

Conestoga Township Board of Supervisors Minutes

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, December 3, 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 Joseph Devoy and Thomas Grassel Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT

C. LeRoy Eshleman: Road Crew	Ray Hess Pequea Creek Road
Mark Mitchell 3296 Main Street	Harris J. Malkin 1684 Long Lane
Chris & Barb Bair 208 Run Valley Road	Paul Spangler 312 River Corner Road
Donald L. Connelly 90 Buck Run Road	John & Dianne Babcock Pequea Boulevard
Doris Warfel 39 Sand Hill Road	Gary & Michele Miller 3498 Main Street
Dolores Warfel 52 Stone Hill Road	Eric Peifer Pequea Boulevard
Larry Frankford 3619 Main Street	Dave Clancy 3014 Main Street
Jared Edelman 8 Theresa Drive	James Fizer 749 Pennsy Road
Pat Ward 70 Goods Road	Joseph Ward 70 Goods Road
Robin Maguire 32 Sand Hill Road	Terry Shepps 125 Valley Road
Dan, Jaden & Noah Hess 335 Pequea Creek Road	

SUPERVISORS COMMENT

Matthew Connelly commented that he was pleased with Township office staff and road crew as 2024 draws to a close.

Tom Grassel Jr elaborated that "Government does not solve problems, people do." He commended LeRoy Eshleman for holding the road crew together; he was one man doing the work of three. He was on-call; called out during off hours and weekends and didn't run for the hills!

Tom commented that most government offices make you feel like a criminal but Michele Lovett treats the Township residents like family.

Tom highlighted that Roadmaster Brian Herr made a shift, a lateral move, from Pequea Township to Conestoga. He has an innovative mind that thinks outside the box when it comes to securing updated equipment and maintenance.

Tom recognized the pivotal moment the day they recruited Jessie Ebersole in the supermarket and invited her to apply for the Secretary/Treasurer position. She is a mastermind of Municipality Management 10!

Tom confirmed that Derek Good came from East Lampeter Township. He took a pay cut for the love of family and community. Tom reaffirmed that he learned more from running a Township from our people. He reiterated, "Government does not solve our problems; our people solve our problems." He thanked the Township workers for helping to answer questions and solve problems. **Joe Devoy** heartily agreed with Tom and is looking forward to another great year.

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.

Robin Maguire inquired if the Township was ever going to have police monitor speeders. She stated that someone is going to be critically injured due to reckless, speeding drivers.

Tom Grassel Jr stated that it is a "No" at this point.

Doris Warfel commented that she sees State Police in Conestoga often and that we cannot afford to budget for police.

Gary Miller asked if there was an ordinance against a neighbor assaulting a neighbor on a public sidewalk.

Joe Devoy replied that there may not be an ordinance but there are laws against it.

Gary Miller shared that he was publicly assaulted 10 days ago when he was going to pick up his daughter and she saw part of it. The sidewalks should be safe and not an open display of violence and terroristic threats. The State Police were involved and the neighbor was charged. He wanted the residents to be aware of his aggressive neighbors, hoping the residents will not be assaulted as they walk their children and dogs on the sidewalk.

Gary stated that he and his wife have been in the community for thirty years and that they support the Township and want to help make it better. It has been suggested to him, to move, but this is his home. Hostile, combative neighbors should not be permitted to live in the Township.

Matthew Connelly commented that he was sorry that Gary experienced the assault and that we do not condone violence from a Township perspective.

Robin Maguire circled back to the presence of the State Police. She recited an incident where she had called them for domestic violence after her neighbor was assaulted. It took twenty-five minutes for the State Police to show up.

Tom Grassel Jr stated that they were not going to debate whether the State Police are present or not because they are present.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD

There were no Executive Sessions held in November 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S BILLS AND REPORT

Approval of Meeting Minutes: **Joe Devoy** motioned to approve the November 6, 2024 BOS Minutes with a second by **Tom Grassel Jr**.

All in favor – None opposed.

Approval of Treasurer's Bills & Report: Tom Grassel Jr made a motion to approve the November 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 and the Zoning Hearing Board did not meet in November 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Devoy made a motion to adopt the Resolution to allow opt-out of employer provided health insurance coverage and setting employee compensation with a second by **Matthew Connelly**.
All in favor. None opposed.

TOWNSHIP OF CONESTOGA
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CONESTOGA
TOWNSHIP TO ALLOW OPT-OUT OF EMPLOYER PROVIDED HEALTH
INSURANCE COVERAGE AND SETTING EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

Tom Grassel Jr made a motion to adopt the 2025 Budget with a second by **Matthew Connelly**.
All in favor – None opposed.

Joe Devoy made a motion to increase salaries effective on the first check date in 2025 with a second by **Matthew Connelly**. (3.2% increase)
All in favor – None opposed.

Tom Grassel Jr made a motion to purchase a front PTO and Ferri boom mower and trade-in the Ford 5610 & Ford 6640 tractors with a second by **Joe Devoy**.
All in favor – None opposed.

Joe Devoy made a motion to appoint Conrad Siegel as the Township's Investment Management, Custodial and Retirement Payment Services and to open an account with Charles Schwab for the Non-Police Pension Plan with the same authorized signers with a second by **Matthew Connelly**.
All in favor – None opposed. It was noted that Jessie L. Ebersole will remain as the Chief Administrator. She and Joe Devoy will be the authorized signers.

Tom Grassel Jr made a motion to accept the resignation of Karl (a.k.a. Duff) Lefever from the Zoning Hearing Board effective December 31, 2024 with a second by **Matthew Connelly**.
All in favor – None opposed.

Matthew Connelly presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ronald Wagner for his years of dedication and service to the Township in the leadership roles with the Planning Commission and Township Supervisor.

Joe Devoy made a motion to advertise the Township's 2025 meeting dates with a second by **Tom Grassel Jr.**

All in favor – None opposed.

Joe Devoy made a motion to lift the Township fire ban with a second by **Matthew Connelly.**

All in favor – None opposed.

ROADMASTER REPORT

Tom Grassel Jr gave the report in absence of Brian Herr. Long's Paving completed the basecoat at the Fire Company, which is a joint venture between the Township and the Conestoga Volunteer Fire Company. They milled down the existing surface eleven inches which consisted of very little stone base, dirt and asphalt. They put in six inches of new stone and four inches of the base asphalt. The salt shed is paved for the first time, noting that we will not be digging up frozen ground and rocks. The top coat will be completed in 2025 with a date to be determined. He went on to mention that line painting was completed on River Hill Road, Duck Hill Road, River Corner Road, and a portion of Stone Hill Road. They will be cutting down dead ash trees on River Hill Road the week of December 9th.

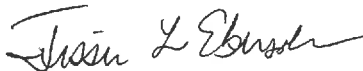
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matthew Connelly announced openings on the Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board. Residents may email a letter of interest to office@conestogatwp.com. Matt stated that the Township Office will be closing at Noon on December 24th and all-day on December 25th in observance of Christmas. The office will be closed at Noon December 31st and all-day January 1st in observance of New Years.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Jessie L. Ebersole

Conestoga Township Secretary

JLE/mel