

CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2024
6:00 PM EST
102 TOWNSHIP DR., RENFREW, PA 16053

BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Spangler, Chairman
Ricky Kradel, Vice-Chairman
Angela Fleeger, Supervisor
Brenda Davis, Treasurer
Megan Hineman, Secretary
Andrew Menchyk, Solicitor
Drew Null, Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Connoquenessing Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Larry Spangler at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. All board members were present. Also in attendance was Solicitor Andrew Menchyk and Engineer Drew Null. Twenty-six 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. Two responded: Resident Brendan Linton and William Pitts with the Butler Eagle.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Supervisors met immediately following the September 4, 2024 supervisor meeting to consult with the Solicitor, Code Enforcement Officer and the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority.

The Supervisors met on October 1, 2024 with the Township Solicitor, Alternate SEO and HRG to discuss the Act 537 Plan.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes from the September 4, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting. Kradel motioned to approve the September 4, 2024 meeting minutes. Fleeger seconded, all agreed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Beginning Balance	Checks	Deposits	Interest	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$493,317.15	\$195,085.06	\$138,504.03	-	\$436,736.12
Escrow Fund	\$23,909.58	\$2,025.08	-	-	\$21,884.50
Liquid Fuels	\$57,536.06	-	-	\$2.44	\$57,538.50
Act 13 Impact Fee - Checking	\$554,414.27	-	-	\$1,790.83	\$556,205.10
Act 13 CD #1	\$784,258.37	-	-	-	\$784,258.37
Act 13 CD #2	\$314,933.91	-	-	-	\$314,933.91
Total Act 13 Funds					\$1,655,397.38

- Kradel motioned to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Fleeger seconded the motion, all agreed.
- Spangler stated that a check in the amount of \$50,544.75 has been received from the County Prothonotary's Office for the condemnation of the township property.

COMMENT PERIOD (Three-minute limit pertaining to agenda)

- Bill Long:
 - Questioned check# 26454 from the financial report in the amount of \$65,913.00, for a mower attachment. Mr. Long stated that he thought the mower was brand new. Spangler stated it was the mower attachment that was purchased when they bought the new mower (awarded at the July 5, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting), however the bill was just finally received.
- Brendan Linton:
 - Stated that the draft of Ordinance No. 103-24 looks good with the corrections that have been made, however he has one concern regarding Section 5 – Inspections which states *“Advance notice shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to inspection”*, in the case that the SEO is needed to do an inspection for an emergency situation. Mr. Linton stated the 24-hour notice is insufficient and is requesting that it be extended to a slightly longer period. Additionally, comment was provided in regard to the request for an Ordinance at the previous supervisor meeting by the CVFC, allowing them to charge insurance companies for their time and equipment when responding to motor vehicle accidents. Mr. Linton feels this is something that should be considered because the CVFC could greatly benefit from additional funds coming in. Additionally, he stated that most automotive insurance policies have a “line item” for that type of a situation.
- ValDean Scott:
 - Responded to Mr. Linton's comment regarding automotive insurance policies. Ms. Scott stated that she works in insurance and that it is not always a covered item.

- Joe Huth:
 - Stated that there was an article in the Butler Eagle on September 27, 2024, in regard to the sale of BASA to PA American Water, stating that they have now passed all their hurdles and are moving forward with the sale. Mr. Huth asked if this is something the supervisors would be addressing and if it would be considered when addressing the sewage issues in the area. Spangler stated that his understanding is the sale has not yet been finalized, but that all avenues are still being explored.
- Roy Gilliland:
 - Questioned what property of the township was condemned, to which Solicitor Menchyk stated it was the corner of the township building property by Rt. 68 and Stevenson Rd.

CONNOQUENESSING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

- Michele Beck thanked everyone who came out to help and support with the CVFC Pancake Breakfast on September 21, 2024 and stated that they raised just over \$3,600.00 for the Fire Company, and that the money will go into the “building pool”.
- Matt McConnell also thanked everyone who came out to support the pancake breakfast. He stated that it is very touching to see the community come out and support the CVFC, whether they were volunteering in the kitchen or dining room, or just coming in to eat.
- Matt McConnell also stated the following: Tickets for the Farmers and Firefighters gun bash (which will be on May 3, 2025 and held at the Butler Farm Show) are on sale now. They are \$80.00 a ticket, which includes all you can eat and drink. Additionally, there will be a prize giveaway every 5 minutes, with the first prize being \$10,000.00 and the last prize of the day being \$60,000.00.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

- Monthly update: Fleeger stated the CVREMA held their monthly meeting on September 26, 2024. During the meeting the 2025 Budget was finalized. Additionally, they discussed current openings, such as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. The jobs and job descriptions are listed on the CVREMA website. Lastly, they discussed the upcoming Trump rally.
- Trump Rally: Former President Trump will be holding a rally at the Butler Farm Show grounds on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Fleeger stated it has been very difficult to get any information regarding the rally. On September 23, 2024 it was announced on national and local media outlets that former President Trump would be holding a rally. Fleeger stated she called multiple sources in an attempt to gain more information, including Mike Kelly’s office, the Butler County Republican Party, Butler Township Supervisors, all of which had no official information to share at the time. Additionally, Fleeger left a voicemail at the Butler Farm Show grounds to confirm the event, however a return call was never received. Fleeger stated on September 26, 2024 she received notification that public safety officials would be meeting on September 30, 2024 to discuss the upcoming political event. On September 27, 2024 Fleeger spoke with the Trump campaign, who provided official confirmation of the rally on October 5, 2024. On October 2, 2024 (today), Fleeger spoke to Dan Cox with Emergency Management, who stated Fleeger would be filling in as a point of contact for a Press Information Officer representing the Township. As more information comes in, it will be relayed to the residents. As far as residents

and businesses go, Fleeger cautioned to expect very heavy traffic. Additionally, residents and businesses are encouraged to make decisions for their properties and businesses, such as: how are you going to manage your lots, will you stay open, will you offer parking, etc. Venue parking for the rally will be through the Buttercup Rd. entrance of the Farm Show, and gates will be opening at 10:00 AM. Secretary Megan Hineman and Supervisor Fleeger will be contacting local businesses to remind them of the upcoming rally and to offer a reminder to protect their properties if they do not want to allow parking.

CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY (CTSA)

Monthly update is on file at the township building

BIDS

- Opened the antiskid bids. Only one bid was received, which was received from McClymonds Supply & Transit. Fleeger motioned to award McClymonds the antiskid bid at \$21.20 per ton, for 1000 tons (more or less), for a total of \$21,200.00. Kradel seconded the motion, all agreed. (McClymonds antiskid pricing in 2023 was \$20.44 per ton; The price increase was \$0.76/ton from 2023).

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three-minute limit)

- Brendan Linton: Stated that §266-32 of the Township Code prohibits on-street parking (at all times) on the following streets: Buttercup Rd., Eagle Mill Rd., Kriess Rd., Rt. 68, and Whitestown Rd. Mr. Linton is suggesting that the township expand the ban for on-street parking, to at-least during certain overnight hours, if not throughout the entire township. Mr. Linton stated that he has frequently seen semi-trucks parked on the sides of roads, especially on turns, with the drivers sleeping. Spangler stated that the supervisors would get some more information and discuss it.

OLD BUSINESS

- Comprehensive Plan Update:
 - Planning Commission Chairman Brendan Linton stated that the Comprehensive Plan has been completed. He thanked the supervisors, staff, and all individuals who were involved with the creation of the Comprehensive Plan and stated that it truly was a community effort. Mr. Linton stated that the last Comprehensive Plan, dated October 2007, had very little ever implemented. Mr. Linton asked the supervisors what they would like the Planning Commission to work on with the Comprehensive Plan, because an ordinance could take up to 18 months to implement. Mr. Linton stated he doesn't want to see this Comprehensive Plan sitting on a shelf collecting dust, so he would like the supervisors to start thinking about what they would like the Planning Commission to focus on. Spangler stated the supervisors would discuss it.
- Act 537 Sewer Design Plan Update:
 - On October 1, 2024 there was an informational session with the three supervisors, Mr. Menchyk (Solicitor), Chad Hanley from HRG (and two of his associates) in addition to Collin Fantaskey (alternate SEO). Mr. Fantaskey is still currently in the process of completing the in-person, door-to-door surveys; at this time, he has completed 240 dwellings in the area mainly north of Rt. 68. He will be doing approximately 712 dwellings (including businesses), so at this time he is a third of the way complete. Additionally, Mr.

Fantaskey has been in contact with Tomisa Kiskadden and Mitch Fleming from the DEP, and they have been involved in several of the door-to-door surveys (mainly businesses), mostly reviewing the procedures and record keeping to date. The DEP has requested to attend the inspection of some of the remaining businesses along Rt. 68. The target completion date is the end of October, however it is dependent upon the weather.

- At this time, approximately 200 of the mailed surveys have been returned. The supervisors would like to request if any residents still have their mailed survey, to please complete it to the best of their ability, and return it to the township office.
- The first report to the DEP is due on October 30, 2024.
- Kradel made a motion to approve the updated invoice from Collin Fantaskey, in the amount of \$28,600.00. Fleeger seconded the motion, all agreed.

NEW BUSINESS (None)

- Spangler stated there is no new business at this time

PLANS (None)

ENGINEER REPORT

- Drew Null stated the following:
 - A letter has been sent to the Butler Farm Show, advising that a Small Stormwater Management Report needs to be completed and submitted to the township for review of the new Campground Area.
 - Penn Energy is proposing to perform repairs to Upper Harmony Rd. They are proposing to mill and replace asphalt in certain areas, and to use millings to repair the shoulders. Fleeger stated that Upper Harmony Rd. was paved in 2018, just before Penn Energy bonded the road, so minor patchwork and crack-sealing is not acceptable, and she would like to see it fully repaired. Spangler stated that if the road is disturbed that much, then Penn Energy needs to repair it to the way that it was when they first bonded the road.
 - The previous LSA grant application awards should be announced towards the end of October (2024).
 - The current LSA grant is open and applications are due by November 30, 2024.
 - Bill Braun is still looking into the issue on Camp Fatima Rd. – He has looked at DEP Coal Maps, however at this time it does not appear that there are any mines in the area. Mr. Braun has also reached out to the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and is awaiting a response; however, it is very unlikely that the settlement is caused by an underground coal mine. The most probable cause is that there is soft material under the road which is causing the erosion. Spangler asked Mr. Null if there is a gas line that goes through that area, to which Mr. Null stated he and Bill Braun will look into it.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- Ordinance 103-24 Update: Solicitor Menchyk stated the on-lot sewage ordinance has been updated following previous comments and input from residents, and that it has already been advertised, and it is now before the supervisors for adoption. In follow up to the comment earlier regarding Section 5 (h), in regard to the 24-hour notice, Mr. Menchyk stated the Supervisors could amend this if they would like. Kradel stated that he would like to see it increased to 72-hours, to which Spangler and Fleeger stated they would be okay with that as well. Kradel motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 103-24, contingent on the amendment from 24-hours to 72-hours. Fleeger seconded the motion, all agreed.

- Ordinance 104-24: Solicitor Menchyk presented a draft of Ordinance 104-24, regarding large events held in the township. He stated this ordinance is being established to help foster and facilitate better communication between those holding the events and the Township, so that the Township is in a better position to protect the health and general welfare of the citizens and those that are visitors to this township. The ordinance would apply to events where there are expected to be 1,000 or more people. It would specifically exempt church services, lawful picketing, fire company fundraising activities, funerals and large private parties, such as a large wedding. Mr. Menchyk stated there is no action needed at this time and asked the supervisors to review it for the next monthly meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- Fleeger made a motion to approve Sandi Cox's September invoice in the amount of \$262.85. Kradel seconded the motion, all agreed.

ROADMASTER REPORT

- Fleeger read the September 2024 Road Superintendent report, which is on file at the township building.
- Fleeger motioned to ratify the hiring of a new road crew member, Dillon Fassinger (Start Date: Oct. 21st). Kradel seconded, all agreed.
- Cost into the freightliner
- Fleeger provided an update on the amount of money spent to date on the 2018 Freightliner (orange truck). The total spent to date is \$116,160.16. This amount includes the initial purchase price of the truck, which was \$100,000.00. Additionally, \$6,300.00 in used parts that were already on hand at the township, were put onto the truck.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

- 40-24: John Fair – Spring Valley Dr. – Demolition
- 41-24: Marcia Albert – Domhoff Ln. – New Mobile Home

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT (None)

SEO REPORT (None)

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

- Escrow Release: Fleeger motioned to release the CV Development Lot Line Revision Plan escrow in the amount of \$246.44. Kradel seconded the motion, all agreed.
- Escrow Release: Fleeger motioned to release the HG Shannon Lot Line Revision Plan escrow in the amount of \$53.64. Kradel seconded, all agreed.
- Escrow Release: Fleeger motioned to release the Kenneth Hardt sewage escrow in the amount of \$200.00. Kradel seconded, all agreed.

- Budget Workshop: Kradel motioned to advertise for the Budget Workshop, with the date and time to be determined at a later date. Fleeger seconded the motion, all agreed.
- REMINDER: 40th Annual BCATO Safety Seminar: The annual safety seminar will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at the Herman Fire Hall. Angela Fleeger, Bill Chuba, Tim Manuel and Megan Hineman will all be attending.
- REMINDER: Halloween Parade: Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Company will hold their annual Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 27, 2024. The parade will be held at the Connoquenessing Borough Park. Line-up will begin at 1:30 PM and the parade judging will start at 2:00 PM.
- REMINDER: Trick-or-Treat: Connoquenessing Township will hold trick-or-treat on Thursday, October 31, 2024 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Additionally, both Connoquenessing Borough and Butler Township will be holding their trick-or-treat at the same time and date.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 6:52 PM, Fleeger made a motion to adjourn to an executive session with the Solicitor to discuss legal matters. Kradel seconded the motion, all agreed and the monthly meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Hineman | Township Secretary