

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Spangler at 6:02 p.m. on February 7, 2024 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Larry Spangler, Ricky Kradel and Angela Fleeeger. 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 a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCE WHO IS RECORDING MEETING

Spangler asked who was recording the meeting. Two responded: William Pitts and Brendan Linton

EXECUTIVE SESSION (to discuss personnel)

Kradel motioned at 6:05 p.m. to adjourn to an executive session to discuss personnel. Fleeeger seconded. Roll call, yes. The board returned at 6:12 p.m. Spangler stated the executive session was held to discuss hiring a secretary and revising today's agenda to list it under "New Business". Fleeeger motioned to revise the agenda to list hiring a secretary under "New Business". Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spangler stated the Supervisors met January 29, 2024, February 1, 2024 and February 2, 2024 to discuss personnel.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of January 2, 2024 "organizational meeting". Fleeeger motioned to approve January 2, 2024 "organizational" minutes. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Reviewed minutes of January 2, 2024 "supervisors meeting". Joe Huth stated he did not say that he feels using the current Brandywine and Shannon Mills systems to cover the Rt. 68 corridor is the best option, which was listed under "request to be heard section" in these minutes. Fleeeger motioned to approve the January 2, 2024 "supervisors" minutes contingent on Mr. Huth's corrections. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Minutes will be updated to reflect this change.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$805,259.27, but with deposits in the amount of \$119,421.31 and if checks in the amount of \$197,905.07 are approved tonight, the ending balance will be \$726,775.51. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$22,079.00, but with deposits in the amount of \$2,500.00 and checks in the amount of \$3,619.00, the ending balance is \$20,960.00. Lee Kradel stated the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$139,893.57, but with \$6.32 in interest the ending balance is \$139,899.89. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee beginning fund balance was \$364,166.36, but with \$1,284.06 in interest the balance is \$365,450.42. CD #1 remained the same at \$756,945.49 and CD #2 remained at \$303,591.78, leaving a total of \$1,425,987.69 in the Act 13 account. Fleeeger motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Lee Kradel stated MaherDuessel will audit the 2023 books between Feb. 20-22, 2024.

COMMENT PERIOD (three minute limit pertaining to agenda)

Chris Klink had 3 comments. 1st - under CTSA section - feels Township should pay off outstanding CTSA loan instead of refinancing. 2. does not feel snow plow under "new business" be purchased because debts should be paid before new purchases, 3. under "old business" Mrs. Klink stated the constable graciously volunteers his time and should attend meetings because supervisors are to be fiscally responsible to manage taxpayer funds and protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents.

Val-Dean Scott asked who the auditors were and when they are coming? Lee Kradel stated MaherDuessel is the auditing firm and they will be here February 20-22, 2024. Mrs. Scott asked if audit findings will be available for public viewing? Mrs. Kradel said, "yes".

Brendan Linton had 2 comments. 1st - under CTSA section "requesting township to permit Dave Ice, SEO, to provide updated info on failed systems - stated the Township has authority over on-lot systems and the Sewer Authority has no legal jurisdiction over them. Mr. Linton does not agree to provide the Sewer Authority this request. 2. - under CTSA section - CTSA loan renewal - warns the supervisors that if this is signed the Township is pledging "unlimited taxing authority" and responsible for all the debt acquired by the CTSA. Mr. Linton suggests the supervisors table signing until they have time to review the agreement in detail.

Cindy Rosenbaum, resident, feels there was a misunderstanding about the request the CTSA board has with the SEO. Mrs. Rosenbaum stated at the last CTSA board meeting one resident (looking at the map of failed systems) commented they had repaired their system and another said there is no house, etc. on that lot and questioned why they were on the failed list. Mrs. Rosenbaum told the supervisors she feels the Sewer Board is just asking for the most current sewer violations from the SEO.

CONNOQUENESSING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Matt McConnell stated he submitted the 2023 statistical report for the CVFC previously to supervisors. Lou Zimmerman went over all the professional level trainings the volunteers receive, etc. Mr. Zimmerman stated they are almost at 75% roster for professionally trained.

Mr. McConnell stated PA has listed only 3 fire companies in Butler County with "participating status". They are VA Hospital, Butler Township and them. Mr. McConnell stated CVFC is the only totally volunteer (not paid) of these three and very proud of their accomplishment. Mr. McConnell pointed out that in 2023 the total recorded staff hours for incidents and weekly training totaled 2,382.3.

Mr. McConnell stated this amount does not include "unrecorded outside training, PR events or administrative hours". Matt McConnell also mentioned the average number of staff per call is 8.33, which he feels is good. The supervisors thanked the CVFC for their service and the public applauded them.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

NONE

CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY (CTSA)

Bruce Steinhiser, Chairman read the January CTSA monthly update. Information is on file at township office. The board stated a meeting should take place for further discussion.

Fleeger motioned to coordinate meeting time & date with the CTSA board and advertise for a public meeting to discuss the progress of the Gibson-Thomas plan. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

The discussion of the CTSA loan renewal with First Commonwealth Bank that is due on March 15, 2024 was tabled until the March 6, 2024 meeting.

Fleeger questioned Bruce Steinhiser on if the CTSA's board is requesting to work with SEO Dave Ice to get updated information on systems. Mr. Steinhiser stated, "yes, it is important to have accurate information". Ken Dambaugh said the CTSA board is asking the supervisors to have Dave Ice test the failed systems to see if they are still failed or if they have been repaired so Gibson-Thomas has the correct number to submit to the DEP. Kradel asked if the CTSA board is willing to pay for all the testing. Ken

Dambaugh stated the Township is responsible for sewage. After further discussion, Mr. Steinhiser suggested tabling this discussion for the future public meeting discussed earlier. The board agreed.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three minute limit)

Vicky Brady is requesting Welsh Rd. be repaired. Mrs. Brady stated the road is a safety issue in the Spring, Winter, Summer and Fall. Kradel stated this will be discussed later in the meeting.

Joe Huth supplied a spreadsheet to the supervisors and public called "Key Metrics" in reference to the costs of the sewer options. Mr. Huth reinforced that the Act 537 Plan states the township needs to make a plan, DEP review and approve it and then execute. Mr. Huth stated there is no where in the Act 537 Plan that states you must put in a municipal system. Mr. Huth said to stick with facts and follow the guidelines and everyone will be happy.

Roy Gilliland had several suggestions: 1. asked if "Request to be Heard" section could be moved lower on the agenda, 2. questioned why Township "open" positions are not advertised, suggested posting on Facebook, 3. stated he heard Spangler and Kradel interviewed someone without Fleeger's attendance and stated if that was true he didn't think that was right, 4. feels the constable that is donating his time should be allowed to attend the meetings, 5. pointed out that Brendan Linton can be polite and civil and wished he was like that with the Sewer Authority board.

Brendan Linton asked the supervisors again in reference to the CTSA board, "is it bad enough yet". Mr. Linton said anyone in the room that thinks the DEP can not require the Township to put in public sewage does not know what they are talking about. Mr. Linton stated the Township's approved Act 537 Plan was to start construction in September of this year and stated if the Township does not act they could be fined and every citizen in this Township will have to pay.

OLD BUSINESS

Act 537 sewer design plan update - no comments

Brendan Linton updated on the EADS Group Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Linton stated the draft is complete and is ready to move forward through a formal process. Mr. Linton stated the next Planning Commission meeting on February 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. will include a special meeting presented by the EADS Group. Mr. Linton stated there will be public comment taken at the meeting followed by receiving any other comments within 45 days. Then a formal public hearing with the board of supervisors will be held at later date.

Spangler stated he received two quotes for security cameras. They were from Secure Technical Solutions - \$20,421.00 and J.E Foss Co. - \$9,350.00. Mr. Gilliland questioned why Spangler doesn't want a free constable but wants to spend money on security cameras. Spangler said he doesn't know of a company that doesn't have them. Spangler stated they are for security, employee theft, lawsuits, workers comp., etc. Kradel motioned to hire J. E. Foss Co. in the amount of \$9,350.00 to install Township security cameras. Fleeger questioned if the supervisors can view the camera if there were an accident in the parking lot and who else would have access. Spangler stated he is only aware of supervisors having access. Fleeger asked if the cameras have sound. Spangler stated "no, it is not allowed". Fleeger questioned since Spangler contacted four companies but only 2 responded, should we try to get three. Spangler would like to move on this. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if this was advertised. Brenda Davis stated, "no" the expense was under the advertising requirement amount of \$12,000.00. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the board could vote to accept J. E. Foss since it is under \$12,000.00 but would need to advertise if they wanted three quotes. Fleeger asked if the Townships Spangler talked to about cameras was the price in line? Spangler stated, he didn't ask the cost. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Fleeger stated residents do question the safety at meetings and feel the supervisors should show a sign of good faith to the residents to have the constable attend meetings. Spangler stated this is a public meeting and since Mr. Kepple is not charging, he has no problem with him attending the meetings. Fleeger thanked Mr. Kepple for his service.

NEW BUSINESS

Spangler stated the board has decided on hiring a new secretary. Fleeger stated the vote was unanimous and all supervisors were a part of the interview. Fleeger mentioned her background is impressive. Fleeger made a motion to hire Bella Smith as secretary. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Spangler would like to see her start on February 26th. Fleeger will call her.

Kradel stated the new owner of the Kriess Rd. (Cosnotti Plan) property requested a letter from the CTSA board at their last meeting to approve them going to BASA for sewage. Kradel felt this should be a supervisor decision. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. agreed. Lee Kradel stated the owner is planning on building on the Westerman Estates cul-de-sac and the property already has one connection on the property to go to BASA and they are asking the Township to allow this. Rick Kradel stated he would like if the 8 acres were subdivided at a later date, that those lots go to the Connoquenessing Township sewer authority if we are up and running. Bruce Steinhiser is in agreement with this. After much discussion, the subject was tabled until the board gets more information.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated Resolution #2-24 is in front of the board to accept the resignation of Terry Steinheiser from the "elected board of auditors" and appointing a new auditor if desired. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated someone needs appointed within 30 days or the vacancy board would elect. Fleeger asked Mr. Menchyk, Jr. if this could be advertised on our Facebook page and then call a special meeting to appoint? Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated, "yes". Kradel stated that would still cost money to advertise. Mr. Roy Gilliland stated he would do it if no one else applied. Dave Cottingham stated he would take the appointment. Kradel motioned to appoint Dave Cottingham as the new elected auditor until next election. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Fleeger motioned to adopt Resolution #3-24 which states Berkheimer is partnering with Statewide Tax Recovery. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to sign the addendum to Berkheimer's collection agreement. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

PLANS

Spangler stated George White, Gary Brenckle and Stan from Graff Surveying were presently requesting approval of the White/Brenckle Lot Line Revision Plan. Bill Braun stated the Planning Commission has reviewed and recommends approval. Kradel motioned to approve the requested modification to waive the requirements of Articles V and VI. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel motioned to approve the White/Brenckle Lot Line Revision Plan for preliminary and final approval. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Stan from Graff Surveying was present to request approval of the H.G. Shannon Estate Plan Subdivision Plan. Bill Braun stated the Planning Commission has reviewed and recommends approval. Kradel motioned to approve the requested waiver to drawing scale of 1"=100' to 1"=160' due to size of project site. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes. Fleeger motioned to approve the requested modification to waive the requirements of Articles V and VI. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Fleeger approved the non-building waiver contingent on the approval of the DEP Planning Module. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel motioned to approve the H.G. Shannon Estate Plan Subdivision Plan for preliminary and final approval. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Brian Rogers from Frank B. Taylor Engineering was present to present the Butler Farm Show - Stormwater Plan. Bill Braun stated it has been reviewed by Planning Commission and recommended for approval. Mr. Braun stated they are building a large agricultural building and needed to do a Stormwater Plan. Lee Kradel, planning member, stated there were 2 contingencies to be met at Planning which were presenting a SWM Operation & Maintenance (O&M) agreement (which is complete now). Lee Kradel stated the 2nd contingency was to receive a letter from Butler Township stating they defer from reviewing the Plan because some of the property is in Butler Township but the parcel in question is completely in Connoquenessing Township. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. noted that the SWM site plan (Appendix A) will also need attached and recorded with the O & M agreement. Lee Kradel stated the letter has been received. Kradel motioned to approve and sign the SWM O&M Agreement. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes. Fleeger motioned to approve the Butler Farm Show Stormwater Plan for preliminary and final approval. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun supplied the board with his update on the Jake Brake study he did for the Rt. 422 area a taxpayer had concern with. Mr. Braun said it would be doable if PennDot approves the study. Mr. Braun stated only 800 ft. is in our Township and possibly contact other surrounding Townships to see if they'd like to join in the study. Bill Braun stated he could supply a proposal of cost to supervisors. Kradel asked Brenda to contact Franklin Township to see if they are interested in joining.

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Fleeger motioned to approve Sandi Cox's invoice for December in the amount of \$241.84. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

Fleeger motioned to approve Sandi Cox's invoice for January in the amount of \$399.26. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kradel stated the 2024 paving projects he is considering are at Timberlee Farms which include Timberlee Dr., Tanager Ct. and Oriol Ct. and then Grundman Dr. and cul-de-sac of Industrial Park. Kradel is also planning on Ragan and Kennedy Roads. Kradel stated the millings that come off of the roads will be moved to Welsh Road from Forward Twp. to the woods. Vicky & Matt Brady asked when Welsh Road will be fixed? They have been hearing it will be fixed for 10 years. Kradel said a double coat of tar and chip will be put down over the millings. Kradel also stated he will do the same on about 1 mile at Whitestown Rd. Ext. Total cost will be \$495,000 for all but have \$538,000 available. Spangler wants to spend it all. Kradel asked the other supervisors if they suggest other roads. Spangler wants Bennett Ct. and another one off Rt. 528. After discussing, Kradel motioned to advertise for paving on above mentioned roads and add any alternate roads that all three supervisors agree upon. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel stated the Township bought a 10 ton dump truck and while looking around for a snow plow was informed that they have a 10ft power angle that they will sell for \$8,000. Kradel priced a new one at \$12,500. Tom Huff asked what shape the truck is in? Spangler stated it has been state inspected by Freightliner. Mr. Huff also asked how the Township prioritizes what is bought, stating the high-lift is in bad shape. Mr. Huff asked if one of our trucks will be sold. Kradel stated there is no plan for that currently. Kradel made a motion to purchase the used snow plow in the amount of \$8,000.00. Fleeger questioned if some other truck could be sold after we receive the new truck and plow. Kradel stated he

would like to keep all through the winter and see how efficient having all the trucks are. Fleeger would like to see something sold to put the money into getting a high-lift. Fleeger asked how the truck is getting here. Spangler stated it will be shipped and the plow will ship with it. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel discussed the Salt Contract. Kradel asked if we should consider pure salt instead of mixing with anti-skid. Spangler said that is too expensive. Kradel motioned to order 700 ton of salt for the 2024-2025 year through Costars. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to release Energy Transfer bonds in the amount of \$75,000 on the below 5 roads:

Welsh Rd. - 2.05 miles

Upper Harmony - 1.22 miles

Whitestown Rd. - 1.28 miles

Double Rd. - 0.4 miles

Eagle Mill Rd. - 1.98 miles

Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel stated the road crew painted the mower deck on Bad Boy, rebuilt the moon paver, put a new transfer pump on T-Plate, replaced computer and headlight on T-Plate, had Shields Paving core Timberlee Dr. (no cost), fixed a sink hole on Camp Fatima and pot holes on Whitestown Rd. Ext. and plowed and salted roads 14 days in January.

Road superintendent report for January 2024 in packets.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

Spangler stated there was one building permit applied for this month.

It was:

1-24 - Scott Lipke - Camp Fatima Rd. - garage - 1-5-24

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

NONE

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Fleeger motioned to refund Robert & LaDonna Young lot line revision escrow in the amount of \$245.00. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Spangler stated the below was on the agenda for information.

Received an invitation from the Connoquenessing VFC for local municipal and government leaders to attend their annual officer installation & member appreciation dinner on March 2, 2024 to be held at The Stables at Connoquenessing - Banquet Hall, 856 Evans City Rd. R.S.V.P. by February 12, 2024. Mr. McConnell stated "The Stables at Connoquenessing" donated their space.

Received letter dated January 16, 2024 from Moody and Associates to notify that PennEnergy intends to renew their withdrawal, approximately 1.5 million gallons of water per day from the PAW located on private property in Connoquenessing Township. Information is on file at township office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.