

Road DOCKET No. 6

Number	Term	Year
5	Sept	SS 1928

In Re. Reconstruction of bridge  
over Moshannon Creek, Philipsburg, Pa.

Versus

In the Court of Quarter Sessions of Clearfield County, Pennsylvania  
In the Matter of reconstruction     ) No. 5 Sept 22 1928  
of joint County bridge over     )  
Moshannon Creek at end of Pres-     )  
quille Street, Philipsburg, Penna.     )

This petition having been presented to the Court asking that the Court authorize the County Commissioners to make and enter into contract for reconstruction of said bridge under the Act known as the Emergency Act, there is nothing within the petition which would justify the application of this Act, due to the fact that the condition of the bridge is due to natural corroding and rust and its unsafe condition is not the result of a sudden violence. However, the Court having examined this bridge and realizing that its condition is such that it should receive immediate attention, in order to protect the interest of Clearfield County, resulting from the failure of the proper authorities to make proper examination of the bridges and which the duties of their office require, the Court will make the following order with the understanding that it is not the intention of this Court to stretch the interpretation of Acts of Assembly in order to aid officers who have permitted conditions to exist because of failure to perform the plain duties which the law imposes upon them:

Now, July 9th, 1928, the County Commissioners of Clearfield County are authorized, without the delay occasioned by the report of a Grand Jury as in such cases provided, to erect and construct a new bridge or reconstruct partially or in such manner as may be deemed proper that bridge constructed across Moshannon Creek at the west end of Presquille Street, in the Borough of Philipsburg, near the New York Central Railroad Company; the said bridge being across Moshannon Creek which is the dividing line between the two Counties.

Said contracts for the same to be presented to the Court for approval, in accordance with the Acts of Assembly governing the contracting and construction of bridges.

By the Court,

  
P. J.

IN THE COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

In the matter of :  
: Reconstruction of a joint County Bridge :  
over Moshannon Creek at the end of :  
Presquile Street, Philipsburg, Penna. :No. September Term  
1928

To the Honorable A. R. Chase, President Judge of said Court

The petition of George Minns, J. C. Gatehouse and W. E. Tobias  
respectfully represents:

1. That they are the County Commissioners of Clearfield County.
2. That, in the year 1898 Clearfield County and Center County jointly constructed a bridge across Moshannon Creek at the west end of Presquile Street, Borough of Philipsburg, Pennsylvania, near the New York Central Railroad Station, the said Moshannon Creek being the dividing line between the two counties hereinbefore mentioned, which bridge has since been jointly maintained by Clearfield and Center Counties.
3. The aforementioned bridge is used extensively and accommodates considerable territory in both Clearfield and Center Counties.
4. That recently, the aforementioned bridge has become dangerous, unsafe, inadequate and insufficient for public travel and has been condemned by the officials of Philipsburg Borough.
5. That your petitioners have personally inspected said bridge and had an investigation made, and, from said inspection and investigation, they are of the opinion that said bridge is dangerous, unsafe, inadequate and insufficient for the public travel.
6. That there is hereto attached and made a part of this petition a copy of a letter received from the Borough Engineer of Philipsburg and a copy of a written report of J. B. Long, Engineer for Clearfield County.
7. That your petitioners are of the opinion that there

exists an emergency at the present time for the immediate reconstruction of said bridge on account of it being insufficient, inadequate and unsafe for public travel.

8. That the County Commissioners of Center County have agreed to pay their proportional part of the cost of the reconstruction of said bridge.

9. That your petitioners believe that it would be unwise and dangerous for them to wait until the Grand Jury meets in September to pass upon the advisability of the reconstruction of said bridge.

WHEREFORE your petitioners pray your Honorable Court to authorize them to make and enter into such contracts, as deemed advisable, jointly with the County Commissioners of Center County for the reconstruction of said bridge; said contracts to be subject to the approval of the Court.

*George Minus*  
*J. C. Galhouse*  
*W. E. Tobias*

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA :  
: SS  
COUNTY OF CLEARFIELD :

George Minns, J. C. Gatehouse and W. E. Tobias being  
duly sworn according to law, depose and say that the facts stated  
in the foregoing petition are true and correct.

Sworn and subscribed to  
before me this 2 day of *July*,  
1928.

*Geo. H. Palston*

*George Minns*  
*J. C. Gatehouse*  
*W. E. Tobias*

BOROUGH OF PHILIPSBURG  
Office of Supervising Engineer

PHILIPSBURG, PENNA. March 23, 1928.

Board of County Commissioners,  
Clearfield County Penna.  
Clearfield Pa.

Gentlemen:

Under date of November 21, 1927, you were notified by the Secretary of the Philipsburg Borough Council of the unsafe condition of the bridge erected and maintained jointly by Centre and Clearfield Counties across Moshannon Creek at the west end of Presqueisly Street Philipsburg near the New York Central station.

At the present date no reply whatever has been received to this communication and we wish again to call your attention to the very dangerous condition of this bridge.

In its present condition this structure is a menace to life and property of any one driving across it and should be immediately closed to traffic and the necessary repairs to keep it in service made just as soon as possible. Unless this is done we will be compelled to close the street leading to the bridge. This bridge is used extensively and accommodates considerable territory in both counties and practically all the freight unloaded at the New York Central station and their different service sidings is hauled across Moshannon Creek at this point.

Will you not arrange at once to make an inspection and do your best to keep the bridge in service. We will appreciate an early reply to this communication.

Yours respectfully,

(Sd) S. N. Hewlett  
Supervising Engineer

JAMES B. LONG  
Consulting Engineer  
Norristown, Penna.

May 3, 1928.

Board of Commissioners,  
Clearfield,  
Penna.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with your request of April 19th, I have made an inspection of the Presqueisle Street Bridge in Philipsburg.

This is a high truss steel bridge consisting of seven panels, 17'-2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " each, approximately 120' between end pins, clear roadway of 18' with one sidewalk. This bridge was built in 1895 and repaired in 1914. The repairs evidently consisted of encasing the bottoms of batter posts with concrete and renewals of the vertical posts near the bottom chords and the addition of steel stringers and creosoted block floor supported by creosoted plank.

Like all bridges erected at this period, the details consisted of very light lattice bars and batten plates. These are very badly deteriorated and at some points are almost entirely rusted away. The stringers and floor beams are badly rusted, the top flange of the latter being especially bad.

If all the members were as good as at the time of erection, the bridge would still be too light for modern loads. It would cost considerable money to make repairs and necessary renewals at this time and the bridge would still be inadequate.

As the abutments are in good condition, I would recommend that the superstructure be scrapped and a three span concrete bridge be erected, using the existing abutments. The necessary piers for this construction need not be very large and the entire structure would be comparatively inexpensive.

Yours very truly

(Sd) J. B. Long

JBL:JWH



IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL SESS-  
SIONS OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY, PA.  
No. September Term 1928

In the matter of

Reconstruction of a Joint  
County Bridge over Hoshannon  
Creek at the end of  
Presqueisle Street, Philips-  
burg, Penna.

PETITION

A. M. LIVERIGHT  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
CLEARFIELD, PA.

No. 5 *Sept 22 1928*

In the Matter of Joint County  
bridge over Moshannon Creek at  
the end of Presquile Street,  
Philipsburg, Penna.

ORDER.

