

**CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH****September 3, 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 Ava Smith, Donna Maranchi, Paul Maranchi, Dave Bocci, and Vickie Forbes.

Ava Smith explained her intent to start a bakery in her home. In order to obtain a license she would need a letter from Council indicating approval to operate this business from her home. Smith motioned, Kalkowski seconded to approve this business at 142 Connoq Main Street and to issue a letter stating Council's approval. Motion passed.

Donna Maranchi stated that the street sign for Sutton Drive was down, and the post was lying in the weeds with the sign portion missing. She also indicated that the lots were overgrown and not identified for potential buyers. Leslie inquired whether there was an active homeowner's association established. Mrs. Maranchi indicated that there was not an association established. Council discussed the issues with the storm drains located at the entrance of Leslie Farms. Leech motioned, Kaufman seconded to send a letter to the developer, Dominic Gigliotti, informing him of the information provided by Ms. Maranchi. Motion passed.

**Sewage Plant Update**

Dave Bocci announced that they had filled the sixth dumpster for the year at the Plant which is normal for a full year in the past. A truck will be brought in to clean the large digester which has never been cleaned out to the bottom. Bocci requested that the snow removal include cleaning the road into the facility to the building. He indicated that the Franklin Miller Grinder should be replaced in 2014.

Leech stated that the sewage pipe under Constitution Ave near the Park entrance had been snaked with a camera to check out the condition of the pipe. The pipe was found to be in good condition. The company had offered a deal to snake all sewage lines in the Borough with cameras using this as training procedure. This would be done for a reduced fee of a quarter a foot. Discussion followed with strong consideration for doing the lines in Leslie Farms and Hidden Springs before adopting the lines.

Leech motioned, Kaufman seconded, to accept as presented the August 6, 2013, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:****Road Weight Limit Ordinance**

The proposed ordinance was reviewed and revised. Leech motioned, Kalkowski seconded to advertise the amended proposed road weight limit ordinance. Motion passed.

Rader indicated that the road repair on Constitution Avenue near the Park entrance still had a significant dip in it. Council discussed.

**Complaint-Post Office Safety Issue**

The small protruding metal piece located by the outside mail box on the property of the Post Office will be taken care of by PA American Water.



## MINUTES

### Snow Removal Contract 2013-2014

Council reviewed and modified the snow removal contract. Smith motioned, Kaufman seconded to advertise the snow removal contract. Motion passed.

### Liquid Fuels Audit – August 15, 2013

The Liquid Fuels records for 2011 and 2012 were audited by the Bureau of County Audits for the Department of the Auditor General. The findings of the audit for the year 2011 should be similar to the finds for 2009-2010. The Liquid Fuels monies were not used for the year 2012. Once the results for the substituted allowable expenses that were submitted for 2009-2010 are received and approved; if required, the same will be done for 2011.

### Borough Insurance 2014

Council reviewed information received from C.W. Howard Insurance regarding workers compensation insurance rates covering fire fighters for 2014. Act 46 of 2011 designates cancer as an occupational disease for fire fighters and includes retroactive medical care and salary benefits. Workers comp insurance carriers have discontinued coverage for fire fighters and coverage will have to be obtained through the State Workers Insurance Fund. Premiums may increase by thousands of dollars.

### Tractor Purchase

Leslie indicated that he had investigated tractors and had consulted Mr. Schultheis about what would meet his needs. Council discussed and recommended putting together a spec sheet to use in obtaining bids for the purchase of a tractor.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Butler County Mitigation Program

Kaufman reported that he attended the Butler County Mitigation Program meeting held on August 14, 2013. Phase 1 of this program deals with blighted homes. The information for the house located at 218 Constitution Avenue has been sent to determine what actions can be taken. Phase 2 of the program will deal with how municipalities should handle properties with violations that the property owner has been notified about, but has not reacted to the notifications. Phase 2 is in the development stage. Information was received by the Borough for grants that are available for homeowners and landlords to make application for improvements needed for their properties. Eligibility is based on income and funds are limited.

Council discussed and requested the Code Enforcement Officer re-visit properties in the Borough with active complaints and distributes the information regarding the grant monies available to the homeowners.

Kaufman commented on the high grass and weeds at the property located at 177 Connoq Main Street.

Leslie referenced the Sheriff Sale notification received by the Borough for the property located at 218 Constitution Avenue, and Council discussed interest in bidding on the property for the Borough. Smith motioned, Leech seconded to contact Attorney Lope to have him research and advise Council on this matter. Motion passed.

#### Bank Collateral Agreement

A contact has been made with Attorney Lope to investigate and determine if a written collateral agreement is recommended/required to protect Borough funds in ESB Bank which exceeds federally insured amounts.

Kaufman commented on the many vehicles on the property located on 215 Connoq Main Street. Many of the vehicles seem to be used for storing junk. This is an unsafe and unhealthy condition.



## MINUTES

Leslie reported on a call from a resident in Leslie Farms who is experiencing issues with her property. Council discussed and suggested she contract a contractor.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Fire:** No Report

**Law and Order:** No Report

**Streets:** Rader reported that the Township was going to make repairs to Connoquenessing School Road and inquired as to whether the Borough was still receiving Liquid Fuels for the road.

Council acknowledged receipt of a letter from Commonwealth of PA explaining the revised bridge weight limit policy.

**Zoning/Planning:** No Report

**Borough Building:** No Report

**Park:** Smith commented on the Eagle Scout project by Ryan Deemer which was approved by the Boy Scout Council.

**Sewage Financial:** No Report

**Code Enforcement:** No Report

Rader stated that the Butler County Boroughs Association was changing the format of future meetings.

Council discussed the pipeline replacement in the Borough.

Kalkowski motioned, Leech seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes  
Borough Secretary/Treasurer