

**CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH****October 7, 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 Sarah Barcyk, Nyla Bechtel, Mitchel Ray, Daryl Stanley, Kelly Noronha, Len Schoettker, Linda Schoettker, Mittie Kaufman, Tom Hilliard, Alice Schmid-Miller, Joe Giachino, Debra Beige, and Vickie Forbes.

Mitchel Ray stated that he was a Life Scout soon to be an Eagle Scout and was interested in doing his Eagle project in the Park. He requested suggestions for his project from Council. Council discussed and requested that he check back and meet with the Park Committee.

Kelly Noronha commented on her concerns with Council about their considering the harvesting of old growth trees for a few thousand dollars for a proposed pipeline installation in the Park.

Linda Schoettker also expressed her discontent with Council for considering an easement across the Park property for a transmission pipeline.

Alice Schmidt-Miller stated that she objected to Council selling off 125 feet of the Park.

Noronha stated that she felt Council had a responsibility to keep the Park for good public use. Smith stated that they would exercise that responsibility.

Sewage Plant Update

Dave Bocci announced that one of the sludge holding tanks at the Plant and the Pump Station had been pumped and cleaned by Daltons. The other sludge holding tank had been pumped last year. Sludge dewatering and bagging will be complete in October in preparation for winter.

E.A.R.T.H.-NiSource

Nyla Bechtel, representing E.A.R.T.H. Acquisition, stated that they continue to be interested in negotiating a right-of-way across the Park property. Negotiations can include topics like compensation for the proposed right-of-way, location of right-of-way, compensation for loss of timber, width of right-of-way, and future use of the right-of-way. Discussion followed. Smith motioned, Kaufman seconded to appoint council members to discuss a potential agreement for the easement. Miller questioned liability issues, and commented on suggested uses of how this easement might benefit the community which included picnic areas, snow mobiling, a tubing run, cross country skiing, a walking trail, parking area, summarizing that in his opinion there really weren't any benefits. Leslie, Kaufman, Leech, Smith voted yes, Miller voted no. Motion passed. Smith and Miller, as Park Committee members, were appointed to investigate an agreement, with Smith being chairman. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 13, 2014, at 9 am.

Smith motioned, Kaufman seconded, to accept as presented the September 2, 2014, meeting minutes. Miller requested an addition be made to the minutes as presented. The amended portion should read "Per the attorney, a non-written conditional use is not enforceable." Miller motioned, Smith seconded to approve the amendment. Motion passed. Passing the minutes as amended, Motion passed.

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



MINUTES

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

Leslie commented on the excellent job Tom Hilliard did of clearing of brush on the banks at the Route 68 and Constitution Avenue intersection.

OLD BUSINESS:

Halloween Parade – Fire Department Donation Request

Miller motioned, Leech seconded to increase the donation for the Halloween Parade and party to \$200. Motion passed.

Oil and Gas Development Application

Council reviewed the proposed application for oil and gas development which would include a \$500 conditional use fee and a \$5000 administrative or escrow fee both defined in the Fee Schedule. Council discussed options for having the escrow fee replenished by the applicant. Smith motioned, Leech seconded to request the applicant replenish the amount to \$5000 when the escrow balance is reduced to \$2000 or 40% of the required amount of \$5000. Motion passed.

Fee Resolution 2014-01 Amended

Council discussed the addition to the Fee Schedule, No. 14 Developer and Other Deposits of the Gas and Oil Development amount of \$5000. Leech motioned, Miller seconded to add this addition to the Fee Schedule along with the instructions to replenish all escrow amounts when the balance is reduced to 40% of the original escrow deposit. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Church of God - Signs

Council reviewed the permit and drawings for the proposed signs submitted by the Church of God. Leech motioned, Smith seconded to approve the signs. Motion passed.

Royalty Check

The Borough has received its first royalty check for July production at the Shipley Well. Council determined that at this time the funds should be deposited in the General Fund. Miller shared information on royalty payments.

Miller reviewed possible options to deal with the traffic issue at Rt. 68 and Constitution Avenue. Correspondence received from PennDOT indicated that a road safety audit would be conducted on this corridor in the spring of 2015. General discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire: Members are negotiating to allow the pipeline to cross the fire department's property along Rt. 68.

Law and Order: No Report

Streets: The purchase and installation of new signs over the past three years with the objective to be compliant with the FHWA Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity requirements was summarized. It was noted that many of the new signs purchased were newly installed signs and not replacement of signs that did not meet reflectivity requirements. A 35 MPH sign was that was replaced on Harmony Street was missing from the area installed.



MINUTES

The Secretary/Treasurer indicated that she had been informed that the construction signs on Constitution Avenue needed to be reset. One of the signs obstructed the view of a resident as he pulled onto Constitution Avenue from his driveway. A call was made to Rex Energy and they indicated they would take care of the issues.

Rader stated that the cracks on South Main needed to be filled. Smith will obtain three phone bids to seal cracks.

Zoning/Planning: No Report

Borough Building: Council gave consent to have the Borough building furnace inspected.

Park: No Report

Sewage Financial: No Report

Code Enforcement: No Report

Miscellaneous Butler County Boroughs Association Meeting, Eckstein Email

Kaufman motioned, Mitch seconded at 9:15 pm to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes
Borough Secretary/Treasurer