

Connellsville Township Supervisors
166 McCoy Hollow Road, Connellsville, PA 15425
Meeting Minutes October 8, 2020
(Meeting held at the Connellsville Twp. Fire Dept. Social Hall)

- I. **Call to Order-** Vice Chairman Hann called the monthly meeting to order on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance-** led by Chairman Miner.
- III. **Roll Call-** The following persons were present: Chairman Todd Miner, Vice-Chairman Donald Hann, Supervisor Bob Carson, Secretary Darla Hann, Solicitor Jack Purcell
- IV. **Approval of Minutes-** A motion was made by Supervisor Carson to accept the regular meeting minutes from September 10, 2020. Second by Vice Chairman Hann. All in favor. Motion carried.
- V. **Public participation-** The following residents discussed the proposed increase in millage and proposed Ordinance 2020-2 (Landlord Registration). John & Susan Cole, Jim Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. Bubarth, Jennifer Miller, Eric Hart, Mr. & Mrs. Showman, Ron Gallo, King's Racing. Discussion was to how much of an increase there would be and why they were being raised. Chairman Miner explained that we have done better than expected to this point with paying back monies that were taken (previous secretary) and paying for audits (regular & forensic) that had not been done in previous years. The Township is still recovering from those setbacks and taxes have not been raised in over 20 years, the Township has not kept up with the rate of inflation and now with COVID we are being told to expect a decrease in revenue. The majority of the Board feels that the raise is necessary. Chairman Miner stated that after listening to the resident's concerns, that the Supervisors will introduce the budget with a half mil increase instead of a one mil increase. Questions concerning the Landlord Registration Ordinance pertained to the fee being charged and how it will be enforced. Chairman Miner explained the reason for the Ordinance is for the purpose of collecting per capita tax from everyone that resides in the Township, not just homeowners. The Code Enforcement Officer will enforce this Ordinance. The Ordinance adoption is below and is on file in the office. Mr. Showman asked that someone look at the water problem at his house coming from Hillcrest and also asked about houses that were in disrepair in the Twp. They will give Chairman Miner their contact info after the meeting. Jennifer Miller asked that her water problem be looked at again. She stated that in the past Mr. Carson stated they couldn't do anything with it because of DEP. Chairman Miner said they would take a look at it again and see if anything has changed.
- VI. **Secretary's Report-** A tree on Rock St. that concerned residents contacted the Twp. about is being taken care of by the owner of the rental property, it should be down mid-October. The LSA grant money the Twp. was awarded for this year is now available. There was a delay due to COVID. Our Public Works guys have prepared the garage floor in preparation for the heating unit and floor. We received notice from the Joint Sewer Authority that they will be required to bill an additional \$11.15 an EDU per month for Connellsville Muni Authority's project.

PA Community Rights Network is hosting a 1-hour seminar on October 14th, 7 p.m., providing for right to local self-government (Copies are in your packet).

VII. Treasurer's Report – The treasurer's report was read by Darla Hann and is on file in the office. Motion by Supervisor Carson to accept the treasurer's report. Second by Vice Chairman Hann. All in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Vice Chairman Hann to accept reconciliation of bank statements for September 2020. Second by Supervisor Carson. All in favor. Motion carried.

VIII. Authorization to pay bills- Motion made by Vice Chairman Hann to authorize payment of the monthly bills for September 2020. Second by Supervisor Carson. All in favor. Motion carried.

IX. Correspondence – We received the 2020 PSATS Executive Board Ballot that will need filled out by Chairman Miner. We received from PA American Water a notice of proposed wastewater acquisition; this will not currently affect the rates in our area.

X. Committee Reports-

***Fire Dept.** – Supervisor Carson informed everyone that 25% of the sales at Colebrook candy store on October 8, 9, & 10 will be donated to the fire department. The fire department will also be selling dinners again on Sunday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

***Emergency Management** – Bob Leiberger stated they need a battery for one of the portable radios, should be under \$150.00 Supervisor Carson made a motion to purchase a battery for the portable radio, cost not to exceed \$200.00. Second by Vice Chairman Hann. All in favor. Motion carried. Bob Leiberger will have more information on some of the radios becoming obsolete at a later date.

***Roadmaster** – Read by Chairman Miner. Report is on file in office

***Code Enforcement Officer** – read by Officer Scott Lafferty. He has been very active in the Township and has handed out several warnings and citations. Darla Hann stated that Mr. Riley stopped in with his warning and asked for more time. Mr. Lafferty said that is not a problem as long as he is working on it.

***Supervisors – Vice Chairman Hann** – Nothing at this time.

Supervisor Carson – Suggested that the Twp. donate one of the fuel tanks be donated to the fire hall to save them the time of coming to the Twp. to get fuel. Chairman Miner asked what system of checks and balanced would be in place. Supervisor Carson: the tank would be in a locked and gated area with cameras. He also suggested that the recycling bin could be moved down to the pad that the fuel tank is currently sitting on. Chairman Miner made a motion to donate the fuel tank to the Twp. Fire Dept, who will prep it and move it to their location, using it for diesel fuel, in a locked, gated area that has cameras. The gas that is left in the tank can be donated to: – ¾ to the City of Connellsville police and ¼ to South Connellsville Boro police, if they agree to it. Second by Vice Chairman Hann. All in favor. Motion carried. Supervisor Carson stated that he strongly recommends not increasing the millage rate at this time. He would like to wait until June and take a look at things. He suggests that if we do not have enough money that we borrow money to operate and then possibly increase the millage next year. Chairman Miner stated he is not comfortable with that and does not think it is in the best interest of the Twp. since we would be starting with an approximate deficit of \$57,000.00 and does not want to pay interest on a loan to operate the Twp. Chairman Miner also stated that the Twp. does not have any

type of emergency fund and he would like to see the Twp. have one. Supervisor Carson stated that they have always ran the budget that way, with no emergency fund. Supervisor Carson asked to go into an executive session. Solicitor Purcell stated that you could not go into executive session about anything pertaining to the budget.

Chairman Miner – Informed everyone that our Public Works Dept. recently worked on a joint project with PennDOT for stormwater issues at the intersection of Crawford and Blake, PennDOT then gave the Twp. asphalt that the Twp. used in that area. PennDOT is looking at replacing pipe by KFC. John Cole stated that there is a steel grate that is in bad shape near there and blocks crumbling also. Chairman Miner will call PennDOT to discuss the issue with them and will contact John Cole also.

XI. Unfinished Business – Chairman Miner read an email from DEP concerning the recycling grant we received. The grant will not cover the F750 we purchased but will cover 60% of an F550. Chairman Miner made a motion to amend the previous motion purchasing the F750 with grant money to purchase the F750 with the previous secretary's pension money (was earmarked to purchase a truck), used equipment fund and finance the remainder through FNB. Second by Vice Chairman Hann. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Miner made a motion to purchase the F-550, approximately \$76,000.00, paid in part by the recycling grant (60%) and with the proceeds from the sale of the Dodge 5500 and F800, with the possibility of taking out a loan until the sale of above-mentioned vehicles, from Meegan Ford. Second by Vice Chairman Hann. Voting Yes: Vice Chairman Donald Hann, Chairman Miner. Voting No: Supervisor Carson.

XII. New Business –

XIII. Ordinances – Motion made by Chairman Miner to adopt Ordinance 2020-2, requiring the registration of rental dwelling units in Connellsville Township and of the occupants thereof. The fee is \$15.00 per year, penalty fee if not registered by March 15th of each year is \$100.00 per Landlord. The fees and penalties can be changed by resolution. Second by Vice Chairman Hann. All in favor. Motion carried.

XIV. Resolutions –

XV. Adjournment- Motion by Vice Chairman Hann to adjourn. Second by Supervisor Carson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Submitted by: *Daala Hann*

Approved by: _____

Todd Miner
Todd Miner, Chairman

Donald Hann
Donald Hann, Vice Chairman

Robert Carson
Robert Carson, Supervisor