

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

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Commissioner Similo – Present
Commissioner Saxon – Present
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 litigation and personnel items involving Elizabeth Township Administration. There was also an executive session held with the Auditors on July 20, 2016.

Presentation: Elizabeth Township Sportsman's Association to present check for K9 Fund. President Rhoderick thanks Elizabeth Township Sportsman's Association for their time and effort raising \$11,000.00 for the K-9 Fund through ticket sales. Officer Dan Novacek thanks the Sportsman's Association, the K-9 Committee, the Chief, and each one of the Commissioners. Commissioner Saxon thanks Officer Novacek for his dedication to the K-9.

Citizens to address AGENDA items only:

Mary Scarry – Asks why item #12 is on the agenda. President Rhoderick explains that it will be discussed. We are looking to have a bid to see if the building at Chapel Drive can be rehabbed for a banquet hall for children's sports teams. If the bid comes back and it is not financially suitable, it will be rejected. Mary Scarry states that she has looked over the First Class Township Commissioner's Handbook and asks to have them available for residents at the meetings. Solicitor Racunas states that the handbook is available online in PDF format. Mary Scarry states that bullying tactics took place at the special ZHB Meetings for Invenegy. Mary Scarry lastly states the want and need in the Township for a library to benefit all members of the community. Commissioner Kuzma states that he is waiting to hear back in regards to a grant he wrote to fund the startup of a library.

Discussion Items:

Auditor's Recommendations – President Rhoderick states that the issue with the credit card resolved, Credit Card Policy enacted. The auditor's also recommended that someone with knowledge of bonds or engineering take a look. The auditors sampled \$865,000.00 worth of bonds and only \$60,000.00 was justified. President Rhoderick suggests reaching to the Pennsylvania League of Municipalities to see if they have any recommendations on bond council or an engineer.

Schweitzer Road – Bryan Churilla states that a retaining wall is needed on Schweitzer Road. The cost estimate for the work was about \$120,000.00. President Rhoderick states that the problem needs to be addressed soon and cannot wait to apply for a grant next year.

Vacating Highland Avenue – Bryan Churilla states that KLH wrote a legal description for Solicitor Racunas to vacate the Avenue because it serves no real purpose. President Rhoderick states that this is off Fallen Timber Road. Bryan Churilla states that he will get more information to the board.

Vacating portion of Lake Alley –

Bill Piper: President Rhoderick states that this has come up numerous times and as long as there are no sanitary easements and the Solicitor and engineer look at it, there's no problem. Bill Piper states that he has been cutting the grass there for 30 years. Commissioner Kuzma asks if this can be handled tonight and Solicitor Racunas states that the legal isn't ready.

Highland Meadows Playground and Blythedale Park Playground – President Rhoderick suggests putting out letter of interest to members of the community near these playgrounds to put together playground committees to make sure that the playgrounds are taken care of. President Rhoderick states that there are funds to update playgrounds and that there are also economically driven grants that Blythedale would qualify for. Commissioner Saxon asks about the Recreation Committee taking care of the playgrounds. President Rhoderick responds that members of the community where the playgrounds are located may have more on an invested interest to maintain them. Commissioner Evans suggests that Stoney Brook Playground be added to the list. Commissioner Similo and President Rhoderick agree. Commissioner Evans also suggests looking into putting a playground in the Oak Hill section of the Township. It's agreed that it is something to look into.

Chapel Drive – President Rhoderick states that there was a lot of discussion about Chapel Drive last year. It was cheaper to buy the Girl Scout Camp than to rehab the building at Chapel Drive at \$642,000.00. There has been in the past discussion to rehab the building, save the ceiling and walls as a bare minimum, tearing the building down altogether, or turning the building into a pavilion. Commissioner Beckowitz states that she and President Rhoderick looked at the building with a contractor and the building is salvageable. Bryan Churilla states that the bid specs would not be very major. We would be looking at the building just being up to code, structurally sound, and it's an open space. The \$600,000.00 was to recreate a full out facility. If the building is just going to be an open space with just the essentials, it's going to be a lot cheaper. There is discussion about a vision for the future of the building. Commissioner Saxon asks Bryan Churilla if this would be a special project or would this be included under his flat fee. Bryan Churilla states that the Township has already paid for the research and it is already completed. Commissioner Similo states that the original plan for Chapel Drive was to use grant money to turn the building into a library, but reading was not considered recreation which he disagrees with. President Rhoderick states that Senate and KLH both had plans for the Chapel Drive property. Larry Coccia states the idea of creating a road from the Municipal Complex to Chapel Drive.

A gentleman from the audience comments on Pineview Drive and the water that comes down on his property and 7 Springs Golf Course and asks if the Township can adopt the right-of-ways because the residents that live there are old. President Rhoderick states that when the Township only adopted streets that they salted and plowed and they do not go that far. We're looking at fixing the drainage at the bottom of that road. The gentleman states that they need a new ditch all the way down. President Rhoderick asks if there has been any new issues since the new pipes were put in recently because he did not see any flooding after the last storm. The gentleman states that flooding occurs from his side too. President Rhoderick states that this is a work in progress and the engineer is looking at it.

Bryan Churilla states that if you are going to demolish more than one house on the same block under the same contract, you must do asbestos surveys. There were 4 houses on the Blythedale Road area. Bryan Churilla states that there is the option of only demolishing one house at a time which would not require an asbestos survey. If an asbestos survey is conducted and comes back positive, it could cost up to

\$10,000.00 to abate it. As long as one house at a time is demolished, the level of asbestos emitted would not be dangerous unless there was more than one house. 413 Elizabeth Road is an alternate. The property owner was given a 90 day extension. John Snelson states that work has started on the property, it's not finished but there has been progress. President Rhoderick states that the property owner will be given another 90 day extension. Commissioner Similo states that he believes that all bids should be open at a public meeting.

- **Motion to make all bids open at a public meeting.**
1st Motion Similo **Second** Beckowitz
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Bryan Churilla states that the contractor is just about done with the paving program with the exception of one item. Contractors typically wait until the fall because if you plant seeds in the middle of the summer, they're not going to grow so they wait until fall. There was discussion of taking this out of the contract to possibly save money to have the public works do it but after review, that is not the best option. The contractor is coming in early September and all of the restoration work will be completed. In regards to Dennis Street, KLH is in the process of obtaining easements from property owners to complete storm sewer work. If they are unsuccessful, Bryan Churilla states that that portion of the contract can be removed. The main objective of the project will hold true, the property owner will just not benefit. Bryan Churilla suggests reaching out to the property owner by a notification to hold a meeting. KLH can reach out to the owner to meet them at the site to further explain how they will benefit and if there is still pushback, then KLH can adjust the scope. Commissioner Similo states that if the property owner doesn't cooperate, to just change the scope and move on. President Rhoderick agrees.

Ordinances:

Motion to adopt an ordinance of the Township of Elizabeth, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regulating the use and operation of model aircraft and amateur rockets in the Township.

**TABLED

Items for Consideration:

1. Motion to approve the Commissioner Meeting Minutes from July 11, 2016.

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Kuzma

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

2. Motion to approve the August 1, 2016 Bill Warrant in the amount of \$175,883.82 which includes \$2,914.88 for Sanitary Department payroll that will be reimbursed from Sanitary Funds.

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Blake

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

3. Motion to approve the August 15, 2016 Bill Warrant in the amount of \$199,659.86 which includes \$2,076.00 for Sanitary Department payroll that will be reimbursed from the Sanitary Funds.

1st Motion Blake **Second** Evans

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

4. Motion to approve the August 1, 2016 Sanitary Fund Bill Warrant in the amount of \$31,323.46.

1st Motion Saxon **Second** Rhoderick

Commissioner Similo – No

Commissioner Saxon – Yes

Commissioner Kuzma – Yes
Commissioner Beckowitz – Yes
Commissioner Blake – Yes
Commissioner Evans – Yes
President Rhoderick – Yes
6:1, **Motion Carries**

5. Motion to approve the August 15, 2016 Sanitary Fund Bill Warrant in the amount of \$76,814.81.

1st Motion Saxon **Second** Rhoderick

Commissioner Similo – No
Commissioner Saxon – Yes
Commissioner Kuzma – Yes
Commissioner Beckowitz – No
Commissioner Blake – Yes
Commissioner Evans – Abstain
President Rhoderick – Yes
4:2, 1 Abstain, **Motion Carries**

6. Motion to approve Bond Requisition 039 in the total amount of \$6,043.00.

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Kuzma

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

7. Motion to pay El Grande Industries \$96,308.45 out of the Liquid Fuels Fund for the 2016 Annual Paving Program, pay application number 2.

1st Motion Saxon **Second** Blake

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

8. Motion to approve a 3% raise for Code Enforcement Officer, John Snelson retroactive to his anniversary date of July 21st.

1st Motion Saxon **Second** Blake

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

9. Motion to advertise an ordinance to protect the property, environment and concerns of the Township and the health, safety, welfare and well-being of its residents, by regulation of Pipelines within the limits of the Township.

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Evans

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

10. Motion to approve payment to The Embroidery People in the amount of \$5,190.00 out of the K9 Donation Fund.

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Blake

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

11. Motion to approve payment to Officer Daniel Novacek for reimbursement of K9 expenses in the amount of \$380.62 out of the K9 Donation Fund.

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Blake

All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

12. Motion to direct KLH to prepare bid specifications for the rehabilitation of the building located at Chapel Drive.

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Kuzma
Commissioner Similo – Yes
Commissioner Saxon – No
Commissioner Kuzma – Yes, contingent that it falls under the \$6,500.00 retainer
Commissioner Beckowitz – Yes
Commissioner Blake – Yes
Commissioner Evans – No
President Rhoderick – Yes
5:2, **Motion Carries**

13. Motion to cancel the September 5, 2016 Commissioner Meeting due to the Labor Day Holiday.

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Evans
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

14. Motion to waive the Peddler’s Permit Fee in the amount of \$200.00 for EFYA. (Permit good for 1 year)

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Saxon
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

15. Motion to award the McKeesport Road CIPP lining work to Insight Pipe Contracting in the total amount of \$10,260.00.

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Evans
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

16. Motion to award the Year 2016 Demolition Program Contract to Stash Trucking in the total bid amount of \$29,800.00.

1st Motion Saxon **Second** Beckowitz
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Bryan Churilla discusses areas for the Road Department to dump clean fill. He mentions Chapel Drive as a spot to do so. There is discussion of building a road from the Municipal Building area to Chapel Drive for easier accessibility to Chapel Drive as opposed to from Rock Run to Parkwyn to Chapel.

17. Motion to purchase Bucket Truck from Hickman Electric for \$10,000.00.

1st Motion Beckowitz **Second** Rhoderick
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

18. Motion to obtain rubber track skid steer bids recommended by the Sanitation Department and the Elizabeth Township Road Crew.

1st Motion Similo **Second** Saxon
All in Favor: **Motion Carries**

Citizens to address items:

John Meyers: John Meyers states that he wants to Township to pave his driveway. He states that putting in Swiss Alpine Village violated all the codes. John Meyers states that he has to pay \$108,000.00 for a retaining wall because of the decision of the Township. Commissioner Beckowitz states that the Township had to buy the property to keep a jail out that would have taken Mr. Meyers property value down to nothing. Commissioner Beckowitz states that they Township did not have a choice in buying the property because there was not an ordinance in place to keep the jail out. John Meyers states that the board rezoned the property from residential to commercial. He also states that he thinks the Township

