

**Elizabeth Township
Board of Commissioners
Monday, August 7, 2017
Commissioners' Meeting**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Roll Call

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

Executive Session Acknowledgement: President Beckowitz states that there was an Executive Session held Monday, August 7, at 6:30p.m.

Department Reports:

Code Enforcement- Written report submitted, nothing further to add.

Engineer- Engineer Churilla submitted his written report and asks if there are any questions.

Commissioner Kuzma asks about Arrow Drive and there is discussion about contacting the property owners and scheduling surveys to design the storm water project.

Police- Chief Kerestes reads his report log of events and investigations for July 2017. There were 658 event logged through Allegheny County 911; there were 24 adult arrests and 4 juvenile arrests, officers conducted 109 traffic stops and issued 21 traffic citations, investigated 10 motor vehicle crashes, 3 reportable 7 non reportable with 3 injuries. The K-9 fund, ending balance is \$14,512.23. The only expenditure was for \$535.00 for the Narcotics we got from the DEA for training.

Public Works- Still doing the prep work for the contractors and going to start on the in-house paving.

Solicitor - Nothing outside of written report. He did make the changes to the Poultry Ordinance and put it in Commissioner's meeting packets. Asked Commissioners to review it and see if they want to make a motion under new business to advertise, or leave it to discuss it at the next meeting. President Beckowitz advises it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Sanitary-Veolia Water- Submitted written report. Treated 30 million gallons of waste water for July; disposed of 146,000 gallons of sludge.

President Beckowitz advises that Joe Muscatello from Boenning and Scattergood is here to discuss the Bond issue.

Joe Muscatello: At the last meeting we talked about the Township savings with refunding the bonds. He has put together the Preliminary Official Statement and the credit package and sent it to Standard and Poors. He thanks Assistant Office Manager Joelle Whiteman for all the work she's done helping to put together the document and thanks President Beckowitz for the phone call she made to Standard and Poors.

He explains the interest rates have gone the Township's way and right now the savings is about \$56,000 after costs. In order to do the Bond Issue, a Motion to pass an Ordinance needs approved. First, we need the financial statements to submit to EMMA; and second, we have to make sure that Elizabeth Township is compliant with EMMA. Once all the information is filed and President Beckowitz agrees the savings are acceptable, the Township will be in a position to sell the bonds and lock everything in.

President Beckowitz asks if there are any questions for Mr. Muscatello, there are none, and goes to citizens to address items.

Citizens to address items:

Emil Burak: Mr. Burak asks about the 2016 audit. He notices that the 2017 expenses are being discussed and asks if he can get a copy of the 2016 Audit. President Beckowitz advises that the 2016 Audit is in rough draft form.

Ron Odorcich: Mr. Odorcich came to the meeting to discuss the issue of motor vehicles speeding on the Township roads. He is also concerned about the high weeds along SR 48 that is blocking the view of drivers pulling out of Valleyvue Drive blocking the view of drivers. He is told Public Works will contact the State to cut the weeds.

Chris Wampler: He recently purchased 104 Cornwallis Drive and is having an issue with water coming across his driveway. An engineer had come out and determined that water continuously flows where Cornwallis Drive and Duncan Station Road meet and then runs across his driveway. His concern is during winter when it freezes creating dangerous conditions for him and his wife when backing out of his driveway. He would like to know what will be done to get this issue resolved.

Engineer Churilla tells Mr. Wampler the he and Bob Robinson from KLH looked at the area and his recollection is that the prior Public Works foreman was working to find out where the storm sewer was going to connect into the new catch basin. Jake is going to meet with Bob Robinson to go over everything and make sure that it gets addressed, including where to put drains to stop the water damage to Mr. Wampler's driveway.

Discussion topics:

President Beckowitz asks Engineer Churilla if he completed the Fox Run Development Road Assessment and he informs the Board that he has not completed the cul-de-sac portion of the assessment. They are hoping to have something by next meeting.

Resolutions:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-18 approving that the acquisition and subsequent disposition of numerous parcels of vacant property known as lot and block number 1413-N-346 would be in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan of the municipality. (Beechview Street vacant lot)

Motion: Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**

Motion to approve Resolution 2017-19 approving the execution of the Deed Fee Simple with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. **All in Favor: The Ayes have it, Motion carries.**

Ordinances:

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 932 to authorize and direct the incurring of non-electoral debt through the issuance of a series of general obligation bonds of the Township of Elizabeth, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, (the "Township") in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$2,500,000.00) General Obligation Bonds Series of 2017 (the "Bonds") for the purpose of providing funds to (1) current refund all of the Township's outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2011, and (2) pay the cost of issuing the Bonds. Question on the Motion: Commissioner Kuzma asks where the number \$2,500,000 comes from and is told that it is the amount of the original issue of that series. There is discussion between the Commissioners and Joe Muscatello about refinancing bonds and Commissioner Kuzma asks if Benning and Scattergood will lower their fees and is told by Mr. Muscatello that the fees can be lowered a little more. **Motion:** Commissioner Similo. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**

Items for Consideration:

1. Motion to approve the General Fund Bill Warrant dated August 7, 2017 in the amount of \$233,580.90. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**
2. Motion to approve the Sanitary Fund Bill Warrant dated August 7, 2017 in the amount of \$27,676.24. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**
3. Motion to approve Pay Application 4 and 5 from Golon Inc. for the Chapel Drive improvements in the total amount of \$11,578.50. *To be paid out of the Project Fund.* **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Similo. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**
4. Motion to approve Pay Application 1 from Lawson Excavating for the Lovedale Sewer Relocation project in the amount of \$31,923.00. *To be paid out of Sanitary General Fund.* **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. Question on the Motion: Commissioner Rhoderick clarifies that that the Township will be reimbursed 75% of the cost by Penn DOT. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**
5. Motion ratify waiving of the fee for fireworks permit for Blaine Hill Volunteer Fire Company for their Annual Community Day that was held on Saturday, August 5, 2017. **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**

6. Motion to waive permit fees for fireworks, street closing/use and the children's train ride for Buena Vista Volunteer Fire Company & Buena Vista Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary Community Day being held on August 12, 2017. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Similo. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**
7. Motion to purchase Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D in the amount of \$58,195.12. *Financing will be provided by Northwest Savings Bank.* **Motion:** Commissioner Rhoderick. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**
8. Motion to purchase Ventrac Tractor in the amount of \$24,849.65. *To be paid for out of Capital Funds.* **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**
9. Motion to approve payment to Babst, Calland, Clements, and Zomnir in the amount of \$14,329.50 for outstanding invoices unpaid by the Elizabeth Township Sanitary Authority. Question on the Motion: Commissioner Similo asks what this is for and Solicitor Racunas explains it is to pay for the Appeal to the Environmental Review Board. *To be paid out of Sanitary General Fund.* **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. There are no other questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**
10. Motion to appoint Jake Weigand to Public Works Foreman with compensation to be retroactive as of July 26, 2017. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Similo. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 - Motion Carries**
11. Motion to appoint James Davenport to Assistant to the Public Works Foreman at \$26.24 hourly rate retroactive as of July 26, 2017. **Motion:** Commissioner Kuzma. **Second:** Commissioner Rhoderick. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**
12. Motion to ratify phone poll taken granting a one-time additional week vacation to Joelle Whiteman to allow her to comply with residency requirement. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma. There are no questions on the Motion. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 Vote: Motion carries.**
13. Motion to advertise the 2017 Elizabeth Township Financial Audit for RFP. **Motion:** Commissioner Blake. **Second:** Commissioner Similo. Question on the Motion: Commissioner Rhoderick asks if this is a two (2) year bid and is told that it may only be one (1) year, the Solicitor will have to review it. Commissioner Rhoderick asks if Motion can pass contingent upon two (2) year bid. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2: Motion carries**
14. Motion to enter agreement with Direct Energy for an average annual cost savings of \$154,000.00 **Motion:** Commissioner Similo. **Second:** Commissioner Blake. **Roll Call Vote – 5:2 - Motion carries.** *President Beckowitz acknowledges the work done by Joelle Whiteman to come up with the deal that's going to save the Township \$154,000.*

Citizens to address items:

Shawn Davis: Mr. Davis advises the Board that he is a member of the Elizabeth Forward Soccer Association (EFSA) Board and current travel coordinator. He explains that there are multiple issues at the Boston Soccer Fields and believes one of our members spoke to Commissioner Blake regarding this. There have been hypodermic needles and condoms found on site and he is concerned with the safety of the players, other residents, and anybody else that may use the area or the playground. There has been vandalism and they lost 2 soccer nets which will cost approximately \$245 to replace. The fence along the outside parking lot has been damaged again and it was just replaced last year. Mr. Davis adds he doesn't know if someone is running into it on purpose or if they're just trying to turn around in a tight area there. Also the millings pile continues to be an issue because of people climbing on it and kids riding bikes down on it. There is discussion about where the millings are, how to dispose of them and how to prevent people from getting to it.

There is further discussion about increased police patrols down at the soccer field, Mr. Bill Hall from the Trail Council looking into getting cameras installed, and repairing lights in and around the field.

Charles Sidun: Mr. Sidun explains to the Board that he is taking care of a property for his father. There was a renter at this property who passed away and when the tenant passed away he had the water was shut off. He recently found bills for this property and noticed that the sewage bill had been accumulating and is now a \$2,600 bill. He states that he owns properties in McKeesport and North Versailles and when the water is off there is no sewage bill and that's how he thought it was here. He asks the Commissioners if he can get some relief because he just assumed that when the water is off there's no sewage bill.

There is discussion among the Commissioners and Mr. Sidun is told to submit a written request to the Township and they can probably relieve the penalty and interest. Mr. Sidun thanks the Board for their time and their help.

Larry Coccia: Mr. Coccia asks Engineer Churilla if there is a contract being drawn up with the Trail people and is told they still need to get permits from them, but met with the DEP and is still trying to get the 537 approved, the Township is just waiting on Sewickley Township and Sutersville Borough. There is discussion regarding correspondence between KLH and the Trail.

Mr. Coccia asks Engineer Churilla about contact with the State regarding Overbrook filling with sewage and for an estimate to go down to Boston Hollow via 48. Engineer Churilla states he doesn't know if they had direct contact with the State during the planning process and that everything was based on cost estimates. He also states that he doesn't know if Gateway ever contacted the State. Finally Mr. Coccia asks if Engineer Churilla has seen what Senate was going to do at the Boston Ballfield/Soccer field and is told that he has never seen any pump station plans.

Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: Commissioner Rhoderick **Second:** Commissioner Kuzma