



## **CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH MINUTES SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

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, Ryan Graham, Francis Smith, Don Clingensmith, Harold Rader, and Mayor Curt Harter.

Also present were Dave Bocci, Alan Peffer, Katie Douthett, Della Marshall, Charlie Ehredt, Ken Winkelman, Matthew R..., and Vickie Forbes.

Mr. Ehredt, Western Land Services, Inc., summarized an effort to obtain leases from land owners to put together blocks of properties in order to drill for gas/oil using primarily the horizontal method. Western Land Services, Inc. worked originally as a partner with Vista Recourses which was bought by Rex Energy. Most horizontal wells can reach out on average 3000 feet but can go as far as  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. Royalties are based on the acres owned by the property owner and the amount the well produces. The process is highly regulated by the DEP. Council discussed further. Copies of a potential lease were distributed to Council for review.

Mr. Peffer, 234 Main Street, questioned the location of the proposed sidewalk replacement project. Peffer suggested that the sidewalk replacement begin at Constitution Avenue and continue toward the elementary school. He questioned the right-of-ways on Main Street and whether curbs would be included with the sidewalk project. He also questioned the retaining walls and if they would be constructed to be user-friendly to the homeowner. He requested that he be kept informed of the progress of the grant.

Graham motioned to accept the minutes from the August 4, 2009 meeting. Kaufman seconded. Motion passed.

The Secretary/Treasurer addressed questions from Clingensmith concerning interest earnings in the Capital Improvement Fund and also concerning the Uncollectible Sewage Account in the Sewage Fund.

Graham motioned to accept the July 2009 Treasurer's Report as submitted. Clingensmith seconded. Motion passed.

Graham motioned to accept the bills as submitted. Rader seconded. Motion passed.

The Secretary/Treasurer addressed a question from Clingensmith concerning whether the Halloween Parade contribution could be taken out of the "Due to Community Day" account.

### **Sewage Plant Update:**

Bocci stated that he had taken the pumps from the pump station to Dumbaugh's to have them inspected. They were tested and it was determined that the rebuilt pump worked fine. The pump that had not been rebuilt did not work and needed to be rebuilt. Bocci had several electricians look at the electrical box, and they determine one of the wires was connected incorrectly. Once this was corrected, the rebuilt



pump worked. After a conversation with Leslie, it was determined that the second pump should also be rebuilt. There is a one year warranty on rebuilt pumps. Council discussed further and determined to leave the motion on the books to purchase a new pump in case in the future a new pump is needed in an emergency situation. Everything is working well at the Sewage Plant and Pump Station. Bocci suggested that when looking at the plant expansion, consideration should be given to the cost to repair systems chosen for the expansion.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Clingensmith stated that he could not find anything mentioned in the Ordinance Book concerning maintaining sidewalks by the property owner. Leslie stated that Council needed to update the Ordinance,

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Fire:** No Report

**Law and Order:** No Report

**Streets:** Clingensmith stated that the hole was still on the edge of the road in front of the Methodist Church. Council discussed further.

Smith stated that he wanted to register a complaint about burning of noxious materials. Smith also contacted the DEP and received information that prohibited the burning of hazardous materials. Smith motioned, Clingensmith seconded to send a letter to the property owner notifying him of the violation. Motion passed by all Council members, except by Rader.

Clingensmith suggested that the cuts across Constitution Avenue near the Park needed to be refilled. Leslie stated he would look at the cuts.

**Zoning/Planning:** Graham questioned how the Zoning Committee would get in to the building for the meeting to be held on Thursday, September 3, 2009.

**Borough Building:** Council discussed the changes to the PFM Asset Management which is the investment group of Plgit. The Secretary/Treasurer reviewed information on Plgit and on the contract which was signed by the Borough with PFM in November 2004 for the investing of money. Clingensmith motioned, Graham seconded to approve the changes. Motion passed.

**Park:** The Secretary/Treasurer stated that all bids were submitted to the County and that Gary Pinkerton had sent information to George Fischer, indicating he was low bidder and had the job. The County will issue a purchase order to Mr. Fischer and then the work will need to be coordinated around the shelter rentals. The grant is for \$6000 and the Borough's responsibility will be \$2550. Clingensmith questioned painting of the shelter. Leslie will inquire with Jim Switzer of the Department of Community Corrections about crews painting the shelters.

**Sewage Financial:** The Secretary/Treasurer updated Council on the status of the Shut-Off Agreement. Even though Council had approved two different Shut-Off



Agreements, Pennsylvania American Water is again updating the Agreement and should have it to Council to review in September. An update was also presented to Council on amounts 60 days and more passed due and on the amounts under payment plans, going to Sheriff Sale, and the balances still needing to be collected.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Council:** Rader suggested that the entrances to the Borough building should be replaced with concrete. Smith suggested repairs needed to be done to the road coming around the Borough building to the handicapped parking space. Council discussed the possibility of getting grant money for the entrances.

Rader also indicated that electric bills may increase from 50-100% for the coming year and needs to be included in the 2010 budget.

**Secretary:** The Secretary/Treasurer stated a resolution was needed to appoint a voting delegate as well as a first and second alternate to the Tax Collector Committee as required by Act 32 (Earned Income Tax). Carol Kaufman summarized information including the approximate weighted vote percentage for the Borough. Council discussed further. Rader motioned, Smith seconded to adopt Resolution 2009-07. Motion passed.

The Secretary/Treasurer informed Council that in order to cancel the bond on Jill Weakland/Hennessey effective March 30, 2009, at the completion of the 2008 audit, two Council signatures are required, witnessed by a third Council person. Graham motioned, Kaufman seconded to cancel the bond. Motion passed.

Graham made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. Kaufman seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes  
Borough Secretary/Treasurer