



## **CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH MINUTES APRIL 7, 2009**

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

Council members present were Lloyd Leslie, Ryan Graham, Ronald Kaufman, Harold Rader, and Mayor Curt Harter.

Also present were Dave Bocci, Tom Thompson, Michael Wetzel, Angelo Spagnolo, Frank Spagnolo, Steve Miller, and Vickie Forbes.

Steve Miller presented a summary of the audit to Council. He indicated that the General and Sewage Funds were losing money and consideration should be given to increasing revenues.

Graham motioned to accept the minutes from the March 3, 2009 meeting. Kaufman seconded. Motion passed.

Rader motioned to accept the February 2009 Treasurer's Report as submitted. Graham seconded. Motion passed.

Graham motioned to accept the bills as submitted. Rader seconded. Motion passed.

### **Sewage Plant**

#### **Update:**

Dave Bocci informed Council of problems with the pump station and sewage plant. One grinder pump from the pump station was pulled and is being evaluated for repairs. The second grinder pump will need similar maintenance. At the Sewage Plant, because of losing prime to the bagging unit, piping around the bagging unit was replaced. In addition, a temporary line was run on top of the ground from the tanks to the bagger to remove solids from tanks. This is a long-term temporary solution until the line can be repaired.

There was discussion on the sewage connections for the quads in Leslie Farms. Thompson will provide a sketch of the proper layout of lines and connections for the quads.

Flows continue to be good even with the snow melt and excessive rain fall. Discussion continued on costs of grinder pumps and the possible need for a spare pump. Thompson commented that an emergency generator will be required at some point for the pump station and that may require a new panel.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Act 537 Sewage Plan**

Thompson asked for comments on the draft plan and indicated that the draft would next be sent to the Butler County Planning Commission, the Borough Planning Committee, and Forward and Connoquenessing Townships. Leslie inquired about the schedule of the proposed timeline, and Thompson noted that it could be adjusted based on flows at the treatment plant and is not a binding schedule. Leslie also noted that PA American owns the water system and the Borough and Connoquenessing Township do have a comprehensive plan. Discussion continued on the proposed pump station on Harmony Street. Leslie also noted that there are currently six (6) elected Council members and beginning in 2010 there will be five (5). Thompson commented that the DEP sets what needs to be done in these proposed plans. He indicated that the draft will be sent to the Butler County Planning Commission, the Borough Planning Committee, and Forward and Connoquenessing Townships. The time frame for responses is two-three months. The plan is then advertised to allow for 30 days for public comment.



Thompson indicated Manor Development had requested the bond money released and that the majority of the work had been completed. Only the sidewalks in the common areas have not been completed and recommended releasing \$290,002.64. Council inquired about the repairs to Leslie Lane. Thompson commented that it would cost approximately \$3000 to repair Leslie Lane, and Council could elect to hold an amount to ensure the repair to Leslie Lane. Graham motion, Rader seconded to release \$285,990.64 with a balance of \$25,000. Motion passed.

Kaufman inquired about the lights at the entrance to Leslie Farms. Thompson indicated the lights would be installed when the widening was done for the traffic light and that process would start in the next two months.

Thompson indicated that the change made to the Hidden Springs Plan was to allow each unit of each duplex to own its own lot. In doing so, a table was made up showing the acreage for each lot which does not match the original lot areas. An attempt was made to correct, but still unresolved. Thompson recommended not signing the mylar until the corrections are made.

Leslie inquired about the extra taps on Leslie Farms in the area being converted from townhouses to patio homes and quads. Thompson indicated that from the "as built" drawings a copy would be provided to Bocci so as he inspects the taps, he would mark the ones used. When all building is complete, the Developer would have to cap off the unused taps with a follow-up inspection. Thompson indicated to ensure the taps are capped off properly, the Borough could refuse to issue future building permits. The Secretary indicated a duplicate copy of the location of the taps and the taps used should be kept in the office.

Graham motioned, Kaufman seconded to adopt the vegetation Ordinance Amendment 10-1. Motion passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Fire:** No Report

**Law and Order:** Harter reported receiving a complaint about two vehicles parked on Main Street that do not have state inspection stickers. He recommended that she contact the State Police.

**Streets:** Council discussed having the streets in the Borough cleaned. Rader stated investigating the work crews from the Butler County Corrections clean the streets. Due to the lack of a means to haul the dirt away, Council elected to have Municipal Contracting Services clean the streets again this year.

Council discussed using the balance of the 2005 Sidewalk Grant to purchase trees/shrubs and appointed the Park Committee to handle the purchase and planting.

**Borough Building:** Graham motioned, Rader seconded to have Jill Weakland's name removed as an authorized signer on the Plgit and PNC accounts. Motion passed.

Council reviewed and discussed the request for increase in fee structure requested by MDIA and directed the Secretary to obtain comparable bids.

The Secretary explained the request to bond Constitution Avenue in order to be able to haul six-seven truckloads of logs across to Route 68. According to PennDot, bonding of the roads is not required unless the Borough has done an engineering study on the roads and established weight limits. Therefore, the logging company



completed a permit application and paid a \$15 fee. The fee for an Overweight Vehicle Permit will be added to the 2009 Fee Schedule.

No action was taken on the 2009 Amended Fee Resolution.

**Park:** No Report

**Sewage Financial:** Council reviewed the amendment to Ordinance 18 (Sewage) as revised by Attorney Lope's office. There was further discussion on payment plans, late fees and interest charges, and removing the sewage rates from the ordinance to a resolution. Graham motioned, Rader seconded to advertise the amendment to Ordinance 18. Motion passed.

Council reviewed the "Notice to Sewage Customers" provided by Attorney Lope's office and agreed to include it with both warning letters sent to customers.

Graham motioned, Kaufman seconded to increase sewage rates by 6% effective June 1, 2009. Motion passed. The Secretary will notify PA American of the increase.

Council discussed the PA American Water Shut-off Agreement and tabled a decision until the next meeting.

Graham motioned, Kaufman seconded to deposit to a sewage capital reserve account \$1,656 of each tap-in fee paid. Motion passed.

Graham motioned, Rader seconded to create a Sewage Fund Capital Reserve account with Plgit. Motion passed.

Secretary reviewed tap-in fees collected and inquired if council wanted the appropriate amount to go to the Sewage Capital Reserve Fund or to the loan from the Capital Improvement Fund. Council elected not to pay back the Capital Improvement Fund and also tabled moving monies from the current paid tap-ins to the new Sewage Capital Reserve Fund.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Council:** No Report

**Secretary:** The Clean-up/Recycle Day will be held at the Forward Township Building on May 9, 2009, from 8 am to 2 pm. The Forward Township Supervisors had questioned whether fees charged may be lowered and would provide more detail after their next meeting.

Graham made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm. Rader seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes  
Borough Secretary/Treasurer