

Conestoga Township BOS Minutes
April 5, 2016

CALL TO ORDER- The Supervisors meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Eshleman.

PRESENT- Supervisors; Craig Eshleman, John Berry, and Loren Brown, Secretary Naomi Little, Bill & Beth Birchall, George Gross, Mike Earheart, Linda Like, Kim Kann, Chris Phelan, Nancy Pechero, John Fish, Leslie Bunting, Bill Hess, Kathy Sangray, Scott Hanna, Jill Kelley, Steve Appel, Linda Eshleman, Dianna & Derek Good, John Wiker, John Stipe, Bill Rankin, Don Connelly, Gary Erb, Bonnie Martin, Tony Corrado, Wes Bruckno, Dave Starry, Karin Cohen, Terry & Lori Shepps, Bonnie Yowler, Tom Grassil, Tim Buyers, Eric Doman, Doloris Warfel, Todd & Kelly Ream, Carl & Betty Cramer, Andy Collins, John Fiorill, Ray Hess, Paul Spangler, Doris and Fred Warfel, Joel Hertzog, Kristy Ellenberger, Park Rineer, Robin Maquire, Cecil S., Brad Shenk.

MINUTES- The Supervisors approved the March 2016 meeting minutes on a motion by Berry, second by Eshleman. All in favor, none opposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT- The Treasurer's report for the month of March was accepted on a motion by Eshleman, second by Berry. All in favor, none opposed.

APPROVE BILLS- The Supervisors approved all bills paid during the month of March on a motion by Berry, second by Brown. All in favor, none opposed.

ROAD MASTER REPORT- John Berry gave update on the roads for the past month. Road Crew has run a boom mower on River Corner Road and other roads. Plows and spreaders have been washed and put away. They have replaced a seal in the frail mower, and installed 2 boxes: one on River Road and the other on Stone Hill Road. Patched pot holes, cleaned storm drains, cleaned and repaired side gutters, along with adding lighting to parking lot and installing a Township mail box. Completed bids for Rineer Road and Theresa Drive along with starting work on dirt road going down to wild flower preserve.

POLICE REPORT- Chief Fiorill presented 2015 yearly report.

ZONING REPORT- Jim Caldwell, Zoning activity as follows: Applications for a number of decks and porches have been coming in. There are about 30 projects that Jim is working on for the Township. He also has the zoning records up to date in the Township office. Jim will be stepping down from the position and the Supervisors will be looking to fill the position as soon as possible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Two sessions were held this month, one for the Treasurers position and the second in regards to the 2015 audit.

BUSINESS

RAIL TRAIL UPDATE- Awaiting for paperwork on the grant and to proceed with getting paperwork in to apply for 50% of the grant to begin work.

FLOOD ORDINANCE HEARING 2016-01- Ordinance for residents to purchase flood insurance through Federal Government. There will be an amendment for minor definition changes on the Flood Ordinance that will be advertised in April for adoption at the May B.O.S. meeting.

Terry Shepps inquired about how the Federal and State money will be spent on the Rail Trail. How will it be divided between the trail and engineering for the bridge? Eshleman answered saying that some of the federal money was held back to match the state money coming in. The federal money will be used on a trail mix surface and state money will be used on the engineering for steel repair of the bridge. Shepps stated that at the last meeting it was said that there was \$51,574.14 in the Rail Road Fund that was restricted. Eshleman answered with stating that he believes that there was \$17,500.00 remaining in the Trestle Fund that was restricted to the Trestle, and that there are other monies from the Rail Road Fund that are not restricted that stem from the Conrail money. Shepps feels it is important to know our budget and finance situation since Conestoga and Martic Townships have ownership of the Trestle and need to plan for future upkeep and expenses. Don Connelly wanted to know about maintenance for painting the Trestle, and if it needs inspection. Berry and Eshleman stated that the bridge is inspected and it will be up to the Township to decide if it will need painting. Berry informed that the state wanted the debris taken off the steel structures and trees cut back.

DEP PLANNING MODULE FOR TIMOTHY SEARCH- Brian Masterson project manager presented to the Board with the planning module for Timothy Search project sub division on the corner of Boy Scout and Rineer Road to allow lots to have on lot sewer for future use. Approval to sign planning module allowing the planning module to be sent to DEP. Eshleman motioned and Berry second. All in favor, none opposed.

FINAL 2015 AUDIT REPORT WITH BERTS HESS- Eshleman declared the Township was given a clean bill of health on the 2015 audit, he stated that the finances are as expected and no money was missing contrary to suggestions he has heard.

Tim Buyers stated that no one has accused anyone of taking any money; the residents have taken the information that had been given to them by the Township and are only stating what they see based on the numbers given. No one has control over rumors and no one at the meetings has accused anyone. Terry Shepps stated that all the citizens were doing was to present facts based on the Townships historical information and that Eshleman has continued to deny the facts. Shepps asked Eshleman to explain what the auditors had said in the executive session. Eshleman said they asked a few questions and explained that \$220,000.00 of the funds was spent for the Trestle. Shepps inquired about the \$50,000.00 out of the \$270,000.00 that is in deficit occurring from the prior year, and what did the auditors say it would result in? Brown answered with the fact that the negative \$50,000.00 will deplete the accounts in 6 years. Shepps asked how they will address the issue of a \$50,000.00 deficit that will take about 6 years before the Township would be at zero. Shepps also referred to the 2009-2015 Financials where there is a drain on the \$900,000.00 sitting in the checking accounts, Shepps stated that the Township is down to a \$330,000.00 unrestricted reserve and it continues to run in a deficit. There is a net deficit that has been running for the last 6 years. Shepps stated that these are the facts that come out of the financial statements. Eshleman said that some of the \$900,000.00 was used on the roads and Trestle. Tim Buyers commented that the money for the Trestle bridge came out of the Rail Road fund and that should not affect the issue with the deficit in the accounts. Berry stated next month the auditor will be here to answer questions and review the audit. Shepps informed the board that he has done a back study on the

Township's road maintenance; after looking at the numbers his study shows that the Township does not have the proper reserves to upkeep the Townships liabilities. Shepps would like to see calculated reserves to anticipate costs and be prepared for future costs. Eshleman asked for suggestions to make the situation better. Shepps asked to see the Township work as a collective team and hire the appropriate people to give the proper support to the Township. The Township needs to have proper Treasurer reports that include general fund, balance sheet, and income statement. He finds the reason for these documents to be unavailable because the payroll liabilities are not calculated properly to be unacceptable, they are a minor item on a balance sheet and should not be difficult to complete. Shepps asked Berry can he fix the roads with \$ 135,000.00 from his calculations. Berry stated no he cannot, Shepps stated that many of the citizens are at the meeting with the question of why the Township cannot get the roads fixed.

Eric Doman commented to Eshleman that over the past 15 years Eshleman has been Supervisor he has accepted whatever that has been going on. Eshleman said that it is not just him but the other Supervisors that should also be held accountable, Doman rebutted that the two Supervisors that are in the position now are new and have not been involved with the past years and past Supervisors. He stated things have been in disorder and out of control which has resulted in citizens becoming concerned of where the Township stands. Doman suggested that Eshleman should resign from his position in order for the Township to move forward. Shepps asked if Eshleman takes responsibility for the Township's roads. Eshleman answered that he shares responsibility with the Supervisors for the roads. Tim Buyers wants to express the concern the citizens have for the roads. He explains the interest in keeping the value of the area in good standing for residents that own property and the importance of the citizens understanding the Townships spending. Buyers would like to see the Township and control the budget better. The citizens would like to see where their money is being spent.

POOL MANAGEMENT CONTRACT- Eshleman opened discussion on pool contract for this year, Secretary Naomi Little read 2016 pool contract. Eric Doman had asked who had drawn up contract. Linda Eshleman announced she and the other pool managers had used a contract from the past 14 years that they had changed as necessary and had the Supervisors review. She had said John Berry has been involved with the contracts for the last two years which Berry rebutted that this would be the first pool contract he has ever seen along with another citizen who stated they have been attending meeting for years and had never seen a pool contract before. Citizens had questions on why they had not had the chance to see a pool contract before this year and asked about the profit percentage. Linda Eshleman and Nancy Pechero took the floor and described the pool duties and how the contract is made based on their information. Questions arose about the 25% commission on the snack bar and swim lessons and the numbers are not matching with the budget and the contract. Leroy Eshleman asked if there is tax dollars that go towards the pool, Eshleman answered that it is mostly self-sufficient but some of the tax dollars go to the pool. Brown stated that the pool revenue from the audit was \$71,333.00 which shows the pool has made more than the Townships expenditures Doris Warfel asked where the money will come from to dig a well that is near the pool. Eshleman stated we are managing without drilling a well for the time being. Chief Fiorill and Officer Carter spoke on the matter of the pool being a positive reinforcement for the youth of the Township and the need to have places of recreation for children to direct their attention on instead of turning to illegal substances. Berry stated that the issue with the pool is the budget and contract and that the Township and Citizens want to keep the pool active for the community. Berry inquired about having the pool management be responsible for the administrative duties needed and to work on dissolving the

25% commission. Terry Shepps suggested paying by the hour and measure the output for the year, instead of profit sharing with tax payer dollars. The costs could be measured and then calculated to have a record of hours being worked. Tim Buyers would like to see pool management revise the pool contract based on what was discussed. In effort to make application process easier the pool forms will be emailed out instead of mailed starting in 2017. A citizen proposed about leasing the pool out and then seeing if the pool would be able to profit on its own. Berry motioned to table this discussion to next month, Lesley Bunting suggested that the Supervisors approve for this month and come up with a better solution for the next month. The conversation concluded with a decision to approve the pool contract for the month pending that further discussion will continue to figure out what will be the best solution. Brown said he is ok with the contract for the year if the percentage would be taken out then they can measure what the cost will be. Brown wanted to know if the contract can be approved contingent on taking out the percentage and modifying the contract to pay hourly. Bunting would like to have the figures and present them accurately next month. Brown motioned to approve for this month, contingent on the revisions Berry second. All in favor none opposed.

LIGHTING- On south side of Township parking lot to improve visibility for citizens.

ROAD BIDS- Rineer Road and Theresa Drive will be advertised for bids. Materials for the road work this year will also be advertised.

George Gross – had an issue with his tire being sliced on Boy Scout Road Berry said they are aware of the situation and they will be looking into patching where the road area is broken up.

John Fisher – Spring Run Road, having water on River Road side, Berry stated that some pipe needs to be replaced and they will be looking to work on that this month.

Chris Veil- When River Corner Road was widened about 8 years ago he has an issue with his driveway he would like to have looked at.

Citizen requested a speed bump on Buck Run Road, there was a suggestion to have police presents in the area.

LCZBO Membership information was presented by Jim Caldwell about meetings this month for education and networking on zoning information and issues.

Eshleman announced that the Township will be looking into hiring a Zoning Officer or firm and having interviews coming up.

SALDO hearing for the approval of the Ordinance for the Sub and Land Division for the Township. Wes Bruckno stated that the Planning Commission had worked all through 2015 on the Ordinance and saved the Township money by completing it at zero cost and has the added benefit that the Ordinance was created to tailor fit the Township. Some of the topics spoke on was the fact that the Township and Planning Commission will have more control on helping to prepare and cater to the Townships needs. Motion by Eshleman second by Berry. All in favor, none opposed.

Designation of an Agent of Resolution for PEMA- John Berry was appointed the Agent that will be able to sign off on any of the paperwork for the snow emergency of January 22-23. Motion by Eshleman second by Brown all in favor none opposed.

Discussion on Ordinance for pipelines in the Township Wes Bruckno has a sample Ordinance that he would like to send for review to the Solicitor to create an Ordinance that will suite the Township. Motion by Berry second by Eshleman all in favor none opposed.

VACANCY CHAIR- The Supervisors would like to appoint a vacancy chair to be available if needed to work with the Supervisors if a vacancy with a Supervisor on the board would occur. The proposed appointment of Jim Henderson motioned by Brown and second by Eshleman. All in favor, none opposed.

Tim Buyers wanted to have the Supervisors explain what the Articles of Agreement will entail. Eshleman stated that the meeting will have discussion on the Articles and to discuss possible changes that the Townships could vote on.

Eshleman has checked with the Solicitor about the wine and cheese event at the Historical Society and pending more information about the event the Supervisors should be able to allow alcohol for the event.

Doris Warfel stated that she is pleased to see that the Township is going in a positive direction with implementing the time card punch, Township mail box and secretarial service.

ADJOURN- @ 9:30 pm motion by Eshleman, second by Brown all in favor none opposed.

RESPECTIVLY SUBMITTED BY
Naomi Little