

**CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH****September 2, 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, Francis Smith, Steve Miller, and Mayor Harold Rader.

Also present were Len Schoettker, Linda Schoettker, Mittie Kaufman, Joel Sack, Marcia Sack, Cindy Princeler, Bill Freeman, Nyla Bechtel, Craig Devinney, Tom Hilliard, and Vickie Forbes.

Cindy Princeler stated that they had been contacted about a 20" gas transmission line which would require a 50 foot right of way across their property and stated that they did not give permission for access on their property.

Linda Schoettker expressed her concerns about health issues, insurance issues for homes near wells, and provided information to Council on reports regarding water well contaminations and on discrepancies of reporting of information on waste from wells being sent to landfills.

Nyla Bechtel, representing E.A.R.T.H. Acquisition, stated a transmission line was being routed from the Mark West plant to the XTO plant and would like to negotiate an agreement to pass through Borough property. Craig Devinney also stated they would like to work with property owners to make an agreement beneficial for all.

Sewage Plant Update

Dave Bocci stated that Tom Thompson was on vacation and unable to attend the meeting to provide information on Plant corrections and improvements. Leslie stated that Tom should do a feasibility study and provide options to Council for review. Bocci also commented that operations at the Plant had been normal.

Smith motioned, Kaufman seconded, to accept as presented the August 5, 2014, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

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

Miller commented on legal fee expenses. Kaufman inquired if the \$1,400 payment for snow removal was a down payment for snow removal supplies, and it was confirmed that it was a down payment.

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

OLD BUSINESS:**Attorney Reese Letter – Gas Well Issues**

Leslie summarized the events leading up to the letter from the Borough solicitor. Miller stated that he was disappointed with the process stating that he had accumulated the questions prior to the August meeting expecting answers at that meeting. Miller stated his concerns about relying on issues being covered by conditional use and not the ordinance. "Amended as per Miller: Per the attorney, a non-written conditional use is not enforceable." Leslie requested that the fee schedule information that applies to land development be reviewed to understand if it could be applied to gas well sites and what approximate amount would have been collected for the Shipley Well. These fees collected would be



MINUTES

used to cover Borough expenses for inspections, engineering, overhead, administrative and such other costs incurred by the Borough.

Council continued discussion on reporting of incidents occurring at the well site. Mr. Freeman stated that from experience working in industry, all companies are heavily regulated by the DEP. All violations are recorded and reportable. There are levels of reportable violations that include non-consequential violations and reportable violations with thresholds that impact the community. The DEP monitors the frequency of violations. Smith motioned, Miller seconded to notify Rex Energy that the Borough requires a written notification of all incidences occurring at the well site within 24 hours of the occurrence. Motion passed.

Snow Removal Contract

Miller motioned, Smith seconded to renew the 2013-2014 Snow Removal Contract holding prices for the 2014-2015 year as agreed to by Rodd Pepper. Motion passed.

Community Development Block Grant – Survey Results

Miller conducted the income survey to determine whether Constitution Avenue met the 51% low to moderate income level to satisfy this requirement on the grant application. The result of the income survey concluded that this area was ineligible for grant funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

E.A.R.T.H.-Easement Inquiry for Pipeline

Nyla Bechtel showed maps of the proposed pipeline and clarified that they are requesting 100 ft. of permanent right-of-way with an additional 25 ft. needed for equipment and installation of the pipe. This right-of-way is negotiable and is maintained by the gas company. Clauses can be added to include no chemical spraying. Price is also negotiable.

PA American – Fire Hydrants

The Borough office was notified that Pa American Water had discovered that it had not been billing the Borough for two fire hydrants in the Borough. A request was made for an inventory of the fire hydrants with physical addresses to verify that all hydrants are in the Borough. Upon editing of the listing provided, addresses and locations were found to be incorrect. The secretary/treasurer will verify all hydrants with correct physical locations and will update PA American with this information.

Miller motioned Smith seconded to contact the DEP to have a representative attend a meeting to answer questions from Council. Motion passed.

Miller read an email from the Fire Chief regarding the Constitution Avenue/Rt. 68 intersection, speed limit on Rt. 68 and the possibility of installing road sensors on Rt. 68 as a warning to slow down when coming to the intersection. Discussion followed. Miller motioned to have PennDOT contacted about the road sensors. There was no second to the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire: No Report

Law and Order: No Report

Streets: Smith stated that the crosswalk light at the Lloydmont Blvd.Rt.68 intersection was working.



MINUTES

Leslie recognized the work done by Tom Hilliard clearing the brush and opening the site lines at Constitution Avenue and Rt. 68.

Zoning/Planning: No Report

Borough Building: No Report

Park: No Report

Sewage Financial: No Report

Code Enforcement: No Report

Kaufman motioned, Smith seconded at 8:55 pm to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes
Borough Secretary/Treasurer