

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Terry Steinheiser at 7:00 p.m. on February 18, 2016 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. Thirty-six 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 4, 2016 "organizational" and "supervisors" meetings. Steinheiser motioned to accept the January 4, 2016 "organizational" meeting minutes. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser motioned to accept the January 4, 2016 "supervisors" meeting minutes. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$238,760.63 but after deposits of \$132,566.46 and checks in the amount of \$68,746.61 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$302,580.48. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$22,166.75 but after deposits of \$1,575.00 and checks in the amount of \$576.00 are approved tonight, the ending balance is \$23,165.75. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$66,165.00 but with interest of \$2.57, the ending balance is \$66,167.57. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance is \$439,632.91 but with interest of \$34.93, the ending balance is \$439,667.84. Steinheiser motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes. Lee Kradel stated our auditors, Maher Duessel were in this week to audit 2015 books and are now working on the report.

#### **COMMENT PERIOD**

\*NONE\*

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Steinheiser stated the Township will be having a public meeting on the Act 537 plan. Steinheiser stated this meeting is a regular supervisors meeting, not a public sewage meeting. Steinheiser stated an Act 537 plan meeting will be announced when the Township finds a larger facility to hold the meeting. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. told Steinheiser a motion needed made to advertise for the meeting. Steinheiser motioned to advertise for the public Act 537 plan meeting within two weeks including the facility to be announced. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Kroll stated that Sandi Cox, from the Planning Commission, was questioning him on how they could get their minutes to the supervisors sooner? Kroll stated it currently takes two months after their meeting before the board can review which causes the supervisors to ask Bill Braun at the Supervisors meeting what comments the Planning Commission had at their meeting. Kroll said he would just like a report about their meeting done during their meeting and turned in so the supervisors know their comments before the next supervisors meeting in two weeks. Kroll said Ms. Cox had requested a printer being purchased to type the report? Steinheiser told Kroll he had permission to purchase if it is under our \$4,000 limit. Kroll stated it won't be that much. Kroll asked Brenda Davis to look into purchasing a printer.

A resident questioned if the Township has a webpage and if the Act 537 plan meeting would be posted on the website? Brenda Davis stated the website is [www.connotwp.com](http://www.connotwp.com). Steinheiser stated, "yes" it will be posted.

#### **REQUEST TO BE HEARD - 3 minute limit**

Jim Dunham asked for an update on his complaint against Randy Toth's properties that Steinheiser said he'd look at during the December 2, 2015 supervisors meeting. Steinheiser stated he did have extensive pictures of the properties and had personally gone to the sites. Steinheiser told Mr. Dunham the board is going to give Andrew Menchyk, Jr., our solicitor, the authority to move forward with a citation.

Dan Gordon stated he just purchased property at 108 Hawk Drive and said there is an older existing mobile home there and wants to remove it, move it to another lot he has purchased below this lot and then put a new double wide on the first lot. He had pictures and plans for the supervisors to look at. Kroll stated he should have gone to Planning Commission first. Mr. Gordon said he was never told to go to Planning. Kroll asked the size of the lots which Mr. Gordon said were 70 x 125. Kroll stated that moving the older trailer to a site that has never had anything on it is considered starting from scratch and he needed to acquire 4 lots in order to make an acre of ground per our ordinance to build a new residence. Kroll said he doesn't feel the lots are big enough to have both dwellings and meet the requirements of the sewage and water being so far apart and also set back far enough from the property lines. Kroll suggested combining the lots for one residence and presenting that to the Planning Commission. Kroll stated the Township has worked with residents that have lived at the location for a long time and just updating to a newer home but since Mr. Gordon is a new resident, he must follow the ordinance. Kroll stated the lot that currently has the mobile home could not have met the 100 ft. isolation distance between the well and septic and this is a health and safety issue. Kroll told Mr. Gordon if he wanted to combine both lots he could come and ask for a variance. Steinheiser stated he needs to come back to the Planning Commission showing the well and septic locations of both lots and discuss his

intentions but feels sure the Planning Commission would not allow two mobiles. Steinheiser questioned why he didn't go to Planning first? Mr. Gordon stated the secretary told him she had talked to a supervisor and was told to come to this meeting. Kroll said that was him who said that but he was under the impression Mr. Gordon had already went to Planning. Steinheiser told Mr. Gordon to contact the Planning Commission for guidance.

Christine Klink resident asked if the February 15<sup>th</sup> advertised deadline comment period for the Act 537 would be extended since the Public Sewage meeting would not be for a few weeks? Steinheiser said, "yes". Mrs. Klink said she was here tonight to read her list of comments. Steinheiser told her this was a supervisors meeting and she could discuss those at the Public Sewage meeting where she would be given more time. Steinheiser stressed to the public that it is not the board of supervisors but the DEP who is forcing the Township to implement the Act 537 plan or the DEP will not issue any more permits of any kind to the Township. Steinheiser stated the tap in will cost money but will also increase the property values in this Township. Mrs. Klink disclosed that her husband is an SEO and works with other Townships and she has contacts with the DEP and has talked to them and said there are other options than going with this extensive plan the Township has made. Mrs. Klink stated that Dave Ice's testing showed only 15% failures, therefore 85% are good systems. Steinheiser stated if sewage comes in everyone within 200 ft. of the road will need to tap in. Mrs. Klink said her main goal is to inform the public that the Township would be committing to this 20 million dollar bond sewage plan and how it will affect them with an increase in State, County and Township taxes. In closing, Mrs. Klink requested the Township send out a questionnaire to all residents to see how they want their tax dollars spent in the next 10 years and their views on Public Sewage to get a more rounded opinion? Steinheiser said he respected Ms. Klink's opinion but feels by having this Public Sewage Meeting that anyone with any concerns will come and voice their opinion.

Marion Domhoff said she had Act 537 sewage questions but would wait until the Public Sewage meeting is scheduled.

Charlotte Grimme stated she and her husband Jon are the property owners of the proposed site of the Sewage Plant and they do not want it on their property. Mrs. Grimme stated this location is down in the valley, a floodplain and it's in the wetlands and she doesn't want the smell, noise and chemicals. She thinks this is environmentally irresponsible. Mrs. Grimme noted our ECO system is already stressed from the Marcellus drilling and there is data of endangered species, wildlife and plants in this location. Mrs. Grimme said to build the Sewage Plant on Rt. 68 where it is needed. Mrs. Grimme said she doesn't need sewage and doesn't want the expense of the tap in fee or monthly fees. Mrs. Grimme also questioned why she learned about the Sewage Plan from a neighbor reading in the Butler Eagle if the Township had been considering her property for over a year? Mrs. Grimme stated she purchased the property for a retirement home and has a long term commitment and is planning on leaving it for a Wildlife Reserve. Mrs. Grimme stated they will fight this and the only way the Township will get it is through Eminent Domain which will cost the taxpayers money. Mrs. Grimme asked the supervisors if other options will be looked at like Mrs. Klink had referred to? Steinheiser said, "yes" and he is hoping the DEP will attend this meeting. Kroll stated the Township has not been doing anything behind the residents backs that the Act 537 Plan has been discussed at the Supervisors meetings for the last 2 years. Mrs. Grimme directed a question at Bill Braun, our engineer, on why her property was selected? Kroll said he didn't choose anyone's property, this is a proposed plan that is not firm. Kroll stated the DEP is requesting a plan be supplied to them that would work to take care of the problem areas. Kroll stated the DEP wants all the SFTF's eliminated and encompass the Mobile Parks, Developments, etc. that have roughly nine different sewage plants into one. Kroll and Steinheiser both said the DEP and Township want your opinions but stated that if the Township does not act on a plan, the DEP will come in and do it. Mrs. Grimme still questioned Mr. Braun why he chose the Sewage Plant right beside her house? Mr. Braun stated he would not think that a Sewage Plant would ever be put beside someone's house. Steinheiser stated the meeting needed to proceed and promised the public they would have more time for their comments at the upcoming Act 537 Sewage Planning Meeting.

## **PLANS**

Tammy Ranalli from Survey Tech representing the Arthur L. Durschinger plan stated this plan was previously approved a few months ago contingent on the Sewage Planning Module being approved by the DEP but since it was not, a few changes were made and she was presenting a brand new plan. Ms. Ranalli explained the Durschinger Subdivision plan consists of subdividing a 5.347 acre parcel off the parent tract (70.653 acres) on Whitestown Rd. Ext. leaving the residual parcel consisting of 65.279 acres. Ms. Ranalli stated the new plan has created an odd shaped lot which she is asking for a modification be granted. Bill Braun stated they have been to our Planning Commission and received the letter from the Butler County Planning with no comments. After further review, Kroll motioned to sign and submit Sewage Planning Module. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, yes. Kroll motioned to grant waiver to the requirements contained in Chapter 245-14, Articles V and VI requiring contours. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, yes. Kroll motioned to grant a modification of Article VIII, Chapter 245-22c in reference to an odd shaped lot. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, yes. Kroll motioned to approve the Arthur L. Durschinger plan as preliminary and final contingent on the Sewage Planning Module being approved by the DEP. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, yes.

## **ENGINEER REPORT**

Bill Braun discussed Boylan Funeral Home's request to change their stormwater management plan. Mr. Braun stated the plan was larger than needed and agrees with their engineer, Gateway Engineers. The board stated if they received a revised calcs/plans from Gateway Engineers showing a smaller SWM pond, the board would accept.

Secondly, Mr. Braun mentioned that Mr. Boylan submitted a letter requesting a waiver be granted for the signage and buffer trees. Mr. Braun stated Mr. Boylan had purchased the adjacent property and can use that properties existing buffer trees, eliminating the need to plant more. Mr. Braun also said they wanted to eliminate a couple unnecessary stop signs in their parking lot. After discussion and looking at the previously approved plan, Mr. Braun agreed with their request stating the board could eliminate this requirement off the approved plan and just make it a field change. The board approved their request.

Thirdly, Mr. Braun stated Boylan is requesting a bond reduction. Mr. Braun said he inspected the site and feels they can reduce by \$4,400 per his letter dated February 4, 2016. Steinheiser motioned to release Boylan Funeral Homes bond in the amount \$4,400.00 for a new revised amount of \$22,550.00. Kroll seconded. Roll call, yes.

Lastly, Mr. Braun explained to the board that the aerial mapping project for the Act 537 plan will give more reference to the project meaning the draft map may change. Mr. Braun said the aerial mapping needs done when the leaves are off the trees and asked if the board would like it done before April or wait until Fall? Steinheiser stated this should not be postponed. Mrs. Klink asked if the board really wanted to put more money to the Act 537 Plan before the Public Comment period? Steinheiser said this will need done and it is eminent to get done. Steinheiser stated the geographics are not going to change. The board asked Mr. Braun to email the costs to the Township.

#### **SOLICITOR REPORT**

Andrew Menchyk, Jr. said he received an invoice in the amount of \$758.71 and supplement packets for our 10 ordinance books from General Code for the yearly update to our ordinance. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated this automatically went live on our website. Steinheiser motioned to pay General Code \$758.71 for the yearly update to our ordinance. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Secondly, Andrew Menchyk, Jr. mentioned he had a current constable list for the Evans City District Court 50-3-06 that he was asked to look into for the use of assisting the Code Enforcement Officer on calls if he feels a threat to his health or safety. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. read four constable names which included: Joel Brady, Gene Claypoole, Butch Dispennett and Bob Geagan. The board said they would need to know if any of them are interested and their rates. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he would contact all four of them and advise.

Lastly, Mr. Menchyk, Jr. requested a supervisor to motion approving him to issue a citation and file with the District Court on Randy Toth from the earlier discussion. Kroll motioned to approve Mr. Menchyk, Jr. issuing a citation to Randy Toth and file with the District Court. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, yes.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

\*NONE\*

#### **ROAD MASTERS REPORT**

\*NONE\*

#### **BUILDING PERMIT REPORT**

Steinheiser stated there were two building permits applied for this month. They were:  
1-16 - Vineyards at Brandywine - house - 1/14/16  
2-16 - Mary Jo Irwin - Easy St. - mobile home - 2/5/16

#### **TAX COLLECTOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

#### **SEO REPORT**

\*NONE\*

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

#### **MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

Steinheiser motioned to advertise moving March 2, 2016 supervisors meeting to March 9, 2016. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to accept Bronder Technical Services offer to the Township of a one (1) year extension to the existing contract at the same cost/rate. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser motioned to release Don Brenckle land development escrow in the amount of \$371.00. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kroll motioned to release G. Rodgers & Son bond - 0.4 mile on Boy Scout Rd. In the amount of \$5,000. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Kroll tabled the release of Cable Hardwoods bond - 1.28 miles - Whitestown Rd. Ext. Crab Run Rd. to 528 in the amount of \$16,000 until Bill Braun can do an inspection.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Steinheiser motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. to an executive session to discuss litigation issues and stated the board would not return. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes.