

Connoquenessing Township Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Spangler at 6:00 PM on August 7, 2024, at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Chairman Larry Spangler and Supervisor Angela Fleeger. Vice-Chairman Ricky Kradel was absent. 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. Twenty-three 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. One responded: Brendan Linton. Additionally, William Pitts with the Butler Eagle arrived at 6:30 PM and began recording the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Supervisors met immediately following the July 3, 2024 Supervisor meeting to consult with the Solicitor regarding personnel.

The Supervisors attended an informational session on July 9, 2024, with the Saxonburg Area Authority (SAA).

The Supervisors met on July 31, 2024 to discuss personnel.

The Supervisors met on August 6, 2024 to discuss personnel.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes from the July 3, 2024 Supervisors Meeting. Fleeger stated there was one error on the previous minutes - The Supervisors met with the Solicitor on June 19, 2024, to discuss legal matters pertaining to the Act 537 Plan, not June 15, 2024 as previously stated. Fleeger motioned to approve the July 3, 2024 Supervisors Meeting minutes, contingent on the one date correction. Spangler seconded, all agreed.

Reviewed minutes from the July 3, 2024 Public Hearing, for the Comprehensive Plan. Fleeger motioned to approve the July 3, 2024 Public Hearing minutes. Spangler seconded, all agreed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Beginning Balance	Checks	Deposits	Interest	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$640,507.99	\$271,905.81	\$46,924.59	-	\$415,526.77
Escrow Fund	\$22,718.81	\$1,928.73	\$1,519.50	-	\$22,309.58
Liquid Fuels	\$346,632.62	\$200,000.00	-	\$15.67	\$146,648.29
Act 13 Impact Fee - Checking	\$550,700.99	-	-	\$1,941.79	\$552,642.78
Act 13 CD #1	\$774,979.84	-	-	-	\$774,979.84
Act 13 CD #2	\$311,014.28	-	-	-	\$311,014.28
Total Act 13 Funds					\$1,638,636.90

- Fleeger motioned to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Spangler seconded, all agreed.

COMMENT PERIOD (Three-minute limit pertaining to agenda)

- Ray Kroll:
 - In regard to the paving of Welsh Rd., questioned if the road was prepped by an external contractor, and if so, why wasn't it voted on in a previous meeting for that expenditure, and who took on the hiring of the external contractor. Spangler stated that the Road Crew was short-staffed with no summer help, so Bauer Excavating was hired to prep the road. Solicitor Andrew Menchyk stated that \$8,000.00 is below the bid threshold (\$2,000.00 per day, for a total of 4 days) so it didn't need to be bid on, and that it would be ratified with the acceptance of the financial report.
- Brendan Linton:
 - Commented on the agenda item regarding the Township taking on the responsibility of posting things for the CTSA on their website; Stated there needs to be a written expectation for cut-off times to have the CTSA submit their agendas to the Township for posting.
- Cindy Rosenbaum:
 - Stated that she and other residents have never understood why the CTSA information wasn't on the Township website, and that they think it should all be in one location. Additionally, she is in agreement with having parameters set for when the CTSA needs to have their items submitted to the Township.

CONNOQUENESSING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

- Matt McConnell stated the following: The CVFC has a booth at the Butler Farm Show where they will be doing a 50/50 raffle. In September, there will be a pancake breakfast. In May there will be a gun raffle, in conjunction with the Butler Farm Show.
- Dave Cottington stated the LSA grant is coming up, due in September and asked if the Township would be applying for it. Stated if the Township does not plan on applying for it, could they apply for it on behalf of the CVFC. Stated that he would be happy to write the grant. Spangler stated the Supervisors would discuss it.
- Spangler thanked the CVFC for everything they did to help out with the Trump Rally, and that they did an awesome job, and it's something he'll never forget. Matt McConnell stated they had over 400 heat-related incidents that they handled. Fleeger stated the Supervisors know they had very little time to plan for the event, to which Matt McConnell and Dave Cottington stated, "2 days". Fleeger thanked them for coordinating with all the surrounding fire companies and EMTs, and stated they were spot on with predicting that the heat would be a hurdle. Mr. Cottington stated that only 7 people had to be transported to the Emergency Room out of the 400 heat-related incidents. Matt McConnell stated that something to keep in mind is that the Butler Emergency Room only has 17 beds, so to only send 7 is a big deal. Spangler stated he doesn't know what would've happened if they hadn't been there that day. Matt McConnell stated there were 25 Connoquenessing members to assist that day, along with 3 or 4 from Prospect, 3 or 4 from Saxonburg, 3 or 4 from Herman, and a paramedic team from Washington that came up to assist, and if they didn't have the extra assistance from neighboring communities, they would have been

overwhelmed. Matt McConnell stated on Tuesday, July 9th, they were told they would be the ones to be in charge of all the people attending the rally. Dave Cottington stated they had a site plan on Wednesday, July 10th, and Thursday, July 11th, they had a walk-through. The CVFC was given 48 hours to put together a plan and if they didn't have the support from the surrounding areas it could have been even more ugly.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Angela Fleegeer stated the last Emergency Management meeting was held at the end of July and there was a lot of discussion during it in regard to events at the Trump Rally. Fleegeer stated she wanted to provide perspective from the Board of Supervisors, of the days leading up to the event:

- July 3, 2024 (during the 6:00 PM Supervisors Meeting): News broke on national media that former President Trump would be holding a rally at the Butler Farm Show. The Township had no prior indication or knowledge that it would be taking place – The Supervisors and members of the Township learned of the event from national media.
- July 4, 2024: Fourth of July Holiday
- July 5-7, 2024: Holiday weekend
- July 8, 2024: Fleegeer was growing concerned about the traffic and construction, and preparing for the influx of people that would be coming into our very small, rural area, and she wanted to mitigate those concerns as much as possible. Fleegeer stated she spoke with Sam Zurzolo (neighboring Butler Township Commissioner) to ask if he had any other information. Fleegeer left a message for Mike Kelly's office, and left a message for the Pennsylvania State Police. Fleegeer stated a Lieutenant with the PSP did call back later that morning, and stated they had a meeting set up with the Secret Service for later in the week, however they had no other information to provide at the time.
- July 8, 2024 - 5:17 PM: Received a call from Dan Cox, with Emergency Management, who called to inform Fleegeer of the upcoming rally. This would be the first official notice that the Township received, which was 4 days before the rally.
- July 10, 2024: Fleegeer spoke with Mike Kelly's office, who stated they also had very little information at the time.
- July 11, 2024: Fleegeer met with Matt McConnell and Mike Nanny with the CVFC, and they relayed their plans. They stated their biggest concern was to prepare for the high temperatures that were being forecast for the day of the rally.
- July 12, 2024: Fleegeer stated that the Road Crew worked with Glenn O. Hawbaker, to ensure that the front lawn of the Township building was cleared off in case of an emergency for Life Flight to be able to land on our property if needed. Additionally, Fleegeer had a follow-up call with Dan Cox regarding traffic control.
- July 13, 2024: Day of the Trump rally

Fleegeer wanted to provide follow-up information as far as things they have been doing to ensure they continue to cooperate, and to assist with getting a resolution for the events that took place:

- July 22, 2024: Fleegeer met with the Homeland Security sub-committee that was visiting the Butler Farm Show Grounds. It consisted of 12 representatives, multiple police departments and public officials. Fleegeer stated they were able to give them a tour of the venue, provide (personal) pictures and (personal) videos, and the Homeland Security sub-committee was appreciative of that. Fleegeer stated they were also able to express their

concerns to the sub-committee over the lack of notification that was provided for the rally.

- July 24, 2024: Just to provide additional information, Fleeger stated that she and her husband had an hour and a half meeting with the FBI at her home, where she was able to provide personal experience, in addition to the aspect of the Township regarding the little notice that was provided.
- August 6, 2024: Fleeger and various others had a one-on-one meeting with Mike Kelly where they were able to discuss things they saw at the event that they felt was pertinent information, in addition to Fleeger being able to express concerns from the Township, so that hopefully we are never put into this position again.

Fleeger added that she knows news just broke again that former President Trump has stated he would be returning to Butler for another rally, but we have not been told a date or venue at this time, and she would be staying close to the story; We do not want to be put in a position that may put the safety of the residents or visitors in jeopardy again. Later in the meeting some avenues to help ensure this, will be discussed.

CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY (CTSA)

Chairman Bruce Steinhiser read the July CTSA monthly update. Information is on file at the Township office.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three-minute limit)

- Mike McCollough: Wants to request a modification for the 15-foot side-setback requirement for his new garage that he would like to build. Solicitor Andrew Menchyk stated that the Supervisors cannot entertain a modification request unless it is part of a subdivision or land development. Mr. Menchyk told Mr. McCollough that he would want to review his plan and see if he actually has a setback, and that he could go to the Butler County Court House to find out that information. If the setback is not listed on the previous subdivision, then the 15-foot side-setback would not apply.
- George White: Stated he has been trying to get ahold of someone with LSSE in regard to his bill, but he has not received a call back. Bill Braun stated that he never personally received a phone call from Mr. White, and provided Mr. White with his cell phone number to get his bill straightened out.
- Brendan Linton: Suggested that the Township Solicitor submit the application for the redirection of funds to be utilized for the completion of the 537 Plan by the end of the week. Additionally, Mr. Linton suggested that the entire Township be surveyed when the sewage survey is discussed later in the meeting.
- Ray Kroll: Stated that the new mower that we just received back from U.S. Municipal, did not have the turnbuckles completed, and the safety switches were not put on. Mr. Kroll stated that the bill should not be paid until the work is properly completed. Mr. Kroll also discussed the new truck that was bought, and stated that part of the motion was for someone from the Township to go look at it. Spangler stated it was sent to a dealership, who inspected it. Mr. Kroll stated that the Township sold a '97 truck that was in better shape than the new one that was bought.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Act 537 Sewer Design Plan Update:**
 - Fleeger motioned to accept Collin Fantaskey’s proposal for On-Lot Sewage Needs Survey, for a projected total of \$21,600.00. The fee proposal is based on an estimate of being able to survey roughly 4 EDUs per hour, for 10 hours, each calendar day, for roughly 40 EDUs per calendar day, for all 512 EDUs in the survey area. At 40 EDUs per day, it will take roughly 13 days (130 hours) of field work to complete the survey. Spangler seconded the motion, all agreed.
 - Fleeger motioned to award the task of completing the On-Lot Sewage Surveys to Collin Fantaskey, the Township’s alternate SEO, which are to begin at the end of August/early September. Spangler seconded, all agreed.
 - Fleeger stated that the Supervisors did have an executive session with the Saxonburg Area Authority on July 9, 2024, and it was an informational session. Fleeger covered some of the items that were discussed: There are 3 options for sewer services:
 - Option #1 – Master Meter Bulk Sewage Service: The Township would be a bulk sewer customer. The SAA and the Township would own and operate a master meter at the township border. The SAA would bill the Township for the sewage it treats at the plants. It would treat the water and provide a single monthly bill, with specific line items listed. A buy-in for capacity would be required to be paid for, by the Township. Additionally, the Township would be responsible for all costs related to the construction of the sanitary sewer system connecting to the SAA system.
 - Option # 2 – Operation and Maintenance Agreement: This would be the same as option #1, but a maintenance agreement would be developed where the SAA would provide certain services for the Township’s sewer infrastructure.
 - Option # 3A – Authority Ownership: The SAA would own and operate the entire sewage system, including treatment, collection, conveyance, pumping, administration, operating, maintenance, billing, etc. The Township would be treated like any other municipality that is a part of the SAA.
 - Option # 3B – Connoquenessing Construct/SAA Owned: This would be the same as option # 3A however, Connoquenessing Township would construct the entire system, then dedicate the entire system to the SAA.
 - Fleeger stated that these are **ONLY** options, and just wanted to provide a recap of the informational session.
- **Comprehensive Plan Resolution No. 8-24:** Fleeger stated that by law, we have to have the Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, she added that in the future if things in the Comprehensive Plan need to be altered, they can be. Fleeger motioned to approve Resolution No. 8-24, regarding the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. Spangler seconded the motion, all agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Township Website:** Discuss and possible motion for the Township Secretary to take over the responsibility of posting the agendas and minutes for the CTSA, on the Township's website – TABLED
- **Right-to-Know Request Resolution No. 7-24:** Solicitor Andrew Menchyk stated that many townships and municipalities across the state have been dealing with an influx of anonymous RTK requests. Additionally, Mr. Menchyk stated that a township has to adopt a resolution, amending their previous RTK resolution, to not allow anonymous requests, which is permitted under the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law. Fleeger motioned to accept Resolution No. 7-24, amending the previous resolution, to not allow anonymous RTK requests. Spangler seconded, all agreed.
- **Large Events:** Supervisor open discussion and possible motion regarding what needs to be in place for future large events. Fleeger stated there is now a precedent that has been set in our small community for large events, that can exceed tens of thousands of people in a single one-day event and we must do our due diligence to address the current breakdowns that exist. Fleeger stated her ask is to discuss and update our current ordinance, and to set a path possibly requiring a permitting process based upon anticipated traffic, possibly requiring funding to be allocated to emergency services so that they have proper funding to be able to manage large, one-time events, and for the Planning Commission to be involved in any type of a large event planning, with final approval by the Board of Supervisors. This would allow time for communication, planning, and to allow emergency services to have the required resources that are needed, in addition to residents and business owners to have time to plan for the event as well. Spangler asked Andrew Menchyk if other townships or municipalities have ordinances like this, to which he stated they do. Mr. Menchyk stated that as Supervisors, their duties are to the residents and visitors of the Township, and to ensure the health, safety and general welfare of the residents; Fundamentally they have no greater duty than that. An ordinance like this would enable them to do their job. If the Supervisors are shut out in the dark, they can't do what is necessary to ensure health, safety and welfare. Mr. Menchyk stated this is something that should be looked at, and if they are interested in moving forward, they would need to make a motion. Fleeger motioned to allow Mr. Menchyk to address the requirements and possible permitting of large events within the Township. Spangler seconded the motion, all agreed.

PLANS (None)

ENGINEER REPORT

- Bill Braun stated there is another LSA grant that will be available for application, beginning on September 1, 2024, with a deadline of November 30, 2024. He stated this is the same as the previous LSA grant that was applied for, for a new Township building (which will be voted on this September). Mr. Braun stated there is no match requirement and that the grant is for \$25,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00, and it can be utilized for many different projects.
- **Jake Brake Study Update:** Bill Braun stated he spoke with Kirk Schrecengost, a traffic engineer from PennDOT, regarding the study. Mr. Schrecengost stated that it does meet all the criteria, however they look at things more globally than locally, and they feel it

would cause some sort of entrapment, and that there are no local police so it couldn't be enforced. Additionally, the traffic engineer stated that Franklin Township is not interested. However, if we could get Butler Township and Franklin Township on board, then it could be approved. However, at this time it will not be approved for those reasons.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- In regard to the ARPA grant that was awarded to the CTSA, Andrew Menchyk stated a letter was sent to the county on July 10, 2024, requesting that the grant be reallocated. He stated that he spoke with Mark Gordon, the Butler County Chief of Economic Development & Planning, who stated the county is receptive to the request. In order to transfer the funds, there are certain actions that will be required of the County Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors. Mark Gordon instructed the township to determine what reimbursements are outstanding from the CTSA, as the first step. Mr. Menchyk asked Bruce Steinhiser if he knew what that amount would be. Mr. Steinhiser stated he did not know the exact amount, but to follow up with Ken Dambaugh, the CTSA Treasurer. Mr. Menchyk stated the next step would be for the Supervisors to make a motion for him to submit the request. Fleeger made a motion for the Township Solicitor to submit the application for the redirection of the ARPA funds, to be used for the completion of the 537 Plan. Spangler seconded, all agreed.
- Mr. Menchyk stated that when PennDOT condemned the Township property, they paid into court \$49,735.00, representing estimated just compensation for the property. He stated this money is just sitting in a bank account at the County's Prothonotary's Office, collecting dust, and that we have the right to request the money. What would be required is to file a simple motion with the court. If the Supervisors would like to move forward with having the money released to the Township, they would need to make a motion. Fleeger motioned to authorize the Township Solicitor submit the motion requesting to have the \$49,735.00 for Estimated Just Compensation released to the Township. Spangler seconded the motion, all agreed.
- Update – Ordinance No. 103-24: Mr. Menchyk stated that after the last meeting he was directed to make some changes to the proposed ordinance for on-lot systems, however he was slightly delayed with getting them to the Township. He stated the changes have been made and have now been sent to the Township, however to allow time for the Supervisors to review the changes, he does not want there to be any action taken at this time. Mr. Menchyk added that there are 3 areas he has addressed:
 - Clarified that the wording would be equivocal to all on-lot systems
 - Pumping requirements have been changed to have a property owner's system pumped as required
 - Notice provisions have been added, such as advance notice, how it would be delivered, who would deliver it, etc.

Mr. Menchyk asked that this be added to the agenda for the next Supervisor meeting, for action and possible advertisement.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- Fleeger motioned to approve Sandi Cox's invoice for July in the amount of \$290.66. Spangler seconded the motion, all agreed.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

- In the absence of the Road Master, Fleegeer reviewed the Road Master's report:
 - Greased trucks and equipment
 - Cut trees off Camp Fatima Rd., Lower Harmony Rd., and Moose Rd.
 - Regraded Welsh Rd. for paving
 - Went with Cory (from PennDOT) to review the roads that were to be paved
 - Dug out Bennett Ct. and patched (10 ½ ton binder)
 - Shields paved Timlerlee Dr. housing plan, Ragan Rd., Kennedy Rd., Grundman Dr., Maple Dr. and Bennett Ct.
 - A stop sign, road name sign, and post were stolen from Smith Rd.
 - Cut shoulders and berms with the rented mower and the John Deere mower
 - Put two 4-inch risers on Welsh Rd. for paving, and 2A
 - Put silt sack in catch basin on Nursery Rd.
 - Cleaned catch basins throughout the Township

- Additionally, Fleegeer and Spangler shared that the Supervisors have been doing interviews for the open road crew position, and that they have interviewed 4 people so far.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

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

- 27-24: Harold Faust – Silver Oak Dr. – Shed
- 28-24: Sandra Cox – Fassinger Rd. – Pool (above ground)
- 29-24: Denise Hofmann – Lower Harmony Rd. – Pool (above ground)

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT (None)

SEO REPORT (None)

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Fall Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Reminder:** The Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Department will be having a pancake breakfast fundraiser, with a tentative date of September 21, 2024. Fleegeer stated she is up to 22 volunteers at this time. They are also looking into doing basket raffles. All of these proceeds will go to the CVFC, and with everything they do to help others, it's a great cause.

- **Butler County Fire Police Association:** State Representative Marci Mustello will be hosting a Family Fun Night Event on August 20, 2024 at the Butler Farm Show Grounds. She has requested assistance from the Butler County Fire Police Association for traffic control and parking control. The Butler County Fire Police Association has asked Connoquenessing Township to sign off on the request, in accordance with Pennsylvania State Law, Title 35, Chapter 74, §7434 & §7435. Fleegeer motioned to grant the request for the Butler County Fire Police Association. Spangler seconded, all agreed.

- **All Saints Parish 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run:** The race that was originally scheduled for July 26, 2024 has been rescheduled. The event will now be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024. The 1-Mile Fun Run will begin at 9:00AM and the 5K will begin at 9:30AM.

Fleeger motioned to approve the temporary closure of Buttercup Rd. from the Township line to Kriess Rd., starting at 8:30AM until completion of the race at approximately 10:30AM. Spangler seconded, all agreed.

- **Approaching Renewal of Act 13 CD:** The Act 13 CD #1 will be maturing on August 9, 2024. The current balance of the CD #1 Certificate is \$774,979.84. The Interest Rate and Annual Percentage Yield have not yet been determined. They will be available on August 10, 2024. Once the new interest rates are disclosed on August 10, 2024, the Supervisors will ratify the action at the September 4, 2024 Supervisor Meeting. Treasurer Brenda Davis stated that the Act 13 CD #2, in the amount of \$311,014.28 will be maturing on August 25, 2024, so both will need to be looked at and ratified at the next Supervisors meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 7:22 PM, Fleeger motioned to adjourn to an executive session to discuss personnel. Spangler seconded the motion, all agreed.