

Conestoga Township Board of Supervisors Minutes

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conestoga Township Public Meeting Room located at 3959 Main Street, Conestoga, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairman of the Board, Matthew Connelly, followed by the pledge to the flag.

PRESENT - SUPERVISORS:

Chairman Matthew Connelly and Vice Chairman Joe Devoy

OTHERS PRESENT

C. L. Eshleman, 693 Green Hill Road

Doris Warfel, 39 Sand Hill Road

Chris & Barb Bair, Run Valley Road

Kirby Wiest, 847 Long Lane

Kathy Sangrey, 130 West Elm Street

Dan Alexander, 315 Sickman's Mill Road

Ray Hess, Pequea Creek Road

Brian & Jody Herr, 769 Stehman Road

Gary & Michele Miller, Main Street

Steve, Miller Road

Donald L. Connelly, 90 Buck Run Road

Donna Eshleman, 2540 Main Street

Lynda Like, 4180 Main Street

Joe Geesey, 793 Stehman Road

Robin Maguire, Sandhill Road

Wes Bruckno, Kendig Road

Megan Blowers, Bridge Valley Road

Janice L. Wagner, 442 Shenks Ferry Road

C.E., 3214 Main Street

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Joe Devoy motioned to approve the June 4, 2024 BOS Minutes with a second by Matt Connelly.

All in favor – None opposed.

Approval of Bills & Treasurer's Report: Joe Devoy made a motion to approve the June 2024 bills and Treasurer Report as presented with a second by Matt Connelly.

All in favor – None opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matthew Connelly stated that all residents and tax payers are welcome to participate. Please state your name and address for the record and limit your comments 3 minutes.

Doris Warfel stated the we used to have a beautiful town, now there are properties that have been allowed to accumulate trash, junk vehicles, and high grass. She specifically stated the two properties on either side of the Township Municipal building that should be addressed. The one resident added parking that extends to the road and she wanted to know if they got a permit.

Matthew Connelly replied that Mrs. Warfel could submit a Right-To-Know (RTK) to see if a permit was placed.

Joe Devoy stated that he would speak with Jeff Fiant, Kraft Municipal code officer.

Doris Warfel stated that the Supervisors spoke with Jeff Fiant before and nothing happened.

Resident asked if they send letters out.

Doris Warfel replied that a letter was sent to the lady who had trash in her yard and the trash is still there.

Matthew Connelly offered others an opportunity to speak.

Janice Wagner: She added her concern for the Nelson Bard property, next to hers, that has been logged-out and allowed to leave dead trees and high dry grass across an emergency access area. She is concerned that the area is a fire hazard. Mr. Bard will not permit them to mow the weeded area. She has more mice and snakes in her house in relation to ill-kept property.

Joe Devoy: Stated that the area in concern is a utility right-of-way. The logs are from the utility company and not Nelson Bard.

Janice Wagner emphasized that she was always told to keep the right-of-way open because it is a fire lane. No one will be able to access the woods should a fire occur.

Joe Devoy stated that he and Leroy Eshleman would look into Janice's property concerns when Leroy returns from vacation next week.

PERSONNEL

Matthew Connelly: Michele Lovett has been interim secretary for quite some time now until we were able to get some help. We would like to appoint her official as the Township Assistant Secretary.

Joe Devoy made a motion to appoint Michele Lovett as the Township Assistant Secretary with a second to the motion by Matt Connelly.

All in favor – None opposed.

Resident asked what are the duties of an assistant secretary.

Matthew Connelly stated that the assistant is a complement to Jessie, who handles payroll, finances, insurance, updating forms, etc. The assistant is stationed at the front desk and she handles residents' concerns, phone calls, researching RTK's, permits, supplies and relatable tasks.

Doris Warfel wanted to know how many hours Michele Lovett was going to work.

Joe Devoy replied that Michele was going to work 24 hours per week which equates to six hours four days per week.

Doris Warfel inquired if the Township was having two part-time office people.

Joe Devoy stated that Jessie Ebersole will be full-time and that payroll and most accounting will be in-house. More financial tasks will be brought back to the Township office that Shepp's was handling for the past eighteen months. This will more than pay the wages for the two Secretaries.

Doris Warfel identified the financial benefits of one secretary verses two. Sometimes outsourcing work is cheaper than in-house because you will not be paying for vacation or insurance of employees. She said when the police operated in the Township it caused big trouble financially and wanted Michele to know that she had nothing against her (no offense was taken by Michele).

Joe Devoy stated that when you look at the budget at the end of the year and the following year and you look at the bank balances you will see the profit.

Doris Warfel stated that with two secretaries, she hoped, one could write grants. She recollected that the Township had one Secretary who wrote grants.

Matthew Connelly stated that Michele attended a grant program hosted by Senator Scott Martin.

Matthew Connelly: We have been looking for a new Township Roadmaster for a while. We appreciated everyone who showed an interest and wanted to help the township. We have decided to hire a new Roadmaster; Brian Herr. With his skillset and knowledge, we are very excited to have him on board. He will start July 15th. (Applause erupted)

Brian Herr shared that he was employed at Pequea Township's Road crew for nine and a half years and was Roadmaster for three years. He looks forward to moving Conestoga forward.

Joe Devoy gave a big shoutout and thank you to Leroy Eshleman who held the Township together for the past year. Leroy was on-call for the last 52 weeks for Conestoga. Commendable!

Joe Devoy made a motion to execute the hiring of Brian Herr as the Township Roadmaster with a second to the motion by Matt Connelly.

All in favor – None opposed.

Joe Devoy made a motion to adopt the resolution to appoint Brian Herr as the Township Roadmaster with a second to the motion by Matt Connelly.

All in favor – None opposed.

TOWNSHIP OF CONESTOGA
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-9

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CONESTOGA TOWNSHIP TO APPOINT A TOWNSHIP ROADMASTER

Joe Devoy made a motion to authorize Thomas Grassel, Jr. and Jessie Ebersole as check signers to all Members 1st Federal Credit Union bank accounts with a second by Matt Connelly.
All in favor – None opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Matthew Connelly stated that Michele has been assisting with the Township's Right-to-Know requests. We have had an influx of them, some that are costing the Township a lot of resources, time, and money to perform. Section 702 gives a township the discretion to not provide records to anonymous requesters and each request must have contact information.

Joe Devoy made a motion to implement a policy that Conestoga Township will not accept Right-to-Know anonymous requests and that each request must have a name with contact information. Matt Connelly seconded the motion.

All in favor – None opposed.

Joe Devoy added that we are spending an enormous amount of time with RTK's; costing the Township tons of money that is going nowhere. Michele spends 15-20 hours per week on RTK's. It is much easier to come into the office and speak with Jessie. She can help you out with a more efficient way than the time-consuming process that is currently implemented.

Leroy Eshleman stated that the Township obtained 250 tons of stone from the Power Company. We paid for the trucking which was 4 trips per hour. We purchased a used 2006 Mack dump truck with 8,000 miles for \$20,000 from the Frey Landfill.

Robin Maguire asked if the Supervisors decided on a person for the Planning Commission.

Matthew Connelly stated that they did not and that he interviewed a new candidate that came forward yesterday.

Joe Devoy stated that Tom Grassel Jr has three candidates to interview. There will be someone selected for the Planning Commission next month.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Jessie L. Ebersole

Conestoga Township Secretary

JLE/mel