

Connoquenessing Township Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Spangler at 6:00 p.m. on April 3, 2024, at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Chairman Larry Spangler, Vice-Chairman Rick Kradel and Supervisor Angela Fleeger. Also in attendance were Solicitor Andrew Menchyk Jr., Engineer Bill Braun, and Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Brenda Davis. Secretary Megan Hineman was present to take the minutes. Thirty-two people signed in on the public 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. Three responded: William Pitts (Butler Eagle), Brendan Linton, and Laura Mason.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of March 6, 2024 Supervisors Meeting. Kradel motioned to approve the March 6, 2024 Supervisors Meeting minutes. Fleeger seconded. All agreed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Beginning Balance	Checks	Deposits	Interest	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$656,892.98	\$128,733.71	\$99,750.40	-	\$627,909.67
Escrow Fund	\$18,152.37	\$675.21	\$5,062.13	-	\$22,539.29
Liquid Fuels	\$346,575.65	-	-	\$13.77	\$346,589.42
Act 13 Impact Fee - Checking	\$366,582.82	-	-	\$1,135.90	\$367,718.72
Act 13 CD #1	\$766,008.10	-	-	-	\$766,008.10
Act 13 CD #2	\$307,226.56	-	-	-	\$307,226.56
Total Act 13 Funds					\$1,440,953.38

- Kradel motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Fleeger seconded. All agreed.
- Brenda Davis stated that the QuickBooks annual payroll update is due by April 30, 2024, in the amount of \$850.00. Fleeger made a motion to approve the annual payment to QuickBooks. Kradel seconded the motion. All agreed.
- Spangler stated that the yearly audit has been completed. John Brittner, Senior Auditor, from Maher Duessel was in attendance to present the findings from the 2023 audit. The findings are on file at the Township building. Kradel motioned to accept the Auditor’s report. Fleeger seconded. All agreed.

COMMENT PERIOD

(Three-minute limit pertaining to agenda)

Ray Kroll:

- Questioned if an inspector would be put on the project, for the Lower Harmony Rd. culvert project. Bill Braun stated that the contractor has called him a couple of times with some questions, and that Bill Chuba has been in contact with updates on the project. Mr. Braun stated the contractor did find existing exposed footings, so to ensure that there are clearances and things like that, it would be good to have someone periodically inspect it. Spangler asked Mr. Braun if it was something that he would be able to do, to which he responded that either himself or another engineer could do that a couple days a week.
- Questioned the status of the new truck, which is currently having work done on it for a leak. Stated that the first time the plow was used, it failed.

Bill Lauff:

- Stated that he read in the newspaper about the Jake brake restriction on Rt. 422, and was curious if that is something that would be possible on this stretch of Evans City Rd. Supervisors stated we would be discussing Jake brakes later on in the meeting if he would like to wait until then.

Brendan Linton:

- Welcomed Megan Hineman to the Township staff, and thanked Lee Kradel for her prior service and congratulated her on her retirement. Stated that the Township staff does a great job and that it's one of the best run offices he's seen.
- Commented on the Jake brake issue and brought to attention that there are no local police to enforce Jake brake violations, and that PSP is not patrolling this area on a regular basis. Stated that since the Rt. 68 construction has begun, there has been an influx of 53 ft. trailers going down Stevenson Rd. and coming up Kriess Rd. Suggested putting up "No Trucks Weight Limit 10 tons" signs, because then it would be enforceable.
- Provided comment on the Sewer Authority; Stated that we are in violation of the law and that the DEP will not turn a blind eye to it.

David Miller:

- Stated he is a resident who lives on Shannon Rd., at the end of Dick Rd. Mr. Miller questioned if there is anything that could be done about the speeding coming off Rt. 68. Stated that he knows both roads are state roads, but wanted to know if a flashing speed limit sign could be placed at the end of Dick Rd. Stated he sees cars going through the stop sign on a regular basis. Kradel stated with them being state roads, the only thing they could really do is request the PSP to patrol that area more regularly. Kradel asked engineer Bill Braun if there is anything the Township could do, to which he responded that we could write a letter to PennDOT describing the issues and request for them to do a traffic study on that area. Kradel asked the resident to write a letter to the Township with the concerns, that could be presented to PennDOT with a letter from the Township.

BIDS

- Spangler stated that a motion needs to be made for limestone and dust oil. Kradel went over the numbers from last year and stated that the same would need to be ordered for this year.

- Kradel motioned to advertise for limestone. Fleeger seconded. All agreed.
- Kradel motioned to advertise for dust oil. Fleeger seconded the motion. All agreed.

CONNOQUENESSING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

- Matt McConnell was present to give updates. Stated that the borough approved their site development plan for the new fire station, and that bids are due by next Friday.
- Stated they would be doing a capital campaign, and information could be found on their website.
- Dave Cottingham stated that the \$2,000,000.00 grant was received last month, and that they are working with the USDA to secure that funding, but that it was awarded. Additionally, they are applying for another grant that will be submitted by April 20, 2024.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

- Angela Fleeger stated that the Emergency Management meeting was cancelled last week, due to the gas line leak, but it has been rescheduled for April 4, 2024, at the Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Station.

CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY (CTSA)

- Chairman Bruce Steinhiser read the March CTSA monthly update. Information is on file at township office and on the CTSA Website.
- Mr. Steinhiser stated that the CTSA Solicitor discussed requesting a written letter from the Supervisors to utilize the SEO in regard to malfunctioning systems
- Mr. Steinhiser stated a motion was made and approved, appointing him as the primary Right-to-Know Officer.
- Fleeger asked Mr. Steinhiser if the written letter they are requesting is asking for approval to use the SEO, to which he stated yes. Kradel stated that a question was asked during a recent County Meeting/Workshop as to if failed systems could be repaired, to which the County and DEP stated “no”.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three-minute limit)

- Peggy Lightner:
 - Stated she is a resident in the Woodlands. She stated there have been previous discussions regarding the roads, however since they are private roads there is nothing that can be done. States that she reached out to State Representative Aaron Bernstein to see if there were any grants that could be given for the roads. Ms. Lightner stated that the State Representative said yes, but that the Township would have to apply for the grants. Kradel stated that the Township could investigate the grants she is referring to. Fleeger asked Ms. Lightner if Aaron Bernstein was aware that they are private roads, to which she responded “yes”.
- Tom Huff:
 - Thanked Fleeger for providing updates on Facebook.
 - Questioned how much money has been invested in the new truck.
 - Stated that when he worked at the Township, the Roadmaster would stop in multiple times a week to check in with the crew. Kradel stated that he is in contact with the road crew, but that there is room for improvement with communications.

- Questioned Spangler if he was getting payment for the PennDOT construction equipment that is being stored on his property, and asked why the equipment isn't being stored at the Township building. Spangler responded stating that they did not want the Township parking lot to be crowded with equipment. Additionally, he stated that he was not receiving payment for allowing his business lot to be used, but instead they would be providing the Township with millings.

OLD BUSINESS

- Act 537 Sewer Design Plan update: There will be a meeting with the DEP on Friday, April 5, 2024.
- Update on EADS Group Comprehensive Plan: Brendan Linton stated they are waiting for the Comment Period to wrap up, which will be on April 5, 2024.
- Discuss sending letter to allow (Cosnotti Plan) property on Kriess Rd. to connect sewage to BASA: Solicitor Andy Menchyk stated that a letter could be sent allowing the connection, but that an agreement would need to be signed stating that if sewage ever comes into the Township, they would be required to connect to it. Kradel motioned to send the letter allowing 1 resident connection, contingent on a signed written agreement. Fleeger seconded the motion. All agreed.
- Discuss and possible motion for additional roads to be paved, etc.: Spangler stated there are two roads that have been in discussion, Bennett Ct. and Maple Dr. Fleeger stated she is agreement with Maple Dr., but that Bennett Ct. only has 4 houses on it. Questioned if Welsh Rd. near Shannon Rd. could be considered, to which Kradel stated that is on his radar for next year. Spangler stated that while there are only 4 houses on Bennett Ct., there are also 2 businesses. Kradel stated that the area of Welsh that Fleeger is talking about would be a bigger project because it also needs to be widened to a proper width of 18 feet, which would be more than the leftover funds. Kradel motioned to advertise for paving of Maple Dr. and Bennett Ct. Spangler seconded. Fleeger, "no". Roll call, Kradel, yes; Spangler, yes; Fleeger, no.

NEW BUSINESS

- Fleeger motioned to appoint Brenda Davis as Treasurer/Asst. Secretary. Kradel seconded. All agreed.
- Kradel motioned to appoint Megan Hineman as the Right-to-Know Officer. Fleeger seconded. All agreed.
- Fleeger motioned to appoint Brenda Davis as the alternate Right-to-Know Officer. Kradel seconded. All agreed.
- Fleeger motioned to confirm/ratify the current bonding. Kradel seconded. All agreed.
- Kradel motioned to bond Megan Hineman. Fleeger seconded. All agreed.
- Kradel motioned to appoint Megan Hineman as Assistant Treasurer, contingent on bonding. Fleeger seconded. All agreed.
- Fleeger motioned to approve Resolution #4-24, to appoint Brenda Davis as the confidential contact for Berkheimer. Kradel seconded the motion. All agreed.
- Kradel motioned to appoint Brenda Davis to BCATO. Fleeger seconded. All agreed.
- Fleeger motioned to appoint Brenda Davis as the delegate, and Megan Hineman as the alternate, to the BCTCC. Kradel seconded the motion. All agreed.

PLANS

- Donald P. & Joan Brenckle - Subdivision Plan: Cheryl Hughes from Land Surveyors was present, to present the Brenckle Plan. Requesting modification to waive the requirements of Articles V and VI. Kradel motioned to approve the modification requirements of articles V and VI. Fleeger seconded. All agreed. Requested a waiver for scale of drawing at 1" = 100' to 1" = 200' due to size of property. Fleeger motioned to accept the waiver for the scale of the drawing. Kradel seconded the motion. All agreed. Requested a Non-Building Waiver; Kradel motioned to approve the Non-Building Waiver. Fleeger seconded. All agreed. Kradel motioned to allow the preliminary and final approval of the Donald P. & Joan Brenckle Subdivision Plan. Fleeger seconded the motion. All agreed.
- R.J. Rake & E.L. Price Lot Line Revision Plan: Dave Brady was present, to present the Rake/Price Plan. Requested modification to waive the requirements of Articles V and VI. Kradel motioned to approve the waiver of Articles V and VI. Fleeger seconded the motion. All agreed. Kradel motioned to allow the preliminary and final approval of the R.J. Rake & E.L. Price Lot Line Revision. Fleeger seconded the motion. All agreed.

ENGINEER REPORT

- Brake Retarder (Jake Brake) Study: Engineer Bill Braun stated that it appears all the requirements have been met to install the signs on Rt. 422. The next step is to write a letter to PennDOT with the report. If PennDOT approves, an ordinance will need to be written. It will be the Township's responsibility to purchase, maintain, and enforce the signs. Mr. Braun recommends putting signs in both directions on Rt. 422. The signs will be around \$300.00 to \$400.00. Mr. Braun will write the letter to send to PennDOT. Kradel made a motion to move forward with submitting the letter to PennDOT. Fleeger seconded the motion. All agreed.
- Spangler asked resident Bill Lauff for his additional comments regarding jake brakes. Mr. Lauff questioned if a study could be done for Rt. 68. Bill Braun asked the resident what the speed limit is on that section of Rt. 68, to which he stated 55 MPH. Mr. Braun stated that the speed limit does not comply with the requirements for PennDOT.
- Discuss Lower Harmony Rd. culvert project: Mr. Braun stated the project has been placed on hold this week due to the rain and flooding. He stated that the contractor does have the culvert erected, but it cannot be placed until the stream goes down.
- Stated that another ARLE Grant is available to apply for and has "no match" but the Supervisors need to act quickly to apply.

SOLICITOR REPORT

None

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- Kradel motioned to approve Sandi Cox's invoice for March in the amount of \$467.46. Fleeger seconded the motion. All agreed.

Code enforcement report for March 2024 is in the packet.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

- Kradel stated the road crew has been busy cleaning roads and storm sewers with all the recent rain and flooding.

- Kradel motioned to replace the hydraulic pump on the pick-up, stating that it would cost \$1,500.00, but that it was needed. Fleeger seconded the motion. All agreed.
- Discuss purchase of a new high-lift: Spangler stated he has been talking to a few high-lift dealers and getting numbers, and he should hopefully have additional information for the next meeting. Laura Mason questioned what the current green John Deere is being used for, and if it has ever been considered to combine the two. Spangler and Kradel stated that if there are two pieces of equipment then two Road Crew members could be doing work at the same time. Laura Mason stated that she would be willing to help with looking into a new high-lift if the Supervisors would like.

Road superintendent report for March 2024 is in the packets.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

- 9-24: Max Bishop - Prospect Rd - Shed/Pavilion - 03/07/24
- 10-24: Butler Farm Show - Evans City Rd. - Pole Barn - 03/11/24
- 11-24: Paul & Christine Lombardo - Winterwood Dr. - Deck - 03/14/24
- 12-24: Lynn Syrek - Timberlee Dr. - In-ground Pool - 03/18/24
- 13-24: Thomas Norris - Fassinger Rd. - In-ground Pool - 03/21/24

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

None

SEO REPORT

None

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

- Butler County Tax Claim Bureau has received an offer for each of the below 2 parcels 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-A230 - Connoquenessing Dr. - \$650.00
120-S3-A220 - Connoquenessing Dr. - \$650.00
Fleeger motioned to authorize the sale of both parcels. Kradel seconded the motion. All agreed.
- Connoquenessing Township, Connoquenessing Borough, Evans City Borough and Forward Township will have their joint annual "Clean-up/Recycling Day" on May 11, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Forward Township facility. A list of items being accepted, and fees will be posted at the Township office in the near future.
- Butler County Association of Township Officials will hold their 108th Annual Convention on May 16, 2024, at the Butler Country Club. Kradel motioned to allow any Township official that would like to attend, at a cost of \$35.00/each. Fleeger seconded. All agreed. The Township office will be closed on this date.
- Keep PA Beautiful Initiative: Fleeger stated there are road clean-ups in partnership with the state of Pennsylvania. Fleeger wants to know what the interest would be from the community in participating

in a clean-up day. She states that this is a good thing that can help bring the community together and it's a positive thing. If you have any interest, please reach out.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 7:17 PM, Kradel motioned to adjourn to an executive session to discuss personnel. Fleeger seconded. All agreed.