

Conestoga Township BOS Minutes

March 5, 2024

BOS Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Matthew Connelly.

PRESENT: Supervisors: Chairman Matthew Connelly; Vice Chair Joe Devoy

MINUTES: Supervisors approved the February 6, 2024, BOS Meeting Minutes on a motion by Joe Devoy and approved by Matthew Connelly. All in favor – none opposed.

BILLS – The Supervisors approved the bills to paid for the month of February 2024, Motioned by Joe Devoy and approved by Matthew Connelly.

All in favor – non opposed.

GENERAL PUBLIC

Matthew Connelly: Stated an Executive Session happened on the following dates for personnel: 1/22/2024, 2/3/2024, 2/5/2024.

Joe Devoy: Stated that he is excited to be back and asked for the community's continued support.

Matthew Connelly: Opened up the floor for public comment.

Christine Connelly: Stated that Brandi Tomasetti claimed that she was still employed as the Conestoga Twp Secretary/Treasurer as she runs for the senatorial bid and was curious as to her position in Conestoga Twp.

Joe Devoy: Stated that it will be addressed later in the meeting.

Ron Westcott: Stated he has an issue with runoff and provided pictures.

Joe Devoy: Stated he and Leroy Eshleman of the road crew can help him after the meeting.

Personnel

Matthew Connelly: Stated Brandi Tomasetti had sent a resignation letter and the Supervisors accepted it. Further stated; Brandi claimed harassment from John Berry. John Berry claimed Brandi Tomasetti was insubordinate. Upon speaking with the lawyer and weighing all options, Matthew and Joe Devoy were advised by the lawyer to reach a settlement with Brandi; which Matthew and Joe agreed.

Resident: Asked if Brandi was suing the Township.

Matthew Connelly: Replied, No.

Joe Devoy: Stated Brandi is receiving a financial resolution in lieu of suing the Township.

Resident: Asked, "Why was she going to sue the Township?"

Joe Devoy: Stated she was suing the Township because she had harassment claims against John Berry.

Melanie Scheid: Stated that the Township should hire a man as the next secretary.

Attendees: Erupted with laughter

Resident: Does the Township have liability insurance?

Joe Devoy: Replied: We have insurance but the lawyers said it does not cover in this case.

Resident: Asked what was the Supervisor's name?

Joe Devoy: Replied John Berry who is the other Supervisor and Roadmaster.

Joe Geesey: Asked if there were any details on the settlement; dollar wise or was that all privy?

Joe Devoy: Replied if you file a Right to Know (RTK) you will be able to see what is in the settlement.

Resident: Inquired if the other three settlements are public knowledge?

Joe Devoy: Stated that if you do file a RTK you would be entitled to see a copy of the settlement and it is public knowledge but he did not know about the previous settlements.

Matthew Connelly: "Do I hear a motion to ratify the execution of the settlement resignation agreement with Brandi?"

Joe Devoy: He motioned to ratify the settlement resignation agreement with Brandi Tomasetti. Seconded by **Matthew Connelly**. All in favor and none opposed.

Joe Devoy: Stated that Brandi was the Treasurer and RTK Officer and because he is the Assistant Treasurer, Matthew Connelly is going to take on the Treasurer role. Matt has been working on the RTK information in Brandi's absence and has volunteered to take on that position.

Joe Devoy: Asked if there were any comments before it was ratified?

Joe Devoy: Motioned to make Matthew Connelly the Conestoga Treasurer.

Matthew Connelly: Seconded and made a motion to appoint himself as Treasurer.

Joe Devoy: Seconded the motion. All in favor and none opposed.

Joe Devoy: Made a motion to make Matthew Connelly the RTK Officer of Conestoga Twp. 2nd by **Matthew Connelly** All in favor and none opposed.

Joe Devoy: Stated there will be a posting for a new Secretary. He emphasized that they will be taking their time to hire the right person. He and Matthew will prevent what had happened in the past even if it takes six months; they are determined to hire the right person to do a great job for the long haul. He asked the residents to spread the word and it would even be better if they were local. The position will be on the Conestoga FB page, LNP, and the Conestoga Twp web site.

Matthew Connelly: Asked if there was a motion to advertise the Conestoga Twp's Secretary position.

Joe Devoy: Made a Motion. 2nd by Matthew Connelly. All in favor and none opposed.

Matthew Connelly: Introduced Michele Lovett as the temporary part time Secretary until someone is secured for the full-time position. He announced that Michele will be able to assist residents at the office: Tuesday-Thursday 9am-3pm.

Michele Lovett: stood to her feet and gave a brief greeting.

Matthew Connelly: Asked if there was a motion to ratify the hiring of Michele Lovett on January 25, 2024?

Joe Devoy: Made a motion. 2nd by Matthew Connelly. All in favor and none opposed.

Matthew Connelly: Road Crew Employee CDL Training.

He applauded Leroy Eshleman, Barry Rankin, Bob Barton, and Collin Deihm for their skillful ploughing and keeping the roadways clear of ice and snow.

He emphasized the necessary CDL training of Collin Deihm so he can operate the trucks and plough.

Matthew Connelly: Asked if there was a motion to authorize execution of the CDL training for Collin Deihm?

Joe Devoy: Made a motion. 2nd by Matthew Connelly. All in favor and none opposed.

Matthew Connelly: Authorization of New Check Signer

Matthew Connelly: Stated that we need a new check signer. In order to go forward, we need to authorize Joe Devoy as a new check signer unless there was an objection.

Joe Devoy: Informed that the bank cannot change the check signer until it is made known publicly and shown on the Minutes.

Matthew Connelly: Made a motion to execution of making Joe Devoy a check signer. 2nd by Joe Devoy. All in favor and none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Matthew Connelly: Introduction of Live Stream Meetings

Dave Clancy: Stated that it would be beneficial for those who cannot attend the meetings to have access through Live Stream. He suggested a user-friendly, low-cost system. He opened the discussion to any media knowledgeable residents.

Joe Devoy: Stated that after speaking with the lawyer, he was advised not to do it; but it is the Township's decision. Joe is in favor of it and asked for the resident's opinions? He asked for any volunteers.

Christine Connelly: Stated that she objected to the idea of live streaming because it is important for residents to attend the meetings and see for themselves what is going on. She gave an example that when we vote, we must vote in person. There is an alternative to voting. She asked how many other townships livestream?

Joe Devoy: Stated for clarification, that people will not be able to participate but simply listen. If you cannot attend the meetings, there is a copy on YouTube.

Resident: Asked why the Solicitor did not advise that?

Joe Devoy: Replied, "Because he is a Solicitor." It is tradition and how things were always done. Whatever the minutes read, that's what they are, and cannot be altered.

Matthew Connelly: Stated residents have the have the right to record meetings.

Resident: Stated, maybe, instead of Live Streaming, we should record and have it looked at and then posted.

Carol Clancy: Offered the opposite; Live Stream meetings but don't record it. Therefore, there is no record. The issue is having an existing record which is usually the concerns of the attorney.

Christine Connelly: Stated that she views it as a security risk. She emphasized that we are million-dollar township with limited funds. Security is huge to her.

Pat Brogan: Stated that the city has a YouTube channel that works pretty well. It was started because a citizen came in and taped the meetings and put it on

YouTube and anybody can do that. She said it is a way to communicate for folks who cannot attend a meeting. It's about transparency.

Don Connelly: *Presented two questions:*

- 1. How many other townships livestream?*
- 2. Is it necessary to place the responsibility on the Township and Supervisors when the public can record the meetings?*

Matthew Connelly: *Stated that he would research the other townships.*

Joe Devoy: *Asked if anyone would volunteer to record next month's meeting.*

Don Connelly: *Stated that the Supervisors are not required to record meetings but to hold meetings; that is the requirement.*

Christine Connelly: *Her concern was AI and that anyone could alter the recordings and change it to what they wanted said instead of what was actually said. Plus, we do not have the funds to do this.*

Dave Clancy: *Volunteered to research the cost. He said he would look into square footage and the approximate location.*

Robin Maguire: *Stated that he Live Streams and has never been in trouble.*

Joe Devoy: *Stated that Robin had the right to do that and that he is not in trouble.*

Aiden Devoy: *Stated the Live Stream would be free. Simple as setting up an iPhone in the back of the room.*

Matthew Connelly: *Stated that this subject will continue in next month's meeting.*

Matthew Connelly: **Annual Fire Chief Report**

Larry Frankford: *Stated there were 25 Fire calls, 20 medical calls, 42 assists, 24 vehicle accidents, 80 public services, 54 control burns, 5 automatic alarms, 18 boat calls for a total of 268 calls. They hauled 94,100 gallons of water mostly for cisterns. Total hours were 1889.5 hours. Trainings: 25 Company level trainings 417-man hours, 26 outside fire hall trainings for 43 people at 359 hours. 30 sessions of driver training. 545 personnel total 89 trainings, total man hours 1,352. 75.*

There is a new tanker ordered from last year. Chassis came in and will sit till this fall. New truck will cost around \$650,000. Chassis cost around \$200,000 and it is paid in full. There will be a \$250,000 loan that will be taken out for the body. This will be a bigger truck with a bigger pump to better serve the community.

Paul Thomas stepped down as Chief and has served since 1979.

Troy Bresch was Deputy Chief and he stepped down. Thank these men for the dedicated years of service. Mark Mitchell is the new Deputy and Preston Harsh as Assistant Chief.

Fundraiser: Dance at Millersville VFW on March 2, 2024

We appreciate your support and have 275 tickets to sell.

Joe Devoy: Appreciated the Conestoga Twp Fire Department to provide us with safety and they have the Supervisors 100% support.

Matthew Connelly: Introduced the Car Show

Rich Graham: This is the 11th year minus the COVID year.

Date: September 28, 2024

Time 9am -3pm. Road closed 8am – 4pm.

Matthew Connelly: Asked if there is a rain date

Rich Graham: Replied there is no rain date. There are 300-325 cars.

Don Connelly: Asked if they could go to Sand Hill Rd and that there could be a rain date.

Rich Graham: The main thing is to be close to the fire company for food.

Matthew Connelly: Made a motion to the closure of Main Street on 9/28/24 from 8am -4pm. 2nd by Joe Devoy. All in favor and none opposed.

Melanie Scheid: Before we adjourn, asked about John Berry?

Joe Devoy: Stated they are going through the options. He had no say in the settlement. He knows there was allegations and we will report back in March.

Melanie Scheid: Asked if John Berry was being paid full or disability?

Joe Devoy: Stated that Disability is filed. He is getting paid sick leave.

Joe Devoy asked Terry Shepps from Shepps Group CPA if this was correct.

Terry Shepps: Replied, "That is correct."

Melanie Scheid: Asked if he can miss as many meetings as he wants as Supervisor?

Joe Devoy: Stated that Supervisors have zero power. The only way to remove John Berry would be an impeachment process which is very expensive. As Road Master, Matt and John can remove him from that position.

Joe Devoy: Motioned to adjourn. 2nd by **Matthew Connelly**. All in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Michele Lovett
Conestoga Township Interim Secretary

Please attend the next meeting: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:00pm

Conestoga Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Sign In Sheet (Please Print Your Name & Address)

Orin Warfel	Conestoga
K. Eshleman	693 Green Hill Rd.
B. Bamhof	660 Sandhill Rd.
D Alexander	315 Sickmans Mill
Don & Christine Connelly	90 Buck Run Rd.
Bob & Leann Hershey	633 Stony Ln
Bill Ranker	179 hilltop DR
Low Warner	3900 MAAN ST
Rich Graham	5T Laurel Dr
Allen & Tony	82 River Corner

Kimmet Sand Hill Rd

PAUL SPANGLER 312 RIVERCORNER

Dianne Babcock Peytec Blvd

Dan Henson Elm St

Justin Henson Elm St

Joe Geesey 793 Stehman Rd.

Pana Paparo 671 Sand Hill rd.

Aidan Devoy 671 Sand Hill rd

Patricia Brogan 671 Sand Hill rd.

Peter Thomas 3347 main ST

Ron Westcott 13 W Elm St

Robin Maguire 32 Sandhill Rd

Carl 3714 Main

Larry & Missi Frank Merca St

Judy Stoner Green Hill Rd

Terry Shepps Valley Rd

Michele Lovett 82 E. Elm St

Dean Evans LNP

Charly Fulmer 45HV

Tom Ringler

Judd Groff 50 E Elm St

Melanie Scheid 3225 Main St

