



## **CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH MINUTES JULY 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, Ronald Kaufman, Ryan Graham, Francis Smith, Don Clingensmith, and Mayor Curt Harter.

Also present were Dave Bocci, Katie Douthett, Della Marshall, Bette Minto, Mark Minto, Linda Smith, and Vickie Forbes.

Bette Minto explained she had to refill her swimming pool because of having the liner replaced. Since the sewage bill is based on water consumption, she requested a credit towards her sewage bill because the water she used did not pass through the sewage system. Council explained that others had made the same request and that Council was not offering any credits on sewage due to filling or topping of a swimming pool.

Linda Smith commented on the lack of a sign at the south end of town indicating the entrance to Connoquenessing and the entrance on to South Main Street and asked Council if there were plans for signage. Leslie commented that the developer had agreed to put signs at the south end of town. Council discussed further and requested that the Secretary/Treasurer contact the developer about placing these signs.

Clingensmith motioned to accept the minutes from the June 2, 2009 meeting. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

The Secretary/Treasurer addressed questions concerning the Treasurer's Report from Clingensmith. Clingensmith motioned to accept the May 2009 Treasurer's Report as submitted. Graham seconded. Motion passed.

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

### **Sewage Plant**

**Update:** Bocci commented that the West Nile Virus inspection had occurred and that one minor problem involving ruts under the dumpster had been identified as a potential problem. Bocci suggested that he could have a load of stone delivered at the time the dumpster is switched out and will have the stone tailgated.

Bocci stated that he had two PA One Calls. System is working well.

Bocci inquired about whether the 'as built drawings' for Hidden Springs and Leslie Farms had been received. The Secretary/Treasurer stated that she had either talked to or written letters to both developers requesting those drawings.

Bocci reviewed the tap-in configuration identified by Tom Thompson for the quads.



Bocci stated that there had been no spikes or unacceptable results with the water analysis during the past month.

Smith motioned, Clingensmith seconded the motion to approve the purchase of stone for the ruts at the sewage plant. Motion passed.

The Secretary/Treasurer reviewed the letter received regarding the claim filed for the damaged sewage lines. The letter stated that the deductible is \$1000 and also the underground lines are not covered on the policy.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Complaint - 113 Sunset Drive**—Leslie stated that Jim Switzer, Community Service Coordinator for the Department of Community Corrections of Butler County, had called and left a message and Leslie had returned the call and left a message but had not had any additional contact.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Fire:** Kaufman reviewed an accusation/complaint he had received concerning a junior fireman starting a fire behind the fire hall. The Mayor added comments and Council discussed the issue.

Kaufman announced that the Fire Department was applying for stimulus monies to build a new fire hall. Also, plans had been developed to add a bay on to the existing fire hall.

Clingensmith questioned whether the Fire Department's books were audited by the State. Kaufman stated that the Fire Department's books were audited by several individuals but the relief fund is audited by the State every few years.

**Law and Order:** No Report

**Streets:** Clingensmith questioned again the area of Main Street in front of the Methodist Church where the pavement was breaking away. Leslie stated that the correct method of repairing would require digging it out and putting in a full apron. This area is used as a private drive and using tax payer dollars to repair would be questionable.

**Zoning/Planning:** The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the term of Don Princeler on the Zoning Hearing Board had expired, and he was not interested in being reappointed. The alternate position is also not filled. Council discussed the lack of interest by the community to fill these positions. Leslie suggested Council give thought to who may be interested in being appointed.

Leslie commented on an article in the Butler Eagle regarding a proposed House Bill that would require municipalities without their own police force to pay a certain amount per person to the State for use of the State Police.



**Borough Building:** Clingensmith commented that the missing hand railing on the side entrance of the building had been replaced.

**Park:** The Secretary/Treasurer reported contacting Gary Pinkerton of the Butler County Park and Recreation Department concerning the grant money awarded to Connoquenessing Borough for 2008. He stated that three (3) bids would be required identifying the scope of the work and reviewed some of the specifics concerning the renovation of the first shelter several years ago. Council discussed several different contractors. The Park Committee will get the quotes required.

Clingensmith inquired about the contract the Borough has with Meridian for use of the baseball field at the Park. He stated that even though Meridian pays no rent to the Borough for the use of the ball field, he has heard that Meridian rents it to other teams. Also, if Meridian has control of the ball field, why is the Borough required to mow it during the ball season?

Clingensmith reported that two pine trees were purchased and planted, one in the triangle on the north end of town behind the Connoquenessing stone and the other was planted at the Methodist Church in an area that can be seen as you approach from north Main Street.

**Sewage Financial:** No Report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Council:** Smith stated that he had talked to the contractor who was doing the Rt. 68 work at the Leslie Farms entrance, and they were not aware of the job to pave Leslie Lane.

Smith motioned, Clingensmith seconded that a letter should be sent to Angelo Spagnolo, the developer. This letter shall include a reminder of the commitments the developer had previously agreed to which are as follows:

A sign "CONNOQUENESSING" be placed on Rt. 68 at the entrance to the south end of town.

A street sign "SOUTH MAIN STREET" should be placed at the intersection of Lloydmont and Main Street.

Leslie Lane is paved at the time the Rt. 68 light and turning lane work is in process.

Motion passed.

Clingensmith questioned whether a no-fee license was required to sell corn at the stand at the Douthett farm on Rt. 68. The Secretary/Treasurer explained that there was a Certificate of Occupancy for that business issued in 1997. At that time, they were issued to grandfather already existing businesses or home occupations in existence when the ordinances were adopted.

Council discussed a request by an individual to have a business in a building in Village Center and the procedure required to permit this business.

Clingensmith commented on the Sewage Ordinance, Section 18-109-9 Complaint Procedures and Relief which allows the Sewage Financial Committee and Council to address problems that arise concerning service to sewage customers.



**Secretary:** The Secretary/Treasurer reviewed the letter from Butler County awarding the Borough \$64,224.50 for sidewalk replacement. She also stated that Tom Thompson indicated that the County will notify the Borough later this year or early next year confirming receipt of the grant. The Borough will have three (3) years to complete the project; and based on the past project, could expect to replace 1,200 to 2,000 feet of sidewalk. Council discussed possible areas to replace.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported on the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act/stimulus monies available from the Federal government. She also reported that she had attempted to contact Dick Knapko, the Borough's PennDot representative, to inquire if there would be any road monies available to pave the Park road, as requested at the last meeting. A contact was made with Wendy Leslie about any additional CDBG monies available, and Leslie indicated that the County received a small amount with nothing available to local municipalities. Council reviewed and discussed the available monies.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the Shut-Off Agreement which had been approved, signed, and submitted in May, 2009, had come back with minor changes. The changes were reviewed and discussed. Smith motioned, Graham seconded to approve the changes and sign and submit the revised agreement. Motion passed.

The Secretary/Treasurer requested to change the timing of the billing for landlords, as per a request from the Borough Tax Collector. Currently, information and bills are being sent in September, which will happen in 2009. In 2010, billing and request for information will occur in February.

Clingensmith questioned how the decision was made to bill sewage by water usage as opposed to a flat fee per person for sewage. Council discussed.

Clingensmith made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. Graham seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes  
Borough Secretary/Treasurer