

*Articles of Agreement Meeting Minutes for
Conestoga and Pequea Townships
July 7 2016*

In Attendance: Supervisors; Craig Eshleman, John Berry, Bob Hershey, Cynthia Evans-Herr, Bob Race, Bill Schall, Secretary; Naomi Little, Citizens; Judy Leaman, John Kauffman, Susan Reese Lynda Like, Jackie Johns, Rob Burger, Fred & Sandy Schneck, John & Donna Michener, Justin Fesko, Robert Barton, Tim Buyers, Kathy Sangrey, Larry Frankford Jr, Brandon Pfeiffer, Matt Dombrett, Mike & Kathy Landis, Amy Flugge, Bonnie Martin, Carlos Rodriguez, Linda Stoltzfus, Evangelyn Rodriguez, Robert Heckrote, Jeff Kreider, Linda Eshleman, Elaine Jones, Abby Groff, Karen Sandt, Tom & Joan Wuester, Dan Deltmer, Chief John & Ursula Fiorill, Hannah Thomas, Summer Stone, Kim Barnes, Robin Maquire, Nancy Jeffries, Gaye Denlinger, Scott & Donna Kline, Dianna Good, Lisa Greybill, Tom Baldrigo, Maribeta Zurn, Todd Adams, Scott Hanna, Stacy & Deane Lasher, Stacy & Jared Kleinhaus.

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by Eshleman.

The meeting opened with Hershey addressing the importance of the Townships and the Police Department working together to unite and find a solution that will be the best fit for all.

Corporal John Michener prepared a statement that was read to the Supervisors and Citizens that stated their desire to work with the Township to find a solution.

June meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Race second by Berry. All in favor none opposed.

The Supervisors revisited Article 4. The current apportionment formula was based on a population ratio. Conestoga was designated to pay 46.2 and Pequea was 53.8. The Supervisors would like to find a formula that will best suit the Townships and the Police Department working within the budget. Eshleman stated that the Township cannot continue to maintain our ratio but the Supervisors want to be supportive of the police force and come up with a number that will work budget wise as well as public safety wise. The Supervisors communicated that they wish to look at having the best coverage that the Township can afford.

Many Citizens voiced their opinion on keeping the Police Department budget as is in order to upkeep the services that are provided. The Townships appreciate the dedication and services provided by the Police and want to find a way to keep a 24 hour department.

Evan-Herr announced at the prior meeting that Pequea has hired a specialist to advise them on the matter. Based on their budget and the commitment of their Citizens to have 24 hour service Pequea will commit to the current percentage.

Eshleman communicated that the Conestoga Supervisors will need to have the CPA firm evaluate the Townships budget and come up with an amount that will suit the budget and still provide the best coverage the Township can afford.

Terry Shepps spoke on the challenging position the Supervisors are in. The balance of managing the fiduciary responsibilities and resources is a difficult job and everyone needs to work together to find a way to keep the Township safe and meet the needs of the Citizens that will fit the parameters of the Townships budget.

Evans-Herr motioned to have the last sentence in **section 4.1** be removed from the paragraph, and change the wording from apportionment formula to funding mechanism. Second by Berry, all in favor none opposed. The mechanism will be determined at the Township level; the Citizens and Supervisors will discuss at public meetings to determine the amount of police services that will be provided.

Conestoga and Pequea Townships are responsible for a percentage of the budget. The question they discussed was will they change the percentage to a fixed number or percentage of the Townships budget instead of the Police budget.

The Supervisors discussed to create a minimum amount that the Townships will be able to provide as a starting point. Evans Herr motioned for **section 4.2** each Township will determine annually the amount of funding that will be provided to the Police department. Also **Section 4.2a** Conestoga will be committed to a minimum of \$300,000.00 and Pequea be obligated to a minimum of \$519,044.00 towards police services beginning fiscal year of 2017. Second by Eshleman, all in favor none opposed.

Eshleman motioned for **Section 4.3** that if one or more additional political subdivisions would like to join the regional department the Commission shall negotiate their level of service for their monetary contribution. Second by Evans-Herr, all in favor none opposed.

Evans-Herr motioned for **section 4.4** to be repealed due to the fact that it is no longer applicable, second by Schall, all in favor none opposed.

Evans-Herr motioned to discuss a new **section 4.4** about the time line that the municipalities have to submit the budgets to the Police Commission. The Political subdivisions have the municipal allocations for police services no later than August 15th of each year, and budget workshops per each municipality to commence no sooner than October 15th of each year. Second by Eshleman, all in favor none opposed.

A Citizen asked what the Supervisors look to accomplish in these meetings. The Supervisors stated that the goal the Townships are looking to achieve is to figure out how to pay for all of our expenses with fiscal responsibility.

Hershey articulated that the Supervisors are trying to provide the best situation for the Townships. Conestoga Supervisors are working with the CPA firm to get the most out of the Townships budget for the services the Township wants.

A Citizen stated that **section 4.2a** about minimum obligations should be amended to yearly instead on just 2017.

The Supervisors decided to amend **section 4.2a** to state Conestoga will be committed to a minimum of \$300,000.00 and Pequea be obligated to a minimum of \$519,044.00 towards police services beginning fiscal year of 2017 and to continue on annually.

The Supervisors agreed to visit the Articles annually and discuss solutions to keep current.

Evans-Herr motioned to close the review of the Articles of Agreement, second by Race. All in favor none opposed.

Pequea will have the papers drafted and Conestoga will be notified when the documents are ready for review.

Corporal John Michener asked the Supervisors to discuss the employee contract for the officers. Michener inquired that if there would ever be a time the Police commission would be no longer the employee contract would still be in effect and the Townships would still be responsible to arbitrate any issues for a resolution that would be agreeable for all.

Conestoga and Pequea will have the Townships Solicitors review the documents to clarify and if possible to also be added to the Articles of Agreement.

The Articles will be written up and reviewed by the Solicitors. A future meeting will be scheduled for further discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 on a motion by Eshleman, second by Race. All in favor none opposed.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Conestoga Secretary

Naomi Little