

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

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Roll Call: All Present

Executive Session Acknowledgement: President Beckowitz states that there was an executive session held to discuss personnel & litigation issues.

Citizens to address AGENDA items only:

Russell Verbanec: Asks what the bond money is and how the money will be used. Commissioner Similo states that the bond money must be spent on sanitary issues related to the Act 537 Plan as directed by the DEP.

Proclamation: The month of April 2017 is recognized as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month".

Ordinances:

MOTION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ELIZABETH REGULATING THE CONSTRUCTION AND LOCATION OF PIPELINES WITHIN ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP.

**PULLED

Items for Consideration:

1. Motion to approve the March 6, 2017 Commissioner Meeting minutes.

1st Motion Commissioner Rhoderick **Second** Commissioner Blake

No Roll Call: All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

2. Motion to approve the General Fund Bill Warrant dated March 20, 2017 in the amount of \$241,818.52.

1st Motion Commissioner Similo **Second** Commissioner Blake

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

3. Motion to approve the Sanitary Fund Bill Warrant dated March 20, 2017 in the amount of \$156,650.79.

1st Motion Commissioner Similo **Second** Commissioner Evans

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

4. Motion to approve Bond Requisition No. 46 in the amount of \$28,785.19.

1st Motion Commissioner Kuzma **Second** Commissioner Similo

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

5. Motion to approve payment to CSI Construction & Piccolomini Contractors in the amount of \$6,150.00 for the demo of garage and cross at Chapel Drive Property.

1st Motion Commissioner Blake **Second** Commissioner Similo

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

6. Motion to approve payments totaling \$109.35 out of the K9 Donation Fund for K9 Uniform expenses.

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon **Second** Commissioner Blake

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

7. Motion to approve the 2017 Weisel, Xides & Foerster payment agreement.

1st Motion Commissioner Rhoderick **Second** Commissioner Evans

No Roll Call: All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

8. Motion to approve request received from Big Frank's BBQ to reduce the cost of the vendor permit fee to \$200 for the 2017 permit to Big Frank's BBQ.

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon

Second Commissioner Blake

All in Favor: Motion Carries

9. Motion to accept the proposal from _____ for the 2017 Grass Cutting Services of Vacant Property.

**PULLED

10. Motion to advertise to hire 5 Summer Help Public Works Employees at \$10.00 per hour.

1st Motion Commissioner Saxon

Second Commissioner Blake

No Roll Call: All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

11. Motion to authorize West Penn Power to install a street light on Smithfield Street in front of 6747 Smithfield Street with the cost of \$500.00 for the light bracket.

1st Motion Commissioner Blake

Second Commissioner Evans

All in Favor: Motion Carries

12. Motion to direct the Code Enforcement Officer to review the current fee schedule to add language for seasonal food vendors.

1st Motion Commissioner Rhoderick

Second Commissioner Blake

No Roll Call: All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

13. Motion for the approval of the Hanlon-Modrick Subdivision as recommended by the Planning Commissioner at the March 15, 2017 meeting.

1st Motion Commissioner Rhoderick

Second Commissioner Saxon

No Roll Call: All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Citizens to Address Items:

Jim Jones: Suggests to the Commissioners that they consider broadcasting public meetings on the Public Access Channel.

Mike Majzer: Asks to work with Township Engineer on Act 537 Plan. His information will be passed on to Bryan Churilla.

James Davenport: States that he was under the impression that the Township was going to get rid of the red box trailer at the sewage plant. If so, would the Commissioners consider donating it to the Buena Vista Fire Hall.

- **Motion to donate red box trailer to Buena Vista Fire Hall.**

1st Motion Commissioner Kuzma

Second Commissioner Similo

No Roll Call: All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Commissioner Kuzma states that he is aware that there is a general laborer position vacant with the Road Department and wants to know if the Board is planning on interviewing every candidate that turned in an application. At the next regular meeting the board is planning to hire for both the general laborer and the mechanic positions. Commissioner Kuzma states that he believes that Township residents who applied should be guaranteed an interview.

- **Motion that Township residents who applied for either the general laborer or mechanic positions for the Elizabeth Township Road Department be guaranteed an interview as long as their resume meets the qualifications in the job description.**

1st Motion Commissioner Kuzma

Second Commissioner Rhoderick

No Roll Call: All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Megan McDonough: Asks that the oil and gas ordinance be sent back to the Planning Commission along with the pipeline ordinance for further review.

- **Motion to send the oil and gas ordinance and the pipeline ordinance back to the Planning Commission for further review and to be voted on in 30 days.**

1st Motion Commissioner Similo

Second Commissioner Saxon

No Roll Call: All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Russell Verbanec: States that he does not see a reason to send the oil and gas ordinance or the pipeline ordinance back to the Planning Commission because one person asks for them to be sent back. President Beckowitz states that questions have since been brought forth that need answered and that's why they are being sent back. Commissioner Saxon states that he has been asked questions that he needs to further review although he is in favor of the oil and gas industry, he still wants safety for all residents. There were recommended changes to the ordinance by the Planning Commission that were not added. Solicitor Racunas states that changes were made to the original ordinance by the Planning Commission. There has been heavy discussion about the philosophy of the ordinance, whether to have restrictions on the front or back ends of the application process. Russel Verbanec asks why the gas and oil ordinance would be sent back to the Planning Commission if they already voted to approve it. Commissioner Saxon states that there have been discrepancies and that the board wants to get the ordinance right for the safety and protection of all residents.

Cindy Rojohn makes comments about the oil and gas ordinance.

Sandy Hearn: States that she is an alternate on the Planning Commission and this ordinance does not reflect the changes that she thought were going to be implemented. States that the ordinance as is, is certain to produce lawsuits against the Township. Solicitor Racunas and Sandy Hearn have a discussion about the ordinances and what was discussed at the Planning Commission meetings. Solicitor Racunas states that for each application there would be a public hearing where residents could formally make and submit comments.

Chris Thoma: Asks what the timeline is on the pipeline and oil & gas ordinances. President Beckowitz states that in 30 days the pipeline ordinance should be ready for approval. Commissioner Rhoderick asks if Solicitor Racunas can make suggestions directly to the Commissioners. President Beckowitz states no, because of the discrepancies that have been brought forth and that the Planning Commission should be the ones to iron those issues out.

Motion to Adjourn:

1st Motion Commissioner Similo

Second Commissioner Saxon