

**CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH****November 4, 2013**

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, Pete Kaufman, Mitch Leech, Francis Smith, Keli Kalkowski, and Mayor Harold Rader.

Also present were Alice Schmid-Miller, Steve Miller, Mike Endler, Steve Harris, Duane Maust, and Vickie Forbes.

Mrs. Schmid-Miller provided to Council information about the hazards of fracturing and expressed her concern about the chemicals used and their impact on the environment.

Duane Maust, Mike Endler, and Steve Harris, from Rex Energy, presented to Council information about the proposed Shipley well to be located in the Borough. Rex Energy has 70 wells in Butler and Lawrence counties. Water sampling and testing is performed on water supplies pre-drilling and post-drilling, post fracking and post production. The DEP is involved in all aspects of production. To date there has been no negative impact on water supplies because of drilling. The surface construction details were explained. All phases of the well development are overseen by regulations, and it is the goal of Rex Energy to be better than what government expects. Being a Pennsylvania based company headquartered in State College, many local contractors are employed for construction. A road bond will be required for Constitution Avenue. A stormwater management plan will be developed based on the Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan. The Fire Department will be notified of an Emergency Action Plan.

Sewage Plant Update

No Report

Smith motioned, Kaufman seconded, to accept as presented the October 1, 2013, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Kalkowski motioned, Smith seconded, to accept the submitted September 2013 Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

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

OLD BUSINESS:**Tractor Purchase**

Council discussed the three tractors and the specifications for the tractor equipment bid. Smith stated he had visited the dealer and examined the Kubota B2620 and the Massey Ferguson 1526. In his opinion, the Kubota was his choice even though the price was higher. His decision was based on the Kubota being manufactured and assembled in the United States, and the engine being manufactured by Kubota. This was in comparison to the Massey Ferguson whose parts were brought in to the US and only assembled in the US, and the Massey engine being manufactured by an outside company. The John Deere was not considered because of the non-metal parts and because the JD tractor quoted, as stated on their website, was not equivalent to the two competitive models being evaluated. Leslie suggested that Mr. Schultheis look at both tractors. Smith indicated that he would take him to look at the tractors and provide feedback at the December meeting.

ESB Bank Collateral Agreement

Attorney Reese of Lope, Casker & Casker provided ESB Bank's standard agreement regarding security for public deposits and his recommendation to approve the agreement. Leech motioned, Kaufman seconded to approve the ESB Bank Collateral Agreement as recommended by the solicitor. Motion passed.



MINUTES

Motor Vehicle Weight Limit Ordinance-Permit & Agreement Forms

Council reviewed and approved documents to be used to bond Borough roads.

218 Constitution Avenue – Sheriff Sale

Council reviewed the updated information from Attorney Lope’s office and agreed to proceed with requirements to bid on the property.

NEW BUSINESS:

2014 Budget and Tax Rate

Council reviewed the preliminary budgets for all funds. At 9:45 pm, Leech motioned, Smith seconded to go to executive session to discuss wages. Motion passed.

At 10 pm, Kaufman motioned, Smith seconded to come out of executive session. Motion passed. Smith motioned, Kaufman seconded to increase by 4% the hourly rate of the Secretary/Treasurer to \$19.65 and to increase by 4% the monthly rate of the Park Caretaker to \$600.60.

Council reviewed the losses in the General Fund for the preceding years and the expected losses for the current year. Because of the losses and the growing need for road repairs, a tax increase was discussed in detail. Smith motioned, Leech seconded to permanently move \$30,000 to the General Fund. Motion passed. Leech motioned, Smith seconded to raise taxes 2.4 mills for 2014. Motion passed.

Smith motioned, Kalkowski seconded to advertise the Proposed Budget and Tax Ordinance. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Fire:** Kaufman questioned the workers compensation insurance being dropped on the volunteer fire companies. Coverage will be available through the State Workers’ Insurance Fund at a significantly higher cost.
- Law and Order:** Rader comment on vehicles speeding in the Borough.
- Streets:** No Report
- Zoning/Planning:** No Report
- Borough Building:** No Report
- Park:** Kalkowski reported that the fire pit had been completed. Leslie commented that he had discussed with Tom Hilliard the need to repair the water run-off still occurring near the lower road in the Park.
- Sewage Financial:** No Report
- Code Enforcement:** E-Mail Update

Leech motioned, Kalkowski seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes
Borough Secretary/Treasurer