

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 20, 2009

The regular meeting of the Conemaugh Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 20, 2009 by Chairman Steven Buncich. Board members present were Steven Buncich, Chairman, Wayne Kauffman, Vice-Chairman, and Albert Zuccolotto, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Solicitor William Barbin was present.

Pledge to the Flag.

FLOOR OPENED TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

NOTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSSION:

The Supervisors met on May 1st with the Solicitor, Engineers, and several homeowners from Menoher Heights and their attorney regarding their easements for the sewer project; on May 5th with the police regarding contract negotiations; and on May 13th with a representative from PSATS regarding fire services

MINUTES:

There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 15, 2009. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

BILLS:

There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to pay the bills for the month of May 2009 in the amount of \$88,796.33 for the General Fund, \$1,760.41 for the Liquid Fuels Fund, and \$95,615.02 for the Sewer Fund. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORTS:

The police report as submitted by Chief Louis Barclay for the month of April 2009 for the Conemaugh Township Police Department was available for review. Total reported incidents/complaints were 177. There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to accept the police report as submitted for the month of April 2009. Roll call vote: Mr. Kauffman – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

George Knapp, Benson Borough Councilman, stated he had a letter dated April 8, 2008 Benson Borough had sent the Township requesting that their police radios be returned, which included serial numbers of those radios. Chairman Buncich said the Supervisors had the original contract between Benson Borough and the Conemaugh Township Police Department, dated January 1, 1995 and their radios with serial numbers were listed on that. It was noted that these radios may have been traded in years ago. Mr. Knapp said those radios were working when they were given to the Township and the Township owed Benson Borough money for them. Solicitor Barbin suggested the Township purchase two obsolete radios on e-bay and give those to Benson Borough. Chief Barclay stated that those radios were antiquated in 1994 and the frequencies were no longer used. He said he did have two Motorola radios that were antiquated which he could trade off to Benson Borough if they wanted since they were no longer used by the Township Police Department. Mr. Knapp said he would bring this up at Benson Borough's meeting next month. Chief Barclay reiterated that the radios from Benson Borough were never

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really used by the Township.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter was received from Dennis Mizak requesting the sewer line installation on Lost Valley Drive be extended to include his residence and three others. Mr. Zuccolotto stated that the Supervisors needed to wait until the sewer project was near completion to see what funds were available at that time for this extension. He further noted that this extension would also have to be approved. Chairman Buncich stated a letter should be sent to Mr. Mizak indicating the Supervisors would consider his request and address it toward the end of the sewer project.

2. A letter was received from the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company requesting the use of Greenhouse Park for the 2010 Western PA Firemen's Association Convention to be held August 13-20, 2010. Chairman Buncich read the letter out loud. There was some discussion regarding this request. Chairman Buncich stated that the Ferndale Fire Company needed to know the Supervisors' decision by June 2, 2009. It was felt that Greenhouse Park may not be big enough for this event. Chief Barclay asked if they would provide security. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to approve the request of the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company to use Greenhouse Park for the 2010 Western PA Firemen's Association Convention August 13-20, 2010, subject to satisfactory arrangements with the Supervisors and that they meet with the Supervisors to discuss the matter further. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **CHIEF 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 2009 Education and Training Seminar Conference from July 26 through 30, 2009 at a cost of \$910.00. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **APPOINTMENTS TO FIRE SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Chairman Buncich stated that there were numerous meetings and discussions regarding the formation of this Committee over the last months and the Supervisors were now ready to appoint the initial members. It was noted that this would not be the final size of the Committee, but would be just a start. Mr. Zuccolotto explained that the Committee would begin by reviewing ways to improve fire services within the Township, including response times during daylight hours. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to appoint Dave Mishler, Terry Ruparcic, Nick Panasci, and Brian Shoff as initial members of the Fire Services Review Committee. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zuccolotto further stated that after this Committee got going it may lead to discussion concerning consolidation of the fire companies and at that point the four Fire Chiefs would be brought on. Chairman Buncich noted that the Supervisors would be happy to sit in on this Committee's meetings. He said that consolidation may be discussed to try to come up with the best possible service for the community and to eliminate duplication of equipment, etc.

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Chairman Buncich also stated that when the Committee comes up with recommendations, the Supervisors would keep the public informed.

PHASE II BENSCREEK SANITARY SEWER PROJECT

1. **ENGINEER UPDATE** – Josh Kalp of the EADS Group reported the electrical at the dewatering building at the sewer treatment plant was about 90% complete. There were some remaining punch list items that the contractor needed to complete. Start up should be by the end of June. Mr. Zuccolotto asked if the cost for the electrical box that needed to be moved was an extra cost to be paid by the Sewer Department. Mr. Kalp stated, yes, and it was payable to Penelec.

Mr. Kalp reported that approximately 45,700 feet of sewer line had been installed, which was approximately 35% complete. There were three pipe crews, a boring crew, a restoration crew, and a testing crew all working right now. The contractor planned to continue working in the areas of Ideal Park, Old State Highway-Fender Lane, and the main line of Area C. The contractor also hoped to begin installation of the Benscreek Pump Station soon.

Rich Maldet asked if there was a right-of-way change at the upper road of Fernwood Drive and a relocation of the sewer line and would this affect the installation of the sewer line up over “the hill”. Mr. Kalp said he would check into this and get back to him.

2. **PROJECT INVOICES:** There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to approve the payment of the following invoices for the Benscreek Sanitary Sewer Project totaling \$994,929.49 and to submit them to PENNVEST on Pay Request No. 1 for reimbursement:

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Description</u>
Gordon L. DeLozier, Inc.	\$186,573.06	Construction - Contract 05-S-01
Church & Murdock Electric	\$ 16,729.20	Construction - Contract 05-S-02
Ligonier Construction Co.	\$105,844.67	Construction - Contract 05-S-03
Ligonier Construction Co.	\$349,977.26	Construction - Contract 05-S-04
Ligonier Construction Co.	\$335,805.30	Construction - Contract 05-S-05

Roll call vote: Mr. Kauffman – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. **HILLCREST DRIVE** (located off Pine Street in Davidsville) – Chairman Buncich stated that DL Development had petitioned the Township to take over the portion of Hillcrest Drive that ran through their new development. The Supervisors were questioning the construction of this road in that development, including the cul-de-sac, and had EADS give recommendations concerning this road to aid in any decision regarding the takeover of that road. A letter had been sent to DL Development in March 2008 requesting that they bring their roadway up to specifications and then the Supervisors would consider taking over that portion of Hillcrest Drive. The developers did not respond to that request. The Supervisors would send another letter to DL Development regarding this matter.

The Supervisors then discussed the lower portion of Hillcrest Drive, which belonged to the Township and needed widened and repaved. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to authorize EADS to perform the preplanning for the necessary repairs to the

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lower portion of Hillcrest Drive. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **SEWER LINE EXTENSION-CHERRY TREE DRIVE** - Chairman Buncich stated that the Supervisors received a letter from Mark Walker, the Township's Zoning/Building Codes Official, and the drawings regarding this matter. Paul Laskey, contractor, said he was looking for conditional approval, noting that he planned to meet Mr. Walker's items as indicated in his letter. He planned to establish an escrow account for this project, but he needed to know the amount the Township needed for that; he would prepare a deed of dedication and easements for the sewer line as it passed over private property; and the technical issues described in the letter regarding the plan had been fixed and the plan had been updated.

Solicitor Barbin stated that it would be appropriate for the Supervisors to approve this plan for the sewer line extension subject to the conditions set forth in the May 12, 2009 letter of Mark Walker, Conemaugh Township Zoning/Building Code Official. There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to approve the plan for the sewer line extension on Cherry Tree Drive subject to the conditions set forth in the May 12, 2009 letter of Mark Walker. Roll call vote: Mr. Kauffman – yes, Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor Barbin said at the end of Mr. Walker's letter was a question as to whether or not the engineers should review these plans. He felt that these were really simple plans and were drawn up by Terry Tallyen who was very experienced. There was a motion by Mr. Zuccolotto, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, to accept the plans for the sewer line extension on Cherry Tree Drive without review by the engineers. Roll call vote: Mr. Zuccolotto – yes, Mr. Kauffman – yes, and Mr. Buncich – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Buncich asked how much Mr. Laskey's escrow account should be set up for. Solicitor Barbin said he was not sure at this time, and this amount would be determined later at which time Mr. Laskey would be informed. Mr. Laskey noted that this was not a big job.

3. **POLICY TO DISPOSE OF TOWNSHIP EQUIPMENT** – Chairman Buncich stated that the Supervisors had already approved by motion to sell excess Township equipment at a past meeting, but a policy was needed. Solicitor Barbin said he would give the Township a copy of Richland Township's policy regarding this. Chairman Buncich stated this would be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Chairman Buncich stated the Supervisors would like to thank Waste Management and Township employees for a successful Spring Clean Up. He said that inmates from Somerset also assisted with the clean up with a three-main crew and a crew leader. Approximately 250 tons of garbage was collected in four days; it was a lot of work and everyone involved should be commended.

Chairman Buncich stated that he and Mr. Kauffman walked the Township on those four days and saw things that were not seen from the seat of a vehicle. He said the Supervisors discussed the matter and would like to have "open season" declared on junk throughout the Township which included abandoned vehicles, accumulation of garbage, rubbish, and abandoned homes. Mark Walker, Township Zoning/Code Official, was notified that this would be happening. Chairman

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Buncich asked if anyone knew of any situation involving the above to let the Supervisors know, noting that the Supervisors already had a list started.

2. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Buncich also wanted to note that the Supervisors had been receiving questions from residents about financing for tap in fees and sewer lateral installation regarding the sewer project. He stated that some local banks have offered packages on this and residents should contact the Sewer Department for more information.

At this point, Chairman Buncich opened the floor for any public comment:

Brian Shoff wanted to thank the Supervisors for a job well done with the culvert and pipe installation on Fernwood Drive.

Joe Marisa asked if the Supervisors planned to enact the Emergency Services Tax (\$52.00) in June or July. Chairman Buncich answered, no; the Supervisors were not ready to do that yet. Solicitor Barbin said this involved a standard ordinance which would take approximately sixty days to enact.

At this point, Chairman Buncich wished to state that Solicitor Barbin had given the Supervisors two photos of the new fire hydrant that was installed on Fernwood Drive by the Greater Johnstown Water Authority; this Authority was thanked for their cooperation in this matter.

Paul Laskey stated that he had built three homes in the new Hillcrest development and wanted to know if the Township had an escrow account from the developer. Chairman Buncich answered, no. Mr. Laskey asked if there was a developer's agreement. Chairman Buncich stated, yes, but that he had notified the Planning Commission that the Township's developer's agreement was missing items and needed to be addressed for any new developments within the Township.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Zuccolotto, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Submitted by,

Cindy L. Walerysiak, Secretary/Treasurer