

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2002

The regular meeting of the Conemaugh Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:22 p.m. on January 7, 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:

1. **Mr. John Mastillo** of Jerome had a question concerning the resignation of Vernon Henry from the Conemaugh Township Municipal Authority Board. He indicated that the old procedure regarding appointments to that Board was that the CTMA would go through the names submitted, and then send a name to the Supervisors for approval. Mr. Mastillo stated that for some reason this procedure was changed, and he wanted to know what procedure will be used in the future. He would like to see the CTMA Board have some input.

Mr. Zuccolotto answered that if an individual submits their name to the Supervisors for a CTMA Board vacancy, the Supervisors will send it to the CTMA, and they can vote on who they want, sending that recommendation back to the Supervisors for a final decision. Solicitor Barbin indicated that the Supervisors would still have the final choice, but they will wait for CTMA input. Mr. Zuccolotto also noted that if no names are received for Mr. Henry's vacant position, an advertisement will be placed in the newspaper.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular meeting were distributed. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2001. 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 January 2002 in the amount of \$3,080.30 for the General Fund, \$1,359.40 for the Liquid Fuels Fund, and \$3,072.46 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 December 2001 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 December 2001 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.

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CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **ORDINANCE NO. 642:** Solicitor Barbin noted that the Tax Collector has been collecting the delinquent taxes for the Township, but the Association of Townships has recommended that the Township specifically authorize this. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to adopt Ordinance No. 642 designating the Elected Tax Collector as the delinquent tax collector pursuant to Act 104 of 2000. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **ORDINANCE NO. 643:** Solicitor Barbin noted that this Ordinance gives a warning period for false alarms, and then if there are repeated false alarms, there would be fees charged. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to adopt Ordinance No. 643 establishing a service charge for police and fire department responses to false electronic, alarm service or notifier alarms. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **RESIGNATION FROM CTMA BOARD:** A letter of resignation was received from Vernon Henry. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to accept the resignation of Mr. Vernon Henry from the Conemaugh Township Municipal Authority Board, effective January 1, 2002. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION:** There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to authorize an application to DEP for reimbursement of 50% of sewage enforcement expenses for 2001. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **GREENHOUSE PARK ENGINEERING:** There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve an engineering proposal from Paul C. Rizzo & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$7,100.00 for completion of Phase I Design of the Greenhouse Park Plan. This cost will be paid from the Greenhouse Park Grant monies. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **MINOR SUBDIVISION:** There was a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to approve the subdivision plan of Ira & Ruth Shoff, Owners & Applicants, to subdivide an existing parcel of approximately 13 acres by creating one new parcel having an existing dwelling upon it, and amending the plan to include a previously divided lot, contingent upon the receipt of the Conemaugh Township Planning Commission's approval. This Parcel is accessed by a private road from Fernwood Drive. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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7. **SEWAGE FACILITIES PLANNING MODULE:** There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve a sewage facilities planning module for Todd G. & Kathleen D. Bates, Owners & Applicants, and Musser Engineering, Inc., Consultant, for a single family dwelling on an existing 11.939 acre non-building tract fronting on Carpenters Park Road, contingent upon the receipt of the Conemaugh Township Planning Commission approval. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Hart – yes, and Mr. Rouser – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

FLOOR OPENED TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Marvin Gindlesperger of Davidsville wished to discuss the following:

1. Mr. Gindlesperger asked Solicitor Barbin if the third Wednesday of the month is the only evening he had open at 6:00 p.m., since it had been indicated that he was the reason for the meeting time. Solicitor Barbin answered, no. Mr. Gindlesperger indicated that individuals who work until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. cannot attend the Township meetings held at 6:00 p.m. He suggested a meeting start time of 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. on another evening that could be worked into the Solicitor's schedule. Mr. Zuccolotto noted that the meetings were held at 7:00 p.m. at one time, but it did not make any difference in reference to attendance, so it was changed back to 6:00 p.m.

2. Mr. Gindlesperger asked why the Landfill Inspector and Zoning Officer positions were not on the reorganization meeting agenda for appointment. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that according to the State Association of Townships it is not necessary to reappoint these positions as long as they are being retained by the same individuals. He further noted that the landfill inspector must be certified.

3. Mr. Gindlesperger indicated that in regard to zoning, there was a 1 ½ to 2 acre plot located on the top of Covered Bridge Road at the entrance to the old Joe Whiteoff barn that is a mess and needs looked at. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that this is being taken care of.

4. Mr. Gindlesperger asked if the Township crew comes out earlier than 6:00 a.m. to plow on bad days. Mr. Rouser stated that the crew comes out suitable as to whatever is scheduled to be done. The crew was coming out at 5:00 a.m. to plow, but people were complaining that the roads were not plowed because the roads had been plowed so early that the snow had covered them back up before the buses ran. The crew then switched back to 6:00 a.m. and there has not been a problem.

5. Mr. Gindlesperger asked that with the years and years of controversy over the Water Authority, are the Supervisors going to let the Authority maintain control in the Township and forget about the Johnstown Water Authority. Mr. Zuccolotto answered that the Water Authority always had their own control and it is up to them to do what they want.

Mrs. Evelyn Hart of Benscreek wished to discuss the following:

1. Mrs. Hart asked whether dividing the Township into two sections means to physically divide the Township into two. Mr. Zuccolotto explained that dividing the Township into two sections meant that one road master takes a crew that goes to one end of the Township and the other road master takes a crew that goes to the other end of the Township. Mrs. Hart asked if the

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road masters have to go out to those areas. Mr. Zuccolotto stated, no, the crew does. It is the responsibility of the road masters to be sure the job gets done and to schedule work.

2. Mrs. Hart asked if the scheduling for the crew gets done every morning before they go out; after the road masters have already been out to look at conditions and have decided what to do. Mr. Zuccolotto answered that the scheduling is done in the morning or the day before, or even a week in advance.

3. Mrs. Hart asked if both road masters were out on the road all the time. Mr. Zuccolotto answered, not necessarily. Mrs. Hart stated that then an individual could be a road master and still be at the office.

4. Mrs. Hart asked if the Supervisors just decided this year to divide the Township into two sections. Mr. Zuccolotto answered, no, it has been that way since 1992. Mrs. Hart wanted to know why this was changed from three sections to two sections. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that this was done to save the Township money. Mrs. Hart noted that every time a new Supervisor comes in, he is never appointed as road master. Mr. Rouser stated that years ago when the Township had many dirt roads, there was a lot of road maintenance and work that needed to be done, so more Township sections and road masters were needed. Now, the roads are all black top, and also the Township has replaced a lot of culvert pipe, therefore, the road maintenance has been cut back from what it was before. Mrs. Hart referred to an article in the newspaper that indicated that the Township would be black topping in the amount of \$270,000. Mr. Rouser stated that was referring to resurfacing the roads, which will be bid out in the spring.

Mr. John Mastillo of Jerome commented that this was the first meeting he has attended with the present Supervisors, stating that he originally came down to see how the CTMA Board members would be picked. Mr. Mastillo stated that it seemed like a tense issue regarding the road masters in light of what Mrs. Hart has said. He felt that if he were on the Board, he would see how there could be harmony among the Supervisors. Mr. Mastillo stated that having two road masters compared to three could not be that big of an expense. He also felt it was a bad political decision at this time not to have three road masters. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that when an individual is elected to this job, things are not done as political ploys; you do what is best for the taxpayers. Mr. Mastillo indicated that he was looking at this for the benefit of the Supervisors. He stated that it was obvious that 51% of the voters voted for David Hart, which meant 51% of the people believed that he was going to be a road master because they thought the Township needed three road masters. Solicitor Barbin noted at this point that the public has the right to comment, but the Supervisors will not debate any issues. Mr. Mastillo further stated that in the past it was commented that Mr. Thomas was not a very efficient Supervisor by just coming to the meetings, but he was not a working Supervisor. He felt that the Supervisors should reconsider appointing a third road master.

Mr. Marvin Gindlesperger wanted to clear up a statement made about saving money for the Township. He stated that when he left the Township as Supervisor, the road masters were making \$14,500 as three. Mr. Gindlesperger indicated that he did not know what the road masters were making now. He stated that the newspaper article on the Township said how Conemaugh Township would like to be like Richland Township. Mr. Gindlesperger suggested that the Township be like Richland and bring in a professional manager and a road superintendent. He further stated that although it was mentioned about saving money for the

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Township, he knows for a fact that the two present road masters were making more money than the three road masters ever thought of making when he left as Supervisor. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that the present road masters are professional.

Mr. Joseph Stevens of Hollsopple wished to discuss the following:

1. Mr. Stevens stated that the Township has had conflict in the Supervisors' office for years. He thought it would be nice to have three men on the same team. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that there would be no reason that the Supervisors could not get along.
2. Mr. Stevens said that since a new Board member was present, he would like to make the same request that he had made at the previous meeting – that all three Supervisors and the Solicitor come to his residence to see what is going on with his problem regarding the sewer line installed. Mr. Stevens stated that he has spent his own money on this problem and has had a lot of aggravation because the Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer did not know what he was doing. He was requesting that the Supervisors make a motion to come to his residence. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that a motion would not be necessary to do this, and also that he has already been to Mr. Stevens' residence. Mr. Stevens said he is requesting again for everyone to come to his residence. Mr. Rouser stated that he had no problem with going to Mr. Stevens' residence. He would work out a date and time and inform Mr. Stevens of it.

Mrs. Ruth Villa of Jerome stated that it is now 2002 and she wanted to know when the Supervisors were going to come up to look at her problem. Mr. Zuccolotto answered that her problem is being resolved. Mr. Rouser stated that Mrs. Villa's problem took along time to get where it is right now with the legalities involved, but it is now getting resolved. Mrs. Villa stated that it took her twenty years to get her problem resolved, and that certain people want things done yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Recreation Commission will be sponsoring a trip to New York City over the weekend of March 2 and 3 to see the Phantom of the Opera. If anyone is interested, they can call Steve Buncich at 479-2231.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Submitted by,

Albert E. Zuccolotto, Secretary/Treasurer