



## **CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH MINUTES OCTOBER 7, 2008**

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, Ronald Kaufman, Francis Smith, Donald Clingensmith, Jeff Kopinski, and Mayor Curtis Harter.

Also present were Dave Bocci, Katie Douthett, Della Marshall, Phyllis Westerman, Sonja Kummer, Len Smith, Wendy Fazzino , and Vickie Forbes.

Jeff Kopinski announced that he had moved out of the Borough and was immediately resigning from Council. Clingensmith motioned, Kaufman seconded to accept Kopinski's resignation. Motion passed. Leslie directed the Secretary to post notification of the vacated position in the Post Office with the individual to be appointed to the position at the November 3, 2008 meeting. The Secretary stated that the position would need to be filled by resolution until January 1, 2010 and would need to be included on the November 2009 ballot.

Katie Douthett gave a brief report on the proceeds and expenses from the concession stand at the baseball field during the summer. She also indicated that the shrubs, flowers, and mulch were donated for the stone at the entrance to Connoquenessing by the Keller Farm Nurseries. Leslie extended to Douthett and Marshall Council's appreciation for all the things they do for the community. Douthett indicated that they would be doing the luminaries again at Christmas.

Sonja Kummer expressed her concerns about a letter that she and Westerman had received indicating their property would be sold because of sewage debt. The Secretary reviewed the procedure established by Council regarding unpaid sewage bills. Leslie suggested and Council agreed to create a committee to discuss individual cases to establish arrangements to collect amounts owed. A Sewage Financial Committee with Smith, Clingensmith, and Forbes was established to review cases. The committee is to bring information back to Council for approval.

Len Smith explained his situation concerning the letter he received concerning debt owed to the Borough. He indicated that he was willing to make an immediate payment and then make monthly payments until the balance was paid. Leslie indicated that he should meet with the Sewage Financial Committee to make arrangements for a payment schedule.

**Sewage Plant Update:** Dave Bocci updated Council on the problem he was having with the grinder. Bocci stated that Franklin Miller would charge \$1200 to look at it, so he tore it out and shipped it to them for examination. Franklin stated that there was a problem with the shaft, and Bocci would get a price to have them repair or replace the part. Bocci also indicated that the Plant was starting to get older and minor repairs could be expected. Smith inquired about the power outage's impact on the Pump Station and whether an auxiliary power unit would be beneficial. Bocci explained that during the expansion of the sewage plant/pump station, the DEP would probably require a backup system. Everything else at the plant and pump station is currently working well.

Wendy Fazzino inquired about the agreement from Lope concerning the maintenance of the retention pond. She stated that she had called the Secretary numerous times to find out the



status of the agreement which had been going on for five months and would like to bring it to a conclusion. Council directed the Secretary to notify Lope to make the amendment to the original agreement to indicate the Borough's agreement to maintain the integrity of the pond and that the property owners would keep the property manicured and provide an easement to the pond.

Clingensmith motioned to accept the minutes from the September 2, 2008 meeting. Kaufman seconded. Motion passed.

Clingensmith questioned how many fire hydrants were covered by the \$188.17 fee charged by Pa American monthly. The Secretary stated that 17 hydrants were included in that fee.

Clingensmith questioned the charge for the school blinker. The Secretary explained that the charge covered only the blinker on the Borough side of the school and the township was responsible for the blinker on the other side of the school. The Secretary inquired as to who she should contact if there was a problem with the Borough's school blinker. Leslie suggested that in the past Andy Bloom and Fuellgraf Electric had been used to make repairs. He also stated that the Secretary might contact the Township to see who they use to make repairs because it is necessary that the two blinkers work in sync with each other.

Clingensmith motioned to accept the August 2008 Treasurer's Report as submitted. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Clingensmith motioned to accept the bills as submitted. Kaufman seconded. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Fire:** No Report

**Law and Order:** The Secretary stated that she had sent a letter to 113 Sunset Drive requesting that the trash in the yard be cleaned up as directed by Council at the September meeting.

The Secretary reviewed the complaint from 1287 Evans City Road regarding high grass and weeds surrounding her property. Council further discussed its decision from the September meeting and reviewed Ordinance 10-301. Council directed the Secretary to write a letter informing the individual making the complaint that Council has received the complaint and has continued discussion on the issue with possible intent to amend the Ordinance. Council will discuss further at the November meeting.

The Secretary stated that a letter had also been sent to the owners of 279 Main Street, as directed by Council, requesting the property be mowed and leveled.



**Streets:** The Secretary reviewed the information received from Wendy Leslie, Butler County Community Development Block Grant Coordinator, concerning a \$305 balance remaining from the grant the Borough received for the sidewalk replacement. Three bids would be required and submitted to Butler County. Council elected to have the Secretary notify Wendy Leslie to allow someone else to use the balance of the money.

The Secretary explained that the Borough had received the information for filing for the 2009 Community Development Block Grant. The emphasis again for 2009 is on development and improvement of water and sewer facilities. Proposals must be received by December 15, 2008. The Engineer had informed the Secretary that the improvements to the Sewage Plant would not be taking place until at the earliest 2010. The Borough could reapply for continued sidewalk replacement to meet ADA requirements. This would not require the income survey of Borough residents. Council discussed the need for a generator for the pump station. Clingensmith motioned, Smith seconded, to apply for the 2009 Community Development Block Grant for sidewalk replacement. Motion passed.

**Zoning/Planning:** Council discussed a request by a resident to have a horse in an area zoned Residential or Village Center and agreed that according to the ordinance, would be permitted. The owner must abide by the details regarding animals in the Borough as stated in Ordinance 2. Council discussed reviewing and making changes to the ordinance in the future.

The Secretary reported that the Zoning Hearing Board met on September 4, 2008. The Board reorganized with the following appointments for 2009: Norman Graham-Chairman, Donald Princeler-Vice Chairman, Cliff Barickman-Standing Secretary, Vickie Forbes-Acting Secretary. The 2009 meeting dates will be January 8, 2009, June 4, 2009, September 3, 2009.

**Borough Building:** Clingensmith stated that he had inspected the railings and determined that they did not need replaced. He did suggest that in the spring they could be re-stained.

**Park:** No Report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Council:** No Report

**Secretary:** Council reviewed the letter received from Pennvest. The Secretary explained information received from Cindy Princeler, the auditor for the Borough, addressing the issues on the report from Pennvest. Council directed the Secretary to respond to the Pennvest letter indicating that the Capital Improvement Fund is used as an infrastructure fund and is used for shortfalls in the Sewage Fund. When the Budget is reviewed, an increase will be considered. The letter to Pennvest will also include



information regarding the proposed residential developments in the Borough and the expected revenues associated with the tap-in fees.

Council reviewed the Resolution from Phil Lope to be used by the Borough for the Right to Know Act policy. Council discussed some changes to the resolution and asked the Secretary to investigate and bring to the November meeting.

The Secretary reviewed the letter from the DEP regarding demolition and renovations of structures to be in compliance with state and federal asbestos requirements. Council discussed. The Secretary will forward a copy to Mark Reese.

A letter from the Boy Scout Troop 482 requesting a donation was reviewed by Council. The request will be reviewed as a budget item.

Clingensmith reviewed and Council discussed the ordinance on transient retail business and the requirement of a permit. Council also discussed the ordinance on landlords and their responsibility to report changes of tenants.

Kaufman provided the Secretary with information regarding per capita tax.

Kaufman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes  
Borough Secretary