



CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH

April 1, 2014

The public meeting of the Borough Council of Connoquenessing was called to order at 7:30 pm at the Connoquenessing Borough building.

Those present were Council members Lloyd Leslie, Pete Kaufman, Mitch Leech, Francis Smith, Steve Miller, and Mayor Harold Rader.

Also present were Len Schoettker, Linda Schoettker, Dave Bocci, Reid Joyce, Kelly Noronha, and Vickie Forbes.

Linda Schoettker presented Council with an aerial photo of the pad site and commented on the unacceptable location in relationship to the surrounding homes, park and school. She continued with reading a statement which included comments about the gas lease signed by the Borough.

Council addressed the questions concerning the lease signed by the Borough.

Kelly Noronha supported comments made by Mrs. Schoettker and also stated that there had been noise coming from the site at various times that seemed excessive and even had awakened her child. She also stated that the portable bathroom located at the site had fallen over and had a concern about raw sewage spilling out onto the ground.

Miller stated that he had contacted and discussed with Rex the noise levels coming from the site. After several days of not hearing back from Rex, he called again and was told that they were monitoring the levels of noise. Leech stated that he also had a discussion with Rex about the noise and was told that additional fencing could be added to increase the height of the existing fencing to deter the noise coming from the site. Leslie indicated that if they are monitoring the noise, there should be a report.

The Mayor stated that he intended to veto the ordinance. Leslie commented that the amended ordinance had been passed unanimously by Council. Discussion continued.

Sewage Plant Update

Bocci reported that the plant was in good operating condition but needed minor repairs due to the severe winter. With the weather finally breaking, they would begin bagging sludge.

Leech motioned, Miller seconded, to accept as presented the March 4, 2014, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Smith inquired as to whether the final billing for snow removal had been received. The final bill had not been received.

Smith motioned, Miller seconded, to accept the submitted February 2014 Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Miller motioned, Smith seconded, to approve the bills as submitted. Motion passed.



MINUTES

OLD BUSINESS:

Dogwood Lane Repairs

Council reviewed the bid information provided by PennDot to repair Dogwood Lane and the private drive area. Smith motioned, Kaufman seconded to bid the package to repair Dogwood Lane. Motion passed. Once the bid is awarded and if the owners of the private drive want to pursue the repairs to the private drive area, it can then be negotiated with the contractor.

DCNR Trail Grant

The miscellaneous forms needing signatures to complete the application for the DCNR Trail Grant were reviewed and discussed by Council. Signatures are required from the Church property owners and the Douthett property owner. Leslie stated that he was meeting with the Douthett owners on April 5 to discuss the easement across their property. Leech motioned, Miller seconded to adopt Resolution 2014-06 to undertake the 2014 Park Trail. Motion passed.

Leech stated he would like to see additional control on setbacks for all aspects of gas and oil development. He proposed language in the amended ordinance to prohibit drilling or other related activities, aside from access roads, within 300 feet of property lines. Screening of some type would be required around those activities or sites. A reference was made to the current pond of the Shipley well which is near the property lines of a residential community. This area could be interpreted as an industrial site even though it is a fresh water impoundment pond. Council discussed whether this could be added to the current amended ordinance or as a conditional use. A legal opinion will be obtained from the Solicitor.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion by Council followed concerning the recordings of Council meetings and the ability to save the tapes. The tapes are not legal documents, the minutes are the legal document of a Council meeting. A resolution had been adopted by Council to destroy the recordings once the minutes were approved.

Miller questioned the blank complaint forms that were at the Post Office and whether any forms had been returned to the Borough office. The answer was there had been no completed complaint forms submitted to the office and blank forms were available on the website.

Miller questioned whether additional notices could be posted at the Post Office and also advertised on the Borough website when there is a special meeting. Miller motioned, Smith seconded to place notice in the Post Office and on the website for any conditional use hearing or specially advertised meeting by Council. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire: Kaufman stated he had a discussion with the Fire Chief concerning emergencies at the well site. The Fire Chief stated that the gas company has their own people to address emergencies. The volunteer fire department may be involved in assisting.

Law and Order: No Report

Streets: Smith stated that the repair to the dip on Constitution Avenue near the pump station is part of the Dogwood Lane bid. Kaufman stated a warning sign should be placed in this area indicating the bump until the repair is completed.

MINUTES



Kaufman motioned, Miller seconded to purchase the warning signs for the bump on Constitution Avenue and to have Mr. Schultheis install. Motion passed.

Rader inquired if Council should join Connoquenessing Township in their efforts to make changes to the Rt. 68 corridor regarding both reducing the speed limit and widening the highway. Rader stated that he would attend the Township meeting to obtain more information.

Leech motioned, Miller seconded to have the streets cleaned. Motion passed.

Zoning/Planning: No Report

Borough Building: No Report

Park: Leslie stated that Tom Hilliard would soon be repairing the water drainage issue in the Park.

Sewage Financial: No Report

Code Enforcement: No Report

Leech motioned, Miller seconded at 9 pm to adjourn the. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes
Borough Secretary/Treasurer