

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Spangler at 6:36 p.m. on January 2, 2024 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Larry Spangler, Ricky Kradel and Angela Fleeger. 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.

ANNOUNCE WHO IS RECORDING MEETING

Spangler asked who was recording the meeting. Three responded: Brendan Linton, Kathy Steinheiser and Laura Mason

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

NONE

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of December 27, 2023 "close of business" meeting. Kradel motioned to approve the December 27, 2023 minutes. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$828,106.61 but with interest (deposit) in the amount of \$33.29 and checks in the amount of \$22,880.63 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$805,259.27. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account balance remained at \$22,079.00. Lee Kradel stated the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$139,888.01 and with \$5.56 in interest, the ending balance is \$139,893.57. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee beginning fund balance was \$363,041.43 but with \$1,124.93 interest, the balance is \$364,166.36 and CD #1 remained the same at \$756,945.49 and CD #2 remained at \$303,591.78 leaving a total of \$1,424,703.63 in the Act 13 account. Kradel motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD (three minute limit pertaining to agenda)

Brendan Linton welcomed Angela Fleeger and stated he looks forward to working with her. First, Mr. Linton stated he feels the 2024 budget listed under "New Business" does not need reopened. The budget is a responsible budget. Secondly, under "New Business" pertaining to having law enforcement present at the meetings. Mr. Linton has no qualms with our constable Justin Kepple but when Mr. Linton wanted a constable at meetings he has chaired, that was not looked upon well. Mr. Linton feels it is not necessary to have Mr. Kepple present at the meetings. Mr. Linton stated if this is approved he will suggest having him attend future Planning Commission meetings so the playing field is fair.

Cindy Rosenbaum, resident, said it makes her feel uneasy to come to a meeting and see someone carrying a gun. Mrs. Rosenbaum stated she feels more comfortable if a constable is present.

CONNOQUENESSING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Matt McConnell thanked the board for all their support last year and wished Angela Fleeger good luck. Kradel thanked McConnell for the Santa Run. McConnell stated he would have the financial report next month. McConnell stated the fire company achieved 501(c)(3) status which took a lot of paperwork and time. McConnell stated new fire station will go out for bid this month. McConnell stated they are working on a large fundraiser for the spring and will update later. McConnell announced many firefighter volunteers names which received different certificates (EMT, Fire 1, Fire 2, Pumps 1, Instructor 1). David Cottington, president of fire company, updated on the \$2,000,000 grant that he is still awaiting feedback and thanked the board for the fire tax increase. The board thanked them for all they do.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

NONE

CONNOQUENSSING TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY (CTSA)

Laura Mason, Vice-Chairman read the December CTSA monthly update. Information is on file at township office.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD

Brendan Linton stated he attended the last sewer authority meeting and his theme for it is "is it bad enough yet". Mr. Linton stated he caught the CTSA board violating the "Sunshine Act" twice. Mr. Linton stated the Gibson-Thomas 3-column report doesn't show grant funding in the first 2 columns and no grant funding is available for column three. Mr. Linton stated the lowest monthly figures stated are \$198.53/month and asked "is it bad enough yet". Mr. Linton stated when he was on Sewer Board and the rates quoted were between \$70-\$84, he was told it was unaffordable. Mr. Linton said another \$30,000 has been spent on a second opinion. Mr. Linton feels residents could lose their homes because of this high expense. Mr. Linton suggests paying an additional \$600,000 and going to Saxonburg and will get the Township out of paying O&M for the two existing waste water treatment plants. Mr. Linton stated Gibson-Thomas is doing a 20-year plan, which he called a band-aid fix. Mr. Linton stated Larry Spangler, Rick Kradel, one sewer authority member and himself are in phase one which will take approximately 15 years to complete and all other sewer board members get off scot-free. Mr. Linton continued by stating he has no confidence in this current sewer board. Mr. Linton encourages the current supervisors to take the reigns and get something done. Kradel stated that is why HRG was hired by the township supervisors to review the plans. Kradel agreed with Mr. Linton about the Gibson-Thomas plan has flaws. Kradel said the board is waiting for HRG's recommendations.

Joe Huth, who did not sign up on the agenda, stated he reviewed the Gibson-Thomas plan and did not agree with their numbers that in 13-17 years the population would increase by 1-1/2% per year which would add 300 more EDU's. Mr. Huth stated if it did increase that would only be 264 EDU's. In addition, Mr. Huth does not feel the DEP is requiring the Township to have a Municipal system just needs to put together a plan, get plan approved and then work the plan.

Mr. Linton stated there is a policy in place that people have to sign up "to be heard" which he did and feels ones that don't should not be heard.

Fred Hensel said government should not be involved, new businesses should cover their own sewer system costs. Mr. Hensel stated \$51,000,000 is unaffordable. Spangler stated the sewer board is working on it.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Kradel motioned to advertise meeting for Airport "Board of Adjustment" members to organize for their new 3-year term starting January 2, 2024. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Fleeger stated she requested the "reopen the 2024 budget for discussion and possible action" on the agenda because she is concerned that the ARP funds that were moved to the general account should all be budgeted for. Fleeger noted that \$360,000 has been appropriated into paving (\$200,000) and purchase of equipment (\$160,000) but asked to reopen the budget to put the remaining \$61,000 on a line item. Spangler feels this is a small amount and leave it in general account for a cushion. Fleeger disagreed and feels it should be properly allocated. Lee Kradel stated the ARP funds had to be reported as used when

the money was received, therefore the funds were stated to be used for Salaries and Benefits, per auditor Maher Duessel's guidance. Rick Kradel stated the township follows the auditor's recommendation. Fleeger was fine with this but stated to have this noted in the minutes.

Fleeger also requested the "discussion and possible action on a constable or law enforcement at public meetings, on the agenda. Fleeger thanked Justin Kepple for attending and told the public that Mr. Kepple works for this township and does not charge the township to attend and is very much appreciated. Fleeger told the other two supervisors that there has been concern brought up at the last couple supervisor meetings about firearms. Fleeger asked if the supervisors, as a board, should consider having the constable at the meeting for public safety and keep the peace because tensions do run high sometimes. Spangler questioned if Mr. Kepple charged. Mr. Kepple stated he will not charge. Kradel disagrees that Mr. Kepple is needed. Fleeger made a motion to use Justin Kepple as our constable at the supervisor meetings for 2024. No second, motion failed. Spangler would like to absorb this and discuss further. Spangler feels this is a peaceful community. Spangler tabled discussion until next month.

PLANS

Butler Farm Show Stormwater Plan was on the agenda but they postponed until next month's meeting.

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun stated he has no new updates on the grant application (LSA) for the new township building.

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

No invoice/report turned in for December 2023.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated Timberlee Drive is still being considered for paving this year. Kradel stated Shields Paving stated they would meet our roadcrew at Timberlee Drive and do core testing to determine paving requirements. Kradel stated Cory from PennDot and Wiest Paving will also be invited to attend. Kay Double, resident, questioned if the paving needs advertised. Kradel stated "yes" an advertisement for paving will be put in the Butler Eagle by March.

Road superintendent report for December 2023 in packets.

BUILDING APPLICATIONS APPLIED FOR DURING THE MONTH

NONE

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

NONE

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Kradel motioned to pay Connoquenessing Borough for Township's share of 2024 Auto and Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium in the amount of \$13,501.49. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to pay PSATS invoice for 2024 membership in the amount of \$1,465.00. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler motioned to pay the BCATO dues for 2024 in the amount of \$35.00. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler motioned to approve to pay for eligible officials to attend the PSATS convention in Hershey in April of 2024. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler stated the below was on the agenda for information.

Received letter from Michael Baker International on behalf of PennEnergy stating they are applying for coverage under the Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-3). (Huff Well - Dick Rd.) Information is on file at Township office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.