

**Elizabeth Township
Board of Commissioners
Monday, June 6, 2016
Commissioners' Meeting**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Commissioner Similo – Present
Commissioner Saxon – Absent
Commissioner Kuzma – Present
Commissioner Beckowitz – Present
Commissioner Blake – Present
Commissioner Evans – Present
President Rhoderick – Present

Executive Session Acknowledgement: Solicitor Racunas acknowledges that there was an executive session held to discuss personnel and litigation items.

Commissioner Similo announces that one of our residents, Frank Bernadowski is going to be taken in to the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame on Friday, June 10, 2016 at the Meadows Casino. I had the pleasure of being Frank's first coach in 9th grade. President Rhoderick states that he believes this is something that should be put on the Township website.

Presentation:

1. Introduction of K-9 Officer Eli by Officer Dan Novacek. Officer Dan Novacek states that they picked Eli up on March 25th and that he's 14 months old and a cross between a German Shepard & Belgian Malinois. He still has some training left to do, he's halfway trained on bite work. Right now we just have to get him out in the public and introduce him to everyone. President Rhoderick commends Officer Novacek for working around the clock and raising almost \$4,000.00 this weekend. Eli is w working dog but he's very social.
2. EMS to present poster awards. EMS announces winners Mt. Vernon 3rd place - Hunter Fulmer, Central 2nd place - Maddy Bindus, Central 3rd place - Makayla Puckey, Mt. Vernon 1st place - Parker Franks, Mt. Vernon 2nd place - Melissa Michaels, & Central 1st place Joseph Maksin. President Rhoderick states that the Township will display the winning posters at the Municipal Building before returning the posters to the students.
3. Dana Sandmeyer to present idea for hosting fitness class at Community Center. Dana Sandmeyer states that she has spoken to John Snelson about hosting a class at the Community Center for residents for the entire summer 2 days a week, but we came to find that we could only extend it through 6 classes so we decided on 3 weeks, twice a week, preferably on Mondays and Wednesdays. The yoga class will be free to the community. This will give us the opportunity to do a service and for the residents to do a service as well. We will also put out a donation box, even though it's free many residents still want to give something. We're asking for permission to use this for 2 hours at no charge, however any proceeds donated would go back to the Community Center. I have proof of liability insurance, there is a waver/release that we would have everyone sign. If anything needs changed on that, you could let me know so that I could correct it. President Rhoderick asks when she would like the classes to start. Dana Sandmeyer states that she would like to start as early as next Monday or as early as convenient for everyone else.

Department Reports

Business & Economic Committee: Chairman, Dan Poirier absent to give report. President Rhoderick states that he was in attendance at the spring 2016 Business Summit and that it went very well, a lot was accomplished and we only hope to move forward from here.

Canine Committee: Bob Tekavec states that there have been 3 K9 Committee meetings so far. T-shirts are selling well & gun tickets are still available for \$25.00. On July 22nd National Hotdog Day will be celebrated at Elizabeth Auto Care. All proceeds will go to the K9, Officer Eli. More t-shirts will be sold and the community will have another chance to meet Eli.

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer states that there will be a special meeting for the Zoning Hearing Board to vote on Allegheny Energy Center at Elizabeth Forward Middle School at 7:00 PM.

Engineer: The biggest thing right now on the Township side is the paving project. There's probably 4-5 weeks of paving left that you will see throughout the Township. On the sanitary side, the two biggest things are the O&M Plan and the permit transfers those were two items in the consent order that were due within 30 days. We will have those by the end of the week. Permit transfer applications are done tonight I believe. Permit application fees will be approved and we'll submit that with a check. The O&M plan is getting wrapped up and that will be submitted by the end of the week. Commissioner Similo states that he has a lot of questions. 95% of the Buena Vista Pump Station engineering was completed. 100% of the engineering for the line was completed and 75% of the Boston pump station was completed, now what direction are we going? I understand that Senate originally looked at 3 different routes and then Gateway came in and we paid them to do 3 more routes and now are we paying KLH again to look at routes or are we going to take this information, build on it, and complete the thing? Bryan Churilla says yes we are going to take the best information from the Senate plans and the Gateway plans. Commissioner Similo why couldn't we use the original 537 Plan that they has approved? We could have taken that and finished it. Gateway was not involved in that 537 Plan, Senate was. Why are we going back to Gateway, do they have a better plan? President Rhoderick states that there was an \$11 million dollar difference in plans. Commissioner Similo states that he doesn't know how that could be. President Rhoderick says it's worth looking at. Commissioner Similo it should have been finished in 2015. If you're going to save \$11 million, I'll vote for it, but you better save a million. This is the 3rd engineering company that's looked at it. Bryan Churilla I will stress that we haven't gotten through that stage. What I will say is far as the analysis itself of the alternatives, we did not want to touch it until we had all of Gateway's information so that we didn't go back and redo things. Commissioner Beckowitz have we gotten all of Gateway's information? Bryan Churilla states yes, as of today. Commissioner Similo states that they love us for all the fines that we pay. Fines have since stopped. Bryan Churilla says that Gateway has been working hard to get us a lot of information through last week and the remainder came in today. We have been trying to not move to far forward because of these times lines, we don't want to recreate everything. There may be a cost savings. We had 6 months to submit an Act 537 again. Next month we could go over what we think our professional opinion is. Commissioner Similo if their numbers are the same as the Lincoln Hall deal, forget it. Commissioner Kuzma is the plan to go down the trail completely engineered? Commissioner Similo we gave Gateway over \$1 million, do you know how much was capitalized? There was a question about some things on the balance sheet. There was not one dime capitalized in 2014 and yet we used bond money. Bryan Churilla says it is my understanding that the plan to go down the trail was engineered. Now that there is a new consent order, Senate has liability concerns. Commissioner Kuzma how about going down Broadlawn and over the hill, was that designed? Bryan Churilla no. At the end of the day it is a total cost analysis, which includes capital construction costs and soft costs. Based on Gateway's numbers, and I stress that they are Gateway's numbers because we have not gone through the evaluation, the savings would be \$10 million. We are hourly under the Sanitary Authority. We are under a fixed fee for the Township. Commissioner Similo would we pay if all of the work that has been paid for had been

completed? Bryan Churilla if we can use the information that is available and is useable. The underlying issue in the Act 537 is what is most feasible and what is most cost effective to the residents. I would hope that next month we will have the cost evaluation ready for you so that you can look at the alternatives. President Rhoderick, we may end up taking the Senate plan if it's the cheaper route. It's an \$8 million investment since 2008. The auditor discussed it. Commissioner Similo since 2013 nothing has been added to the work in progress and we used bond money. Are we doing something illegal? Solicitor Racunas there are specific reasons to use bond money. Commissioner Similo none of it was capitalized. Commissioner Kuzma asks how we are going to go about financing this because we are \$30 million in debt and if we go down the trail, we're going to be \$40 million in debt. Are there any federal grants to apply for? Bryan Churilla a lot of times to sit at the table you need a plan ready to go. I will look into it. Commissioner Blake auditors have been looking at the sanitary for the past week, have they come up with anything? President Rhoderick its part of our audit.

Police: Chief Kerestes states that for the month of May there were 552 events logged by Allegheny County 911 for our department. 21 adult arrests, 2 juvenile arrests, 61 traffic stops, issued 12 traffic citations. Officers investigated 16 motor vehicle crashes, 9 reportable, 7 non-reportable, 3 injuries. Thanks board for purchasing Eli and bringing the K9 Unit back.

Road: John Castine states that the Road Department is continuing to work on the wall along Happy Hollow Road and the 2016 paving project. The Road Department is also working on keeping the grass cut and landscapes maintained.

Solicitor: Motion to authorize the Solicitor to draft an ordinance in regards to the installation of pipelines in the Township

1st Motion Similo Seconded Kuzma
All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

Citizens to address AGENDA items only:

Emil Burak: Compliments the renewed K9 Unit, Canine Officer Eli, & all involved. Emil Burak goes on to state that he has been talking about the sewage for 5 years and still nothing is being done. It might be 6 more months before we even turn in a report. There will be even bigger fines coming up if we don't make those dates and do something. The EPA will kick in and start fining this community. We should start with what we have and finish it and sell the thing so that there are no politics involved. Solicitor Racunas states that the deadlines were discussed by himself and the engineer and that no one should be worried about missing the deadlines. The dates were agreed upon and they are realistic and we have every intention of making those deadlines. Commissioner Similo asks if we don't meet the deadline and we're fined, who's going to pay the fine. Bryan Churilla we have to do the 537. Commissioner Similo we have to use the 537 that was approved and build upon it because the time expired. Bryan Churilla if you read the consent order we have to submit an official, revised Act 537 Plan. All parties that want this thing to go away and get this done as fast as possible put those deadlines in there for the work that's required. The information that they required that we give them before we move forward, we put the timeline in there that it takes. The DEP's legal counsel drafted the consent order and they gave it to the Township. The deadlines that were in that order, we asked for an extension and the DEP approved them. We will make the deadlines as long as we keep making progress. President Rhoderick states how far the board has come with stopping the fines and opening the taps since he first of the year. It is stated that the fines have ceased.

Items for Consideration:

1. Motion to approve the Commissioner Meeting Minutes from May 16, 2016.

1st Motion Beckowitz Seconded Kuzma

All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

2. Motion to approve the June 6, 2016 Bill Warrant in the amount of \$269,763.13 which includes \$2,452.76 for Sanitary Department payroll that will be reimbursed from Sanitary Funds.

1st Motion Beckowitz Seconded Blake

All in Favor 1 Absent: Motion Carries

3. Motion to approve the June 6, 2016 Sanitary Fund Bill Warrant in the amount of \$112,739.46.

1st Motion Beckowitz Seconded Blake

Commissioner Similo – No

Commissioner Kuzma – Yes

Commissioner Beckowitz – Yes

Commissioner Blake – Yes

Commissioner Evans – Yes

President Rhoderick – Yes

5:1, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

4. Motion to approve Bond Requisition 037 in the total amount of \$22,186.04.

1st Motion Blake Seconded Kuzma

Commissioner Similo – No

Commissioner Kuzma – Yes

Commissioner Beckowitz – Yes

Commissioner Blake – Yes

Commissioner Evans – Yes

President Rhoderick – Yes

5:1, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

5. Motion to approve refund of \$48.50 out of Sanitary Funds to resident Mary Hajduk.

1st Motion Beckowitz Seconded Kuzma

All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

6. Motion to hire Joelle Whiteman as the Sanitary Book Keeper/Assistant to Office Manager with a \$35,000.00 annual salary and benefits.

1st Motion Kuzma Seconded Rhoderick

Commissioner Similo – No

Commissioner Kuzma – Yes

Commissioner Beckowitz – Yes

Commissioner Blake – Yes

Commissioner Evans – Abstain, did not attend interviews

President Rhoderick – Yes

4:1, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

7. Motion to hire Ed Mendola, CPA for Township and Sanitary Department accounting needs at an hourly rate of \$125, services will be provided on an as needed basis and at the discretion of the Office Manager. Addition to Motion to be no more than 4 hours per month without board approval. *Note - Board approved advertisement for accountant at 4/4/16 meeting based on the recommendation of auditors.*

1st Motion Kuzma Seconded Rhoderick

Commissioner Similo – No

Commissioner Kuzma – Yes

Commissioner Beckowitz – No

Commissioner Blake – No
Commissioner Evans – No
President Rhoderick – Yes
2:4, 1 Absent: Motion Fails

8. Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$6,550.00 to Excel K9 Services, Inc. for the purchasing of K-9 Officer Eli out of the K-9 Donation Fund.

1st Motion Beckowitz Seconded Similo
All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

9. Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$438.22 to Riverside Veterinary Hospital out of the K-9 Donation Fund.

1st Motion Similo Seconded Beckowitz
All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

10. Motion to reimburse Officer Dan Novacek \$364.24 for K-9 Expenses including travel to kennel out of the K-9 Donation Fund.

1st Motion Beckowitz Seconded Evans
All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

11. Motion to approve payment to EFYA in the amount of \$799.50 towards purchasing new Husqvarna Riding Mower under the conditions EFYA agrees to donate the riding mower that is no longer in service at Municipal Field to FTAA. *Note - Bobby Madden received 3 quotes to replace mower (mechanical/engine issues) at Municipal Field total cost of mower is \$1599.00.*

1st Motion Beckowitz Seconded Kuzma
All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

12. Motion to approve \$640.00 donation to the Elizabeth Township Historical Society for financial assistance to cover the 2016 shortfall.

1st Motion Beckowitz Seconded Kuzma
All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

13. Motion to ratify the execution of Resolution 11-13 per the motion passed at the meeting of Commissioners on March 18, 2013. *Note - Resolution found in file unsigned.*

1st Motion Similo Seconded Beckowitz
All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

14. Motion to approve Dana Sandmeyer to host open classes free of charge to residents in exchange for no cost of facility, contingent upon Solicitor review of legal documents.

1st Motion Beckowitz Seconded Blake
All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

Citizens to address items:

John Shultz: A regular car can't get into our driveway because you guys raised the road up too high. John Shultz has pictures to show the board of his Jeep's clearance. My neighbor doesn't like when cars are parked on the street because they can't get in the driveway. President Rhoderick asks John Castine if dumping 2 loads of reclaim would help. 2 loads of reclaim would cut down the slope. We have reclaim and this is where we use it because the slope of the road changes whenever they pave it.

Added Motions

15. Motion to deliver 2 loads of reclaim to Mr. Schultz on Emerson Drive.

1st Motion Beckowitz Seconded Blake

All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

16. Motion to deliver 2 loads of reclaim to 5907 Smithfield Street.

1st Motion Evans Seconded Blake

All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

17. Motion to deliver 2 loads of reclaim to Kennedy Street.

1st Motion Evans Seconded Beckowitz

All in Favor, 1 Absent: Motion Carries

Mr. Piper: Comments on cicadas in area and compares them to the constant noise power plant will create.

Claire Bryce: Comments on audit, asks if audit on credit card has been completed yet. President Rhoderick States that the audit will be completed by the end of June.

Motion to Adjourn:

1st Motion Evans Seconded Beckowitz

President, Board of Commissioners

Lauren Zang, Officer Manager/Finance Specialist