

**Elizabeth Township
Board of Commissioners Reorganizational Meeting
Tuesday, January 2, 2018, 7:00pm**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Commissioner Similo-present
Commissioner Walk- present
Commissioner Kuzma-present
Commissioner Blake-present
Commissioner Rhoderick-present
Commissioner Evans-absent
President Beckowitz- present

District Justice Beth Mills administers the Oath of Office to Commissioners Joanne Beckowitz, Robert Rhoderick, Kyle Walk and Treasurer Mary Walos

Reorganization

Solicitor Racunas announces that the Board will open the reorganization part of the meeting. He would like to accept a Motion to open nominations for President of the Board. He requests a Motion just to open nominations. **Motion:** Commissioner Similo. **Second:** Commissioner Walk. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**

Nomination and vote for President of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Similo – Joanne Beckowitz
Commissioner Kuzma – Chris Evans

Solicitor Racunas asks if there are any other nominations and states he will accept a Motion to close the nominations for Board of Commissioner President. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Nominations are closed.**

Solicitor Racunas asks for a Motion to appoint Joanne Beckowitz as President of the Board of Commissioners. **Motion:** Commissioner Similo. Motion fails for lack of a second.

Solicitor Racunas asks for a Motion to appoint Chris Evans as President of the Board of Commissioners. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Similo-no
Commissioner Walk- yes
Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Blake-yes
Commissioner Rhoderick-yes
Commissioner Evans-absent
President Beckowitz- no

4:2:1 absent – Motion passes.

Because Commissioner Evans is not here, Solicitor Racunas continues with the nominations for Board Vice President and open nominations for Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. Is there a Motion to open up nominations? **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**

Nomination and vote for Vice President of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Rhoderick – Jane Blake

Solicitor Racunas asks if there are any other nominations and states he will accept a Motion to close the nominations for Board of Commissioner Vice President. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Nominations are closed.**

Solicitor Racunas asks for a Motion to appoint Jane Blake as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Similo-no
Commissioner Walk- yes
Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Blake-yes
Commissioner Rhoderick-yes
Commissioner Evans-absent
President Beckowitz- no

4:2:1 absent – Motion passes.

Appointment of Solicitor

Accept a Motion to reappoint the firm Racunas Law Group, LLC as Township Solicitor. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Similo-no
Commissioner Walk- yes
Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Beckowitz-no
Commissioner Rhoderick-yes
Commissioner Blake-yes
President Evans-absent

4:2:1 absent – Motion passes.

Appointment of Engineer

Accept a Motion to reappoint the firm KLH Engineers, INC as Township Engineer. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Similo-no
Commissioner Walk- yes
Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Beckowitz-no
Commissioner Rhoderick-yes
Commissioner Blake-yes
President Evans-absent

4:2:1 absent – Motion passes.

Appointment of Township Emergency Management Coordinator

Accept a Motion to reappoint Damien Michaels as Emergency Management Coordinator. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Similo-yes
Commissioner Walk- yes
Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Beckowitz-yes
Commissioner Rhoderick-yes
Commissioner Blake-yes
President Evans-absent

6:1 absent – Motion passes.

Accept a Motion to reappoint Pete Hough, William Greenawald, and John Snelson as Deputy Coordinators. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick.
Second: Commissioner Kuzma. **Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Similo-yes
Commissioner Walk- yes
Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Beckowitz-yes
Commissioner Rhoderick-yes
Commissioner Blake-yes
President Evans-absent

6:1 absent – Motion passes.

Appointments to the Elizabeth Township Zoning Hearing Board

Accept a Motion to appoint _____ to the Elizabeth Township Zoning Board for a 5 year term, expiring on December 31, 2022.

Solicitor Racunas informs the Board because there is a blank on the agenda, you actually have to make the Motion to appoint whoever you want to nominate for that position. Commissioner Similo confirms that the Board received letters of interest and is informed they received one because it was not advertised and he asks if they should wait and advertise. Commissioner Rhoderick states that they received a letter from Raymond Opfer and he makes a Motion to appoint Raymond Opfer to the Elizabeth Township Zoning Board for a 5 year term expiring on December 31, 2022. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Similo-no
Commissioner Walk- yes
Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Beckowitz-no
Commissioner Rhoderick-yes
Commissioner Blake-yes
President Evans-absent

4:2:1 absent – Motion passes.

Appointments to the Elizabeth Township Planning Commission

Accept a Motion to appoint _____ to the Elizabeth Township Planning Commission for a 4 year term, expiring on December 31, 2021.

Solicitor Racunas informs the Board it is the same thing with this appointment and Commissioner Blake makes a Motion to appoint Kathie Fawcett to the Elizabeth Township Planning Commission for a 4 year term, expiring on December 31, 2021.

Second: Commissioner Rhoderick. **Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Similo-no
Commissioner Walk- yes
Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Beckowitz-no
Commissioner Rhoderick-yes
Commissioner Blake-yes
President Evans-absent

6:1 absent – Motion passes.

Appointments to the South Hills Area Council of Governments

Accept a Motion to appoint _____ to the SHACOG Board of Directors representing Elizabeth Township.

Commissioner Rhoderick asks Commissioner Walk if he would like to be appointed and offers to be his alternate and Commissioner Walk agrees. Commissioner Rhoderick makes the Motion to appoint Kyle Walk to the SHACOG Board of Directors representing Elizabeth Township. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Similo-yes
Commissioner Walk- yes
Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Beckowitz-yes
Commissioner Rhoderick-yes
Commissioner Blake-yes
President Evans-absent

6:1 absent – Motion passes.

Accept a Motion to appoint _____ as an alternate to the SHACOG Board of Directors representing Elizabeth Township.

Commissioner Kuzma makes the Motion to appoint Rob Rhoderick as an alternate to the SHACOG Board of Directors representing Elizabeth Township. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Similo-no
Commissioner Walk- yes

Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Beckowitz-no
Commissioner Rhoderick-yes
Commissioner Blake-yes
President Evans-absent

4:2:1 absent – Motion passes.

Ordinances:

Motion to adopt Ordinance #934 rescinding Ordinance #922.

Solicitor Racunas explains this is the rescinding of the prior salary ordinance and asks if there is a Motion. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Walk. **Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Similo-yes
Commissioner Walk- yes
Commissioner Kuzma-yes
Commissioner Beckowitz-yes
Commissioner Rhoderick-no
Commissioner Blake-yes
President Evans-absent

5:1:1 absent – Motion passes.

Items for Discussion

New Business:

1. Motion to approve the General Fund Bill Warrant dated January 2, 2018 in the amount of \$119,918.89. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Walk. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent. Motion carries.**
2. Motion to approve the Sanitary General Fund Bill Warrant dated January 2, 2018 in the amount of \$23,294.23. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent. Motion carries.**
3. Motion to Adopt Resolution NO. 2018 – 1, appointing the firm Horner, Wible, & Terek, PC to perform the 2017 Annual Financial Audit in the amount of \$10,150.00. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent. Motion carries.**
4. Motion to Adopt Resolution NO. 2018 – 2, appointing Rob Rhoderick and Kyle Walk as a representative and alternate to the SHACOG Franchising Authority

Board. Commissioner Rhoderick explains that this is a separate Board through SHACOG that negotiates the contracts with the franchises, particularly Verizon and Comcast, and he has been sitting on the Board and there is a meeting every 3 or 4 months. Right now they are dealing with Verizon. They have a 10 year contract and it's up January 19th of this year they were supposed to have township completed with Verizon and they don't. We're one of only two communities out of the 18 in SHACOG that aren't completely in 100% with Verizon. This is very important and he would like to continue doing this and would like Dr. Walk as his alternative if that is okay. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent. Motion carries.**

5. Motion to Adopt Resolution NO. 2018 – 3, appointing Paul Saxon as Chairman of the Vacancy Board. **Motion:** Commissioner Similo. **Second:** Commissioner Beckowitz. Question to Solicitor Racunas from Commissioner Rhoderick is discussed off record about the Board meeting in Executive Session before voting. Commissioner Blake tables the Motion until the end of the meeting. Commissioner Similo wants to know why the Board needs an Executive Session meeting to discuss this and Solicitor Racunas tells him Commissioner Rhoderick has a question to discuss with the Board regarding the appointment. Commissioner Rhoderick explains that he doesn't have an issue with it, he thinks there is something that should be discussed legality wise and he thinks it is better to discuss it in executive session. Later in the meeting, it is brought up that the issue is regarding Federal funding and is resolved without the need for Executive Session. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent. Motion carries.**
6. Motion to approve the continued use of Northwest Savings Bank as the Township Depositories. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent. Motion carries.**
7. Motion to ratify the exoneration of the Tax Collector of delinquent real estate taxes retroactive to December 31, 2017. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent. Motion carries.**
8. Motion to authorize payment in the amount of \$45.00 for NAPWDA 2018 Membership to be paid out of the K-9 fund. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent. Motion carries.**
9. Motion to ratify phone poll taken 12/19/17 approving payment for Attorney George Gobel's invoice in the amount of \$6,376.00. Question from Claire Bryce in the audience: Didn't we already pay him \$10,000 and now we're paying another \$6,000? She thought they only had to approve the \$10,000. Solicitor Racunas explains this was for the investigation in the Sanitary and then putting the files together. Ms. Bryce asks again why we're paying another \$6,000. She states she was at the meeting where it was stated that payment to Gobel was capped at \$10,000. Commissioner Kuzma tells Ms. Bryce that we paid all that money and got nothing for it. Commissioner Similo tells Commissioner Kuzma that they should 'go at it' right now. Commissioner Kuzma agrees with Ms.

Bryce and states we should get that money back. Commissioner Beckowitz tells them that the Motion is to ratify the phone poll. He gave us an itemized bill and that's what it came to and that's what we owe him. It's either that or we have a lawsuit and we'll end up paying more money, so we took a phone poll and it was ratified and that's what we're doing here. Commissioner Kuzma and Commissioner Similo discuss the details of what information is in George Gobel's possession. Solicitor Racunas states for clarification before there is a vote, this is a ratification so the action has already happened. He is recommending from a legal perspective to approve the Motion. **Motion:** Commissioner Beckowitz. **Second:** Commissioner Similo. **Roll Call Vote:** **5:1:1 absent.**

10. Motion to ratify phone poll taken 12/19/17 approving the one time buyback of 23 unused benefit days from Karl Weigand and execute the Memorandum of Understanding between Elizabeth Township and Teamsters Local Union 205 regarding buyback. **Motion:** Commissioner Similo. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. Question on the Motion by Commissioner Walk: Again, another phone poll taken. Solicitor Racunas explains to him that you have to ratify the action. The action itself has to be voted on in a public meeting so you're basically putting on the record and confirming the action that's already been agreed to. **Roll Call Vote:** **6:1 absent. Motion carries.**

11. **ADDED MOTION:** Solicitor Racunas informs the Board that there is one item of New Business he would like to present. There is a Conditional Use Application for a Billboard that's pending right now. He would like to make a Motion to schedule a Public Hearing in front of the Board on January 15, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. before the next Commissioner's Board Meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Walk. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Roll Call Vote:** **6:1 absent. Motion carries.**

Citizens to address Board of Commissioners

Emil Burak: Wants to make a Citizen's Motion, wasn't going to say this but, please speak into the microphones. Anyway, the Police Chief and the Police Department had the coffee with a cop, he attended and he thought it was a very good idea, it was nice, there were commissioners there, Joelle Whiteman was there, and he wants to compliments them for a nice event. Next he wants to thank the Board for the 7-0 unanimous vote on the Apollo drilling site change with conditions. Finally he wants to wish the commissioners a Happy New Year.

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick.

President, Chris Evans

Joelle Whiteman, Office Manager