

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for November on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 6:30pm in the Administration 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. Van Deutsch, and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk. Dodie Coolbaugh, Jack Dodson, Ed Gray, Leonard Kozick, Alan Pugh, Brenda Pugh, Julie Sitkowski & Nadine Young were also in attendance. Wayne Dotter participated via GoTo Meeting. 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 Wagner made a **Motion to Pay the Bills**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve the Minutes** from the September 28, 2021 Special Supervisors Meeting, the October 5, 2021 Monthly Meeting and the October 18, 2021 Special Supervisors Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve employee health care reimbursements** that had been requested in October in the amount of \$796.68 seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2021 is \$8,591.58.

#### **Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:**

There were 3 comments on Facebook about the agenda. Nicole Rismondo thanked the Road Department for solving water run off issues on Southside Avenue. Nicole Rismondo and Arlene Christine both had comments on the Fire Protection Tax and Supervisor Grant stated that those questions would be addressed when the Fire Protection Tax is discussed in more detail when we get to that agenda item. Arlene Christine also could not find the October minutes on the website. Supervisor Grant stated that they would be posted to the website tomorrow since they were just approved by the Supervisors at tonight's meeting.

#### **Agenda:**

Supervisor Grant provided a financial update as of October 31, 2021. We have received \$1,039,638 or 100.45% of the Real Estate taxes which is better than the previous 4 years. Earned Income Tax collections are at 87.15% of budget or \$1,132,985 which is better than most of the previous 4 years. Local Services Tax collections are at 78.14% of budget or \$125,026 which is lower than the previous 4 years, but in line with our 2021 budget. Our Police Pension Plan is at 130.75% and our Non-Uniform Pension Plan is at 109.17% of the January 1, 2021 actuarial liability. Pension plan assets as of October 31, 2021 were \$6,274,366 for the Police Pension Plan and \$3,524,810 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Our non-restricted cash balance is about \$2,672,000 and the Fire Protection account is about \$100,000.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve Resolution 2021-14, A Resolution Eliminating Police Officers' Contributions to the Police Pension Plan**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

There was discussion on **Resolution 2021-15, A Resolution to Enact a Fire Protection Tax**. Supervisor Grant provided a history of the previous Fire Protection Tax, that is being used for a portion of the paid fire fighters' wages & benefits and the need to have a new Fire Protection Tax since the previous funds are almost all used. There was discussion that included that Dallas Township would only be paying a

percentage of the paid fire fighter employees wages & benefits with the percentage based on our population compared to the total population of the municipalities covered by the fire departments. Based on the 2020 Census, our percentage would be 57.59%. Kunkle Fire & EMS Chief Dodson stated the Fire Protection Tax has greatly improved their response time to fires with the paid fire fighter drivers. They also cover Monroe Township and that they will be implementing a fire protection tax in 2022 and the amount of their tax should cover the other approximately 40% not covered by Dallas Township. Nobody present was aware if any of the other municipalities covered by Back Mountain Regional Fire & EMS would be implementing a fire protection tax in 2022 or if Back Mountain Regional contacted them about having a Fire Protection Tax. The Fire Board has not met since the previous Fire Protection Tax ended in 2019. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Table Resolution 2021-15, A Resolution to Enact a Fire Protection Tax**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. An informational meeting with the Supervisors and representatives from both Fire Departments will be held on November 11, 2021 at 6pm.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve, Resolution 2021-16, A Resolution to Raise the Property Tax .10 Mills to 1.65 Mills**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried with Supervisor Martin voting no.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve the Proposed 2022 Budget**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

There was discussion by Mr. Pugh, Mrs. Pugh & Mr. Dotter with the Supervisors and Attorney Mosca about the gate on Fairground Road and Fairground Road in general. Mr. Dotter would like it moved closer to Conyngham Avenue to be about where an old dirt pile was. Mr. Pugh stated that he and his wife own all the properties along Fairground Road between the two gates and that he would like either the road be brought up to proper standards and opened or be permanently vacated and turned over to his wife and himself.

Township Manager Barry stated that there are currently 6 municipalities who have signed contracts with the Cohen Law Group to negotiate cable franchise fees. This would put our fee at around \$8,000-\$10,000 and if more municipalities join, the fee would be lower.

Township Manager Barry provided an update on the Southside Nature Park. He stated that everything is almost complete. The security camera system is being worked on, a handrail still needs to be installed and the new signs need to be installed. Additional seeding will be done next spring. The streambank restoration plan is moving forward

Township Manager Barry stated that Kunkle Fire & EMS is purchasing new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machines and has offered to allow us to purchase some with them which would provide a lower cost per machine. Our current ones are expired and we do not have one at the new Administration Building. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to Purchase 3 AED Machines at a cost of \$1,999 per machine**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

#### **Police Update:**

Police Chief Higgins stated that the Back Mountain Police Association is collecting Coats for Kids and that our police department building is a collection site.

#### **Road Department Update:**

Roadmaster Van Deutsch provided the Road Department update. He stated that the leaf vac truck is making its rounds picking up leaves and will continue until they are all picked up or inclement weather starts. On October 12<sup>th</sup> we received our new John Deere Tiger Flail Mower to replace our 36-year machine. The entrance to the Glendalough development has been paved and bermed after addressing the water issue on the left side entrance. The end of Richard Drive in Bluff Point has been paved with

special attention to the concerns brought to us from the Home Owners Association at the August Supervisors meeting addressing the drainage around the driveways to the parking lots below the road. Following up from the October Supervisors meeting, most of the residents' concerns on Southside Avenue have been addressed with new signage for parking as well as painting a double yellow and stop bar at the entrance to give drivers a better perspective of the roadway. "Slow" was painted for the ingress and egress of the roadway. The designated parking spaces have been lined and bumper blocks installed. Road preservation was performed today with crack sealing of Manorview Drive in Goodleigh Manor with more planned for the future.

**Additional Citizens' Comments:**

Sue Van Horn commented on Facebook about whether residents would still be asked to privately contribute to Back Mountain Fire & EMS. It was stated that contribution requests would be determined by Back Mountain Fire & EMS.

Mr. Pugh stated how nice the new Southside Avenue Nature Park is.

Supervisor Martin thanked our Police Department for their help during the Kiwanis Halloween Parade.

Supervisor Grant reminded everyone that the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting event will be Saturday December 4, 2021 starting at 5pm at the Back Mountain Little League Fields.

Ms. Young asked about the possible building/construction work being done behind Misericordia University near Masonic Homes. It was stated that no official submission has been made to the Planning Commission, but we have heard that Misericordia University is considering building a sports dome on that property. She also asked about a long term plan for green space and it was stated that we do not have anything in place at this time and there are various laws to protect streams and how much building may be done on certain properties.

**Adjournment:**

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

K. Gary Kirk, CPA  
Secretary/Treasurer