

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Steinheiser at 7:00 p.m. on August 7, 2019 at the Connoquenessing Township Municipal Building. Present were Supervisors Terry Steinheiser, Ed Rupert and Ray Kroll. 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. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer. Fourteen people signed in on the public sign in record on file.

### **REVIEW MINUTES**

Reviewed minutes of July 3, 2019 supervisors meeting & July 12, 2019 "special meeting". Kroll requested the minutes be changed on both the July 3<sup>rd</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup> minutes. Kroll stated the section under "request to be heard" on July 3, 2019 where Rick Kradel was on the agenda and spoke, Kroll said that Mr. Kradel's main point was to disagree with hiring a fourth road crew and in order to not conflict with the Sunshine Law, the other things discussed were not relevant and should be eliminated from this section. Kroll also stated in reference to the July 12, 2019 minutes when Richard Howryla spoke his main complaint was the water run off onto his property and wanted the complaint on record and the other information in the minutes was irrelevant. Kroll motioned to accept the July 3, 2019 and July 12, 2019 with the modified changes. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lee Kradel reported the beginning balance in the General Fund is \$497,867.18 but after deposits of \$39,538.62 and checks in the amount of \$95,676.39 are approved tonight the ending balance will be \$441,729.41. Lee Kradel stated the Escrow account beginning balance is \$46,748.65 but with deposits of \$5,999.00 and checks in the amount of \$2,825.00 are approved tonight, the ending balance is \$49,922.65. Lee Kradel said the Highway Aide beginning balance was \$221,765.34 but with interest of \$10.03, the ending balance is \$221,775.37. Lee Kradel stated the Act 13 Impact Fee fund beginning balance is \$499,620.62 but with interest in the amount of \$890.95, the ending balance is \$500,511.57 but Ms. Kradel added the Act 13 CD account balance of \$514,847.30 for a grand total in the Act 13 account of \$1,015,358.87.

Steinheiser stated the Act 13 12-month CD is maturing. Lee Kradel stated it matures on August 9, 2019 and said the new rates and terms that Nextier Bank offered were for 6 months (1.83%) 9 months (1.71%) and 12 months (1.65%).

Mrs. Kradel stated Lara Wozniak, our representative at Nextier Bank stated she rarely sees the lower term (6 months) being offered at a higher rate than the 12 month term and feels rates will stabilize in the near future and suggests the Township invest in the lower term now and analyze again in 6 months. Rupert asked the board if other Act 13 money should be added to the CD? After discussing, the board decided not to add to the CD at this time. Rupert motioned to approve the financial report and pay the bills and renew the CD in the amount of \$514,847.30 for a term of 6 months and interest rate of 1.83%. Kroll seconded. Roll call, yes.

### **COMMENT PERIOD** (Three minute limit pertaining to agenda)

\*NONE\*

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

Mr. Don Eckels, Vineyards HOA member, stated the HOA would like to remove the sidewalk at 101 Silver Oak Drive instead of removing the four trees that their roots are pushing up the sidewalk and causing a safety hazard. Mr. Eckels said the homeowner at 101 Silver Oak has agreed to the sidewalk removal and the HOA will pay for the reseeding of the area once the sidewalk is removed. Mr. Eckels said the HOA is also planning to place a handicap walk ramp that would lead to the roadway. Mr. Eckels asked if the Township requires this sidewalk to be there? Mr. Braun said the sidewalk was on the original plan and leads to the community building. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated if it was part of the recorded plan then it would need to remain. Mr. Braun stated the handicap ramp they are considering would have to meet PennDot specifications. Kroll tabled the discussion until Mr. Menchyk, Jr. can review the original approved plan. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Mr. Don Eckels also asked if a decision was made from last month's meeting to allow the removal of the bushes in the island that divides the Silver Oak Drive after making a left turn at the stop sign? Kroll stated the Township will remove them but not until at least October. Calvin Wonderly wanted to know what will the area be replaced with? Kroll said, "pavers or concrete". Rupert motioned to remove the bushes and replace the area with "pavers or concrete" at the Township's earliest convenience. Kroll seconded. Roll call, yes.

Brendan Linton, a resident, stated that there are benefits to having the island discussed in the previous paragraph. Mr. Linton stated he is a cyclist and islands slow people down. Mr. Linton said islands can also be a safe area for pedestrians and bike traffic. Mr. Eckels commented that he did not understand Mr. Linton's explanation of the island being a safety benefit.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the draft ordinance #96-19 to organize a municipal authority known as "Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority" is ready but 5 members need to be selected to include in the ordinance. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said after members are selected, we can advertise the ordinance and adopt at the next meeting. Rupert stated the members can be anyone owning property in the Township, paying taxes in the Township or being an occupant of the Township. Steinheiser tabled this discussion and said he will call an executive session at the end to review the applicants who applied to be members of the authority. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Steinheiser stated the Highmark insurance renewal time for Union employees is on December 1, 2019 and said the rates and benefits will remain the same through November 30, 2020. Kroll motioned to renew the Highmark insurance on December 1, 2019 with the same rates. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

#### **PLANS**

Scott & Megan Gass were present to present their Lot Line Revision. After the board reviewed, Kroll motioned to approve their request for modification to waive the requirements of Articles V & VI. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes. Kroll motioned to approve their modification be granted for minimum lot area since the lot is 0.004 acre less than the 1 acre minimum. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes. Kroll motioned to approve their request for a modification for the two existing non-conforming structures which encroach into the 25' rear yard setback. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes. Steinheiser motioned to approve the Scott & Megan Gass Lot Line Revision for preliminary and final approval. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Shelby Grosclaude was present to present her Subdivision Plan. Bill Braun stated she is subdividing one acre lot off of eight acres in Franklin Township but a small portion is in Connoquenessing Township so we needed to review and approve. Mr. Braun stated he had no comments on the plan. Kroll motioned to approve the Shelby (Lietem) Grosclaude Subdivision Plan for preliminary and final approval. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

Steinheiser stated the Butler Farm Show is doing a Lot Consolidation Plan and combining all lots. Steinheiser stated the new lot will be in Connoquenessing Township. Kroll motioned to approve their request for modification to waive the requirements of Articles V & VI. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes. Kroll motioned to approve the Butler Farm Show Lot Consolidation Plan for preliminary and final approval. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

#### **ENGINEER REPORT**

Mr. Braun had nothing to update on the Act 537.

Mr. Braun stated PennDot has a new mandate for the traffic signals at Kriess Rd./Eagle Mill Rd. intersection. They are requiring a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to inspect the poles, primarily the fabrication of the poles. Mr. Braun stated they have received a quote for an estimated cost of \$6,993.60 and said this will fall under the ARLE so the Township will have to pay 20%. Mr. Braun stated the 3<sup>rd</sup> party quote was from KTA-Tator, Inc. Kroll felt the Township should get two more quotes. Mr. Braun stated there is an urgency in getting this approved and Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the amount is under the threshold of bidding requirements so it is the supervisors decision. Kroll motioned to approve KTA-Tator, Inc. to do the pole inspections. Rupert seconded. Roll call, yes.

#### **SOLICITOR REPORT**

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said he has prepared a draft policy for use of the Township Building. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he was asked at last month's meeting to draft this and no action needs taken tonight.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Rupert motioned to approve invoice for July 2019 in the amount of \$221.77. Kroll seconded. Roll call, yes. Report in packets.

**ROAD MASTERS REPORT**

Kroll said paving should start the week of August 12<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. Kroll stated paving and sealcoat will run through August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Kroll said the 36" pipe that was going to be put in on Whitestown Rd. so PennEnergy could pave has been determined not big enough. Kroll said Mr. Braun supplied an arch pipe and design and Kroll would like to put a bid out for some other company to do the work. Kroll stated he already had permission at the "special meeting" held on July 12<sup>th</sup> to advertise for a contractor. Mr. Braun said only a few suppliers have this arch pipe so there could be a delay.

**BUILDING PERMIT REPORT**

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

- 35-19 - Catherine Baker - 1201 Prospect Rd. - garage/addition - 7/8/19
- 36-19 - Mike/Jennifer Murcko - 138 Timberlee Dr. - inground pool - 7/12/19
- 37-19 - Randall Stoops - 418 Kriess Road - garage - 7/16/19
- 38-19 - Samuel Terlizzi - 165 Cupps Rd. - deck - 7/23/19
- 39-19 - Halie Newpher - 100 Meadow Dr. - deck - 7/25/19

**TAX COLLECTOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**SEO REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

\*NONE\*

**MOTIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

Rupert motioned to release Nicholas Bajis sewage escrow in the amount of \$300.00. Kroll seconded. Roll call, yes.

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

Annual operating license applications have been mailed to our four mobile home parks. As they are received, Sandra Cox will go inspect and advise.

Received letter from PA DEP dated July 9, 2019 to notify they received two Water Management Plan Amendment applications dated May 10, 2019 & May 30, 2019 for the Northwest District filed by XTO Energy Inc. Information is on file at Township office.

Received letter from Endeavor Professional Services on July 12, 2019 to inform that PennEnergy Resources, LLC is applying for Permit Applications to Drill and Operate Unconventional Gas Wells to the PADEP for review and approval. The are L102 8H - 13H Well Permits located in Jackson Township. Information is on file at Township office.

Received letter from ARM Group on July 12, 2019 notifying that PennEnergy Resources, LLC, as an affected surface landowner, owner of private water supplies, water purveyor, coal owner, coal operator, coal lessee, municipality, or adjacent municipality of proposed natural gas well drilling or alterations at the PER L 103 Well Pad in Connoquenessing Township. Information is on file at Township office.

Received letter from Gannett Fleming on August 1, 2019 on behalf of Mountain Gathering who submitted a Notice of Termination (NOT) to PADEP for approval to terminate coverage of ESCGP permit number ESX17-019-0006 associated with the Lesney to Guiher Gas Pipeline. Information is on file at Township office.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Rupert motioned to adjourn to an executive session at 7:45 p.m. to review the applicants who applied for the Connoquenessing Township Sewage Authority Board. Kroll seconded. Roll call, yes.

