

Connoquenessing Township Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Spangler at 6:05 p.m. on March 6, 2024 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Larry Spangler, Rick Kradel and Angela Fleegeer. Also in attendance were Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr., Engineer Bill Braun and Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Lee Kradel. Secretary/Asst. Treasurer, Brenda Davis and Secretary, Megan Hineman were present to take the minutes. Twenty nine people signed in on the public record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

OATH OF OFFICE

Spangler welcomed the new secretary, Megan Hineman, and stated that she submitted her Oath of Office to the Township.

ANNOUNCE WHO IS RECORDING MEETING

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spangler stated the Supervisors met on March 5, 2024 to discuss personnel.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of February 7, 2024 Supervisors Meeting. Fleegeer motioned to approve the February 7, 2024 Supervisors Meeting minutes. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | Beginning Balance | Checks | Deposits | Interest | Ending Balance |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund | \$726,775.51 | \$181,038.90 | \$111,156.37 | - | \$656,892.98 |
| Escrow Fund | \$20,960.00 | \$2,807.63 | \$0.00 | - | \$18,152.37 |
| Liquid Fuels | \$139,899.89 | - | \$206,670.20 | \$5.56 | \$346,575.65 |
| Act 13 Impact Fee - Checking | \$365,450.42 | - | - | \$1,132.40 | \$366,582.82 |
| Act 13 CD #1 | \$756,945.49 | - | - | \$9,062.61 | \$766,008.10 |
| Act 13 CD #2 | \$303,591.78 | - | - | \$3,634.78 | \$307,226.56 |
| | | | | | |
| Total Act 13 Funds | | | | | \$1,439,817.48 |

Kradel motioned to ratify the \$300,000 Act 13 CD #2 that matured on February 25, 2024 to a 6-month term at a 5.0% rate. Fleegeer seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Fleegeer seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD - Three minute limit pertaining to agenda

Ray Kroll:

- Questioned if the millings from paving come back to the Township for future use. Spangler stated, yes.
- Questioned why additional money had to be spent on the new truck. Spangler stated the truck was equipped to accept a snow plow, but it was not included, so a plow needed to be purchased. Mr. Kroll asked if a total that has been spent on the truck to date could be provided for the next meeting.

Brendan Linton:

- Expressed his disagreement with the potential motion to renew the First Commonwealth bank loan for the CTSA because the Township would have to co-sign on it.
- Stated every day that nothing is done regarding the sewage, it is costing the tax-payers money, and that the tax-payers are co-signers on what the Supervisors may approve tonight.
- Feels that the CTSA Board has done little to nothing over the past year and a half.
- Provided the Supervisors with a packet of information in regards to talks of going to BASA for part of the sewage system- which he stated is not possible, per BASA's words.

Chris Klink:

- Objected to Mr. Linton's criticism towards the CTSA Board and stated they are all volunteers and are doing a good job.
- Objected to signing the loan for the CTSA. States that she would like to see the Township pay off the loan instead of spending money on new equipment. Kradel stated it is not the Township's responsibility to pay off the debts of the CTSA; The Township's responsibility is running the Township, paving roads and having the equipment to do so.

Mark Minto:

- Questioned where the money is coming from in regards to the sewage project.

Val-Dean Scott:

- Stated that she feels the Supervisors facial expressions and way they speak to people should be neutral.

Joe Huth:

- Expressed his continued disagreement with the Township moving forward with the Act 537 plan.

Roy Gilliland:

- Questioned the location of the American Flag in the Township building.

Estle Harp:

- Asked if the failed systems will be re-examined. Stated that his property is on the Gibson-Thomas map, however his system is not failed.

BIDS

Following are the sealed bids that were publicly opened and read aloud by Brenda Davis for the letting of March 6, 2024:

PAVING

The bidders and amounts are below:

| | Wiest Asphalt | Hawbaker | Shields Paving |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 22,042 s.y. (milling asphalt) | \$1.83 | \$3.55 | \$1.55 |
| 327 ton (asphalt binder, 19.0mm) | \$86.92 | \$105.00 | \$84.50 |
| 513 ton (scratch & leveling, 9.5mm) | \$86.92 | \$121.00 | \$84.50 |
| 2,666 ton (wearing course, 9.5mm) | \$86.92 | \$114.00 | \$84.50 |
| 76 ton (asp wrg crse, 9.5mm) | \$86.92 | \$114.00 | \$84.50 |
| TOTAL COST: | \$351,684.30 | \$487,265.00 | \$336,844.10 |

SEALCOAT

The bidders and amounts are below:

| | Youngblood | Russell Standard | Midland Asphalt |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 5,080 s.y.(asphalt surface treatment) | \$8.80 | \$8.95 | \$6.80 |
| 9,205 s.y. (double asphalt seal coat) | \$4.52 | \$4.54 | \$5.20 |
| 793 s.y. (asphalt surface treatment) | \$8.80 | \$8.95 | \$6.80 |
| Total Cost: | \$93,289.00 | \$94,354.05 | \$87,802.40 |

All above bidders enclosed their bid bonds which were approved by Andrew Menchyk. Kradel motioned to award Shields Paving with the paving bid in the amount of \$336,844.10. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel motioned to award Midland Asphalt the sealcoat bid in the amount of \$87,802.40. Spangler seconded and stated both lowest bidders were awarded. Roll call, yes.

CONNOQUENESSING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Matt McConnell submitted the Financial Report to the Supervisors. He stated that the advertisement for the Request of Quotes is out. Additionally, he stated that the Annual Officer Installation Dinner was held at the Stables of Connoquenessing, which was donated by Mr. Boylan.

Dave Cottington (president) stated that the 2 million dollar grant they applied for passed the House and is awaiting Senate approval. Secondly, he stated that there is another opportunity for an additional 2 million dollar grant that they will be applying for before the April 20th deadline. Lastly, he is currently working on a 1.5 million dollar Capital Campaign.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT***NONE*****CONNOQUENSSING TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY (CTSA)**

Chairman Bruce Steinhiser read the February CTSA monthly update. Information is on file at township office.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three minute limit)

Susan Coen:

- Expressed her disapproval of guns being permitted at public meetings and stated that she would like to see a sign put on the door stating that no guns are allowed. Solicitor Andy Menchyk responded, stating that Pennsylvania has a Uniform Firearms Act which prohibits any municipality or local government from making a law pertaining to the use, possession or transfer of firearms. This Act prohibits the township from prohibiting guns at a township meeting.

Brendan Linton:

(Continuance from his statements during the "Comment Period")

- Referring back to his packet of information that was provided to the Supervisors, states there is a PennDOT map that was discussed by the CTSA Board in response to questions during the RFP process, however it completely or almost completely cuts out Phase 3.
- Discussed several emails sent out by members of the CTSA Board.

Ray Kroll:

- Questioned what happened to the millings that were from Eagle Mill Rd. Kradel stated they were put on Eagle Ridge Rd. and that Bill Chuba expressed that they were not needed at the Township.
- In regards to the Employee Handbook and updates that are being made, Mr. Kroll questioned how the Supervisors would handle sexual harassment claims, to which both Kradel and Spangler stated it would be taken to the attorney for a discussion. Mr. Kroll asked if the handbook should be updated in regards to this subject, to which Spangler stated the handbook would need to be updated from time to time. Kradel stated it will be looked into.

OLD BUSINESS

Act 537 Sewer Design Plan update : No new comments

Update on EADS Group Comprehensive Plan: Brendan Linton stated that the EADS Group had a presentation at the last Planning Commission Meeting on February 21, 2024, which then began a statutorily required 45 day review and comment period. The community is encouraged to submit comments to the Township via email. Provided that there are no major changes to the draft plan that is currently on the Township website, the next steps would be for the Planning Commission to make a formal recommendation to the Township Supervisors, then there would be a required public hearing, and then the plan would be adopted. Mr. Linton does note that in theory if the draft plan is adopted by the Board of Supervisors, is not an automatic trigger to implement anything that is contained in that plan. There would be subsequent actions required by the Supervisor Board and the Planning Commission before anything could be implemented.

Additionally, Mr. Linton stated that an Annual Report of Planning Commission for the 2022-2023 calendar years has been provided to the Supervisors.

Discuss sending letter to allow the Cosnotti Plan property on Kriess Rd. to connect sewage to BASA: It was tabled last month and no updated information has been provided yet. Additional information is needed from the developer.

NEW BUSINESS

Hiring of the new secretary: Kradel motioned to hire Megan Hineman as the Secretary. Fleeger seconded, Roll call yes.

Discussion and possible motion to sign the CTSA loan renewal with First Commonwealth Bank that is due on March 15, 2024: Solicitor Andy Menchyk explains that this renewal is a third modification to the loan agreement for the loan that was originally taken out on March 15, 2021. It is a bridge loan for the CTSA, which was originally taken out for purposes of a final design on the sewer system. A requirement of the loan is that township guarantees the loan since the CTSA does not have any assets. Mr. Menchyk notes that it is a \$1,000,000 line of credit, but that there has been some pay down or anticipated pay down. The current outstanding balance as of March 5, 2024 is \$412,973.33. Fleeger states that by all accounts it looks like the loan agreement has been updated with the required information needed to make a decision. Kradel questions Mr. Menchyk on if there can be a document drawn up to allow some control over the spending allowed by the CTSA. Mr. Menchyk stated that it would be separate from this current document and that it would need to be requested from the CTSA. Kradel motioned to sign the FCB Renewal Loan, Fleeger seconded, Roll call, yes.

Discussion on joining the Butler County Council of Governments: The COG has been very inactive recently, so in an effort to obtain additional members the annual fee has been reduced from \$850.00 to \$100.00. When a township joins the COG, it creates an opportunity to rent equipment, such as a crack sealing machine, that is owned by the COG, which can save money in the long run. Fleeger states that at \$100.00, it seems like it could be something that saves the township money. Kradel motioned to join the Butler County Council of Governments (COG) for a \$100 annual fee. Fleeger seconded, Roll call yes.

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun discussed the Lower Harmony Rd. culvert project. He stated that he met with the water company and they plan on moving their lines tomorrow (March 7, 2024) and Friday (March 8, 2024). They will have to bore under the stream and Crab Run Road. The contractor for the project, would like to get started the week of March 11th, weather dependent. The school district, 911 and all emergency personnel have been contacted to let them know of the closure. There are two detour routes; one for cars and pickups, and then another for trucks. The closure should only be for about a month, weather dependent.

Additionally, Mr. Braun received an email in regards to DCED Act 13 grant applications that are due the end of May. He stated some are for sewage planning and suggested that the supervisors may want to look into it.

Lastly, Bill Braun supplied the board with an update on the Jake Brake study, that a resident and taxpayer had concern with. He stated the estimated cost to do the study would be around \$1,800.00 and that it would be doable if PennDOT approves the study. The township would be responsible for installing and maintaining it. Things that are looked at during the study are posted speed limit signs, records of crashes, the grade of the road, etc. Since there is only an 800 ft section that is in Connoquenessing Township, the township reached out to surrounding Franklin Township to see if they would like to join in the study, however they declined. Bill Braun stated he could supply a proposal of cost to the Supervisors. Brendan Linton offered additional information stating that since Route 422 is a PennDOT owned highway, a study has to be done for any signs to be legally posted and done according to PennDOT regulations.

Residents Eugene, Amil and Carl Lesney brought attention to a jake brake sign that was put up on Eagle Mill Rd. Kradel responded stating that he looked into said sign, and that it is not the correct size therefore it is an illegal sign and it will be removed.

Kradel motioned to approve the jake brake PennDOT study for \$1,800.00. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to remove the illegal sign on Eagle Mill Rd. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes. Kradel added a time frame stating that the sign would be taken down by the end of the week.

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Fleeger motioned to ratify January's invoice approved for \$399.26 to the corrected amount of \$187.08. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to approve Sandi Cox's invoice for February in the amount of \$371.58. Fleeger seconded, Roll call yes.

Reports are in packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Spangler brought up a discussion for a possible motion to sell the boom mower. He explained that it's a piece of equipment that the township has not been using, and that a new boom mower would be coming in the next couple of months. Kradel stated that the current boom mower is too heavy for the machine and has almost ruined the Highlift boom arm, and that the new one would be here in time for spring. Kradel motioned to advertise to sell the boom mower from the Highlift. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel brought up a discussion for a possible motion to sell the berm mower from the John Deere. He stated that the berm mower was taken off of the John Deere for when the boom

mower is received. Kradel motioned to advertise to sell the berm mower from the John Deere. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Discussion and possible motion for additional roads to be paved, etc. Spangler stated after opening the bids earlier in the evening, it appears that the project would be coming in under budget leaving enough money for additional roads to be paved. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting to allow time to look into what roads would benefit most.

Discussion and possible motion to purchase a pay loader. Spangler stated the current pay loader has over 9,000 hours and is starting to cause the township bills for repairs. Spangler stated he talked to a John Deere dealer who stated it would be cheaper to buy new versus used, because of discounts and warranties that would come with it. Fleeger stated that between parts and labor, the cost to fix the current pay loader would exceed \$100,000 and that it does not seem economical since the equipment is over 20 years old. Kradel motioned to begin looking into the purchase of a new pay loader. Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.

Road superintendent report for February 2024 in packets. Kradel stated maintenance was done on some equipment, including updating the new truck for the township's needs in addition to roads being swept to remove some of the anti-skid. Additionally, there was only one day that the roads had to plowed and salted. Lastly, basic ditch cleaning and opening up of culverts was done.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

Spangler stated there were seven building permits applied for this month:

2-24 - Tim Spangler - Eagle Mill Rd. - Carport - 02/07/24

3-24 - LaDonna Young - Prospect Rd. - Garage - 02/09/24

4-24 - Connoquenessing Elementary School - Conno. School Rd. - Pavilion - 02/09/24

5-24 - Terry Brown - Fassinger Rd. - In-ground Pool - 02/23/24

6-24 - Larry Osche - Reiber Rd. - Shed - 02/23/24

7-24 - LDR Dev. - Evans City Rd. - Demolition - 02/24/24

8-24 - John Knox - Shannon Rd. - Deck Roof - 02/29/24

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

Fleeger motioned to release the escrow to H. G. Shannon Estate in the amount of \$307.50.

Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kradel motioned to release the escrow to Rex Coen in the amount of \$775.00. Fleeger seconded.

Roll call, yes.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

NONE

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn at 7:45 PM, Fleeger seconded. Roll call, yes.