

**Elizabeth Township
Board of Commissioners
Monday, March 5, 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 - absent
Commissioner Rhoderick - present
President Evans - present

Executive Session Acknowledgement: Solicitor Racunas states that there was an executive session held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and pending litigation with the Township.

Department Reports:

Code Enforcement - Code Enforcement Officer John Snelson submits his written report to the Board of Commissioners.

Engineer – Engineer Bryan Churilla tells the Board he has submitted his written report. He tells the Board that the last few weeks they've been running around a lot with storm water and flooding issues, some which we issued memos and recommendations, but other than that, unless there are any questions. Commissioner Similo asks when we are going to get a projection on when we're going to finish Act 537. Because we had an old plan and it was approved where we would need no more money and the rates were going to be \$54. Engineer Churilla tells him he thinks the discussion at the last meeting is that next month they were going to have a sit down meeting and he thinks they should definitely schedule that, maybe Joelle could send an email to see when everybody is available. Commissioner Kuzma states that they will work on something and get it scheduled.

Police - Chief Kerestes reads his report log of events and investigations for February 2018. There were 837 events logged in Allegheny County 911; 7 adult arrests and 4 juvenile arrests, officers conducted 98 traffic stops and issued 14 traffic citations, officers investigated 17 motor vehicle crashes, 10 reportable, 7 non-reportable with 6 injuries. Department also participated in the South Hills Regional D.U.I. Task Force Roving Patrol on February 24, 2018.

Public Works – Foreman Jake Weigand tells the Board that just about everyone has been out taking care of potholes. It seems as soon as they fill them up, they pop up in another spot. They've also been cleaning mud off the streets from all the rain we've been having, their just about getting caught up.

Solicitor - Nothing other than the items discussed during Executive Session.

Sanitary-Veolia Water - Written report submitted.

Citizens to address agenda items:

Tom Hobbaugh. He tells the Board that he was over last week to speak with Jake Weigand about Gibson Drive between P & W and Angels Babies Daycare. The road is in bad shape. The road crew has been doing a good job of patching it up but the road is just totally coming apart, you can't patch it anymore. He is wondering what the plan is to pave the road. Commissioner Rhoderick asks Engineer Churilla who has assessed some of the roads that weren't on the pave list and could be done in-house, he knows some slipped through the cracks and wants to know if this is one of them. Engineer Churilla tells him he's unsure but can check on it because he has the report that list the roads and he can see where that falls. Commissioner Rhoderick states if not, can we send someone out there to look at it and Commissioner Beckowitz asks if the Board has seen that list. She is told there is no in-house list and she asks if they have a liquid fuels list. Engineer Churilla tells her there are two (2) lists that they're talking about and one is with their report, the proposed list for this year and the comprehensive list is the road rehab study they did about two (2) years ago. He tells the Board that they will look at that to see where Gibson is and go from there.

Ruth Adams. She tells the Board that she is also a resident on Gibson Drive and she is just reiterating what Tom brought up. She would appreciate it if Gibson Drive would get put on the pavement list and President Evans assures her they are going to look into it.

Discussion Topics:

2018 Paving Program – Engineer Churilla tells the Board that he submitted with his report a memorandum from Bob who does KLH's paving programs. Based on the Road Rehab Study that's been done over the last several years, it actually turns out that you have a healthy balance out of your liquid fuels this year, there was some carry over last year, they got really good pricing on the paving. So this year they are proposing, the big one was going to be Constitution Boulevard, that's the big expense at \$300,000 and they were also going to do the remainder of Scenery, Douglas Avenue to from Sherwood to Chicago, and Elizabeth Avenue from Chicago to Underwood. The total liquid fuels account is \$587,018.75. Right now their cost estimates are \$610,340, but that's based on estimated prices so if we get this out pretty soon we may get better pricing like we did last year. That's the preliminary list so if anybody has any questions or comments, please feel free. President Evans asks the Board if they have any questions and Commissioner Beckowitz asks if they looked at Duncan Station, the dairy store side, it's really a mess.

Resolutions:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-7 agreeing to make all Township owned ballfields, playgrounds, parks, and courts tobacco-free zones. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. There are no questions. **All those in favor: the Ayes have it.**

Items for Consideration:

1. Motion to approve the Commissioner meeting minutes dated November 20, 2017. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There are no questions on the Motion. **All those in favor: the Ayes have it, Motion carries.**
2. Motion to approve the General Fund Bill Warrant dated March 5, 2018 in the amount of \$214,033.90. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Walk. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**
3. Motion to approve the Sanitary Fund Bill Warrant dated March 5, 2018 in the amount of \$70, 583.55. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**

4. Motion to approve proposal received from Howell Craft, Inc. in the amount of \$1,382.00 for bronze plaque to be installed on Blythedale Memorial. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** President Evans. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**

5. Motion to approve reimbursement to Officer Novacek in the amount of \$4.27 for K-9 related expenses. (to be paid out of the Elizabeth Township Sportsman's Association K-9 Fund) **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote: 4:2:1 absent, Motion carries. Commissioners Similo and Beckowitz vote no stating there are problems with this and it's not being handled correctly.**

6. Motion to accept proposal as provided by Weisel, Xides, & Foerester, LLP to represent the Elizabeth Township Zoning Hearing Board for 2018. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**

7. Motion to authorize expenditures for Board President and Office Manager to attend the 2018 Allegheny League of Municipalities Spring Conference. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote: 4:1:1:1 absent, 1 abstains, 1 no vote, Motion carries. Commissioner Beckowitz votes no. She will vote to pay for the fees to attend the conference not for room and board. Commissioner Kuzma states it's an extra \$100. Commissioner Similo states he wants to change his vote to fees only and President Evans tells the Board he is paying the difference which is \$210.00. President Evans abstains and states they will only spend what was spent last year.**

8. Motion to authorize purchase of AED defibrillator and wall mount cabinet from Heart Savers Plus in the amount of \$2325.00 for Public Works Garage. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** President Evans. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**

9. Motion to invest Sanitary Bonds with Fusion Wealth Management firm to accrue interest contingent on Act 10 of 2016. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote: 4:2:1 absent, Motion carries. Commissioner Similo and Commissioner Beckowitz vote no.**

Commissioner Kuzma asks Commissioner Rhoderick to explain the interest on the bonds. Commissioner Rhoderick states that previously it was .008% and right now it's .15%. Commissioner Kuzma continues that they met with two (2) individuals from Hefron Tillerson and Fusion Investment Fidelity and what those companies do is work with municipalities, cities, and counties. They work with bond money pension funds and if we decide to enter an agreement with them, is go into 3-month CD's with our bond money and instead of it earning .008% interest, it will be earning 2%. Commissioner Rhoderick adds that from what he understands, they are bank CD's that are backed, not like CD's that search for the highest interest. Commissioner Similo tells them that they have to remember there are IRS rules that apply here and asks if they've researched that and Commissioner Kuzma tells him that they have. Commissioner Similo asks him what they are and Commissioner Kuzma states to him 'here's the deal, your question is not to get information, it's just to play games and cause trouble and I don't play games, so I'm not going to answer your question.' Solicitor Racunas speaks up so the people in the audience know, Act 10 of 2016 outlines the restrictions on municipalities. As a municipality, you're not allowed to invest taxpayer funds into anything with individual high risk, high reward. So Act 10 puts limitations on that so all of the investments are very low risk investments that you're permitted to engage in. We're going to be in a low risk CD that's why the percentage is only going to be 2% or so instead of 8%. Commissioner Similo tells him it still has to be insured, not just low risk, and we don't know if this is insured, that's number one. There's IRS restrictions on bond money because it's tax free. Solicitor Racunas tells him he believes the company has already stated that they're going to be compliant with both of those provision.

Commissioner Similo states he wants it in writing and Solicitor Racunas tells him that's something that can be done and if they move forward there will be another meeting to discuss exactly what the investments are and there will be an outline for all of that. We don't even know what they're going to invest in they just wanted approval from the Board to move forward and outline what they're going to invest in. They are regulated by State law under Act 10 as to what the investment can be so they're going to be low risk things like bonds, like CD's, things that are already government backed or bank backed. This is authorizing them to move forward and put together the strategy to learn what those investments are going to be. Commissioner Beckowitz wants to clarify that it's nothing against George Matta or the company. There is further clarification that this is not a bank, it is an investment firm.

10. Motion to authorize expenditure to replace damaged floor in Public Works garage with concrete. (majority of expenditure will be covered through insurance claim from fire damage) **Motion:** Commissioner Walk. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There is a question by Commissioner Rhoderick. He asks if they are going accept the lowest bidder and is told yes. **Roll Call Vote: 6:1 absent, Motion carries.**

Citizens to address items:

Emil Burak. Discusses the chicken issue with the Commissioners. He is not near the microphone so it is difficult to hear what he is saying to the Board.

Claire Bryce. She tells the Commissioners that on Friday (March 2, 2018) there was a terrible auto accident near her flower shop located on 48. She tells them the Chief handled it wonderfully and Officer Angelo was one of the officers present. There were three (3) cars in the accident and they almost went into the building. She thinks we need to investigate and do something about that intersection before someone's killed. It's horrible. You put on your turn signal and people that aren't familiar with our area think you're turning left and the people are going straight and crash into each other and this is what happened Friday. It's a terrible intersection and she doesn't know what can be done because it's a state road and a county road that meet. President Evans asks Engineer Churilla if this is something we can look into and he tells the Board that maybe they can reach out to the county and the state and request a meeting. Chief Kerestes tells him he knows that they monitor the traffic and reportable traffic accidents in our system and they contacted us about a year ago about a traffic study at Broadlawn, 48, and Lovedale and suggests that maybe we could put one of their studies there. Engineer Churilla states that is probably what would be coming out of a meeting. They would have to develop a traffic study and get traffic counts before they could do anything. Chief Kerestes tells him now is the time because they are putting a lot of counters down because of all of the road work they're going to be doing in the area.

Judy Marcase. She tells the Board that the Township redid the other side of Gibson a year or two ago but they didn't do her side and it's very difficult to maneuver through all the potholes. And that rain that we just had brought them down another inch. President Evans tells her they're going to take a look at it.

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Kuzma. Ayes have it, meeting adjourned.

President, Chris Evans

Joelle Whiteman, Office Manager