

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 21, 2002

The regular meeting of the Conemaugh Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on August 21, 2002 by Chairman Robert Rouser. Board members present were Robert Rouser, Chairman, Albert Zuccolotto, Secretary-Treasurer, and David Hart, Vice-Chairman. Solicitor William Barbin was also present.

Pledge to the Flag.

FLOOR OPENED TO PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular meeting of July 17, 2002 were distributed. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of July 17, 2002. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

BILLS:

There was a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to pay the bills for the month of August 2002 in the amount of \$30,771.87 for the General Fund, \$127,269.80 for the Liquid Fuels Fund, and \$45,287.91 for the Sewer Department. Roll call vote: Mr. Hart – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

The police report submitted by Chief Louis Barclay for the month of July 2002 for Conemaugh Township and Benson Borough was read. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to accept the police reports for the month of July 2002 for the Township and Benson Borough. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Mr. Zuccolotto read a letter received from the Conemaugh Township Municipal Authority thanking the Township for assistance during the week of August 5th in stabilizing their road leading to the water treatment plant.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Zuccolotto gave an update on the Jerome Walking Track Project, indicating that Lehman is doing the grading and as soon as he is done, the Township is going to put the track in. Lehman may be asked to put the track in so that this project can be expedited. Mr. Zuccolotto

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also noted that Representative Yewcic said he could obtain grant money for the Township, which would be put toward the track project, the Hollsopple Ball Field, and the Park. He stated that once the track is completed, the Supervisors want to put up a pole at each end with a light and the Township will pay for the electric. The Supervisors would also like to install a water fountain that could be turned off at night, along with some benches.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **ORDINANCE NO. 646:** Solicitor Barbin stated that he wrote this Ordinance in response to a question concerning workers compensation coverage for certain firemen activities. The Ordinance says that fund raising, parades, mutual assistance, etc. are all things that the Supervisors endorse and support the fire companies engaging in; other than emergency work, making sure that that workers compensation coverage is expanded as fully as possible for the volunteer firemen. Mr. Zuccolotto also noted that the Hollsopple Fire Company is not included in the Ordinance. They were originally, but they did not want to be included and were taken out, which was the proper thing to do since they are covered under workers compensation by Benson Borough.

There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to adopt Ordinance No. 646 authorizing the Conemaugh Township Volunteer Fire Company, Ideal Volunteer Fire Company, and Jerome Volunteer Fire Company to engage in certain acts with the full authorization of the Conemaugh Township Supervisors. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. R03-02:** Solicitor Barbin stated that the engineer has completed his work and the Township is ready to submit the application to PENNVEST for the construction of the Tire Hill and Benscreek Sewer Project. There was a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to adopt Resolution No. R03-02 authorizing the submission of the Application for Financial Assistance to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) for the Tire Hill/Benscreek Area Sewer Project in Conemaugh Township. Roll call vote: Mr. Hart – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **LETTER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR PENNVEST APPLICATION:** Solicitor Barbin stated that this letter is a required document within the application for the Tire Hill and Benscreek Sewer Project, and the Township is basically making representations to PENNVEST in this letter. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve the Letter of Responsibility for the Application for a Loan in the amount of \$5,900,000.00 from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) to construct a Sanitary Sewer Collection and Treatment System serving the Tire Hill and Benscreek area of Conemaugh Township. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **AGREEMENT BETWEEN CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP & CHIEF OF POLICE:** Mr. Zuccolotto stated that the Chief of Police is not included in the regular bargaining unit with the police; this is a separate agreement with the chief. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve an Agreement between Conemaugh Township and Louis Barclay, Chief of Police, effective January 4, 2001 through December 31, 2006. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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5. **RESIGNATION OF OFFICER DISHONG:** There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve the resignation of Shawn Dishong from the Conemaugh Township Police Department as a part-time patrolman, effective August 8, 2002. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY #20:** Solicitor Barbin stated that this policy is a State Law and is mandatory. It requires all police departments to implement the Victim/Witness Assistance Guide. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to adopt Police Department Policy #20, effective August 21, 2002, to establish guidelines and procedures regarding the Victim/Witness Assistance Guide. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **SOLICITATION FEE SCHEDULE REVISION:** Solicitor Barbin stated that people who come into the Township to sell door-to-door have to register with the Police Department and pay a fee. If the police see someone who has not signed in, they have the right to pick them up for questioning. There was a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to approve the following change to the fees charged by the Conemaugh Township Police Department for Solicitation Permits: (Fees are all per person) \$5.00 Application Fee; \$5.00 Per Day; \$10.00 per Week; \$20.00 per Month; \$50.00 per Year. Roll call vote: Mr. Hart – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **PURCHASE OF NEW TRUCK:** Mr. Rouser stated that the Township is in need of a new truck in order to complete the fleet; since one truck is barely running. Mr. Zuccolotto indicated that the Township purchased a new 2002 truck last year for \$51,000.00 on the State Piggy Back Program, which gives the Township the opportunity to purchase a truck without going through the bidding process. The Township is permitted to purchase a truck for less than the Piggyback price, but not more. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that he is currently working with two companies to come up with the best price for a new 2003 truck. He is trying to get the same price as last year or lower. Mr. Zuccolotto further stated that the budget will have a carry over into next year and the Township will not need a tax anticipation loan next year. He also noted that the Township did not touch the tax anticipation loan this year. The Township would be able to purchase this new truck with cash. Mr. Zuccolotto said that this was made possible by saving money by bidding the insurances and watching spending throughout the budget. He should have the cost of the new truck by next month's meeting.

There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Rouser, to approve the purchase of a new 2003 Ford or Dodge truck on the State Piggy Back Program. Under question on the motion, Mr. Hart was concerned that when the Township approved the new roof, there was some question as to whether or not there would be enough money in the budget to pay the full amount. He was concerned that the Township was spending money that maybe it does not have. Mr. Zuccolotto assured Mr. Hart that he watches the finances of the Township very close; every dime is accounted for every day. He indicated that some budgeted items have more money in than was needed, causing a surplus. In particular, there was a savings on salt and anti skid this year due to the mild winter. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that the budget is watched, spending was cut, and things came out better than what he had expected. He noted that every month there is an up-to-date breakdown of the Township's revenues and expenditures; what was spent and what is left. Mr. Zuccolotto said that these reports are lying on his desk every month and anyone is entitled to look at them anytime they would like. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – no, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried, one no vote.

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9. **MINOR SUBDIVISION:** Solicitor Barbin stated that this minor subdivision meets the requirements and is appropriate. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve a minor subdivision request from Riverside Grace Brethren Church c/o Amos Eppley, Trustee, owners & applicants; plan prepared by Jerry R. Thomas, R.L.S., to create a 0.89 acre undeveloped parcel from parent parcel of approximately 12.812 acres; this subdivision received approval from the Conemaugh Township Planning Commission on August 13, 2002, and the Commission recommended approval by the Supervisors. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **MINOR SUBDIVISION:** Solicitor Barbin stated that this minor subdivision was appropriate. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve a minor subdivision request from John & Mamie I. Mantini, owners, Edward D. & Louise S. Mattis, applicants; plan prepared by Peter W. Chiodo, R.L.S., to create a 6.014 acre undeveloped parcel from parent parcel of approximately 32.1 acres; this subdivision received approval from the Conemaugh Township Planning Commission on August 13, 2002, and the Commission recommended approval of by the Supervisors. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **MINOR SUBDIVISION:** Solicitor Barbin stated that this minor subdivision was appropriate. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve a minor subdivision request from Richard P. & Janet V. Thompson, B. Paul & Mary J. Seitz, Melvin R. & Tricia L. Deneen, Robert J. Jr. & Michele D. Lambin, owners, and Richard P. Thompson, applicant; preliminary plan prepared by Musser Engineering, Inc., Randall L. Musser, P.L. S., to re-align property boundaries between the lands of the above owners as shown on the preliminary plan; this subdivision received approval from the Conemaugh Township Planning Commission on August 13, 2002, and the Commission recommended approval by the Supervisors. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

12. **INSTALLATION OF FIRE HYDRANT:** There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve the installation of a fire hydrant on Walnut Hill Road in Davidsville. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

13. **RETURN RIGHT-OF-WAY:** Mr. Rouser stated that the engineers had laid everything out for a project at the intersection of Rachele Avenue and Miller Drive. It was then realized that the steepness of the hill and the problems with the drainage coming off the hill were too great, so the Township decided against doing the project. Cindy Albaugh would like to have the right-of-way purchased from her by the Township for the project be returned to her. There was a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to approve the return of the corner right-of-way acquired by the Township from Cindy L. Albaugh for the purpose of construction of the intersection at Rachele Avenue and Miller Drive because the construction of this intersection is neither safely possible nor cost effective. Under question on the motion, Mr. Zuccolotto noted that the Township paid Ms. Albaugh \$400.00 for this right-of-way and that the Township should receive this back from her. The motion was amended to read that if Ms. Albaugh agreed to pay the Township back the \$400.00, the Township would turn the right-of-way back to her. Mr. Hart and Mr. Zuccolotto both agreed to this amendment. Roll call vote: Mr. Hart – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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FLOOR OPENED TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

2. Mr. Rouser reported that the cement for the two most recently installed pavilions at Greenhouse Park was poured. The electric is partially hooked up in one pavilion, and the conduit is being installed in the other. Two more pavilions will be installed at the Park. Mr. Rouser stated that the Carpenters Union might use the installation of these pavilions as a class and put up both pavilions, and then all the Township would have to do is drill holes, pour the cement, and have the crane from Sleeks' set the beams.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Submitted by,

Albert E. Zuccolotto, Secretary/Treasurer