

Conestoga Township BOS Minutes

September 7, 2023

BOS Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Robert Hershey Jr.

PRESENT – Supervisors: Vice Chairman Robert Hershey Jr. & Matthew Connelly; Citizens (attendance attached).

MINUTES – Supervisors approved the BOS Meeting Minutes for August 1, 2023 on a motion by Robert Hershey Jr. and seconded by Matthew Connelly. All in favor – none opposed.

BILLS – The supervisors approved bills for August 2023 on a motion by Robert Hershey Jr. and seconded by Matthew Connelly. All in favor – none opposed.

Business of the General Public

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob explained the changed meeting time and John Berry's absence. He stated John had gone to the hospital for an ongoing medical issue. He apologized on behalf of the board for the changed meeting time and said that John fell ill and the supervisors did not know what was going on. He stated that he talked to the solicitor on Tuesday, September 5th and agreed to cancel the meeting and reschedule it for Thursday, September 7th. Bob explained that when they agreed to cancel the meeting it was not communicated that a supervisor would need to remain at the township during the scheduled meeting to redirect the public to the new meeting time. He stated that once he and Matt Connelly became aware, Matt came to the township building to divert the attendees to the new meeting date.

New Business

2024 Budget

Carol Clancy: Carol asked Bob Hershey if there would be a breakdown of how the Covid Funds were used and if the board planned on delivering a report.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob asked Terry Shepps to provide remarks regarding the Covid Funds.

Terry Shepps: Terry stated that the current Covid Funds were around \$91,080 and would be allocated to a new dump truck and boom mower.

2024 Pool Lease

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob stated that he would do his best to have a discussion regarding the 2024 Pool Lease; however, John was the primary one involved and was absent. Bob asked to hear the resident's thoughts on the pool.

Bob added that Matt Connelly would be taking over the responsibility of Office Manager. He stated that John may be absent for a long period of time due to his health. He said John wanted to focus on his Roadmaster position and remain in the shop office. Bob stated that Matt had been doing a great job in the office and had really stepped up to the plate.

Bob opened the floor for public comment regarding the pool and reminded the residents to be respectful and keep comments to 3 minutes.

Melanie Schied: Melanie stated that in the July meeting she asked for a pool lease for next year. She asked the board if they realized how much needed to happen over the winter.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob replied to Melanie that John had been the contact person for all matters involving the pool. He stated that John is absent due to circumstances out of his control.

Melanie Schied: Melanie stated that John lied to the other board members when he told her he was the only person she would communicate with.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob stated that he could not speak for John and that the board agreed to provide Melanie with an answer at the end of her season. He said the board had plans to discuss an answer at this meeting; however, John was absent.

Melanie Schied: Melanie asked Bob if she should switch the electric bill back to the township on September 1st before the end of her lease.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob stated that she will get an answer. He said he agreed that she needed an answer soon, but that there was controversy that needed to get figured out. He stated that John would need to provide more information on past discussions. Bob stated that other non-profits were also interested in leasing the pool.

Melanie Schied: Melanie stated that if she knew John was not going to be at the meeting, she would not have wasted her time coming. She asked why the other people interested in the lease were not at the meeting. She stated that Patriot Pools got a lease that included a right to renew and she was given a 1-year lease.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob confirmed Patriot's lease included a "right to first refusal". He stated that Melanie signed the lease and that he was uninvolved at the time it was signed.

Melanie Schied: Melanie stated that she signed the lease because it was 2 weeks before they needed to be open.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob stated that Melanie signed the lease and that no one made her sign it.

Matthew Connelly: Matt stated that Patriot Pools was a professional pool company.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob asserted that in years past everyone was in agreement that they wanted the pool to open. He stated that he agreed Melanie needed an answer and that if John was not coming back the board would make a decision.

Bob stated that Melanie had asked for a budget line for recreation and that the board saw to it that there was.

Melanie Scheid: Melanie said that there is a \$4,600 well repair scheduled and that she would return the check to us and not get it fixed if she was not given next year's lease. She also stated that the Historic Society does not contribute to well repairs on the shared well.

Melanie stated that the pool's well needs a new holding tank.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob verified with Craig Eshelman that the pressure pump is having difficulty pumping water the distance to the pool.

Craig Eshleman: Craig stated that it was not the pump that failed this time but the second tank. He said the first tank had been out of order for a number of years.

Melanie Scheid: Melanie stated that when she asked for the 2023 Pool Lease, she requested the well cost be split between herself and the Historic Society. She stated that the lease did not include her request when she met John to sign the agreement. She stated that John said there was no reason that needed to be included. Melanie said the Solicitor asked John if it would be alright to include her request in the agreement. She stated that they all knew for years that a pipe running from the well house to the Historic Society was leaking.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob interjected to say that he did not know there was a leak.

Melanie Scheid: Melanie apologized and said it was John Berry and Bill Rankin who knew about the pipe leak. She stated that the holding tank is bad and is a large tank.

Craig Eshelman: Craig stated that the tanks were probably 30 years old.

Melanie Scheid: Melanie commented on a sewer odor in the back kitchen at the pool and that the building was caving in on that side. She stated that the township agreed to be responsible for the sewer.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob requested that Melanie be kind, not fight about it and said that the board is working with her. Bob suggested her concerns be discussed before signing a new lease.

Bob stated the reason he did not want the pool in the hands of the township is because of the liability. He said that he asked the insurance representative what would happen if someone got hurt at the pool and was told that the township does not have enough money to consider that a possibility.

Melanie asked why a new well was never dug for the Historic Society. Bob suggested it may not have been an issue in the past, because the township ran the pool.

Don Connelly: Don asked to consider how much water the Historic Society used. He stated that it was not an excuse for them not to pay but that it was probably how the Historic Society views it.

Resident: A resident stated that when the Historic Society was built, they had limited funds and the township decided to assist by sharing a well.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob stated that some discussion needed to be had and that the 2024 Pool Lease would remain on the agenda for the next meeting. He stated that there would be communication with Melanie and that we would look into the issues discussed.

Don Connelly: Don asked if the pool was being run as a non-profit.

Melanie Scheid: Melanie stated that the pool was run under a 501C3 non-profit.

Don Connelly: Don stated that he was a little confused about the non-profit. He asked why Melanie would be asking for money and stated that her books should show the amount of money brought in and what the expenses were. Don asked why the township was being asked to put money into the pool.

Don stated that the pool had a 30k budget in the past and was losing money back then.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob stated that the solicitor gave guidance in allowing the township to supplement pool expenses for Melanie's non-profit. He said to answer Don's question he did not think the township should be an open check book to the person running the pool. He stated that Melanie is held accountable for the expenses out of the rec fund and that it only covers repairs.

Don Connelly: Don stated that if the pool were to bring in 20k but the operating expenses were 40k, it would be a loss of 20k. He asked how the township or residents would know if the pool was at a net profit loss. He asked Melanie how the residents would know what her final expenses/profits were at the end of the season. He said before asking for more money.

Melanie Scheid: Melanie stated that she would share her tax return.

Don Connelly: Don said that the township's accountant, Terry Shepps should know about the pool's money losses over the years.

Robert Hershey Jr.: Bob stated he agreed the township wanted the pool to open. He asked to move on and said that as long as he is supervisor the pool will not be a liability for the township.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:00 pm, motioned by **Robert Hershey Jr.** and seconded by **Matthew Connelly.** All in favor - none opposed.

Submitted by,

Brandi Tomasetti,

Secretary Treasurer

Conestoga Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

Thursday September 7, 2023

Sign In Sheet (Please Print Your Name & Address)

1. Don Wayer 39 Sand Hill Rd
2. CHRIS & BARB BAIR 208 Run Valley Rd
3. Dan Alexander 315 Sicks Mill
4. Maddie Ritz 4012 Main St. Conestoga
5. Maureen Fiso 490 Sandhill
6. PAUL THOMAS 3347 main st
7. Don Connolly 90 Buck Run Rd.
8. Sheri Kimmitt 647 Sand Hill Rd.
9. Donna Hoar 69 Colemanville Church Rd
10. PAUL SPANGLER 312 REVER CORNER
11. Lynda Lake 4180 Main St.
12. JEREMY ESTLEMAN 431 SAND HILL
13. Craig Estleman 431 Sand Hill Rd
14. Melanie Scheid 157 Marticville Rd 17603
15. Terry Shapps 125 Valley Rd.
16. King Clm 900 Elm St
17. Carole Clay MAIN ST
18. Larry & Missi Frankford Main St Conestoga
- 19.