

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 21, 2008

The regular meeting of the Conemaugh Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 21, 2008 by Vice-Chairman Wayne Kauffman. Board members present were Wayne Kauffman, Vice-Chairman, Steven Buncich, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, and newly appointed Supervisor Albert Zuccolotto. Solicitor Dan Rullo was present on behalf of Solicitor Jim Beener.

Pledge to the Flag.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to appoint Steven Buncich as Chairman of the Board. Roll call vote: Mr. Kauffman – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a motion by Mr. Buncich, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to appoint Wayne Kauffman as Vice-Chairman of the Board. Roll call vote: Mr. Buncich – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Kauffman – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a motion by Mr. Buncich, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to appoint Cindy Walerysiak as Secretary/Treasurer for the Board. Roll call vote: Mr. Buncich – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Kauffman – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Buncich, to appoint Albert Zuccolotto as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer for the Board. Roll call vote: Mr. Kauffman – yes, Mr. Buncich – yes, and Mr. Zuccolotto – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

At this point, Mr. Buncich took over the Chairman's seat.

FLOOR OPENED TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert Kelly of 134 North Fir Drive requested that the Supervisors send letters to the state representatives and legislators telling them that the residents were tired of them not doing anything about the high gas and oil prices.

Mr. Kelly also said he could not understand how Mr. McKool was charging for sewer bills. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that this was on the top of his agenda—to get the Sewer Department and the new sewer project straightened out and in particular the McKool issue. He noted that several meetings were held this week on sewer matters.

MINUTES:

There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 16, 2008 and special meeting May 16, 2008. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

BILLS:

There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to pay the bills for the month of May 2008 in the amount of \$154,756.34 for the General Fund, \$4,153.91 for the Liquid Fuels Fund, and \$46,809.02 for the Sewer Fund. Mr. Buncich noted that included in the General Fund bills was a \$99,068.89 pay off on an equipment lease, which would free up \$99,000.00 for

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the 2009 General Fund budget. Roll call vote: Mr. Kauffman – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Buncich - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORTS:

The police report as submitted by Chief Louis Barclay for the month of April 2008 for the Conemaugh Township Police Department was available for review. Total reported incidents were 307. There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to accept the police report as submitted for the month of April 2008. Roll call vote: Mr. Kauffman – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Chairman Buncich read a letter from the Pennsylvania State Police thanking Officers Vince Zangaglia and Mike Popma for assisting them in stopping a perpetrator.
2. Chairman Buncich read a notice from Department of Transportation on a Public Officials Meeting to be held on Monday, June 2, 2008 from 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM and a Public Meeting from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building to review plans for a bridge rehabilitation project. He noted that the bridge on Krings Road would be closed for this upcoming project and detours would be discussed.
3. A letter was received from the Conemaugh Township Area Historical Society asking for a monetary donation. There was \$500.00 in the budget for this donation. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to contribute \$500.00 to the Conemaugh Township Area Historical Society. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Chairman Buncich read a letter from the Stoystown Borough Council requesting that the Supervisors and Chief Barclay attend their next meeting on June 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Police Services Agreement cost. Mr. Zuccolotto felt that the police services agreements had been set up for the benefit of two people, not set up for the benefit of the Township. He said he was not saying that the police services agreements were not a good idea, but they should not be at the cost of the taxpayers of Conemaugh Township. Mr. Zuccolotto did not think that the Township should outright refuse Stoystown, but the Supervisors needed to really study the numbers and consider what the liability was, then put a number out there that was going to make it worthwhile to Conemaugh Township. He noted that police liabilities were the highest in the Township.

Mr. Zuccolotto stated there was another area he was not happy at all with. He felt the Supervisors needed to take a serious look at the Police Department and make some adjustments, which would go back to hiring practices, etc. Mr. Zuccolotto reiterated that the Supervisors needed to make some serious adjustments. He suggested that the Supervisors get together and come up with a price to present to Stoystown that would be beneficial to the Township's taxpayers, and if they did not accept it, that would be fine. Mr. Zuccolotto further stated that this had to be looked at long term because of the liabilities and pension obligations, etc., which were huge responsibilities.

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Mr. Zuccolotto felt that the Supervisors needed to get back to worrying about this Township and making it affordable. He said that with the way the cost of everything was going, the Supervisors needed to get real serious about looking at this Township because it was going to be tough to get the roads back in shape and to be able to afford the Police Department as it was, with some trimming. Mr. Zuccolotto said this was only his opinion, and he intended to work with the other two Supervisors. Mr. Zuccolotto stated he was enthused with working with Mr. Kauffman and Mr. Buncich and that they were honest and worked well together.

Mr. Buncich said the request from Stoystown Borough Council would be discussed with Chief Barclay tomorrow.

5. A letter was received from Fred Moyer concerning a parking issue on Venango Trail and he was requesting an ordinance be passed that placed a weight limit the roads within this residential neighborhood. Mr. Buncich stated this was in reference to an overweight vehicle that had been parking there for months. Mr. Zuccolotto felt that an engineer study would be too costly, but he suggested that No Parking Signs of some type could be installed in that area. He noted that the person parking the heavy vehicle in this area was his cousin and he did have a conversation with him regarding this matter. Mr. Zuccolotto felt that he would remove the vehicle.
6. A letter was received from Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co. requesting comments regarding the Greater Johnstown Water Authority's Conemaugh Township Interconnection Project – Shaffer Road Waterline.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **AWARD BIDS FOR 2008 ROAD MATERIALS:** The Supervisors had tabled awarding the bids received for Road Paving/Sealing Materials (FOB at plant) and Cold Patch (FOB at plant) at the April 16, 2008 board meeting.

There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to award the low bid of \$53.50/ton for ID-2 Wearing Course, FOB at plant, to HRI, Inc. Roll call vote: Mr. Kauffman – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to award the low bid of \$43.00/ton for BC-BC Base Course, FOB at plant, to HRI, Inc. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to award the low bid of \$56.00/ton for Cold Patch, FOB at plant, to Quaker Sales. Roll call vote: Mr. Kauffman – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **TAX COLLECTOR AUDIT:** Upon recommendation from the Pennsylvania State Association of Townships, there was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to authorize an audit of the Conemaugh Township Tax Collector (Township end only) with the parameters and procedures to be determined by the appointed auditors. Mr. Buncich noted this

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would not include the School District. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **CHIEFS OF POLICE CONFERENCE:** There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to authorize Chief Barclay to attend the Annual Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association 2008 Education & Training Seminar Conference from July 13 – 17, 2008 at a total cost of \$875.00. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **MINOR SUBDIVISION:** This subdivision plan was approved by the Conemaugh Township Planning Commission on May 7, 2008. There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to approve the subdivision plan of Peter & Jacqueline McGinnis, Jr., owners, and Melvin & Karen Lehman, applicants, to subdivide the McGinnis property, containing approximately 11.71 acres (Parcel S12-006-080), with the residue McGinnis parcel containing approximately 1.019 acres and the remaining 10.695 acres to be conveyed and made a part of the 11.099 acre Lehman property (Parcel S12-006-179) which would increase the Lehman parcel to 21.79 acres. Roll call vote: Mr. Kauffman – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Township Offices will be closed from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2008 so the Township employees could attend the Whitewater Park dedication ceremony.

2. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Supervisors will be held on Monday, June 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Buncich noted that this meeting was changed from Wednesday, June 18th due to a scheduling conflict and would be advertised in the Tribune Democrat.

Bill Holbay of Ligonier Pike wanted to know the status of the roller issue. Mr. Buncich answered that the State Police had finished their report on this matter and it had been turned over to the District Attorney's office, but the Township had not received a letter on this yet.

Ken Burkhart of Soap Hollow Road said he understood that the contractor(s) that worked on the sewer project was supposed to have funds available in order to repair things that might have gone bad after the project was completed. He stated that along the entire length of his property the ground had settled and the new black top was breaking up and he was requesting that the contractor(s) come back to make repairs. Mr. Buncich stated that was before his time and he did not know if the work was signed off on or not, but he would check into this with the engineer and the contractor(s).

At this point, Mr. Zuccolotto wanted to state that he was not serving the Township in the same capacity as he had in the past...he was considered a non-working Supervisor, but he would be here and the residents should feel free to call him. He said he was not being paid other than the regular Supervisor pay and would not be working on the roads, but he would be here working with Cindy...he would be spending a lot of time here.

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Mr. Buncich stated that all three Supervisors agreed that all three had equal authority and the only difference would be that Mr. Kauffman and he would handle the day to day operations regarding the roads. Mr. Zuccolotto said he would do everything he could to give advice and work with Mr. Buncich and Mr. Kauffman.

A resident asked who would be handling the sewer side of things. Mr. Zuccolotto stated there already had been meetings regarding the sewers and there were major changes coming, indicating that he was very upset and would do everything in his power to get the sewer rates under control. He said all three Supervisors agreed and they were here for the residents...all three would be working together.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Submitted by,
Cindy L. Walerysiak, Secretary/Treasurer