

1st Motion Commisisoner Similo
Commissioner Similo – Yes
Commissioner Saxon – No
Commissioner Kuzma – Yes
Commissione Blake – Yes
Commissioner Rhoderick – Yes
Commissioner Evans – Yes
President Beckowitz – Yes
6:1, **Motion Carries**

Second Commissioner Blake

8. Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$3,792.00 to DAS Group for modem upgrades necessary for sanitary pump stations.

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Second Commissioner Rhoderick

9. Motion to approve payment to Barrier Protection Services in the amount of \$1,914.20 for installation of security system at the Fellabaum Plant Office.

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Second Commissioner Evans

10. Motion to approve the purchase of \$50.00 Visa Gift Cards for all full-time employees for Christmas as done in years past.

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Second Commissioner Blake

11. Motion to approve the changes made to the Greenock Volunteer Fire Company Loan amending the repayment provisions.

1st Motion Commissioner Similo
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Second Commissioner Saxon

12. Motion to approve the service agreement between Kelly Generator and Elizabeth Township for the 2017 generator maintenance with a total cost of \$810.00.

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Second Commissioner Evans

13. Motion to accept the revised proposal from Weisel, Xides & Foerster, LLP regarding professional services rendered as the Solicitor for the Elizabeth Township Zoning Hearing Board.

1st Motion Commissioner Similo
Commissioner Similo – No
Commissioner Saxon – No
Commissioner Kuzma – No
Commissioner Blake – No
Commissioner Rhoderick – Yes
Commissioner Evans – No
President Beckowitz – No
1:6, **Motion Fails**

Second Commissioner Rhoderick

14. Motion to pay Weisel, Xides & Foerster, LLP \$4,660.00 for balance due for legal services related to Allegheny Energy. Note - Balance due reimbursed to Township from Allegheny Energy.

1st Motion Commissioner Kuzma
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Second Commissioner Similo

15. Motion to execute the agreement between Legal Tax Service and Elizabeth Township in connection with the billing and collection of sanitary sewer user fees.

1st Motion Commissioner Blake
Commissioner Similo – Yes

Second Commissioner Evans

25. **Motion to advertise Ordinance 929 fixing the tax rate for the year 2017 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.**

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon

Second Commissioner Similo

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

26. **Motion to advertise the Commissioner Meeting dates for 2017.**

1st Motion Commissioner Blake

Second Commissioner Evans

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

27. **Motion to authorize the trash exemption of the property located at 134 Broadlawn Drive.**

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon

Second Commissioner Similo

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

28. **Motion to approve donation of \$500.00 to Buena Vista Firehall for the 2016 Community Day.**

1st Motion Commissioner Kuzma

Second Commissioner Rhoderick

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

29. **Motion to purchase 1 full page ad in the Elizabeth Forward High School Boys' Basketball Program in the amount of \$120.00.**

1st Motion Commissioner Rhoderick

Second Commissioner Blake

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

30. **Motion to promote Karl Jake Weigand to the Assistant to the Foreman position in the Public Works Department.**

1st Motion Commissioner Similo

Second Commissioner Kuzma

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

31. **Motion to re-advertise for the General Labor/Mechanic position for the Public Works Department.**

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon

Second Commissioner Blake

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

32. **Motion to hire John Smith as special counsel for all oil and gas issues.**

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon

Second Commissioner Similo

Motion to withdraw motion to hire John Smith as special counsel for all oil and gas issues.

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon

Second Commissioner Similo

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

33. **Motion to request RFP's for Engineering Services for the Township.**

1st Motion Commissioner Similo

Second Commissioner Kuzma

There is discussion between Commissioner Rhoderick and Commissioner Similo in regards to the cost savings that KLH Engineering's flat monthly rate has saved the Township since they were hired.

Commissioner Similo does not agree. Commissioner Similo states that he thinks the Township should request RFP's for the Township Solicitor also. Request for RFP's for Township Solicitor will become a separate motion.

Commissioner Similo – Yes

Commissioner Saxon – Yes

Commissioner Kuzma – Yes

Commissioner Blake – No

Commissioner Rhoderick – No

Commissioner Evans – No

President Beckowitz – Yes

4:3, **Motion Carries**

34. **Motion to request RFP's for Township Solicitor.**

1st Motion Commissioner Similo

Second President Beckowitz

Solicitor Racunas states that he lives in the Township and therefore has a special interest in this particular municipality although he represents multiple municipalities. Solicitor Racunas states that his flat rate covers the work of 4 attorneys (Township, Labor, Sanitary, and Planning Commission) and that he takes a loss each month for all the services he provides to the Township at a minimal cost compared to his actual billable hours. He speaks for the Municipal Building staff and himself when he states that no one should be worried or paranoid that they will lose their job for no other reason than a change of power on the Board. Commissioner Similo states that he asked Solicitor Racunas if the Sanitary Authority operated illegally and that he put it off. Solicitor Racunas states that three attorneys prior to him had the opportunity to state that the Sanitary Authority was operating illegally and they did not, but he did. Commissioner Rhoderick states that Solicitor Racunas was not the Sanitary Authority solicitor and that Solicitor Racunas taking on the role at no additional cost will save hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars.

Commissioner Similo – Yes

Commissioner Saxon – I'm torn with this, Solicitor Racunas knows the issues I have with him. If there's something I know I could be held liable for, I want to know about it. We need to interview people and I hope that Matt applies, I know what we have now. Solicitor Racunas states that he won't apply if the motion passes because he knows he is the best candidate for the job. I don't want to be replaced, all I'm asking is for an opportunity to do my job. Commissioner Saxon **No**, we know what we have already and I don't want to take a risk to see what's out there.

Commissioner Kuzma – I was torn over the weekend. I spoke to my grandfather and he asked how I think anything should get done if everyone gets fired or replaced every 8 months. Just do whatever you think is right. Commissioner Kuzma states the right thing for me to do is vote **No**.

Commissioner Blake – No

Commissioner Rhoderick – No

Commissioner Evans – No

President Beckowitz – Yes

2:5, **Motion Fails**

Citizens to address items:

Claire Bryce – Asks President Beckowitz to state that she never used the credit card. President Beckowitz does.

Russell Verbanec – Russell Verbanec states that he is in favor of gas drilling and the possible income for residents. If drilling is stopped, gas prices will go up. Solicitor Racunas states that there is an ordinance already in place that is more restrictive than the state, however going forward Act 13 does not allow that. Russell Verbanec states that if restrictions are not realistic, taxpayers' dollars will be waste defending law suits.

William & Janice Lipinski – State that they are in favor of gas drilling. The Lipinski's own a farm in the Township and feel that the drilling companies they've dealt with in the past have been safe and had high concern for the environment.

Tim Nuttle – Lists his many credentials and degrees as a wildlife ecologist and wildlife biologist. Tim Nuttle is a lease holder with Huntley & Huntley. He states that it is his professional opinion that gas drilling is regulated and safe for the environment.

Patty Hoffman – Congratulates the Township and thanks them for their hard work on Light up Night. Patty Hoffman comments in regards to the property that Invenergy wants to build the power plant on. She states that the land nearby is safe to build residential property on because there are homes already built close to the site where there is hazardous material. Lastly, Patty Hoffman states that gas drilling lease holders just want the money and those who do not have leases want their safety.

Sandy Hearn – Speaking for Megan McDonough states that she would like the gas drilling and oil drilling ordinances be passed on to the Elizabeth Township Planning Commission. Sandy Hearn comments in regards to fracking and gas drilling. Asks Commissioner Rhoderick if the Township can say what they would do with the royalties from drilling to benefit the community. Commissioner Rhoderick states that the Township receives a 20% royalty from gas drilling leases. That could be potentially 2-2.5 million dollars per year and the well can produce gas for up to 30 years. Sandy Hearn states he concerns for already existing pipelines through her property and that she believe homes and families would be better to bring into the Township than a power plant when looking at towns like Clairton and Braddock.

Bill Bury – Bill Bury states that he believes Judge James will come to a decision on January 12th in regards to the Allegheny Energy Center appeal. Solicitor Racunas states that he cannot comment on pending litigation, but he does not believe that will happen. Billy bury states that if Solicitor Racunas does not win the case, he should resign or be fired. Solicitor Racunas responds that he knows a lot of good lawyers that have lost and that doesn't make them bad lawyers, you can't win them all.

Fred Bickerton – Fred Bickerton states that he is against fracking in Elizabeth Township because it contaminates the environment and causes earthquakes. Residents who have leases have that right, as long as it does not infringe on the rights of their neighbors. Gas drilling companies need to provide sufficient bonding.

Paul Burk – Vice President of Huntley & Huntley. States that he has served on a Parks & Recreation Board, has been a scout leader and avid outdoorsman, very aware of the environment. Paul Burk states that there are very rigorous environmental regulations that Huntley & Huntley must comply with. Paul Burk was involved with the gas drilling in Deer Lakes Park with permission from Allegheny County through many hearings and the council approved. There was an article recently written about all of the benefits from the drilling at Deer Lakes. In some municipalities the setback requirements make it uneconomical to develop gas. Huntley & Huntley is a very open company and would be happy to explain to anyone what they do and work with residents on issues or concerns.

Bill Piper – Spoke from audience, comments unclear.

Commissioner Rhoderick states that he has been in contact with state ethics in regards to his natural gas lease that he obtained before becoming a Commissioner on the Board.

Tim Nuttle states that many of the resource or environmental damage done by natural gas drilling or development happened prior to the much stricter regulations that are in place now. Gas drilling companies do not want to contaminate the environment because it costs them a lot of money to undo the damage.

Motion to Adjourn:

1st Motion Commissioner Similo

Second Commissioner Saxon

Lauren Zang, Finance Specialist/Office Manager

President, Board of Commissioners