

**Elizabeth Township
Board of Commissioners
Monday, February 19, 2018
Commissioners' Meeting**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Roll Call

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

Executive Session Acknowledgement: There was an Executive Session held on February 8, 2018, and one held immediately prior to this meeting to discuss real estate and pending litigation.

Proclamation:

The Elizabeth Township Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes the month of April 2018 as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month".

Resolutions:

Motion to adopt resolution 2018-6 for Elizabeth Township to enter into agreement with PENNDOT for sidewalk maintenance of the new bridge to be installed over Wildcat Run. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **All those in favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**

Items for Consideration:

1. Motion to approve the General Fund Bill Warrant dated February 19, 2018 in the amount of \$276,343.17. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**
2. Motion to approve the Sanitary Fund Bill Warrant dated February 19, 2018 in the amount of \$159,499.84. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**
3. Motion to approve Sanitary Bond Req. No 57 in the amount of \$21,890.50. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. There is discussion on the Motion. Commissioner Similo states before he votes, he thinks the Board needs to know as soon as possible where this is going, what it's going to cost and some estimate of when it's going to finish and where we are with the DEP and he'll vote for it tonight. President Evans agrees with him. Engineer Churilla informs them he will provide updates on all the schedules and costs. Commissioner Kuzma asks him if there is any problem with

having another sanitary meeting just to hash things out and Engineer Churilla tells him whatever they want to do. Commissioner Beckowitz asks if they have an answer to the DEP question and is told no. She asks what we are waiting for and is told that we are waiting on the final resolution from Sewickley Township. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**

4. Motion to approve the 2018 Field Maintenance Agreement between Elizabeth Township and EFYA in the amount of \$16,367.00. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**
5. Motion to approve/deny Conditional Use Application as submitted by Star Media for billboard. President Evans confirms with Solicitor Racunas that this is on Lovedale Road. There are no questions on the Motion. **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Walk. **Roll Call Vote: 5:2, 1 absent, Commissioner Evans votes no, Motion carries.**
6. Motion to approve purchase of t-shirts in the amount of \$4205.00 from The Embroidery People to be paid out of the Elizabeth Township Sportsman's Association K-9 Fund. **Motion:** Commissioner Walk. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. Commissioner Similo states he thought this was going to be moved into our own account eventually and asks if we're going to do that. Commissioner Walk tells him the last word he got was the auditor was going to look at this to see the best way to do that and the best he knows is that the auditor has not determined that yet. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**
7. Motion to authorize purchase of a laptop in the amount of \$1,637.31 from CDW-G to be paid out of the Elizabeth Township Sportsman's Association K-9 Fund. (COSTARS Pricing) **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Walk. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**
8. Motion to draft letter acknowledging David Shaffer for his 12 years serving on the Civil Service Commission. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** President Evans. There are no questions on the Motion. **All those in favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
9. Motion to approve EEOC settlement agreement with Lauren Zang. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. Question on the Motion from audience member wanting to know what this is. Solicitor Racunas tells him it's a conciliation and he can't discuss it because it's litigation, it doesn't involve any financials. It's actually a conciliation agreement, there's no money exchanging hands. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**
10. Motion to approve EEOC settlement agreement with Erin Butler. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Walk. Commissioner Kuzma tells the audience that none of them want to do this as they can tell, but legally they have to. An audience member asks why they legally have to do this. Solicitor Racunas tells the audience there will be public comment at the end, if you want to ask questions you can sign up. Another audience member states that they're asking questions on a motion and Solicitor Racunas tells him that questions on the motion are generally for the Board. If citizen wants to speak on agenda items there's a place to speak at the beginning of the meeting, there is a sign-up sheet. Solicitor Racunas states they let him (Chris) speak the last time. When the President of the Board asks if there are any questions, it's for the Board to discuss. He tells him that it's okay, he's just trying to keep order. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**

Citizens to address items:

Tim Indyk. He informs the Board that he and his brothers will be selling a piece of riverfront property under the Boston Bridge and he wants to give the Township the option to purchase the property before it goes on the

market. Its 11-plus acres and it's next to the Public Works facility where they keep their top soil reclaim and stuff like that. They will listen to offers and the Township gets first crack at it. He asks the Commissioners if any of them have questions or any interest. Commissioner Similo tells the Board that he had spoken to Mr. Indyk and suggested that he come to the meeting because it sounds like something they should investigate and President Evans agrees. Mr. Indyk states that he looks at it like this, he knows it's a hole right now but the bike trail is just unbelievable anymore and how many people its drawing in, maybe building somewhere down the line, canoes, whatever, that's the last piece. When you think about it, from the Boston Bridge over, that 11-plus acres, is the last of it so it might be valuable to you. Commissioner Walk asks if this would be going down river from the bridge (that's correct) and where's the property that the Township has already and he is shown a map with the property location. Commissioner Similo states that he thinks the whole Board should look at it and take advantage of it. He thinks, and without looking at it, it should be something we're interested in. He also states that Jake Weigand's input should be included and Engineer Churilla states that they should look into it and see what they're allowed to do with it. Mr. Indyk adds that obviously the first thing that would have to be done is figure out a future use for it but as with the grading at the adjacent site, a lot of that property is going to be in the flood way and you're not going to be able to do anything there, so you'll just have to keep that in mind when you're looking at the property. He also tells the Board he has printed maps and once this gets a little further along he'll share this information. President Evans asks the Board if they are okay with this and they agree.

Larry Coccia. He tells the Commissioners that he has just another comment, another experience living in the low lying living places. His furnace wouldn't turn on and to make a long story short, about 11:00 at night Peoples Gas shows up and determined that water was in the gas line. He claims there were 11 houses affected so at the low area down there what they ended up doing was cut the 4" line that feeds the homes up along Boston Hollow and they put a splice there and a pipe with a cap, meaning that there's still water in the line. So the fact that they had to suffer to get the gas on, it's on but there's still a problem down there. He's just making this comment because there might be a lot of them in this situation that have lived in this Township for a long time. There's lines that are failing and of course they have a plastic line that they installed down by the gas station where it intersects with Finney Road and 48, but coming up the road is still a line so there's going to be more problems down there. The first thing was get the furnace guy out and after paying him determined we still didn't have pressure, there was still a little bit of gas in the furnace but it went out so everybody up in that area has suffered, so be on the lookout for it if it happens again in other areas. There is discussion among an audience member and the Board.

Bobby Madden. He wants to thank the Board for the support of the local athletics in the Township and if they have any questions for him, because they kind of worked together with Joelle Whiteman as well as John Snelson on scheduling the fields and working the fields to plan the events. There are no questions.

Judy Gralewski. She asks the Commissioners who the Townships Animal Control is right now. Solicitor Racunas tells her that it's Robin Gaydos Behanna. Ms. Gralewski asks why Sable Kennels was pulled and Solicitor Racunas states that was months ago and he really doesn't recall. He tells her that they are reviewing animal control and meeting with Chief Kerestes and that's something that they are currently looking at. She states that she hopes the Board would consider bringing back Sable Kennels.

Emil Burack. Mr. Burack spoke from the audience and away from the microphone so it's difficult to hear him. He claims he found out in West Newton that all of their sewage was going into the Youghiogheny River. The EPA came down and told them they have to take care of it or they're going to jail. He tells the Board that he's just warning them that if they don't get this project done, *there is background noise and Mr. Burack can't be heard.* Commissioner Beckowitz tells him this should have been done in 2015 and President Evans tells her it should have been done in 2008. Commissioner Beckowitz states they had a Board in 2015 that stopped everything and President Evans states the same thing happened in 2008 so here we are.

Motion to Adjourn: President Evans. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma.

President, Chris Evans

Joelle Whiteman, Office Manager