



## **CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH**

**November 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 Marcia Sack, Cindy Princeler, Sam Hoszna, Alice Schmid-Miller, Linda Schoettker, Joel Sack, Len Schoettker, Mittie Kaufman, Mike Zippler, Katie Douthett, Diane Sipe, Lou Hancherick, Tom Hilliard, and Vickie Forbes.

### **Sewage Plant Update**

Dave Bocci reported that the processing of sludge was completed in preparation for winter. One tank had been pumped and cleaned. Bocci inquired about the status of the NPDES permit. Leslie questioned whether funds should be budgeted for refurbishing of the grinder. Bocci stated that they were operating the plant without the grinder and was in favor of bundling several upgrades to the plant.

Cindy Princeler presented a video taken by a drone of the proposed pipeline path through the Park and surrounding area. She also read a statement from Don Princeler.

Sam Hoszna, a nonresident, read an environmental impact statement expressing his concern with the pipeline in the Borough.

Alice Schmid-Miller read a list of names of people who had signed a petition based on information provided to them by individuals opposing the pipeline passing through the Park.

Marcia Sack stated that she had surveyed homes in Leslie Farms.

Linda Schoettker read a statement expressing her opposition to the pipeline. She referenced the almost 200 people that had signed the petition based on information provided to them by individuals in opposition to the pipeline.

Joel Sack stated that as residents they had been more than patient with the gas and oil development and was not in favor of the pipeline in the Park.

Len Schoettker read a statement indicating that certain members of Council had a conflict of interest. He also stated that all candidates considered for solicitor should disclose their personal and professional financial interests in any gas well or pipeline ventures.

Diane Sipe, a nonresident, stated that she was to read the balance of the names on the petition but instead read a statement on constitutional rights.

Mittie Kaufman stated that many of the names on the list were not property taxpayers. Some were renters and some were children.

Leech motioned, Kaufman seconded, to accept as presented the October 7, 2014, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

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

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



**OLD BUSINESS:**

South Main Street Repairs

Seven different paving companies had been contacted to seal cracks on South Main Street. Four replied that their schedules were too full this fall. Three did not return the call. Council agreed to revisit the issue in the spring.

Addendum to Easement and Right of Way Agreement

Council reviewed the addendum which stated that in the event of a conflict between any of the terms and provisions contained in the Addendum and the other terms and provisions contained in the Easement and Right of Way Agreement, the terms and provisions contained in the Addendum shall be controlling. Smith stated that in discussion with Gary Pinkerton, Butler County Parks and Recreation, that he stated that safety improvements to the playground area should be considered. Smith also suggested having an expert provide an opinion on the trees located in the pipeline pathway. Discussion continued. Smith motioned, Kaufman seconded to send the addendum to NiSource for their review. Kaufman, yes; Smith, yes; Leech, yes; Miller, no. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

DCNR Grant for Park Trail

The 2014 application for grant money with the DCNR for the park trail was denied. Before re-applying for grant money for the trail, rights of ways need to be obtained and recorded. The next application period opens on January 14, 2015 and closes on April 16, 2015.

Tax Collection Law Amended

Act 164 of 2014 requires mandatory training for elected tax collectors. Tax collectors upon completing the training will receive a certificate from the DCED and will be known as Pennsylvania Qualified Municipal Collectors (PQMC). Tax collectors in office as of 10/22/15 will be grandfathered but will still be required to obtain six (6) hours of continuing education each year of their term.

Solicitor

Attorney Phil Lope will be resigning as the Borough solicitor as of December 31, 2014. Council discussed and requested contacts be made with various firms and also requested Attorney Lope to provide a recommendation for a replacement. Miller motioned, Kaufman seconded to obtain information for review at the December meeting. Motion passed.

Kaliber Brewing

Council reviewed an inquiry to change the zoning classification to a property located at 126 Main Street and to add a tasting room to the brewery.

Volunteer Firefighter Initiative-2015 Project of the Year

Correspondence received was reviewed by Council regarding a campaign to raise funds to support the recognition and training of firefighters and to make the opportunity for scholarships available for all fire companies.

Rader state that in the past years, many improvements were made to the Park by Council making the Park what it is today. There has been much discussion for years to expand the Park and this pipeline deal may be the opportunity to do an expansion and upgrade the facility.



**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Fire:** A thank you card was received from the Fire Department for the Borough's contribution to the Halloween parade and party.
- Law and Order:** No Report
- Streets:** No Report
- Zoning/Planning:** No Report
- Borough Building:** Smith stated that he had met with the serviceman when he was cleaning and servicing the Borough building furnace. He indicated that he felt that the heating system was not operating properly. Smith motioned, Miller seconded to obtain bids to replace the furnaces and to clean the duct work. Motion passed.
- Park:** Leslie reported that a repair had to be made to a leaking pipe supplying water to the Park and Borough building. During the repair it was found the pipeline was deteriorating and would need to be replaced.
- Sewage Financial:** No Report
- Code Enforcement:** No Report
- Miscellaneous** Miller stated that he had received a report from a resident that the blinker light at the school had not been operating for months. A comment was made that the school calls the Borough when the light is not operating properly.

**2015 Preliminary Budget**

Council reviewed the preliminary budget. Miller motioned, Smith seconded to advertise the proposed budget. Motion passed.  
Leech motioned, Miller seconded to advertise Tax Ordinance 23-15. Motion passed.  
Leech motioned, Kaufman seconded at 10:40 pm to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes  
Borough Secretary/Treasurer