

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Scott Longdon at 7:00 p.m. on July 1, 2015 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Scott Longdon, Terry Steinheiser and Ray Kroll. Also attending was Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr., Engineer Bill Braun, Treasurer Lee Kradel and Secretary Brenda Davis was present to take the minutes. Fourteen signed in on the public sign in record on file. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Longdon stated the supervisors held an Executive Session on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 7:58 a.m. to discuss hiring a full time road worker following the Ag Security Public Hearing held at 7:32 a.m.

REVIEW MINUTES

Longdon stated there were two sets of minutes to review. After reviewing, Longdon motioned to accept the June 3, 2015 minutes. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes. Secondly, Longdon motioned to approve the June 16, 2015 minutes. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, Longdon, yes. Steinheiser, yes. Kroll, abstained.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$363,672.57 but after total deposits of \$53,571.82 and checks in the amount of \$61,546.20 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$355,698.19. The Escrow account beginning balance was \$19,579.25 but after deposits in the amount of \$750.00 and checks in the amount of \$406.00, the ending balance is \$19,923.25. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$218,210.73 but with interest of \$12.16, the ending balance is \$218,222.89. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance is \$363,134.84 but with interest of \$32.51, the ending balance is \$363,167.35. Longdon motioned to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Longdon called an Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss hiring personnel. After returning at 7:10 p.m., Longdon motioned to hire Nicklas Thomas Krelow, III on a 90 day probation period and the wage would be based on the union collective bargaining agreement. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, Longdon, yes. Steinheiser, yes. Kroll, abstained.

COMMENT PERIOD

NONE

REQUEST TO BE HEARD

Kendra Ryan from 238 Boy Scout Rd. stated she has had drainage problems from the road for the last 2 years which has caused considerable cost and time to protect her property. She said during the most recent storms, water is now getting into her foundation/basement. Mrs. Ryan showed a video of the water damage and also supplied pictures of damage in 2014 and 2015. Mrs. Ryan stated her and her neighbors are working together to correct water coming from other areas but feels 40% of the water is coming from the Township road and said any help the Township could do with cleaning out the ditch line, re-grading the berm or possibly blacktopping to divert the water from their house would be greatly appreciated. Kroll told Mrs. Ryan he would regrade and berm the area. Mrs. Ryan thanked the board.

Tom Huff was on the agenda but did not attend

Mike Smith from Wildlife Lane requested the road crew fix what was caused by paving Camp Fatima Rd. last year. Mr. Smith stated all water from the hill, driveways, etc. flow into Wildlife Lane. He stated the garbage truck can't even come back because of the ruts. Kroll told Mr. Smith they plan on putting a catch basin and pipe in to divert the water. Mr. Smith also asked why Boy Scout paving lasted a decade and Camp Fatima only lasted a year? Kroll stated he relied on the subbase of Camp Fatima last year and shouldn't have which caused the binder not to work. Kroll stated that is why future roads will be checked and prepped before paving.

Jenley Birch said a family of five is very interested in purchasing her home at 133 Winterwood Drive and are aware of the septic problem and just wants to know if she can sell? Longdon stated he has been told there is no remedy to fix her system and public sewage will be coming but that is based on the approval of the Act 537 plan. Bill Braun stated he feels the Act 537 plan should be done by mid August followed by a 30 day public comment period and then schedule a meeting with DEP for final review and approval. The board stated when they met with DEP they did not get a clear answer on whether Dave Ice could issue a permit now for a temporary repair on a system on Winterwood Drive, since they had previously been approved for grinder pumps and didn't follow through, or had to wait until the Act 537 plan was accepted. Bill Braun said he would call and get this issue clarified and followup with Mrs. Birch.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PRE-APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Buddy Hindman stated he has two parcels presently and wants to take one of the parcels and cut off the back to make a third

Parcel which he plans to sell. Mr. Hindman did attend the Planning Commission meeting and they told him to come to Supervisors for their opinion. Mr. Hindman stated he did not want to spend unnecessary monies for an engineer/surveyor if the board was not going to approve. The main question was how is this property going to have access. Mr. Hindman didn't know if Hindman Lane could be used or if another access would be needed. Mr. Braun stated the problem is that parcel would become a land locked parcel with no access to a public right-of-way. Mr. Braun stated our ordinance requires a 50 ft. right-of-way from a public road (Rt. 68) but that would require another driveway coming onto Rt. 68 which the supervisors may not approve. Kroll suggested Mr. Hindman dedicating the current Hindman Lane as a right-of-way on the plan giving each property owner access on the 50 ft. right-of-way and then that would eliminate the need for another access, however it would have to be stated on the plan and a maintenance agreement established between landowners on who would maintain the road. Kroll told Mr. Hindman he needs to submit a new plan showing the right-of-way as dedicated on the plan and submit a lot line revision to the Planning Commission. Brenda Davis told Mr. Hindman he could pick up the application at the Township office.

PLANS

Ryan Jones was present to represent Mountain Gathering who is requesting preliminary and final approval of a Forward Township subdivision plan and approval on their draft "Access Easement Agreement" from our Solicitor. Mr. Jones stated they want to subdivide Parcel A which is in Forward Township but Forward Township requested them to also submit this Plan to Connoquenessing Township because the access road is in Connoquenessing Township. This is the former Rutledge property who XTO Energy now owns and Mr. Jones stated they want to keep ownership of the access road but grant a right-of-way to Parcel A. Mr. Jones stated Forward Township requests Connoquenessing Township's blessing that this access road can remain private. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the "Access Easement Agreement" needs to be filed at the courthouse so Parcel A's owner and all future owners have a right-of-way to use the road. Longdon made a motion to approve the Mountain Gathering plan for preliminary and final approval contingent on 1. approval letter from the Butler County Planning Commission, 2. approval letter from Forward Township and 3. letter from Andrew Menchyk, Jr. stating the "Access Easement Agreement" draft submitted is satisfactory. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes.

ENGINEER REPORT

Bill Braun stated a meeting is set for July 21st or 22nd with DEP to gather more information on the Act 537 Plan. Mr. Braun stated the PNDI and PHMC notifications have been applied for and if everything goes smoothly the plan should be ready for a 30 day public comment period by mid August.

Bill Braun stated Trans Associates will be complete with the ARLE grant design by July 6th and will submit to PennDot so they can bid out the job.

Bill Braun stated Senate has been inspecting and video taping the roads for bonding per the Township's request. Mr. Braun stated this also involves checking the binder and wearing surfaces.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he has had no response from the letter dated June 18, 2015 to the property owner at 117 Isaac Lane. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the township could file a summary charge against owner with fines up to \$4,000 or have Township hire someone to board up and clean up the property and then file a summary charge against owner in that amount. Longdon asked Mr. Menchyk, Jr. if the Township could do both? Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said, "yes". After discussing, Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said he would file the citation and Kroll said he would get 3 bids from contractors to clean it up. Longdon motioned, in reference to 117 Isaac Lane, to obtain bids from contractors to board up property and make it safe from unauthorized access and have Andrew Menchyk, Jr. issue a citation to the property owner. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, yes.

Longdon motioned to ratify the authority of treasurer Lee Ann Kradel to sign delivery documents for 2015 GMC pickup. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Steinheiser motioned to approve invoice in the amount of \$466.79. Kroll, seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

ROAD MASTERS REPORT

Kroll stated an invoice was received from Walsh Equipment for the plow and salt spreader and said since these items were already approved during the purchase of the truck, could the invoice be paid? Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said, "yes".

Secondly, Kroll stated Walsh Equipment supplied information on a left over mowing tractor. Kroll stated he would rather go with a new John Deere tractor and explained the benefits in the transmission and newer type mower deck.

Thirdly, Kroll stated the small Dump truck needs rust repaired for inspection and feels we should get a new truck by the end of year. Longdon agreed the truck is in bad shape. After much discussion, Longdon said to bring the specs for both the mowing tractor and truck to next month's meeting to discuss.

BUILDING PERMITS

Longdon reported the following building permit applications have been received for the month:
 41-15 - James Hoffer - Kriess Rd. - garage
 42-15 - Webb Montgomery - Dick Rd. - shed
 43-15 - Ken Laughlin - Eagle Mill Rd. - farm building

44-15 - Vineyards at Brandywine - Silver Oak Dr. - house
45-15 - Vineyards at Brandywine - Silver Oak Dr. - house
46-15 - Douglas Erdley - Shannon Mills Dr. - house
47-15 - Lana McKinnis - Kriess Rd. - addition
48-15 - Harry Bortmes - Fawn Dr. - deck
49-15 - Adam Luntz - Boy Scout Rd. - carport
50-15 - Vineyards at Brandywine - Silver Oak Drive - house
51-15 - Vineyards at Brandywine - Silver Oak Drive - house

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

NONE

SEO REPORT

Longdon motioned to pay SEO for field sewage surveys done for the Act 537 Plan in the amount of \$3,500.00. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, yes.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Longdon took a minute to thank all the fire dept. personnel and police for their long hours and late nights during the storms.

MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Longdon motioned to release Robert & Jacqueline Carson subdivision escrow in the amount of \$371.00. Steinheiser, seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

Connoquenessing Creek Cleanup schedule is on the outside bulletin board if interested in volunteering.

Received letter dated June 16, 2015 from Gannett Fleming on behalf of Mountain Gathering who proposes to construct a natural gas gathering pipeline in Franklin and Connoquenessing Townships. Mountain Gathering's intention is to submit General Permit applications to the PA DEP for authorization under GP-5 (Utility Line Stream Crossings) and GP-8 (Temporary Road Crossings) under the Oil & Gas Management Program. Information is on file at Township office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kroll motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Longdon, seconded. Roll call, yes.