



CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH

May 6, 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, Kelly Noronha, Michelle Sims, Jason Sims, William Meyers, Mary Ann Meyers, Sherry McNeil, Steve Scott, Will Deshong, Michael Canning, Robert Campbell, Matt Morris, and Vickie Forbes.

Council received comments from the following: Linda Schoettker, Len Schoettker, Kelly Noronha, Matt Morris, and Michelle Sims concerning oil and gas development in the Borough. Len Schoettker stated that he had 200 magnets with information about air quality and requested Council distribute these magnets to residents. Appreciation was extended to Council for the effort and work they had done to develop an ordinance dealing with oil and gas development in the Borough.

Noronha expressed concern about the speed vehicles are traveling on Dogwood Lane.

Robert Campbell inquired as to who was responsible for the retention pond on Leslie Farms which was located beside his property. He stated that the water level had dropped substantially in a matter of days and that there were muskrat holes in the banks. His concern was the potential damage to his property and equipment in a heavy rain storm. Council discussed and indicated that the retention pond was the responsibility of the land developer and the Leslie Farms homeowners association. Leech motioned, Miller seconded to send a letter to the developer notifying him of the complaint. Motion passed.

Sewage Plant Update

Bocci reported that the pump station had been pumped out by Daltons and that some minor repairs had been done at the Plant to piping. General maintenance such as bagging of sludge and grass cutting had begun. Due to a personnel issued, he had not yet contacted Franklin Miller to do an assessment on the grinder pump but planned to make the contact.

Sealed Bids – Dogwood Lane Repair

The sealed bids received were opened with the following results:

Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.	\$ 36,180.00
Russell Standard	\$ 32,920.00
Wiest Asphalt Products	\$ 25,707.10

Council discussed. Miller motioned, Smith seconded to award the contract to Wiest Asphalt Products. Motion passed. Leslie requested that Wiest notify the Borough as to when the work would be done. The property owners on the private drive portion of Dogwood Lane would need to obtain pricing and coordinate their work to be done.

Leech motioned, Smith seconded, to accept as presented the April 1 2014, meeting minutes. Motion passed.



MINUTES

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Amended Zoning Ordinance 27-4

Borough Code, Section 3301.3, Part A, was reviewed concerning the vetoing of an ordinance by the Mayor. The final copy of Ordinance 27-4 had been mailed and received by the Mayor on April 17, 2014.

The Mayor then stated that he was vetoing Ordinance 27-4 and listed numerous reasons for his veto. Council discussed and indicated that the ordinance would set parameters for future drilling. Leech motioned to override the veto to Ordinance 27-4, Smith seconded, with a vote by Council members as follows: Leslie, yea; Kaufman, yea; Leech, yea; Smith, yea; Miller, yea. Motion passed.

Leslie stated that this ordinance would allow the Borough the right to inspect wells on private property in the future. Future wells would have to abide by green completion as required by Ordinance 27-4.

Miller stated he had attempted many times to contact Rex about different issues. Leech stated he had also made attempts to contact Rex Energy and felt that too many individuals were attempting to make contacts and that it might be better to have one person appointed to be the liaison to make the contacts instead of flooding the gas company from many sources. Leslie stated that he had been updated by Rex Energy. Fracking would begin soon, and the anticipated completion date would be in June.

Leech stated that a former Council person, Joe Sarappo, had passed away.

Street Cleaning

Street cleaning will be done May 22, 2014. Kaufman requested that people observe the "No Parking" signs posted for the day the streets are swept.

Council discussed the need to install the bump warning signs on Constitution Avenue near the pump station. A contact will be made with Wiest to determine when the repairs will be made to Dogwood Lane and Constitution Avenue.

Recycle/Cleanup Day

This event will be held at the Forward Township property on Saturday, May 10, 2014, from 8 am to 2 pm. Kaufman will pick up and drop off the work release individuals. Evans City has agreed to join the event. All items will be accepted at three different stations.

NEW BUSINESS:

The solicitor provided information supporting the use of the impact fees to aid in covering the costs associated with the preparation and passing of the Borough's Oil and Gas Ordinance 27-4. He recommended that these expenses would be included under the local or regional planning initiatives, one of the 13 categories listed in Act 13 as allowable uses of the impact fees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire: Kaufman and Miller will attend a quarterly update meeting with the Fire Department.

MINUTES



Law and Order: Rader reported on an accident on Main Street

Streets: An inquiry was reviewed by Council concerning a storm drain located on private property at 109 Harmony Street.

Smith stated that he had received suggestions that Constitution Avenue, between Main Street and Rt. 68 either be one way or have no parking on the street. He also indicated that he felt there should be no left turn onto Rt. 68 in the direction of Butler at the intersection. Council discussed the speed limit on Rt. 68 and the effort being made by the Township to have changes made. Smith motioned, Leech seconded to install a no left-hand turn sign, eliminating the left turn towards Butler, at the Constitution Avenue/Rt.68 intersection. Motion passed. Miller abstained and stated he often turned left at this intersection.

Council continued discussion on the speed limit on Dogwood Lane. Currently there are no speed limit signs posted on Dogwood Lane. Borough ordinance does not allow for speed limits on Borough streets to be less than 25 mph without amending the ordinance. Council elected to place two 25 mph signs on Dogwood Lane.

Zoning/Planning: Norman Graham's term on the Zoning Hearing Board will end June 30, 2014. He has been sent a letter requesting him to volunteer for another three-year term.

Borough Building: No Report

Park: Smith stated that he had inspected the trees in the Park and felt an arborist should be brought in to inspect a few of the trees.

The Borough was not awarded the 2014 County Park Renovation grant.

Leech stated that in past years there had been complaints of suspicious activity in the Park. The State Police had been notified and had made random visits to the Park which seemed to deter the suspicious activity.

Sewage Financial: No Report

Code Enforcement: No Report

Kaufman stated that the Code Enforcement officer had not been doing anything in the Borough and there were properties in the Borough that were in bad shape. Leslie indicated that unless it was a health/safety issue, the Borough did not have authorization to enter private property.

Leech motioned, Miller seconded at 9:10 pm to adjourn the. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes
Borough Secretary/Treasurer