

Conestoga Township Board of Supervisors

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 in the Conestoga Township Public Meeting Room located at 3959 Main Street, Conestoga, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Chairman of the Board, Matthew Connelly followed by the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

Chairman Matthew Connelly, Vice Chairman Thomas Grassel Jr. and Joseph Devoy

OTHERS PRESENT

Jessie L. Ebersole, Secretary/Treasurer
Brian J. Herr, Roadmaster
C. LeRoy Eshleman, Roadcrew
Harris J. Malkin, 1684 Long Lane
Mark & Gabriel Mitchell, 3296 Main St
Bob Michener, 651 River Corner Rd
Ray Hess, 349 Pequea Creek Rd
Don Connelly, 90 Buck Run Rd
Craig Eshleman, 431 Sandhill Rd
Gary Miller, 3498 Main St

Doris Warfel, 39 Sandhill Rd
Rich Graham, 5 Theresa Dr
Larry & Melissa Frankford, 3619 Main St
Chris & Barb Bair, 208 Run Valley Rd
Paul Spangler, 312 River Corner Rd
Parke Rineer, 3470 Main St
Preston Harsh, 260 Valley Rd
Brian Spong, 955 River Hill Rd
Lynda Like, 4180 Main St
Robin Maguire, 32 Sandhill Rd

SUPERVISOR COMMENT

Matthew Connelly re-addressed the action taken last month where Michele Lovett had given her resignation. She sought to pursue a different opportunity and we wished her the best moving forward. Matthew stated that it is sad to see her go and very thankful for all she did for the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Connelly of 90 Buck Run Road on behalf of the Conestoga Township Republican party stated they are looking for someone that would be interested in the position of Judge of Elections. If you are good with numbers and have an interest, please reach out to Don directly at 717-575-2657. Tom Grassel asked who is resigning. Don replied Steve Beck. It was noted that Steve will continue and that this would be for the following Spring ballot.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, BILLS AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Grassel made a **motion** to approve the January 6, 2025 Board of Supervisor Organization Meeting Minutes with a second by Matthew Connelly. With no discussions the motion passed (2-0). Joe Devoy abstained from voting due to his absence.

Tom Grassel made a **motion** to approve the January 6, 2025 Board of Supervisor Meeting Minutes with a second by Matthew Connelly. With no discussions the motion passed (2-0). Joe Devoy abstained from voting due to his absence.

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Joe Devoy made a **motion** to approve the January 2025 Bills and Treasurer's Report as presented with a second by Matthew Connelly. With no discussions the motion passed (3-0).

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The Planning Commission was held January 27, 2025 to re-organize and to review the 955 River Hill Road project to construct a 2nd single family home on an existing lot. Matthew Connelly announced that Dan Alexander was elected as Chairman and John Stipe III was elected to Secretary. The Vice Chairman position was tabled until the vacancy is filled.

The Zoning Hearing Board meeting was held January 29, 2025 to re-organize and to discuss a variance request for Colemanville United Methodist Church. Matthew Connelly announced that Vince Metzler was elected as Chairman, John Kauffman as Vice Chairman and Joe Deluca will continue to serve as Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS

Matthew Connelly introduced Fire Chief, Larry Frankford Jr. to present the annual Fire Company Report. Larry Frankford stated the 2024 training breakdown of 499 total personnel, 64 total training hours, with a total of 1480 training hours. He went on to report the number of Calls: fire calls 41, medical 17, assists 53, vehicle accidents 10, public service 69, control burns 74, automatic alarms 4, boat calls 24, water hauling 34,000 gallons, with a Total Calls of 291. Property loss was \$8,600 and property saved \$3,628,500. He went on to mention that the Fire Company has great support from the community and appreciates the great support from the Supervisors. He stated they are acquiring the new tanker this year. It was ordered in 2023 and he is hopeful for a delivery in June. He noted that they will be selling the old 2000 tanker. He also mentioned the shared driveway paving project with the Township. The base was installed last fall, with the top application being applied this spring.

Tom Grassel announced if you want to support the Fire Company, they have their Spring Dance coming up March 1st at the Millersville VFW. Contact Missy Frankford for tickets. Missy stated that the tickets are \$20 per person that covers food, which is usually pork, ribs, and brisket, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, coleslaw and cupcakes.

Larry introduced Bob Michener. Bob announced that the Conestoga Volunteer Fire Company has partnered with the American Red Cross to provide smoke detectors, plus installation, to all residents of Conestoga Township. Residents should call the Fire Company and leave a message to set an appointment. The smoke detectors are free, the installation is free. There is no restriction, no age, no income limit, and that you may have one for every floor and every bedroom.

Joe Devoy made a **motion** to adopt the Resolution to appoint John Stipe III to the Planning Commission with the term of office expiring on the first Monday in January 2029 with a second by Matthew Connelly. With no discussions the motion passed (3-0).

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TOWNSHIP OF CONESTOGA
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CONESTOGA TOWNSHIP
TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Joe Devoy made a **motion** to nominate and appoint Richard Graham Jr. to the Zoning Hearing Board with the term of office expiring on the first Monday in January 2030 with a second by Matthew Connelly. With no discussions the motion passed (3-0).

Tom Grassel made a **motion** to nominate and appoint James Caldwell to the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate member with the term of office expiring on the first Monday in January 2028 with a second by Joe Devoy. With no discussions the motion passed (3-0).

TOWNSHIP OF CONESTOGA
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CONESTOGA TOWNSHIP
TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD OF CONESTOGA
TOWNSHIP

Tom Grassel made a **motion** to authorize submission of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to regulate land uses for Solar Energy Systems (referred to as the Solar Ordinance) to both the Lancaster Planning Commission and Conestoga Township Planning Commission for review and recommendations with a second by Joe Devoy. Craig Eshleman questioned where the ordinance came from. Joe stated that it was prepared by our Solicitor. It was further questioned on when it was authorized to be prepared. Matthew Connelly responded the minutes should reflect last fall they authorized; however, Matthew could not recall the exact month, September or October. With no further discussions the motion passed (3-0).

Tom Grassel made a **motion** to table the submission of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to increase the number of days annually that farm-based entertainment activity may occur (referred as the Agritainment Ordinance) to both the Lancaster Planning Commission and Conestoga Township Planning Commission for review. Joe Devoy seconded. Matthew stated he is not ready to move this forward at this time. Joe agreed. With no further discussions the motion to table passed (3-0).

Tom Grassel made a **motion** to advertise the 2025 road projects with a second by Joe Devoy. With no discussion the motion passed (3-0).

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ROADMASTER REPORT

Brian Herr started out by mentioning they are still down a truck and that it's been trying so far this season. He gave a shoutout to LeRoy, Derek, Barry Rankin and Bobby Barton for doing a great job during the last big snow event. He had the pleasure of not being in town. Those guys all stepped up and handled it very well despite his absence. He stated the Township purchased a new spreader for on the pickup truck. It will be utilized primarily for spot salting and tighter access areas, such as cul-de-sacs. He mentioned that he does read comments on Facebook and appreciates those that post positive remarks. They are doing the best they can.

Brian Herr announced that for one of the stormwater projects they are trying to get a grant through the Lancaster County Conservation District that will pay for a great deal of the project. The Township will still run the project and perform the labor. Joe Devoy made a **motion** to support the grant application and if necessary, advertise for the project. Tom Grassel seconded the motion. With no further discussions the motion passed (3-0).

Leroy Eshleman stated that he attended a meeting with a group of municipalities that share the Enola Low Grade Trail. He mentioned that the trail has about a mile and a half to be done to the Chester County line. They anticipate this section to be completed by the end of the year. The full trail will be almost 30 miles. One of the current concerns that the group recognized is with the use of electric bikes. They do not want to eliminate them. They want the usage to be uniform across the municipalities. They are asking for reduced speed, as you don't always hear them, and during the dry season, it gets dusty. He also noted that Manor Township had placed a counter in 2024. They divided the count in half to reflect up and back travel, and it resulted in 42,000 participates on the trail. It is getting used.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matthew Connelly announced the final phase of Buck Run Estates is complete with the last drainage basins work being completed. He stated that the Township Office will be closed February 17th in observance of President's Day and that the next Board of Supervisors regular meeting will be held March 4th.

Chris Bair of Run Valley Run asked if Michele's position will be filled. Tom Grassel stated not at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,



Jessie L. Ebersole
Conestoga Township Secretary