

**Elizabeth Township
Board of Commissioners
Monday, November 20, 2017
Commissioners' Meeting**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Commissioner Similo-present

Commissioner Saxon- present

Commissioner Kuzma-present

Commissioner Blake-present

Commissioner Rhoderick-present

Commissioner Evans-present

President Beckowitz- present

Executive Session Acknowledgement: President Beckowitz states that there was an Executive Session Monday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

Department Reports:

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Officer John Snelson states there is only the written report at this time.

Engineer – Engineer Bryan Churilla submitted his written report. He informs the Board of a couple of highlights. The 2017 paving is done and he is working to get the new drawings for the layout done and that should be completed by the end of the year and ready to bid on the Chapel Drive Building Improvements. The 2017 Schweitzer Road Retaining Wall Project is fully funded by a CITF Grant, engineering was included in that budget. President Beckowitz points out that the CITF Grant was funded by Senator Jim Brewster. Regarding the second Forest Hills landslide, KLH received the Geotech Report and the recommendation was that there is not imminent danger, but if the township is not going to remediate it in the near future, they should consider closing Forest Hills. KLH put together a cost estimate after receiving more information from the geotechnical firm and they estimate it will be about a \$315,000 project. Engineer Churilla explains that it's a soldier pile wall similar to the one on Weigles Hill but because of the conditions there it's a little different and it will be more expensive. There is discussion among the Commissioners about the possibility of closing the road and/or looking into applying for grant money to make the repairs.

Police – Chief Kerestes is not present at the meeting. Sgt. Deppen is there in his place and there is more discussion about the Forest Hill Road issue and the strain it will put on emergency vehicles if the road is closed.

Public Works –Foreman Jake Weigand tells the Board that they have started the Leaf Program and are collecting leaves and branches and they are trying to get caught up on everything. He explains to the Board that there is a walk way heading up to Tomahawk that's listed as township property and there is part of the wall that is collapsing. It's affecting someone's yard and a portion of it needs repaired. He hasn't looked into what it would cost, but it is on our walk way. President Beckowitz asks if it can be done in-house and he confirms that it can.

Solicitor – Solicitor Racunas informs the Board he has nothing other than what was discussed in Executive Session and what's in his written report.

Sanitary-Veolia Water – There is no representative present.

Citizens to address agenda items:

Carol Dailey: She spoke to Bryan Churilla about what was going on across from the Ward Mines and apparently Dominion is timbering a seventy-five (75) foot wide path preparing for the pipeline. She sent pictures to Engineer Churilla through KLH. She brought photographs but only one set for President Beckowitz and asks her if she will show them to the other Board members. She states there is a problem with the Ordinance under Oil & Gas Operations and passes out a copy to the Board. If they're already preparing to have pipelines placed through, they will need a permit for timbering. Ms. Dailey reads, 'No oil and gas operations shall be performed, constructed, or located within the township until the operator has a written request for a permit and a permit has been issued. The owner or operator of a proposed oil and gas operation, shall obtain a grading permit', and they haven't been issued a grading permit. On the last page of this ordinance that's in place is penalties. They can be penalized \$1000 a day and this has been going on since April, so you figure that's a quarter million. Ms. Dailey tells the Board the ordinance also states, 'the appropriate officers or agents of the Township are hereby authorized to issue a Cease and Desist Notice and/or seek Equitable Relief including injunction to enforce compliance hereof. No bond shall be required of the Township if the Township seeks Injunction Relief'. Ms. Dailey believes this has been going on since April and it's been going through Smithdale and there's pictures there to prove it from Google Earth. All you need to do is just park your car there and look at it. It's down almost to the creek and there is no grading permit, there's nothing. And the noise is atrocious. You can hear them cutting down those trees. She can't believe this has been going on since April and no one's reported this. That's a quarter of a millions dollars left on the table if they aren't fined. And if it persists that's another \$1000 a day. Something should be done, if we put up a shed in our back yard and there's no building permit they're up there giving you a fine for it. But these guys can do whatever they want and it's not right. President Beckowitz agrees and states that we need to have Solicitor Racunas look into it and see what's behind it.

Russell Verbanec: Mr. Verbanec asks about the status of the Act 537. Engineer Churilla tells him it is still being held up by the DEP. They have not approved the 537, they've asked for more information but there has been no status update. Mr. Verbanec asks if we're still being fined \$1,000 a month for this and Engineer Churilla tells him there is no fine associated with this. Solicitor Racunas explains that we have a monthly fine for SSO, and it's roughly 10-11 months a year. Mr. Verbanec then asks if there is money in the budget for repairing and replacing old sewer lines. Engineer Churilla tells him he doesn't have the budget in front of him but that there would be money in the budget for repairs and improvements and there is also capital improvement money. Mr. Verbanec asks if there are sewer lines that the township plans to replace next year and is told that there is nothing planned right now. He is concerned about the fines the township is getting for the overflows and believes there are pipes leaking somewhere and it seems like we should have a plan for finding them and replacing them. Engineer Churilla tells him unless you replace all of the pipes, that's not going to alleviate the SSO's. Mr. Verbanec states that he feels the pipes aren't getting any less 'leaky' and we have a lot of old pipes in the township. He feels we should have a plan replacing them eventually and that there should be money in the sanitary budget every year for that and President Beckowitz tells him that's what the capital improvements are.

Bill Kuskie: Mr. Kuskie and his legal representative, Tom McGrath, spoke to the Board and Solicitor Racunas about Golf Course Road that goes to Seven Springs Golf Course and to Victory Hills which he believes is called Army Drive or Seven Springs Road and that's a private road owned by Mr. Kuskie. His father gave the golf course that land and gave him that road easement to and from the golf course as part of his land. The township did do some work on that private road, they paved part of it and also put some pipe work in along the side of the road, which Mr. Kuskie is fine with. He believes there is a misunderstanding as to whether or not this is a public street. There was an ordinance that was proposed taking over this road which it appears, and he was unable to find anything else out, was never adopted. He thinks it might be on a Township map as public road, but they are here to maintain their position that this is a private road. He believes the golf course tells Mr. Kuskie that they're not going to maintain the road because the Township maintains it and is taking it over. So he didn't know if there was any news about it or not. Solicitor Racunas tells him only what was provided in his last update which was the Township has no record of that ordinance being adopted so there's nothing at least from what the township administration can find.

His attorney states that it's Mr. Kuskie's position that he doesn't want that road documented as a public road and he doesn't know if someone in the township can give him a letter that it's not going to adopt that road, to have a letter in the minutes or something from the township stating that you object to that ever happening in the future. Solicitor Racunas tells him he has that on record already with some of his correspondence. He is trying to process this because

there is no record of it and they can't do anything without actually doing an ordinance which requires a public procedure to do. Solicitor Racunas states he understands his position and he believes it's well documented with meeting minutes and through his correspondence and he doesn't think the Commissioners have any plans to do anything with that road. He doesn't believe there's any need to do anything else other than let you know on record that there's no ordinance in place that's been adopted on our end that he can find that says it is a public roadway.

Mr. Kuskie's attorney tells Solicitor Racunas that he understands that it's probably the Township's belief that it was a public road when that work was done but he is assuming that no more work is going to be done on a private road. Solicitor Racunas asks Engineer Churilla to confirm that the work done was in the right-of-way. It replaced previously existing pipes and Engineer Churilla tells him that the work that was done at the time, it was assumed that we were doing that within a public right-of-way. Mr. Kuskie's attorney asks that no further work will be done and Solicitor Racunas replies there are no plans to do anything else.

Discussion Topics:

Poultry Ordinance

President Beckowitz states that at the last meeting they had voted to send it to the County and after doing some thinking, she had Joelle Whiteman call 2 municipalities that were mentioned at the last meeting by a resident and one was Jefferson Hills and the other was Pleasant Hills. Pleasant Hills doesn't allow chickens at all and Jefferson Hills is 10 acres. They pulled the ordinance and at last meeting said an acre to have chickens and President Beckowitz doesn't believe an acre is enough. She doesn't know how everyone else feels but Jefferson has more country than we do and they have 10 acres and she doesn't see how we can have an acre. She has had several people call her recently telling her don't you dare make it an acre, I don't want chickens next door to me. She doesn't know if the other Commissioners have gotten telephone calls, but she thinks needs to re-think an acre and come up with something a little bigger, and Pleasant Hills doesn't allow them at all. Commissioner Similo replies that it was pointed out to them that Jefferson was a progressive community and we are not. Commissioner Similo makes a Motion that they adopt the same ordinance as Jefferson. Commissioner Saxon seconds. President Beckowitz asks if there are any comments.

Commissioner Blake – She would like the Board to re-think it for maybe 2 acres instead of 1. She knows there are a lot of people who would like to have a small flock of chickens, three (3), five (5), that kind of thing. As long as they were kept fenced in and weren't running loose, which to her is the big issue there.

Commissioner Similo – He was told by his constituents that if he voted for chickens he would be impeached.

Commissioner Rhoderick

Commissioner Evans – He was okay with an acre. He's never had one complaint and there are people that have chickens.

President Beckowitz - Suggests three (3) acres and that keeps it out of residential areas.

Solicitor Racunas states they have to vote on the Jefferson motion first. Commissioner Saxon reminds the Board the he seconded this so if someone wants to rescind and do a three (3) acres. President Beckowitz states at least we know they won't be in Highland Meadows with three (3) acres. Commissioner Similo thinks they shouldn't be allowed in the Township and President Beckowitz agrees stating the police have better things to do that police chickens and John Snelson has better things to do than go around checking chicken coops. Commissioner Evans asks John if he's gotten any calls about chicken coops. John tells him he has had complaints about chickens, the main ones that he's had issues with have been corrected. There are still some pending violations out there that are waiting to see what the Township is doing and there are some people through the course of this and finding more out from people that have had chickens for quite some time, that even if you would do it in the districts that have because there are people that have them in commercial districts because their home is in a commercial district.

Commissioner Blake asks would the people who already have chickens be grandfathered in and is told no. John Snelson tells them part of the problem with this is their not pre-existing and non-conforming, they were partly in violation of the zoning and not in violation of the township. The problem is we have two (2) conflicting ordinances. Solicitor Racunas states that this includes ducks. Commissioner Similo is asked if he will rescind his order and he states no. President Beckowitz states then we vote on the Jefferson acreage, ten (10) acres.

Similo – Yes.

Saxon – No, he thinks 10 acres is a little too much.

Kuzma – No.

Blake – No.

Rhoderick – No.

Evans – No.

Beckowitz – No. She opposed to any chickens at all. She asks for someone to make a motion for how many acres they think it should be.

Commissioner Blake makes the Motion to stay at one (1) acre, Commissioner Rhoderick seconds.

Similo – No

Saxon – He goes back and forth because if this goes, being a policeman here for six (6) years, he went on more calls because someone's bushes are on one side or the other side, their porch, their overhang, whatever, they're fighting with their neighbors constantly and the last thing he wants is our police department and our judicial system here in the township to worry about whether other people are cleaning their coops and he knows if they go into residential areas that we're going to have nothing but problems with it. Commissioner Rhoderick asks how many chicken calls he's gone out on in six (6) years and Commissioner Saxon tells him he remembers going out on a few. He adds that then it seemed like most people that had chickens were out on Patterson and they were farms but there were chickens running up and down Fallen Timber Road.

He states that if the Board thinks one (1) acre covers most sub-divisions and plans in the township and asks John Snelson if this is correct. John tells him it's hard to say because you can have somebody with a double lot, generally in more populated areas the lots aren't that big but there are exceptions to the rule. Commissioner Similo adds that there are lots in Highland Meadows that are bigger than an acre, the small lots are an acre and John tells him that there are always exceptions to the rule. Commissioner Saxon votes no.

Kuzma – Yes

Blake – Yes

Rhoderick – Yes

Evans – Yes

Beckowitz – No

Solicitor Racunas will send it back to Planning.

Resolutions:

Motion to adopt a resolution for Elizabeth Township authorizing and directing the President of the Board to sign the previously executed Penn DOT Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement on March 6, 2017. **Motion:** Commissioner Saxon. **Second:** Commissioner Evans. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**

Motion to adopt a resolution for Elizabeth Township reaffirming the Township's adoption of the National Incident Management System. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Saxon. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**

Motion to adopt a resolution for Elizabeth Township authorizing the purchase of a 2018 Mack dump truck at cost of \$146,727.00 with financing through Northwest Bank at the fixed rate of 3.75% for a 5 year term with annual payments. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote - All in Favor: Motion carries.**

Items for Consideration:

1. Motion to approve the Commissioner meeting minutes dated May 15, 2017 and June 5, 2017. **Motion:** Commissioner Evans. **Second:** Commissioner Saxon. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
2. Motion to approve the General Fund Bill Warrant dated November 20, 2017 in the amount of \$357,064.15. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Saxon. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote - All in Favor: Motion carries.**
3. Motion to approve the Sanitary Fund Bill Warrant dated November 20, 2017 in the amount of \$256,082.93. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Saxon. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote - All in Favor: Motion carries.**
4. Motion to reimburse Officer Novacek in the amount of \$105.24 for K-9 training related expenses. **Motion:** Commissioner Saxon. **Second:** Commissioner Evans. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote - All in Favor: Motion carries.**
5. Motion to approve Sanitary Bond Requisition No. 54 in the amount of \$25,882.12. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. Question on the Motion: Commissioner Saxon asks if Engineer Churilla can elaborate. Engineer Churilla explains this is for continued engineering on the Elizabeth to McKeesport project, specifically for this one, they are working with the original Trail Commission now to get the permits submitted. They are also working with the Conservation District on the ENS Permitting that's required and will also be finalizing the design for the project. **Roll Call Vote - All in Favor: Motion carries.**
6. Motion to authorize payment in the amount of \$1,268,751.88 for principal and interest on Sanitary bonds. *To be paid out of Sanitary General Fund.* **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Similo. Question on the Motion: Commissioner Similo asks why the township is paying principal and not just interest that we shouldn't be paying on the principal. He asks if there is principal due or if this is Series Bond. Solicitor Racunas explains that this is part of the amortization schedule. There are two (2) payments a year and this is the second payment. Commissioner Similo then asks because we are paying on the principal and possibly could have to borrow more money, collect more bonds, to finish the project. Solicitor Racunas tells him yes, these are the Bonds that you've been paying on that were transferred from the prior Bonds. **Roll Call Vote - All in Favor: Motion carries.**
7. Motion to advertise the 2018 Elizabeth Township General Fund and Sanitary Fund Budgets for public inspection and adoption. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Evans.

Discussion on the Motion: Commissioner Kuzma states he looked the budget for the past five (5) years and he looked at the proposed budget for 2018 and he's not recommending that the budget gets changed. He was looking at our revenue and the money we bring in and from what he has seen, the interest on the money that we have in our accounts we're not really earning any interest on it. We have \$2 Million in the Capital Reserve Fund and almost \$1 Million in the Liquid Fuels, \$11 Million in the sanitary. He believes the township should put that into an account that pays 8% interest like some sort of low risk investment. President Beckowitz states that the Liquid Fuels account can't be moved. He asks about the Capital Reserve Fund and she tells him that they could move some but she wouldn't do all of it because they still have bills to pay. Commissioner Kuzma tells her that if they take the \$2 Million in the Capital Reserve Fund and invest it for 8% instead of getting zero, anything is better than nothing. 8% of \$2 Million is \$160,000 and imagine what you could do with \$160,000. Commissioner Similo asks Solicitor Racunas to look into it because he knows it's very restrictive where we are permitted to put that money. Solicitor Racunas states that he would have to look at it, but he would be surprised if somebody in the past hasn't already looked into that. Commissioner Similo says when you go more than the going rate you start to

speculate a little bit and states that we're one of the few municipalities that have not had to float a tax anticipation loan. He explains that January through March and sometimes into April there is very little money coming in and most municipalities have to borrow for that period of time and we haven't had to because we've managed that money very well and in fact have only raised taxes twice since he's been on the Board. President Beckowitz explains the Capital Reserve was started by her around 1999 for this reason. Commissioner Rhoderick states that he agrees with Commissioner Kuzma that this is something Solicitor Racunas should look into because it could be income we earn for doing nothing and it insulates our taxpayers even more. He also tells the Board that there are companies out there that they'll invest the money and you can have access in 24-48 hours. Commissioner Kuzma believes the interest alone could pay for the truck. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**

8. Motion to accept and approve Engineering Proposal received from KLH Engineers for the CITF Schweitzer Wall Project in accordance with CITF grant funding. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Saxon. There are no questions on the Motion. Commissioner Rhoderick states that he would like to echo President Beckowitz and thank Senator Brewster for his role in that grant because we wouldn't have received that grant without Senator Brewster's help. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
9. Motion to place Ammco brake lathe machine, 1955 4-cylinder generator and 2011 International dump truck out for bid on Muncibid website. *Equipment no longer used and motor is blown in dump truck.* **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
10. Motion to ratify phone poll taken on 10/31/17 approving the installment of HD camera system and security system at Chapel Drive facility by Barrier Protection Systems. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
11. Motion to ratify phone poll taken 10/20/17 approving amendments to be made to the Boston Field Cameras Installment and Maintenance Agreement. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Evans. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
12. Motion to ratify phone poll taken 11/8/17 approving Legal Tax Service to make all determinations on sanitary shutoffs. **Motion:** Commissioner Similo. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. There are no questions on the Motion. **6 yes - 1 no: Motion carries.** Commissioner Rhoderick votes no because he thinks they should do it, but he's not happy with the medical, if there's an issue, and he wants to go on record that he didn't like the answer on the medical. Commissioner Blake states that it's not a good feeling to do it. President Beckowitz says that they are pretty thorough when it comes to the medical and Commissioner Rhoderick tells her he wants to make sure and that's his only issue.
13. Motion to ratify phone poll taken 10/20/17 approving the hiring of Joe Volpe at \$13.00 per hour part time as Assistant to Code Enforcement Officer effective 10/16/17. **Motion:** Commissioner Similo. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
14. Motion to ratify phone poll taken 10/23/17 approving to hold off sending the proposed poultry ordinance to County Planning. **Motion:** Commissioner Saxon. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.** Motion was ratified, moot point.
15. Motion to ratify phone poll taken 11/3/17 approving the purchase of gift cards for Thanksgiving for 2 temp. Employees. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Saxon. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**

16. Motion to approve cost of backup system software installation and yearly monitoring in the amount of \$1900.00. **Motion:** Commissioner Saxon. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote - All in Favor: Motion carries.**
17. Motion to approve the purchase of \$50.00 Visa Gift Cards for all Employees for Christmas as done in years past. **Motion:** Commissioner Saxon. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote - All in Favor: Motion carries.**
18. Motion to ratify the advertising of Budget Workshop Meeting that was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 6:00 PM. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Saxon. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
19. Motion to advertise Ordinance 933 fixing the tax rate for the year 2018 at 3.926 mills. The tax rate for general purposes, the sum of 3.426 mills and the tax rate for fire service, the sum of 0.500 mills. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Evans. Comment by Commissioner Rhoderick: Clarifies for the public that this is a zero tax increase. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
20. Motion to approve the 2018 Sanitary and Township tentative budgets and advertise for public inspection and final adoption. **Motion:** Commissioner Evans. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
21. Motion to approve the FY2018 Consulting Engineer's Annual Report in accordance with the proposed 2018 Sanitary Budget to be submitted to BNY Mellon. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
22. Motion to advertise Commissioner Meeting dates for 2018. **Motion:** Commissioner Evans. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
23. **ADDED MOTION:** Commissioner Kuzma makes a Motion to waive the Community Center rental for Laura Pasko and Marissa Marino for their Thon program which generates donations for cancer research. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Saxon. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
24. **ADDED MOTION:** Commissioner Kuzma makes a Motion to relieve current Humane Officer of their duties and hire Robin Gatos on the contingency we get approval from the Chief of Police on her hiring. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Evans. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries**
25. **ADDED MOTION:** Commissioner Kuzma makes the Motion to hire Nick Evashavik for special counsel to look into the Sanitary Authority matters. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Similo. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries**
26. **ADDED MOTION:** Commissioner Kuzma addresses concerns about the water on Arrow Drive. There are 4 homes whose back yards are swamps. Engineer Churilla explains this has been an ongoing issue and had been previously authorized to move forward with a design back there. We have the design drawings done and we're in the process of securing the easements but up until this point it was understood that this was going to be a Public Works project and based on schedule and timing it's our understanding that we may want to have a contractor come in and do it. So we were going to first look to get proposals from contractors to see if it comes in under bid limits, if not we would need to advertise it to have a contractor do it. Commissioner Kuzma makes a Motion to have Engineer Churilla look into bids if it's underneath bid minimum and if it's not, authorize him to advertise it.

Motion: Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries**

27. **ADDED MOTION:** Commissioner Kuzma has a friend that lives at 100 Styche Street in Buena Vista and there are two (2) enormous trees growing over her house and there's moss growing on the tile of the roof. From what he can see looking at a map and survey and everything, it looks like the property belongs to the Township or is affiliated with it in some way. He asked Jake if he would be willing to look into cutting them down and taking care of them and he said they were too big for him to handle and impossible to get back there. Jake got a bid for \$3,000 from Tim Vasko, he has a guy that might be able to do it a little bit cheaper, but he would like to go ahead and get them done instead of waiting for another two (2) weeks. President Beckowitz asks Jake Weigand if we definitely know they are on Township property and he states it's questionable, it's really close on the line there by looking at the map. Jake states he was looking at the map and not at her surveys and it goes in and out. Commissioner Kuzma states he has seen the survey, she had one done, and there are flags everywhere and it pretty apparent that it's on Township property. Commissioner Rhoderick suggest Engineer Churilla verify the survey and the Board will approve it contingent on Engineer Churilla verifying the survey. Commissioner Kuzma states there was a second bid in there for Cascade in Gulfview and asks if they are on township property? Jake Weigand responds no and points out that the trees are three (3) foot on their property. The Board will have the engineer look at both of the properties. Engineer Churilla tells them because it is that close, they would probably have to re-survey to make sure because surveys don't always line up. If it's that close he's doesn't know if it's a matter of looking at paper and saying yes or no.

Commissioner Kuzma makes a Motion to rescind the Motion to cut down trees contingent on the Engineer's approval and makes a Motion to authorize cutting them down not to exceed \$3,000. He thinks he can get someone cheaper than \$3,000 and \$700 so it might be cheaper by my guy, contingent on the approval of our Engineer that it's on Township property. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There are no questions on the Motion. **All in favor – the Ayes have it.**

28. **ADDED MOTION:** Commissioner Saxon makes a Motion to approve the Addendum to the Fire Tax Agreement and approve the merger of Greenock Volunteer Fire Company and Elizabeth Township Fire Company No. 1, also known as Blythedale Volunteer Fire Company. **Second:** Commissioner Blake.

Commissioner Rhoderick opens discussion, he wants to make sure that everybody sits well with it and he thinks everybody here is in agreement with this merger. He would like to make it contingent upon the addendum and agreement being reviewed by the fire companies. Commissioner Saxon states to elaborate for those in the audience that don't know, Blythedale and Greenock would like to merge and in the past when two (2) fire companies merged what happened is each of their portions would become one for a five (5) year term and then that money is dispersed among the 5 departments after that. What Greenock and Blythedale are asking for is to make it more of an incentive for fire companies to merge and ultimately, at some point, have one fire company with multiple stations under one budget. The change to the Tax Agreement would be that once they merge they keep that money, and they're covering two (2) Districts so it would be the money from those two (2) Districts that they get to keep. Then if anyone else would want to merge, that would bring over that money. Commissioner Similo states when Blythedale and Victory merged they kept it for five (5) years, then they closed Victory Station. In this case they're keeping both of them open and that's the difference. Commissioner Saxon says and you would plan to run as one (1) company but with two (2) stations. An audience member discusses the disadvantage of merging and how it takes money away from the other stations and he considers it being penalized. Commissioner Saxon tells him he doesn't consider it being penalized, whether they're two (2) separate departments or not, if they're one company, they're getting the tax base from the two (2) areas that they covered. There is further discussion regarding incentives to merge into one company. Commissioner Saxon explains that what the Board is trying to do is be proactive so that in the future, there is fire protection and that we can hopefully run off of one budget instead of five. **Roll Call Vote – 6:1 Commissioner Evans abstains because he serves as the Fire Chief for Blaine Hill Fire Company: Motion carries.**

29. **ADDED MOTION:** Commissioner Similo makes a Motion to rescind Ordinance No. 922 dealing with salaries.
Second: Commissioner Blake. **Roll Call Vote – 4:3: Motion carries.**

Patty Hoffman thanks the Board for the Trick or Treat event held by the Township. President Beckowitz reminds everyone of Light the Night which will be held on December 1st.

Meeting Adjourns.

President, Chris Evans

Joelle Whiteman, Office Manager