

# Conestoga Township BOS Minutes

October 3, 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 September 7, 2023 on a motion by Matthew Connelly and seconded by Robert Hershey Jr. All in favor – none opposed.

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

## Business of the General Public

### Old Business

**2024 TOWNSHIP BUDGET** – Matthew Connelly motioned to approve the 2024 Township Budget, seconded by Robert Hershey Jr. All in favor - none opposed.

### **2024 Pool Lease**

**Ken Eckert:** Ken Eckert and another representative from the Millersville Lions Club, Steve Wolpert were invited to speak by Supervisor Matthew Connelly. Kenneth opened with stating

that the goal of the Lions Club has always been community service and that it is one of the largest non-profits. He stated that the Millersville pool has operated for sixty years and the price of a family membership has not increased. He said they offer kids swim lessons at a reasonable cost and have never charged swim teams to practice. He stated that the club is always looking for new members and would encourage people from the community to join or eventually establish a Conestoga Lions Club in the future.

**Robert Hershey Jr.:** Bob asked if anyone had anything else to say about the pool.

**Dave Clancy:** Dave asked if the residents would be able to go to both Conestoga and Millersville pool if it were run by the Lions Club.

**Ken Eckert:** Ken answered stating that Millersville's pool passes cost more than Conestoga's and that an agreement would have to be reached. He said if a dual membership were made possible the two pool's members could attend each other's swim meets and splash party fundraisers.

**Joy (Owner of Salty Dog Salon):** Joy is a mother of a child who is on the Conestoga Swim Team and a volunteer at the pool. Joy said the pool was run well and the kids had fun. She stated that she would be willing to volunteer again next year and was comfortable with Melanie running the pool.

**Gail Lynch:** Gail stated that she goes to the pool everyday with her 3 children. She said her kids were on the swim team and that she has been the Vice President and President of the swim team. She stated that a John Barley gave the swim team a grant to remodel pool as well as funding for swim team equipment and a PA system. Gail said her granddaughter's first job was a lifeguard at the pool this past season. She stated that Melanie did a lot for the pool in the past year and the

prices were good. She said in the beginning there were bumps. She said she was impressed that Melanie offered days free of charge for entry. She said she would like the pool to stay within the community and commended the job Melanie did.

**Denise Harsh:** Denise said her 15-year-old son was a lifeguard at the pool this past year for his first job. She stated that her son began to come home from his job distraught, dreaded going back to work and wanting to quit. Denise said she told him he needed to keep going to his job. She stated that later in the season she started receiving phone calls every day from pool attendees notifying her that her son was being mistreated. Her son told her that Melanie verbally abused him by asking him to pull weeds and calling him “stupid” and “idiot” because he had trouble identifying a weed. She said her son was scolded for leaving his lifeguard chair after sitting in it well over the regulated time. She stated that when she approached her son about the issues at the pool, he was terrified and did not want to tell her what had been happening. She said that kids needed training to use items such as a mop bucket and that you need to show them. She stated that her son has Sensory Processing Disorder and Autism which they chose not to disclose when he took his job at the pool. She said it was heartbreaking to see her son not wanting to go into work out of fear of being yelled at or getting in trouble. She stated that the swim team was punished and the Splash Party fundraiser was taken away. She said she would be comfortable with the Lions Club running the pool because they have run a successful pool business for years. She said this is the choice she would make to ensure the health and safety of the kids, employees and the community.

**Don Connelly:** Don said the Lions Club started the pool and the repairs became costly. He said they attempted fundraisers and selling bonds to pay for the pool repairs. Don stated he is for the pool but wanted to know if the Millersville Lions Club was self-sufficient in running the pool.

He asked if the Lions Club would be asking for funding aside from what is requested through fundraising.

**Ken Eckert:** Ken answered no to requesting funding and stated that their pool is self-run. He said the Lions Club volunteers participate in two pool cleaning days, one pool closing day and they rely on pool managers to run the pool. He stated that the Lions Club is structured starting with the Club, then its Board followed by a Pool Board. He said if Conestoga was interested, he would present it to the Pool Board, then to the Board and then to the Club for a vote. He shared that the Club members are volunteers with specialties in landscaping, plumbing, a certified chemical specialist and he himself runs the social media. He stated that the Lions Club is offering help managing operations, payroll insurance and financial management.

**Don Connelly:** Don asked Ken to verify the Lions Club as a non-profit and that they do not rely on any financing outside of the organization. Ken verified the information. He said the organization took a loan to start the non-profit years ago, paid it off and since is doing well. Don stated that they seemed to be what Conestoga needed and that the Lions Club is “a well-oiled machine”.

**Resident:** A resident asked Melanie if she was prepared to operate the pool another year.

**Melanie Scheid:** Melanie said that she asked for a lease in July and that she has two managers that are life guard certified.

**Resident:** The resident asked a second time if Melanie was prepared to take the pool on another year. Melanie said it is what she asked for in July.

**Rachel Hess:** Rachel Hess stated that she coaches the swim team and her daughter was a lifeguard at the pool. She said one of the other female lifeguards got heat stroke and would go

home throwing up from sitting in the chair for too long. She said she would not put her or anyone else's child under Melanie as an employer. Rachel stated that she, her husband and community volunteers put in countless hours to get the pool running. She said if Melanie were to run the pool next year, she could not in good conscience have the swim team there because there was too much conflict and it was toxic. She mentioned the girl with heat stroke having to go to the emergency room. She stated that her perspective as a parent and a coach was that it was negligent to have someone like Melanie running the pool.

**Dan Hess:** Dan Hess mentioned the possibility of stressed-out lifeguards creating a dangerous situation where they might not be able to properly help someone in an emergency situation.

**Steve Wolpert:** Steve Wolpert stated that his daughter was a lifeguard at the pool this past season and wanted to echo the concerns of the other parents who previously spoke. He said half way through the summer his daughter wanted to quit. He said his daughter also lifeguarded at Millersville's pool and her experience working at each pool were night and day. He stated that his daughter loved working at Millerville, the positive atmosphere and working with her coworkers but was miserable and dreaded going to work at Conestoga. His daughter's experience at each pool prompted him to approach the Millersville Lions Club.

**Doris Warfel:** Doris Warfel asked if anyone making these complaints went to the pool to talk to someone.

**Denise Harsh:** Denise inserted that she tried to talk to Michelle Baker and the cops were called on her. She said Michelle was a volunteer and uncertified lifeguard at the pool. She stated that she calmly approached Michelle and was told that she was verbally assaulting her and that she needed to immediately leave. Denise asked Michelle to please get Melanie Scheid because she

wanted someone to explain to her what was going on with her son. She stated that the police came to the pool, they advised her to go speak with the township's board and the next Monday she came to speak with someone at the township. She said that the pool staff was unwilling to speak with her about the issues involving her son. She added that Melanie would let her son go on break but ask him to carry boxes over his break. She stated that her son is afraid and has told her that he loves the swim team but cannot go back there if it is the same as this past season.

**Melanie Scheid:** Melanie stated that from May to August 1<sup>st</sup> she did not have as much involvement in the management of the pool. She explained that during this time, other residents were the primary ones in charge of the pool. She said other people hired and trained the staff. She said that there are documented slips showing that the life guards rotated.

**Carol Clancy:** Carol Clancy stated that there was a nice crew of people helping with the pool. She stated that the group of people expected there to be a board for the non-profit. She said that members of the group were confused as to whether the pool was being run as a non-profit or a business. She stated that Melanie was not clear about running the pool as a business and who was in charge of operations. The group of volunteers were under the impression that it was a team effort. She said they dedicated a lot of time and were kept out of decisions. She said that there was a lot of questions about how funds were being managed and who/where the funds were coming from. Carol stated that she did not want to be a part of it any longer because it was unclear what was happening with funds. She noted that she hears the Lions Club is organized, has existed a long time, you know what it is and they keep good books. She suggested the two entities could partner. She said it makes more sense to have something unquestionably long standing and operational or clarify Melanie's non-profit. She suggested if Melanie was running the pool as a business everyone who helped should have been compensated and if she was

operating as a non-profit there should be a board making decisions. Carol asked the board to consider the Lions Club and if they were going to consider Melanie to clarify if she is operating a business or a non-profit.

**Robert Hershey Jr.:** Bob said he and Matt were up to speed tonight. He stated he would like to hear more from the residents and that he did not think the decision could be the boards. He said he thought the decision should be made by all the residents. He requested the residents send in letters with their ideas. He said that the residents needed to make a decision as a community. He said Melanie needed to know if she will be operating the pool next year.

**Steve Wolpert:** Steve stated that he was one of the volunteers, came to the meetings, volunteered a ton of time, donated a dumpster rental and cutting the grass with his personal lawn mower. He said it was put out to the public that this was going to be a non-profit. He stated that there is no board for Melanie's non-profit. He stated that thousands of dollars were solicited and countless hours were donated. He said the pool was run like a business with one person in charge. He stated that this one person was the only one allowed to handle the fund. He asked where there was transparency in the non-profit back when it started, where did the money go and who has it now. He asked if it were being run as a business then why were there donations and volunteers.

**Jeremy Eshleman:** Jeremy asked what time frame the Lions Club could have an answer from their board on whether they are approved to help run the pool under their non-profit.

**Ken Eckert:** Ken answered that they could possibly have an answer by October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Old Business

### **Well Isolation Distance Waiver – 665 & 671 Sandhill Road**

**Robert Hershey Jr.:** Bob stated that the board needed to make a motion to approve a Well Isolation Distance Waiver for 665 and 671 Sandhill Road on the recommendation of Conestoga Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer, Mark Deimler.

**Matthew Connelly** motioned to accept a Well Isolation Distance Waiver for 665 and 671 Sandhill Road, seconded by **Robert Hershey Jr.** All in favor – none opposed.

### **Lancaster Public Library Board of Trustees**

A representative from the Lancaster Public Library came to discuss a new library location built and what their library locations offer.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:08 pm, motioned by **Robert Hershey Jr.** and seconded by **Matthew Connelly.**

Submitted by,

Brandi Tomasetti,

Secretary Treasurer



# Conestoga Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

Tuesday October 3, 2023

Sign In Sheet (Please Print Your Name & Address)

1. Z. Ehlman
2. Doris Waezel Conestoga
3. Theodore R. Griffiths Lancaster
4. Chris & Barb Bair Conestoga
5. Bill Rankin Conestoga
6. Robert Branzhof Sandhill Rd.
7. Dan Alexander 315 Sandhill Rd
8. Maureen Fisco 490 Sandhill
9. J Gault 6970 River Rd.
10. T. Shepps Conestoga
11. Gail Lynch Conestoga
12. Sheri Kimmel Conestoga
13. Don Connelly 90 Buck Run Rd
14. Donna Hoar 69 Colemanville Church Rd
15. Dean Evans LNP
16. Dan Hess 335 Pegasus Creek Rd
17. Rachel Hess Conestoga
18. Matt Twomey LPL
19. Parke Ringer MAIN ST. CONESTOGA

20. Lucas Steyer 428 N Pine St
21. JEREMY ESHLEMAN 431 SAND HILL
22. PAUL SPANGLER 312 RIVER CORNER
23. Melanie Scheid 157 Martville Rd
24. Carole Clay 8014 Main St
25. Dianne Babcock 31 Pegma Blvd
26. Allen R. Wells 80 Boy Scout Rd.
27. Sean O'Connor 360 Vending Rd.
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