



CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH MINUTES MARCH 3, 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, Francis Smith, and Harold Rader.

Also present were Dave Bocci, Tom Thompson, Attorney Phil Lope, Attorney Katie Lope, and Vickie Forbes.

Graham motioned to accept the minutes from the February 3, 2009 meeting. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

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

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

Sewage Plant Update: Dave Bocci stated that the DEP had been in contact and flows were good. The plant was running well. The Wasteload Management Report for 2008 was ready to be submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sewage Rates/ Shut Off Agreement

The Secretary provided information gathered from other municipalities and authorities using the PA American Water Shut-Off Agreement. The current procedure for attempting to collect unpaid sewage bills was discussed. Council discussed the disadvantages of the this procedure which included the customer's continued use of the system with the possibility of not receiving any sewage payments for years; the possibility of the Borough not receiving reimbursement for legal/judicial fees; and the increased difficulty for the customer to pay his sewage debt with the fees included after growing to an unmanageable amount owed. Discussion continued on amending the current ordinance to address the language on late charges and to remove sewage rates from the ordinance. Council also discussed payment plan details and requested Attorney Lope to review the Pa American Water Shut-off Agreement. Discussion continued on late charges and Council directed Attorney Lope to settle and discontinue an account on Main Street.

Thompson indicated meeting with Forward Township concerning the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update and stated that the rough draft of the plan was available for Council's review. After review there will be a 30-day period for public comment, and then the plan will go to the DEP for review. Funding for reimbursement for Act 537 costs cannot be applied for until the plan is approved.

Thompson explained that Mr. Spagnolo had requested the balance of his bonding funds be released with most of the project complete. Council agreed not to release any bond money until his escrow account was funded and the Leslie Lane issue was addressed. Council discussed possible changes to the types of residential buildings to be constructed on Leslie Farms.

Thompson reported on an inquiry about sewage tap information in preparation for the building of a Church along Rt. 68 this year.



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire: No Report

Law and Order: Rader motioned, Graham seconded a motion to advertise the amendment to Ordinance 10 changing the vegetation height restriction on properties zoned agricultural. Motion passed.

No further action was taken on the complaint concerning 113 Sunset Drive.

The Secretary informed Council of a telephone complaint received about snow plow damage to a yard at 106 Constitution Avenue. Council discussed and agreed that since the damage was within the road right-away, the Borough assumes no responsibility.

Streets: No Report

Zoning/Planning: No Report

Borough Building: No Report

Park: No Report

Sewage Financial: No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

Council: Rader reported on the meeting with the Butler County Association of Boroughs he attended on February 17, 2009.

Secretary: The Secretary explained information received from the PA State Association of Boroughs regarding the requirement by Borough Code Section 1009 that minutes must be kept in a bound minute book and sealed with the Borough seal. Council stated that the Secretary should begin keeping the Borough's minutes using this method.

Announcements of the Connoquenessing Volunteer Fire Department installation dinner to be held Saturday, March 21, 2009, and of the Butler County Boroughs Association Dinner Meeting to be held Thursday, March 19, 2009, were reviewed.

Graham made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes
Borough Secretary/Treasurer