

Conestoga Township Board of Supervisors Minutes

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 5, 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, Vice Chairman Joe Devoy and Tom Grassel Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT

Brian Herr: Roadmaster
Mark Mitchell 3296 Main Street
Chris & Barb Bair 208 Run Valley Road
Donald L. Connelly 90 Buck Run Road
Paul Thomas 3327 Main Street
Donald L. Connelly 90 Buck Run Road

C. LeRoy Eshleman: Road Crew
Harris J. Malkin 1684 Long Lane
Paul Spangler 312 River Corner Road
Brian K. Spong 5 Centre Drive
Gary & Michele Miller 3498 Main Street

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 to 3 minutes.

Matthew Connelly gave a shout out to our persistent poll workers who prevailed when approximately 2000 of our 2700 registered voters, roughly 74% let their prolific voting power be known.

Chris Bair inquired if Run Valley Road is included in the road projects for next year since there are signs where the asphalt is breaking loose.

Tom Grassel Jr. stated that Run Valley Road may be topped the following year in 2026 but they will keep an eye on it.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD

Executive session was held October 31, 2024 for Personnel related discussions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S BILLS AND REPORT

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Joe Devoy motioned to approve the October 1, 2024 BOS Minutes with a second by Tom Grassel Jr.

All in favor – None opposed.

Approval of Treasurer's Bills & Report: **Joe Devoy** made a motion to approve the October 2024 Bills and Treasurer Report as presented with a second by **Matthew Connelly**
All in favor – None opposed.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The Planning Commission's meeting held on October 28, 2024 regarding the Township's Code Codification.

The Zoning Hearing Board did not meet in October.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Devoy stated that the Right-to-Know requests are a financial burden in relation to the money that is spent on lawyer fees and the many hours vested in work; contributing to a completely frivolous expense.

Matthew Connelly encouraged the community to visit the office where the requested information can be reviewed saving the Township substantial time and money.

Joe Devoy made a motion to adopt the Resolution to appoint Michele Lovett as the Office of Open Records officer and Matthew Connelly as the alternate with a second by **Tom Grassel Jr.**

All in favor. None opposed.

TOWNSHIP OF CONESTOGA
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CONESTOGA
TOWNSHIP TO APPOINT AN OPEN RECORDS OFFICER AND AN
ALTERNATE OPEN RECORDS OFFICER FOR CONESTOGA TOWNSHIP

Tom Grassel Jr. made a motion to increase the salary of the Assistant Secretary to \$24.00 per hour with a second by **Joe Devoy**.

All in favor with Matthew Connelly abstained due to a conflict of interest in correlation to a family relationship.

Jessie Ebersole explained that the Township Personnel Policy is outdated. Fulltime Road Crew employee, Derek Good, would like to assist with fire calls and the amendment would permit him to be paid while doing so. The policy also covered On-Call requirements and compensation.

Tom Grassel Jr. made a motion to approve the Personnel Policy Amendment 2024.01 relating to On-Call Requirements and Fire Calls with a second by **Joe Devoy**.

All in favor – None opposed.

Joe Devoy made a motion to approve extending vacation without pay with a second by **Matthew Connelly**.

All in favor – None opposed.

Tom Grassel Jr. made a motion to approve unused vacation to rollover into 2025 with a second by **Joe Devoy**.

All in favor – None opposed.

Joe Devoy made a motion to advertise the inspection of the 2025 Budget with a second by **Matthew Connelly**.

All in favor – None opposed.

Jessie Ebersole reviewed the layout change for the proposed 2025 Budget. The first page provides the listing of the Board of Supervisors, Staff, Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board members with correlating term expiration dates for any resident who would like to serve in due time. The next page summarizes the General Operating Fund and the State Highway Revenues and Expenditures. It then goes to summarizing the major source of Revenues, with a pie chart and then lists the detail of each account. The next section does the same for the Expenses. Jessie mentioned the large different in the total Revenue and Expenses is due to the Township applying for \$600,000 grant. She also stated that Revenues have increased by \$89,000 and that there will be no tax increase for 2025.

Tom Grassel Jr. and Joe Devoy commended Jessie Ebersole for a job well-done. It is the first time in years that the Budget was done in-house. Terry Shepps commented during the budget meeting that this is the first time, since he was involved, that a legitimate budget is in place. The meeting attendees applauded Jessie for her thorough and dedicated work.

Roadmaster Brian Herr reported on the roads budgeted for work in 2025:

The short section of Fox Hollow Road, remaining part of Colemanville Church Road, Brenner Hollow Road, and Tomahawk Drive. Tomahawk Drive has a portion in Pequea Township. They are bidding out the road and will bill us for our portion. It made sense to complete the project with Pequea Township. There is a pipe replacement on the southern end of River Road and stormwater work for Brenner Hollow Road.

Chris Bair, Run Valley Road, interjected with concern about a neighbor who has fifteen years of yard waste with trees piled twenty-five feet high and forty feet wide that is visible on the backside of his property. He is concerned that it could spark a major fire and presents it as a fire safety hazard. He wanted to know what could be done if the property is located in Pequea Township. The property is located in Conestoga Township and the concern will be forwarded to our zoning code officers.

Joe Devoy made a motion to advertise appointment of certified public accounting firm to audit the accounts of the Township for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024 with a second by **Matthew Connelly**.

All in favor – None opposed.

Tom Grassel Jr. made a motion to declare a Township fire ban and per the Conestoga Township Burn Ordinance, advertise in the local paper with a second by **Joe Devoy**.

All in favor – None opposed.

Joe Devoy made a motion to accept the resignation of Ronald Wagner from the Planning Commission effective December 31, 2024 with a second by **Tom Grassel Jr.**

All in favor – None opposed.

ROADMASTER REPORT

Brian Herr stated the sale of the 1997 International Dump Truck and thanked Tom Grassel Jr for his assistance.

Brian announced that there will be a joint paving project with the Conestoga Volunteer Fire Company. The Township owns the salt shed and equipment shed. It was determined that the driveway has no base when they were repairing a water leak. It is in horrible condition. The salt bin will have a foundation installed to prevent the salt from absorbing into the ground. The work is scheduled to start November 18th and conclude around November 27th, 2024, weather dependent.

Tom Grassel Jr added that there will only be a base coat placed on the driveway with the top coat being applied next year. Manor Township was kind enough to allow us to borrow their salt shed so no product would be lost.

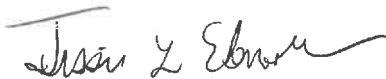
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matthew Connelly stated that the Township Office will be closed November 11th in observance of Veterans Day and November 28th in observance of Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Jessie L. Ebersole

Conestoga Township Secretary

JLE/mel