

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Terry Steinheiser at 7:00 p.m. on February 1, 2017 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser and Ray Kroll. Ed Rupert was not present. 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. Sixteen people signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

REVIEW MINUTES

Reviewed minutes of January 3, 2017 "organizational" and "supervisors" meetings. Kroll motioned to accept the January 3, 2017 "organizational" meeting minutes. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes. Kroll motioned to accept the January 3, 2017 "supervisors" meeting minutes. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Planning Meeting minutes for the month of December were in the supervisor packets.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$340,752.58 but after deposits of \$100,499.07 and checks in the amount of \$76,673.89 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$364,577.76. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$23,986.00 but after deposits of \$35,185.83 and checks in the amount of \$1,586.25 are approved tonight, the ending balance is \$57,585.58. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$260,328.20 but with interest of \$11.41, the ending balance is \$260,339.61. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance is \$556,745.01 but with interest of \$48.81, the ending balance is \$556,793.82. Christine Klink stated she has noticed two insurance companies (Highmark and UPMC) being paid each month and said the amount in excess of \$10,000 seems high. Mrs. Klink asked who all are covered? Steinheiser stated the three supervisors, the two office girls and the road crew. Steinheiser stated the supervisors and office girls are on UPMC but the road crew chose to stay on Highmark. Steinheiser stated health insurance costs are extremely high and the cost was looked into the best we could. Kroll motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

COMMENT PERIOD (Three minute limit pertaining to agenda)

Mr. Ken Lavoie, a Brandywine resident, asked if Act 537 questions could be asked now or would it be discussed later in the meeting? Steinheiser stated it would be discussed under Engineers Report but informed the public that another Public Meeting would be held and the public will also have a 30 day comment period on the amended plan. Mr. Lavoie asked who becomes the owner of the abandoned sewage treatment plant at Brandywine when it is decommissioned? Mr. Lavoie asked if the Brandywine residents (homeowners association) would be responsible for the cost or the Township since the Township is abandoning the plant? Bill Braun said he feels the Township would be responsible but was not 100% sure of this so he would have to get Mr. Lavoie a definite answer.

Chas Tanner asked if there was going to be more discussion on the Act 537 sewage plan tonight? Steinheiser told Mr. Tanner there would be a big meeting held at the Armory again like last year to bring all sewage questions to. Steinheiser stated the DEP has given the Township until March 17th to submit a final plan. Steinheiser stated the Public Meeting and 30 day comment period will be advertised. Mr. Tanner stated his main question is he thought sewage should be regionalized where Townships combine their resources instead of each municipality needing a plan. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the DEP requires each municipality to have their own plan. Mr. Tanner feels this is a big expense and should be regionalized and the County Planning should be responsible. Steinheiser told Mr. Tanner his view was appreciated but he should do more research and find out the township is doing it the required way.

Mr. Lavoie asked if the new plan would be available to be viewed for 30 days before submitting to the DEP on March 17th? Bill Braun stated, "yes and it will be advertised".

Joe Phillips, resident of Brandywine, stated there is a pump station in Brandywine and asked if the Municipal Authority would be taking it over? Bill Braun said, "yes, more than likely".

OLD BUSINESS

Steinheiser stated two residents submitted resumes to fulfill John Thomas' last year of his term but one decided to rescind leaving Kyrie Lokhaiser as the lone applicant. Kroll motioned to appoint Kyrie Lokhaiser as a Planning Commission member for the remainder of John Thomas' term through 12/31/17. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

REQUEST TO BE HEARD (Three minute limit)

NONE

PLANS

NONE

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun mentioned he had received an email from Joel MacKay, County Planning, stating the county, at a meeting with PennDot, had requested the Eagle Mill/Kriess Rd. intersection be put at the top of the list for Rt. 68 improvements and they said they would. Bill Braun stated the county also asked for PennDot to start planning for a center turning lane in the Farm Market area. Steinheiser said this has been his biggest endeavor as supervisor to get Rt. 68 improved. Steinheiser thanked Mr. Menchyk, Jr., Bill Braun and the other board members for their help.

Secondly, Bill Braun stated Senate Engineering has been finalizing the Act 537 Plan relating to the EDU counts being correct, cost estimates are good and looked at going to Evans City sewage plant. Bill Braun stated Evans City needs more sewage for their plan so it was looked into the possibility of going there but an agreement to run pipes through Forward Township which with the time frame of March 17, 2017 didn't seem feasible. Mr. Braun also stated this plan would not be the most economical and will be described in the Act 537 report. Mr. Braun stated the distance to run the lines and construction costs of the line jacks the cost up. Steinheiser stated he has looked at many avenues such as Evans City Plant and running to BASA and said the cost could be doubled and is not feasible to the residents. Bill Braun also told Mr. Tanner that letters were sent to all surrounding townships asking what their sewage needs were and did not get any response.

Kroll motioned to advertise for the Act 537 Plan public comment period. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes. Kroll motioned to advertise for the Public Meeting related to the Act 537 Plan. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Tom Weigand, Brandywine resident, asked if the comment answers from the first Act 537 Plan meeting would be mentioned again at this meeting? Bill Braun stated the plan has not changed tremendously so Senate Engineering will take the comments from this meeting and compare to comments at last meeting and incorporate them together and add any new ones.

Ken Lavoie asked when the advertisement for the meeting would be in the paper? Bill Braun said "hopefully middle of next week".

Roy Gilliland questioned Steinheiser as to how maintaining our own sewage plant could possibly be cheaper than running a pipeline to BASA or the Evans City Plant? Steinheiser stated our engineers findings say absolutely. Bill Braun agreed.

Bob Cichra, resident from Boy Scout Rd., said the board is saying that DEP is coming down hard on Connoquenessing Township but questions if Tomisa from the DEP ever said anything about coming down on Forward Township? Bill Braun said, "not that I'm aware of". Bob Cichra does think that regionalization should be looked at. Bob Cichra said he would like to see the DEP strong arm Forward Township like they are strong arming Connoquenessing Township. Mr. Cichra stated once our system is in place, there will be no need for the regional relationship. Mr. Cichra stated he may contact Tomisa at the DEP and ask why they are not forcing the regionalization? Steinheiser told Mr. Cichra he could contact the DEP and bring back his findings to the board. Mr. Cichra stated Tomisa from the DEP has told him in the past that our Act 537 Plan does not have to be this elaborate. Mr. Cichra told the board he will contact Tomisa and document what she says and then follow up with the board.

SOLICITOR REPORT

NONE

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

NONE

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kroll stated he would like to advertise for paving bids. Kroll said he will meet with Dick Knapko from PennDot to prepare the advertisement. Kroll motioned to advertise for 2017 paving projects. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kroll also stated a new gas line is coming through our Township.

Kroll stated the Crab Run Rd. project has been started. Kroll said stone has been put down and drains will be worked on weather permitting and he plans on paving it this year.

Kroll stated the new employee Tim Manuel is working out well and asked the solicitor if the normal 90 day probation period can be waived and hire him permanently immediately? Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said that is fine. Kroll made a motion to hire Tim Manuel as permanent full time taking effect the start of the next payroll week. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

Steinheiser stated there were thirteen building permits applied for this month. They were:

- 1-17 - Aaron Miller - Pheasant Dr. - addition - 1-4-17
- 2-17 - Kevin Hepfl - Whitestown Rd. - garage - 1-13-17
- 3-17 - John Kaltenbaugh - Shannon Rd. - addition - 1-20-17
- 4-17 - Pitell Contracting - Shannon Mills Dr. - new home - 1-23-17
- 5-17 - Reed Soergel - Prospect Rd. - lean to - 1-25-17
- 6-17 - Nancy Brown - Eagle Mill Rd. - mobile home - 1/26/17
- 7-17 - Nancy Brown - Eagle Mill Rd. - shed - 1/26/17
- 8-17 - Nancy Brown - Eagle Mill Rd. - shed - 1/26/17
- 9-17 - Nancy Brown - Eagle Mill Rd. - shed - 1/26/17
- 10-17 - Nancy Brown - Eagle Mill Rd. - shed - 1/26/17
- 11-17 - Nancy Brown - Eagle Mill Rd. - shed - 1/26/17
- 12-17 - Nancy Brown - Eagle Mill Rd. - shed - 1/26/17
- 13-17 - Shannon Mills Partners - Shannon Mills Dr. - duplex - 1/30/17

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Steinheiser told the public that Tom Pawlowicz's term expires at the end of the year and he does not plan on running again.

SEO REPORT

NONE

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Steinheiser stated the Township received the Butler County Humane Society "Municipal Agreement". Kroll motioned to accept and sign the agreement and approve Dog Officer, Eugene Henry, to sign on the Township's behalf. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kroll motioned to release George White's land development escrow in the amount of \$886.25. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kroll motioned to release Aaron Miller's lot line revision escrow in the amount of \$575.00. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kroll motioned to release road bond on Eagle Mill Rd. to Matson Lumber for \$15,525.00. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes. Lee Kradel noted that a release of another road bond on Whitestown Rd. was omitted from the agenda. Kroll motioned to release the road bond on Whitestown Rd. to Matson Lumber in the amount of \$5,625.00. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser said the below, which was on the agenda, is for information:

Received invitation from Connoquenessing VFC to attend their annual "Officer Installation/Member Appreciation Dinner" to be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 18, 2017. R.S.V.P. by February 10, 2017.

Dorothy Kriley resigned as Elected Auditor. If interested in being appointed until December 31, 2017 and/or running in the Primary Election, please contact the Township office for details.

Received letter dated January 3, 2017 from Gannett Fleming on behalf of Mountain Gathering who proposes to construct a natural gas pipeline in Franklin and Connoquenessing Townships which will transfer gas from the Stein Well Pad to the Kyne Well Pad. Information is on file at Township office.

Received letter dated January 4, 2017 from Rex Energy to notify that Permit Applications for Drilling or Altering a Well are being submitted to the PA DEP for the Kern Unit's 9HB, 11HB and 13HB natural gas wells. Information is on file at the Township office.

Received letter dated January 11, 2017 from Gannett Fleming on behalf of Mountain Gathering who is proposing to construct a natural gas gathering pipeline in Franklin and Connoquenessing Townships (Stein to Kyne Gas Pipeline). Information is on file at the Township office.

Received letter dated January 16, 2017 from Gannett Fleming on behalf of Mountain Gathering who is proposing to construct a natural gas gathering pipeline in Connoquenessing Township (Lesney to Guiher Gas Pipeline). Information is on file at the Township office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Steinheiser motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Kroll seconded. Roll call, yes.