

Elizabeth Township
Board of Commissioners
Monday, February 15, 2016
Commissioners' Workshop Meeting

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Roll Call- – President Rob Rhoderick, convened the Meeting of the Elizabeth Township Board of Commissioners at 7:00 P.M. in the Township Municipal Building, 522 Rock Run Road, Elizabeth, Pennsylvania. The roll was called to establish a quorum. Commissioners present were: Commissioner Similo, Commissioner Saxon, Commissioner Kuzma, Commissioner Beckowitz, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Evans, and President Rhoderick.

Executive Session Acknowledgement: Solicitor Racunas acknowledges executive session was held prior to meeting to discuss identifiable litigation involving the Township Sanitary Authority.

Presentation by Mark Schuster Turnkey Taxes - Mark Schuster explains that Turnkey Taxes is a web app that allows local government to increase tax revenue without raising taxes. It utilizes the data that you already have within your township, within utilities and within property taxes. It brings all of the properties, all of the businesses and all the individuals into one database. President Rhoderick asks the cost of the web app. Mark explains the first three months he works with you so he cuts the price in half to \$150.00 a month. After that the price goes to \$300.00 a month. If you finds money he charges 25% and if he doesn't find money he doesn't charge anything other than the \$300.00. President Rhoderick asks if you sign into a contract. Mark explains that the \$300.00 a month is a 3 year contract

Citizens to address AGENDA items only:

Solicitor Racunas makes comment about Invenergy. He explains that he know some of the people here tonight are here to discuss Invenergy, but he wants to give a better understanding what role these commissioners role is in the potential variance hearing. That issue is with the Zoning Hearing Board. It is a separate board of separate people with a separate solicitor. That board is the one that will ultimately make the decision on that variance as to whether or not it's granted. That property as it's currently zoned, it is not permitted. Whether it goes forward and is permissible under a change in the zoning it is up to that board, it is not up to these commissioners.

Discussion:

1. Turnkey Taxes- Discussed in presentation.

Voting Items:

1. Motion to adopt the 2016 Amended budget in the amount of \$5,358,260.00.

1st Motion Similo 2nd Motion Beckowitz

Roll Call

All in Favor Motion Carries

2. Motion to approve the Bill Warrant dated February 15, 2016 in the amount of \$292,781.34.

1st Motion Beckowitz 2nd Motion Similo

Roll Call

All in Favor Motion Carries

3. Motion to hire Erin Butler for the open position for a part-time secretary at the pay rate of \$12.00 per hour and 25 hours per week.

1st Motion Beckowitz 2nd Motion Kuzma

Roll Call

Commissioner Similo - Yes

Commissioner Saxon - Yes

Commissioner Kuzma - Yes

Commissioner Beckowitz - Yes

Commissioner Blake - Yes

Commissioner Evans – Abstain was not able to attend interviews

President Rhoderick – Yes

6:6, 1 abstain Motion Carries

4. Motion approving Johnny's Glass Services to reconstruct glass door and wall to Manager's Office to create 2 offices with a total cost of \$4,650.00.

1st Motion Beckowitz 2nd Motion Kuzma

Roll Call

All in Favor Motion Carries

President Rhoderick explains that there were two bids taken. The other bid was for \$8,000.00. The reason we are making the motion for Johnny's glass is because they need about a 4 to 6 week wait period to order the glass and a deposit of half down to place that order.

5. Motion to direct the Civil Service Commission to begin the process of testing for position of Police Sergeant and approve of costs associated with advertising and testing materials.

1st Motion Saxon 2nd Motion Similo

Roll Call

All in Favor Motion Carries

6. Motion to approve Richard Farrell at a rate of \$125.00 to transcribe meeting minutes.

1st Motion Similo 2nd Motion Kuzma

Roll Call

Commissioner Similo - Yes

Commissioner Saxon - Yes

Commissioner Kuzma - Yes

Commissioner Beckowitz - Yes

Commissioner Blake - Yes

Commissioner Evans - No

President Rhoderick – Yes

6:1 Motion Carries

7. Motion to adopt the policy titled Use of Township Issued Credit Cards.

Discussion:

Commissioner Saxon asks if the Investigation was done that was discussed in the first meeting of the year in regards to the use of the township credit card. Vice President Beckowitz states that the bank is still working on it getting the signed receipts.

Commissioner Saxon asks so we will all know who was using the credit card and will we get the names of the people. Commissioner Similo states that when we get them you will get them. Solicitor Racunas adds that going forward every person that used the credit card will have to sign a credit card acceptance form because it's part of the policy.

1st Motion Similo 2nd Motion Kuzma

Roll Call

All in Favor Motion Carries Vice President Beckowitz comments during vote that she still thinks the credit card is too high.

8. Motion to adopt the policy titled Travel and Conference Attendance for continuing education for staff and commissioners.

1st Motion Kuzma 2nd Motion Blake

Roll Call

All in Favor Motion Carries

9. Motion to advertise the ordinance for eliminating the position of Township Manager.

1st Motion Similo 2nd Motion Beckowitz

Roll Call

Commissioner Similo - Yes

Commissioner Saxon - No

Commissioner Kuzma – Yes, explains cost savings to township

Commissioner Beckowitz - Yes

Commissioner Blake - No

Commissioner Evans – No

President Rhoderick – Yes

4:3 Motion Carries

Scott Jacobs- Resident speaks about items #4 and #9 on the agenda – glass for office and management position. See Audio for complete discussion.

10. Motion to advertise the ordinance to eliminate the salary and wages of commissioners in Elizabeth Township.

1st Motion Beckowitz 2nd Motion Similo

Roll Call

Commissioner Evans asked why so long on the salary change.

All in Favor Motion Carries

11. Motion to approve the KLH proposal for engineering services for the Year 2016 Paving Program as previously submitted to the board.

1st Motion Kuzma 2nd Motion Rhoderick

Roll Call

All in Favor Motion Carries

Motions Added to Agenda

12. Motion to approve Option C offered by Maher Duessel to add Sanitary to audit at \$38,410.00 to include the Sanitary Authority.

1st Motion Similo 2nd Motion Beckowitz

Roll Call

All in Favor Motion Carries

Discussion:

The Commissioner, our Solicitor discuss which direction the township will go in regards to the Sanitary Authority. Citizens **Mr. Burak**, **Mr. Larch** and **Mr. Coccia** comment on this discussion. See Audio for complete discussion.

13. Motion to direct Solicitor to take action to revive Authority and add 2 board members that are commissioners.

1st Motion Similo 2nd Motion Beckowitz

Roll Call

All in Favor Motion Carries

Vice President Beckowitz nominates Commissioner Kuzma and Commissioner Similo as the commissioners to sit on the board. 2nd nomination made for Vice President Beckowitz and Commissioner Kuzma to sit on the board.

14. Motion created for Beckowitz and Kuzma to sit on board for Sanitary.

1st Motion Similo 2nd Motion Rhoderick

Roll Call

Commissioner Similo – Yes

Commissioner Saxon – Yes

Commissioner Kuzma – Yes

Commissioner Beckowitz – Yes

Commissioner Blake – Yes

Commissioner Evans – No

President Rhoderick – Yes

6:1 Motion Carries

Solicitor Racunas states he will draft the documents and what he intends to do is draft them, get them filed appropriately and then have them on the agenda for next meeting for ratification. President Rhoderick states he has a question for Bobby Madden regarding the current bill warrant list. Can the bills wait til the next meeting or are there things that have to be approved tonight. Bobby Madden from the Elizabeth Township Sanitary Authority states that the bills that need to be paid are on the bill warrant and included what amount.

Commissioner Similo states that 941 will need amended both Township and Sanitary. A resident who was not announced asked President Rhoderick what the sanitary authority are doing with three to four hundred thousand dollars they are collecting a month from rate Payers. They address Mr. Madden who responds that they can sit down and look at their Monthly DNL statements.

Citizens to address items:

Michael Juliano- 1802 Blythdale Road- Home along road has trash and household items stacked outside. Juliano would like to see the items removed, offered to do it himself. John Snelson to look into the property and follow up with Solicitor Racunas.

Mika Long- 40 Colonial Drive- Speaks regarding Invenergy Plant. Long asks if there has been any more board discussion on the power plant. Long asks if Zoning Board is appointed by Commissioners and asks who they report to. Solicitor Racunas states that they answer to no one. After the board makes their decision there will probably be an appeal either way it goes.

Patty Hoffman- She states she doesn't know if the Commissioners or Zoning Hearing Board are aware that there are a lot of people in her neighborhood that are very upset about the fact of the Power plant going into the township.

Jim Cubes- He wanted to know why they didn't receive a card regarding the Invenergy meeting until the day before the meeting. Commissioner Kuzma responds that it would have cost the tax payers \$6,000 dollars to mail them out so they asked Invenergy to mail them.

Butch Anthony- Not on Signup sheet. Butch Anthony asks if this is the most accurate way to go with the Zoning Hearing Board on the Power Plant. Asks if Commissioners can file appeal on behalf of the citizens.

Sandy- October 22 was the meeting where Invenergy made their presentation and during that time in the minutes I see that that it states "We have to get this information out to everyone". That was in October and they had three months to get those out. I think transparency and communication are key.

President Rhoderick states that we are going to go ahead and clean up the sanitary requisition. He Addresses Bobby Madden and asks for an itemized invoices for Roto Rooter as well as all invoices.

15. Motion created to hold engineering and bond requisition bills for the Elizabeth Township Authority. Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$173,921.76 which excludes Gateway Engineers and Roto Rooter, only day to day bills approved for payment.

1st Motion Saxon 2nd Motion Kuzma

All in Favor Motion Carries

16. Motion to move forward with grant application for Lincoln Hall Project for the Elizabeth Township Authority.

President Rhoderick states there was a CITF Grant application that was made for the Lincoln Hall Project for 13 homes that have struggled with failing septic systems. They are putting in applications for a \$250,000.00 Grant that will cover estimated 50 percent of the project.

1st Motion Saxon 2nd Motion Kuzma

All in Favor Motion Carries Commissioner Similo questions project during vote.

17. Motion created for Penn Dot Bridge Project. ETA for Chairman to sign paperwork reimbursement. Bobby Madden explains the location of the bridges, one is a Lovedale Bridge between Giant Eagle and Ross Street and other bridge located along Greenock Buena Vista Road. Sewer lines being moved for bridge repair work.

1st Motion Saxon 2nd Motion Blake

Roll Call

All in Favor Motion Carries

18. Motion created for ETA to approve fees for the Boston Site Plan, fees total \$7,500.00.

1st Motion Saxon 2nd Motion Blake

Roll Call

Motion to Adjourn created by Saxon 2nd by Evans

President, Board of Commissioners

Lauren Zang, Office Manager