



CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH

June 3, 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, Terri Clouse, Don Princeler, Tom Hilliard, William Meyers, Mary Ann Meyers, Robert Campbell, Katie Douthett, Della Marshall, Marcia Sack, and Vickie Forbes.

Terri Clouse stated that she had filed a complaint about a neighbor a year ago; and at that time, the issue improved slightly but since then has gotten worse. Recently the neighbor's pets had escaped their pen and did considerable damage to her porch and property. The pets are often on the road which could cause an accident. The property is in poor condition and is a health and safety issue. Leech motioned to contact the solicitor to gain legal advice and to pursue action on his advice concerning what could be done to address this issue. Kaufman seconded. Motion passed. Council also advised Ms. Clouse that she should investigate civil charges.

Donald Princeler stated that many heavy trucks using Constitution Avenue had done considerable damage to the street. Mr. Princeler expressed his concern about the use of Constitution Avenue by companies moving heavy equipment who had not bonded the road. He requested justice for the folks who live on and use Constitution Avenue. Mr. Princeler also thank Council for their service.

Linda Schoettker distributed information to Council and then also commented on her appreciation for the willingness of Council to listen to residents and others. Her comments included issues regarding noise, possible silica sand clouds, odors, and her unsafe feeling about spending any time outdoors.

Robert Campbell questioned whether the residents in Leslie Farms mowing the area surrounding the retention pond could impact the water run off in a heavy rain storm which could potentially cause damage to his property. He indicated that in the storm water management plan for Leslie Farms that it references not using herbicides in the wetlands area of the control structure. Smith indicated that he had inspected the muskrat damage in the bank of the spillway and a good heavy rain could wash it out. Mr. Campbell stated that the grassy area surrounding the pond may have been designed to slow the flow of water. The cutting of this grassy area could great a problem. Council discussed and agreed to have the Borough engineer look at the site and the storm water plan to determine what issues might exist and how to address them. Leslie suggested calling animal control to address the muskrat problem.

Marci Sack stated that she lived in Hidden Springs with the pond and fracking in her backyard. She expressed discontent for the pond and its contents, the dust created by the vehicles, the traffic, the delays at the intersection and noise levels. Ms. Sack also questioned if background checks were conducted on the individuals working at the site.

Leech motioned, Smith seconded to discuss with the Borough engineer possible monitoring of sound levels at the well site. Motion passed.



Sewage Plant Update

Bocci reported that Mr. Schultheis had called him to report that the pump station was running continuously. Something had caught on a float and had sucked the wet well dry. If Mr. Schultheis had not noticed this issue and contacted him, the pumps would have burned up. Bocci also reported that a representative from C. W. Weil, a distributor for Franklin Miller, had provided a quote for repairing the existing grinder and also for replacing it with new equipment. The quote for repair was just an estimate, and to get a firm estimate, the grinder would have to be pulled, torn apart, and inspected. Council requested a contact be made to find out what the cost of pulling and inspecting the grinder would be if Council decides not to make repairs and also what the differences would be in warranties for the two options. Bocci stated he would have the information available for the next meet and also suggested consulting the engineer for his input on the impact of the possible future plant expansion before a final decision is made for repair or replacement of the grinder.

Leech motioned, Smith seconded, to accept as presented the May 6, 2014, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Recycle/Cleanup Day

The summary of revenues and expenses as well as the details of the day’s events was reviewed by Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sign Maintenance Policy

As mandated by the Department of Transportation, municipalities are required to have a sign assessment or inventory and a management method in place by June 13, 2014. The management method is a policy or plan to make all signs retroreflectivity compliant. Council reviewed the policy presented. Leech motioned, Smith seconded to approve the presented policy. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire: Miller reported on a meeting he attended. Topics discussed included emergency calls for the fire department and the need for additional volunteers. There was also discussion on possible mergers with surrounding volunteer fire departments.

Law and Order: Rader reported that the State Police had been called to the Shipley Well during the weekend.

Rader inquired as to who the designated contact person for the Borough was pertaining to the recently amended ordinance. Leslie indicated that the contact person should be the President of Council or the Mayor.



MINUTES

Streets: Dogwood Lane is scheduled for repairs on June 11 & 12. Discussion continued on repairs to Constitution Avenue.

Council requested a contact be made with Borough engineer to inquire about the procedure to have bonded companies patch the damage to Constitution Avenue. A contact should be made to the bonded companies indicating the Borough requires the road to be patched as soon as possible and then resurfaced after the work at the site is completed.

Rader stated that South Main Street also needed repairs. Discussion on traffic using South Main Street followed.

Rader reported that he had received comments regarding shrubbery/signage obstructing vision when pulling out onto Rt. 68 from Dogwood Lane.

Leech motioned Smith seconded to notify Rex Energy to address loose gravel at the intersection of Rt. 68 and Constitution Avenue and suggested the area should be paved or blacktop. Motion passed.

Zoning/Planning: No Report

Borough Building: No Report

Park: Smith motioned, Leech seconded to permit the basketball court to be used for pickle ball. Motion passed.

Smith reported on estimated costs to build a small pond in the Park. He also reported on information to address an issue with a failing oak tree in the Park and will take the necessary steps to address this issue.

Council discussed the issue of large groups using shelters without making reservations.

The new tractor has been scheduled for maintenance.

Leslie stated he would contact Mr. Schultheis about maintaining and spraying the walking trail with weed and grass killer.

Sewage Financial: No Report

Code Enforcement: No Report

Kaufman stated that other properties in the Borough are run down and need to be addressed.

Miller commented on abstaining from voting on an issue by a Council person.

Leech motioned, Miller seconded at 9:45 pm to adjourn the. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes
Borough Secretary/Treasurer