

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for July on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 6:30pm in the Municipal Building located at 105 Lt. Michael Cleary Drive, Dallas, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Those in attendance included: Supervisor Chairman William J. Grant, Supervisor Vice Chairman Elizabeth A. Martin, Supervisor Robert J. Wagner, Attorney Thomas J. Mosca, Township Manager Martin K. Barry, Police Chief Douglas J. Higgins, Roadmaster Gary R. VanDeutsch, Township Engineer Ryan Doughton and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk. Also in attendance were many members of the Dallas Township Police Department, Jonathon Martinez and his family & friends, District Justice Brian Tupper, Leo J. Charney, Gina Thackara & Mary Lou Grant. There were several individuals who participated via GoTo Meeting/phone including Wayne Dotter, Mary Clemm & Ambria Salavantis. Marketing Consultant Amanda Faneck was at the Administration Building and set up Facebook Live to allow additional residents to participate in the meeting.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to Pay the Bills**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve the Minutes** from the June 1, 2021 Monthly Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that there were not any employee health care reimbursements since the last meeting and that the total employee health reimbursements made for 2021 is \$6,109.30.

Supervisor Grant stated that the Supervisors, Attorney Mosca, Township Manager Barry and Chief Higgins had an Executive meeting on a personnel matter prior to the Supervisors' Meeting.

Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:

None.

Agenda:

Chief Higgins explained the process they used to hire a new police officer and that Jonathon Martinez was their top candidate. Mr. Martinez was sworn in as a police officer by District Justice Tupper. Chief Higgins presented Officer Martinez badge number 2218 and a physical fitness pin.

Chief Higgins stated the in October 2020 the Biden for President Committee held a rally at the Dallas School District campus and there were not any major incidents. He presented a plaque noting the event and presented all police department employees with a pin to acknowledge their excellent service during the event. While presenting Sergeant Brian Feeney with his pin, he also stated that Sergeant Feeney recently completed a 3-week leadership development program.

Mr. Charney has resided on Goldsmith Road since 1996. Since that time the tree canopy over the road has been reduced due to items like more homes being built and power lines being installed. The road has lots of dust when cars drive on it and his wife has a respiratory issue and has to wear a mask due to all the dust. He has appreciated the calcium and soy bean oil that has been used to reduce the dust, but the dust resumes a few weeks after the application of these items. Supervisor Grant stated that we received a Luzerne Conservation District Grant to make improvements to the road about 3 years ago and that there is a 5-year moratorium which prevents us from making additional changes unless there is

a change in the environment and the reduction of the tree canopy may qualify as a change. Roadmaster VanDeutsch is getting quotes to tar and chip the road. Township Manager Barry stated that Zachary Aciukewicz who lives on Goldsmith Road also submitted a letter concerning the dust. The Supervisors requested that Township Manager Barry contact the Luzerne Conservation District with this information to see if we could receive an exception to be able to make improvements to Goldsmith Road.

Mr. Dotter resides on Fairgrounds Road. He requested that Fairgrounds Road be fixed and maintained up to the recently moved fence. Roadmaster VanDeutsch stated they snow plow to before the fence so that they don't cover it with snow piles and will review that section of the road and make any necessary improvements.

Mrs. Clemm resides on Country Club Road and stated that a neighboring property has been under construction for several years and that the only time the property is maintained is when she contacts our Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer about the issues and he contacts the owner. She believes that there are some safety issues including a hole dug for a foundation that has not been completed. Township Manager Barry stated that the owner has a building permit to remodel the house and was issued a second permit since it was taking a long time to complete. Ms. Salavantis stated that she had the same concerns as the Clemm's. Supervisor Grant stated that Zoning/Code Enforcement Carl Alber and Attorney Mosca will review the situation to see if there are any violations of our codes and have the owner make the appropriate corrections/improvements.

Supervisor Grant stated that we have received a letter from Robert Swailes Jr. from the Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association (BMYSA). BMYSA is requesting to lease approximately 15 acres at the Kunkle Park and would help us obtain grants to build 2 soccer only turf fields, parking areas, storage buildings, restrooms and a concession building. Supervisor Grant stated that this would be a monumental task for the Township to do at this time and would ask BMYSA to provide suggestions on how to fund this. There are also some nature-based restrictions on the Kunkle Park.

Ms. Thackara from the Penn State University Extension Master Gardeners thanked the Township for allowing them to plant a pollinator garden near the Administration Building parking lot. She presented a design of the garden as well as information on some of the plants they plan to have. The plants will provide color in every season but winter. They will provide all the plants and ongoing maintenance at no cost to the Township.

Supervisor Grant provided a financial update as of June 30, 2021. We have received \$954,264 or 92.20% of the Real Estate taxes which is better than the previous 4 years. Earned Income Tax collections are at 58.50% of budget or \$760,456 which is better than most of the previous 4 years. Local Services Tax collections are at 50.71% of budget or \$81,143 which is lower than the previous 4 years. Our Police Pension Plan is at 126.61% and our Non-Uniform Pension Plan is at 103.77% of the January 1, 2021 actuarial liability. Pension plan assets as of June 30, 2021 were \$6,075,698 for the Police Pension Plan and \$3,350,447 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Our non-restricted cash balance is about \$3,200,000 with the Fire Protection account being about \$100,000.

Supervisor Martin stated that EMA Coordinator Alan Pugh was not able to attend tonight's meeting but informed her that since Pennsylvania has ended its Declaration of Disaster Emergency that we do not need to continue ours. Therefore, the Supervisors did not make a Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

Supervisor Martin stated the EMA Coordinator Pugh informed her that the Delta variant of COVID-19 is in Pennsylvania and that we should keep a stock of strategic supplies on hand. 52% of Luzerne County residents have been vaccinated. Township Manager Barry stated that everything is going well concerning COVID-19 and that we have not received any complaints or had any concerns reported to us by our residents or employees. We do have some items in storage and will and he recommends that EMA Coordinator Pugh review our current items to see if there is anything which we need contact our police and fire departments to see if they need any additional supplies. If there are any needed items, we will be able to purchase them with American Rescue Plan funds.

Supervisor Grant made a **Motion to purchase an EMA Trailer**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

We received 3 bids for the Sedlar Road Miscellaneous Repairs & Wearing Course Overlay. The following bids were opened:

American Asphalt Paving Company: \$267,874.10
M&J Excavation: \$263,230.26
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company: \$248,419.70

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to have Township Engineer R. Doughton review the bids and to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that there were some technical issues during the Zoning Map Corrections hearing on June 29, 2021 which effected people who were trying to attend through GoTo Meeting. Therefore, a new hearing has been scheduled for August 10, 2021 at 5:30pm at the Administration Building.

Township Manager Barry stated that the Back Mountain Community Partnership has funds remaining from a Local Share Account (LSA) grant and would like to purchase a Speed Trailer with those funds. Each participating municipality would need to approve the purchase. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve the purchase of a Speed Trailer by the Back Mountain Community Partnership with LSA funds**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that the Pave Cut Ordinance is being reviewed for changes. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to advertise the amended and restated Pave Cut Ordinance**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that the Local Technical Assistance Program will be providing an engineer to do a traffic study in Haddonfield Hills & Shrine View Developments and that they will be meeting with us this Friday.

Township Manager Barry stated that all work on the Salt Shed has been completed. Township Engineer R. Doughton stated that it was a smooth project and that he is reviewing all paperwork for payment applications. Roadmaster VanDeutsch is very pleased with the new salt shed and plans on stockpiling salt in September.

Township Manager Barry stated that there have been some weather issues concerning the construction of the Southside Avenue Nature Park and that the concrete will hopefully be poured this week.

Supervisor Grant stated that we had a meeting with Jim Laird from the Laird Landscape Architecture and that we have received a proposal from them of \$150,000 for designing Phase II of the Southside Avenue Nature Park. After discussion, this item was tabled for further review by the Supervisors and Attorney Mosca.

Township Manager Barry stated that we have received thank you letters from both the Back Mountain Library and Back Mountain Railroad Club for the donations we made to them.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to advertise for a new Road Department employee**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Police Update:

Chief Higgins stated that he did not have any additional information to provide besides what had been already covered during the meeting.

Road Department Update:

Roadmaster VanDeutsch provided the Road Department update. A drainage swale on Aspen Drive was excavated to aid in the draining of water from the roadway to work with the catch basins that were vacuumed out. A mini excavator was rented to remove the debris. Pot hole patching was done throughout the township. A drainage pipe and basin were replaced on Sedlar Road closer to Hildebrandt Road. This was in advance of the contracted paving. Line painting was applied on several roads with more planned. They have been busy working dirt and gravel roads with Shupp, Goodman, and Goldsmith roads completed. An application of liquid calcium was done on Goldsmith and Goodman Roads. Goodman road has almost no tree canopy and they will monitor the effectiveness of the liquid calcium throughout the summer. They will continue with dirt and gravel road maintenance while also working on roadside vegetation control and routine maintenance. They have also done some work on Shupp Road to address a complaint about water runoff onto a property there.

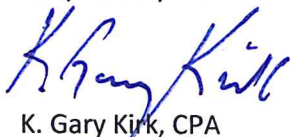
Additional Citizens' Comments:

There were several comments on Facebook live congratulating Officer Martinez and the Police Department.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Gary Kirk".

K. Gary Kirk, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer