



CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH

July 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, and Mayor Harold Rader.

Also present were Len Schoettker, Linda Schoettker, Dave Bocci, Robert Campbell, Joel Sack, Chad Pakozdi, James Kretzler, Marcia Sack, and Vickie Forbes.

Chad Pakozdi presented to Council an Eagle Scout project, which included building a bat box and placing it in the Park. Chad indicated that he planned to begin the project in the next several months. Smith motioned, Leech seconded to approve the project. Motion passed.

Linda Schoettker provided Council with a handout and then proceeded with a video showing findings of the use of a Flir camera at the well site. She indicated that the Flir camera showed certain chemical emissions not visible to the human eye. Linda also comment on issues regarding the current well as well as future wells.

Leonard Schoettker reported that the water was tested in his swimming pool at the end of May. The test results showed high levels of zinc and total dissolved solvents of carbon based pollutants which could be the result of leaves, rodents, etc. Because the test results were documented above safe levels, the pool was drained and refilled. The pool water will be retested. Mr. Schoettker stated that these levels may or may not have anything to do with the Shipley Well. Mr. Schoettker indicated that he had the house tested for radon before fracking and intended to retest to see if fracking may have impacted the results.

Joel and Marcia Sack commented on their negative experiences with the Shipley Well. They also indicated that they had high levels of radon when the house was purchased and a radon evacuation system had been installed. Mr. Sack expressed concern about the impact of fracking on the radon levels and will have the house retested. Mrs. Sack inquired about additional wells. Leslie indicated that they had been told there were no more wells planned at this time and no permits had been applied for with the DEP.

Robert Campbell questioned whether the developer had responded to the letter sent by the Borough regarding the retention pond. Mr. Campbell provided a picture showing the impact of the recent major rain storms on the retention pond and his property. Council reviewed a letter from the engineer providing his opinion as a result of the inspection of the pond. Mr. Campbell expressed his continued concern about the neighboring residents mowing around the retention pond and had contacted the DEP for their input.

Sewage Plant Update

Bocci reported that with the recent heavy rain storms the highest flows at the plant were 65,000 gal for the 80,000 gallon Plant. He had discussions with the Borough engineer regarding the future expansion of the Plant. Their discussion included the grinder repair, updated system for dewatering sludge, and a pad area for the dumpster. In addition, the discussion included other options to meet future needs and how best to financially package these improvements. Council discussed and requested Bocci contact the engineer to contact vendors and prepare to make a presentation on various options available. Bocci also referenced the NPDES Permit renewal which is done every five years and indicated that he would be providing the engineer with data for the permit application.



MINUTES

Leech motioned, Kaufman seconded, to accept as presented the June 3, 2014, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Leslie reported that discussion had taken place with the engineer regarding the monitoring of noise from the Shipley Well site. At that time of discussion, the drilling and fracking had been basically completed; however, the engineer indicated that a monitoring system could not simply be placed at a site and left to record information. This type of gathering of information needed to be physically manned by an expert to observe and document the source of noise being recorded. The recordings would include sounds coming from traffic, air planes, lawn mowers and other surrounding noises. Leslie also indicated that Rex personnel indicated that to their knowledge, there was no fracking at night.

Leslie Farms Retention Pond

Leslie indicated that the Borough Engineer should contact the developer with the specifications for maintaining and converting of the sediment pond to a Stormwater Management Pond.

Complaint – Solicitor's Response

Council reviewed the information received from the Borough Solicitor in regards to the complaint heard at the June 3, 2014 meeting. Leech motioned, Smith seconded to send the resident for which the complaint was issued a copy of this information. In addition, the code enforcement officer should also receive this information and do a follow-up with the resident. Motion passed.

Leech questioned if repairs were going to be done to Constitution Avenue. Leslie indicated that the Street Committee had met with Rex personnel and marked the areas that needed to be repaired. The graveled area at Rt. 68 and Constitution Avenue will be blacktopped within two feet of the guardrails.

NEW BUSINESS:

Complaint – Speed Limit on Rose Drive

Council discussed the complaint. Smith motioned, Leech seconded to place two 25 mph signs on Rose Drive. Motion passed.

Sign – Church of God

Council reviewed and discussed the request by the Church of God to place a sign on the Church property. James Kretzler, from the Church, explained details of the sign. Council determined that the sign was over the size limit permitted by the ordinance and Council could not make an exception. The Church could file for a variance with the Zoning Hearing Board.

Leech proposed a moratorium on all drilling until Council could review and address all questionable issues with unconventional gas drilling. After much discussion, Council agreed to proceed with addressing the issues without a moratorium. Smith motioned, Leech seconded to contact the Solicitor with a list of issues by mid-month and request him to be prepared to attend and address these issues at the August meeting.

MINUTES



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Fire:** Kaufman reported that Miller had attend a meeting with the Fire Department. The Fire Department is selling tickets at the Butler Fire and will be participating in a parade at the camp ground.
- Law and Order:** No Report
- Streets:** Leslie stated that the repairs on Constitution Avenue would be done within a month.
- Smith motioned, Kaufman seconded to contact PA American Water Company to repair the Constitution Avenue and Main Street intersection which was recently dug up by PA American. Motion passed.
- Smith motioned, Kaufman seconded to buy three more 25 MPH signs. Motion passed. Smith suggested cutting the brush around the stop sign at the Constitution Avenue/Rt. 68 intersection. Smith will meet with Mr. Schultheis to determine the locations for installing the new signs in inventory.
- Zoning/Planning:** Leech motioned, Kaufman seconded to appoint Norman Graham to the Zoning Hearing Board. Motion passed.
- Borough Building:** Rader stated that the railings on the walkway at the rear entrance to the building needed to be sealed. Leslie stated that he would contact Mr. Schultheis to take care of the issue.
- Park:** Leech stated that the lights were either missing or did not work in the Park shelters. Leslie stated that the rules and regulations stated that the users of the shelters must furnish the light bulbs. The Borough has experienced that when the bulbs are furnished, they are often taken or broken by individuals.
- Sewage Financial:** No Report
- Code Enforcement:** No Report

Leech motioned, Kaufman seconded at 10:30 pm to adjourn the. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes
Borough Secretary/Treasurer