

Conestoga Township BOS Minutes

January 3, 2023

BOS Meeting called to order by John Berry.

PRESENT – Supervisors: Chairman John Berry; Vice Chair Bob Hershey, Jr.; Ron Wagner, Member; Citizens (attendance list attached).

John Berry announced that we had four Executive Sessions prior to the meeting to discuss personnel issues and litigation. No decisions were made. We'll now move forward with the meeting.

MINUTES – Supervisors approved the December 6, 2022, BOS Meeting Minutes on a motion by Bob Hershey, Jr. and seconded by Ron Wagner. All in favor – none opposed.

BILLS – The Supervisors approved all the bills to be paid for the month of December 2022, on a motion by Ron Wagner and seconded by Bob Hershey Jr. All in favor – none opposed.

Business of General Public

Ron Wagner: Ron explained how the Township Meetings are to be conducted. It is clearly stated on the Agenda each month in the following two lines: *"The meeting will be open for public comment. Only residents of Conestoga Township will have 3 minutes to comment or inquire about today's agenda topics."* Going forward, public comment will be solely based on the Agenda topics posted. Few exceptions will be permitted.

Jamie Pikolas: Will you approve what a resident suggests putting on the Agenda?

Ron Wagner: The Chairman decides Agenda items. He also has the right to table any item. If it's not on the Agenda, it cannot be discussed at the meeting. This is explained in Act 65, otherwise known as the Sunshine Act. It's the law. Residents have any time during the month, up until 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting, to bring items to the attention of the Board. This will make our Township meetings more productive.

Robin Maguire: Robin wanted to know why Ron Wagner could make this decision when he was not an elected official. She also asked what the litigation was about.

John Berry: John explained that it's litigation and the Supervisors are not permitted to discuss these issues with the general public. John also explained Ron Wagner was appointed by the Board.

Doris Warfel: Doris read a letter written by Gary R, Erb (see attached).

Terry Shepps: Terry suggested a Town Newsletter be written and placed on the Conestoga Township website. During discussion it was mentioned that a similar item was tried in the past. However, it was discontinued due to the additional workload placed on the Township.

Agenda Business of the Board

Old

Swimming Pool Contract: Patriot Pools will not renew their contract.

A motion was made by John Berry and seconded by Bob Hershey, Jr. to advertise and find someone to take over the pool with the proper certifications. All in favor – none opposed.

A resident suggested that John Berry contact Melanie Scheid due to her expressed interest last year. John Berry agreed to contact Melanie Scheid.

Signage on Colemanville Church Road: John Berry stated the signs are ordered and will be properly placed once they come in. It takes about six weeks. The locations for the signs have been marked.

New

Rich Graham: Rich thanked the Board for their support. Rich said it's a great fundraiser for the Fire Company and it is enjoyed by all residents who attend. The 2023 Car Show will be held September 23, 2023, from 9 am until 3 pm. Main Street will be closed from the Conestoga Wagon to Rineer Road from 8 am until 4 pm.

John Berry: John asked Rich to explain all that must be done to close a state road.

Rich Graham: You must announce your intentions at a Township Meeting. Then you must attend the Township meeting the following month to get a copy of the previous months' Minutes. A State Application must be completed, which is 10 to 12 pages. You are also required to set up detour routes, that are large enough for tractor trailers. You are required to mark the detour routes with signs early that day and remove the signs immediately after the event is over. You also must obtain insurance. It is a lot of effort on the part of those involved to provide a fun and safe show for the community.

A motion was made by Bob Hershey, Jr. to approve the closure of Main Street for the 2023 Car Show on September 23, 2023, from 8 am until 4 pm. The motion was seconded by Ron Wagner. All in favor – none opposed.

John Berry: John announced that Jennifer Walters submitted her resignation. A motion was made by Ron Wagner to accept her Resignation and the General Release and Separation Agreement. The motion was seconded by John Berry. All in favor – none opposed.

Ron Wagner: Ron went on to explain that he was currently interviewing because Jennifer was pregnant, and we knew the Township would need additional help. We selected a college graduate from Messiah College. Her name is Brandi Tomasetti. While she doesn't have a Municipal background, she's computer savvy and very professional. Ron made a motion to hire Brandi and it was seconded by Bob Hershey, Jr. All in favor – none opposed.

John Berry: A motion was made by Bob Hershey, Jr. to approve a previously budgeted COLA for the township employees. The motion was seconded by Ron Wagner. All in favor – none opposed.

John Berry: John stated that the State Police did a great job of assisting the Road Crew during the latest storms. There were trees down due to wind conditions. The police assisted in directing traffic and helping the crew drag brush off the roads. John just wanted to say the Police are out there and they're doing a great job.

Ron Wagner: Ron explained the reasons why the Township Secretary was not available when residents came to the Township Building. To eliminate these absences, Ron suggested that the Township make the following purchases and explained his reasons for these purchases:

Bank Check Scanner (to scan checks directly to the Township checking account)

Ron explained that in order to scan checks directly to the Township checking account, the Township will change to a Cash Management system with the bank. While the Township will incur a \$20 fee per month, it will earn "overall" approximately \$100/month in interest across all Township accounts.

Postage Meter (to eliminate running to the Post Office)

Ship Station Account i.e., UPS/Fed Ex (parcels will be picked up and shipped onsite)

Office Supply Account (all office supplies will be delivered to the Township building)

Ron also suggested purchasing the following:

Block Safe (the law states we must lock the files)

Security System including Cameras

Time Clock for Office Personnel

Set Up Credit Card Accounts and Eliminate Debit Cards (the Township will earn interest on purchases made and gain fraud protection)

Off Site Computer Back-up Storage (in the event of a catastrophic event)

A blanket motion was made to adopt and accept the above office improvements/purchases by John Berry and seconded by Bob Hershey, Jr. All in favor – none opposed.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:50 pm, motioned by John Berry and seconded by Bob Hershey, Jr.
All in favor – none opposed.

Respectively submitted by,

Ron Wagner, Member

Conestoga Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

Sign In Sheet

January 3, 2023

NAME	ADDRESS
L. Ehlmann	
D. Alexander	
C. Clary	
Larry Frankford Jr	
Dennis Warkel	
Kathy Sangrey	16 Elm St
Terry Shopp	Valley Rd.
Joseph Musser	3439 Main St
Tina Clure	90 Elm St
Rick Graham	5 Theresa Ave
Paula Krumm	W. Main St.
PAUL SPANGLER	312 RIVINGTON
Ray Hess	349 Pegues Creek Rd
Dan Hess	335 Pegues Creek Rd
Uah	
Bobby Martin	
Jaiden Campbell	

Tyler Hess

Dear Conestoga Residents,

I was hoping to share this letter in person, but unfortunately, I had a conflict and could not be in attendance tonight. Therefore, I ask Doris Warfel if she could kindly wait until all public comments were made before deciding to read this letter on my behalf.

On November 1, 2022, I attended the monthly township meeting and witnessed some very strong accusations publicly shared by a small group of people about some zoning discrepancies within the township. There were two maps illustrating various parcels of land that were zoned differently without any formal record of any changes. Immediately this small group of residents jumped to the conclusion that the current Board of Supervisors were up to something shady even though John Berry and Bob Hershey Jr. denied any knowledge of the discrepancies. At the time, Mr. Berry informed everyone he would investigate the situation and provide an update at the next meeting. A few days later I read a post by a township resident making these same false allegations on the Facebook Conestoga Community page. I have no idea how many people read the original post, but I responded and posted exactly what happened at the meeting and that none of the Supervisors were aware of how or when things changed. I guess someone didn't want the truth to be shared because within an hour my response and the original post was removed. I'm told the Conestoga Community Facebook page is not intended to be a platform for political debates which I fully support. Why was the original post on there for days, but when I shared the "truth" it quickly got removed?

On Election Day (November 7, 2022) I headed to the firehouse to vote and low and behold I came across a table set up with these same maps and the same false propaganda being shared with the township residents. I found this to be very unethical and immediately called Jim Caldwell (Rettew Associates) to get his take on things. At the time he wasn't aware there were any zoning discrepancies but promised he would investigate the situation and get back to me with his findings. I received periodic updates over the next few weeks, but nothing was concrete at the time. Eventually I received a phone call informing me they finally completed their review and concluded the error occurred way back in 2010. Please note, none of the current Supervisors were serving at that time. Therefore, John and Bobby were being completely honest and transparent about this whole ordeal. It is important for the township residents to know the truth about what happened with this issue. Then they can then draw their own conclusions about the individuals spreading the false information. I would also hope at some point, some apologies will also be shared.

It's very sad that in today's day and age anyone can say anything about someone without providing any proof. Whether you like or don't like John Berry or Bob Hershey, whether you think John Berry or Bob Hershey are doing a good job or not doing a good job as our supervisor's does not give anyone the right to make up false allegations to fit their hidden agendas. This type of behavior is what is tearing our country apart and I surely hope we never witness another incident like this again in the future!

Regards,

Gary R. Erb

356 Sand Hill Road