006.89. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$16,779.00 but with deposits in the amount of \$5,810.00 and a check in the amount of \$50.00, the ending balance is \$22,539.00. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance is \$139,882.26 with interest of \$5.75, the ending balance is \$139,888.01. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance was \$361,881.43 but with interest of \$1,160.00, the ending balance is \$363,041.43. Lee Kradel said the Act 13 CD#1 beginning balance was \$747,990.10 but with interest of \$8,955.39, ending balance is \$756,945.49 plus Act 13 CD #2 with a beginning balance of \$300,000 but with interest of \$3,591.78, ending balance is \$303,591.78 for an Act 13 grand total of \$1,423,578.70. Kradel motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser stated the proposed 2024 budget has been advertised and available for viewing for 20 days.

COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit pertaining to agenda

Chris Klink concerned with all executive sessions being related to personnel and litigation issues.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated litigation issues were mainly code enforcement issues and nothing needs reported because the board had no action. Steinheiser stated there was discussion regarding union contract. They also discussed hiring new personnel.

Brendan Linton stated he was glad to see the township applied for the LSA grant for a new municipal building. Secondly, he feels the Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company is well deserving of an additional .5 mill increase for 2024.

CONNOQUENESSING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Matt McConnell stated bids for the new fire station will be put out at the beginning of year. Mr. McConnell stated training continues and 3 or 4 young members have achieved Fire #1 certifications. Mr. McConnell stated the Santa Run is on December 16th and always a fun time. Mr. McConnell thanked Mr. Steinheiser as a resident and on behalf of the fire department for his service over the years. Steinheiser thanked Mr. McConnell and the fire department for all their service.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

NONE

CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY (CTSA)

Steinheiser stated no members of sewer board attended to read their November update, therefore he had the office staff make copies and place on table for public information.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD - three minute limit

Roy Gilliland feels guns should be banned from the township property. Mr. Gilliland is disappointed with the supervisors being confrontational with the sewer authority board members. Mr. Gilliland not happy with board hiring another engineer to review sewer authority Act 537 Plan stating it's more money spent. Mr. Gilliland feels Brendan Linton is running the board of supervisors. Kradel stated guns can not be banned from state buildings.

Steinheiser told Mr. Gilliland he is disappointed in the Sewer Authority board's spending and got nowhere so don't criticize the supervisors. Mr. Gilliland stated Brendan Linton ran the Sewer Authority board for 4 years and didn't get anywhere either but made residents upset.

Brendan Linton was on the agenda but had no comment.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Steinheiser stated a proposal from Bruce & Merrilees for a 12-month term starting January 1, 2024 for maintenance and repairs to our traffic signals was received. They increased their rate by 5.0% for an annual cost of \$4,876.00. Spangler motioned to approve and sign the 2024 Bruce & Merrilees agreement in the amount of \$4,876.00. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

The board discussed and agreed to increase the fire tax by .5 mill. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated a resolution will need prepared stating the new total of 3 mill, up from 2.5 mill. Kradel motioned to authorize and direct the preparation of the fire tax resolution in the amount of 3 mill. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler feels it is a good idea to have security cameras. Spangler stated he could look into pricing and relate back to the board.

Steinheiser stated the township is in need of another dump truck and Spangler has been looking and found one to bid on through Municibid. Steinheiser stated it is only 5 years old with 6,000 miles. Spangler stated it's a 2018 with a 41,000 GVW like our current trucks. After board discussion, Kradel motioned to watch Municibid on final day and bid up to \$80,000. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel stated he will watch the bid and place a bid by the closing time of 6:00 p.m. on December 11, 2023.

Spangler stated the supervisors are currently looking to hire office help and current township wages are well under the norm for office help. Spangler feels bringing the new hire in at the current rate and increasing the current office workers by \$2.00/hr immediately and then giving 5% increase starting January 1st. Sandi Cox, resident, stated three current municipalities are currently hiring and if you want good help, you have to pay. Steinheiser made a motion that new hires come in at current office rate and present employees immediately receive \$2.00/hr with a 5% increase at the beginning of the year. Spangler seconded. Roll call, Steinheiser, yes; Spangler, yes; Kradel, abstained.

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun stated the Lower Harmony Culvert Project will not start until spring and the water line has not been moved yet.

Bill Braun stated the LSA grant application for the new municipal building has been submitted and requested the entire \$1,000,000. Mr. Braun stated no award date has been stated.

Bill Braun stated he and Bill Chuba have inspected Shannon Mills Dr. for possible adoption and sent a letter to Lezzer Martin stating all needed repairs should be completed before considering adopting.

Kradel mentioned receiving a complaint from a resident on Rt. 422 about the heavy jake braking going on. They already contacted the State and were told they would have to do a study and then if needed the township would have to purchase the sign and maintain it. Bill Braun will get cost estimate and update board.

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Spangler motioned to approve invoice for November 2023 in the amount of \$292.83. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

ROAD MASTER REPORT

Kradel stated men are doing winter maintenance on equipment, John Deere will be picked up next week to have new boom mower put on, pot hole patching, salted roads on November 1st and 28th and blew leaves out of catch basins.

Road superintendent report for November 2023 in packets.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

They were:

57-23 - Lezzer Martin - Shannon Mills Dr. - new home - 11/1/23

58-23 - Randall Trzeciak - Timberlee Dr. - shed - 11/6/23

59-23 - Detmer Shaffer - Upper Harmony Rd. - garage - 11/16/23

60-23 - Douglas Thompson - Shannon Mills Dr. - new home - 11/24/23

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Kradel motioned to approve invoice for postage expenses in the amount of \$185.94. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

SEO REPORT

NONE

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Steinheiser stated the below was on the agenda for information.

Close of Business meeting has been set for December 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Organizational meeting will be held on January 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

First supervisors meeting of 2024 will be held immediately following the Organization meeting on January 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Elected auditors will meet on January 3, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

PSATS annual "Youth Awards Contest" are accepting youth group entries until January 15, 2024. If interested, information is at township office.

Received letter dated November 30, 2023 from XTO notifying township they are requesting from PA DEP to obtain a General Plan Approval and Operating Permit (GP-5A for the operation of emission sources at its natural gas well pad (Kyne Well Pad) located in Connoquenessing Township. Information is on file at township building.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn to an executive session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss personnel and code enforcement issues and stated the board would not return. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.