

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for October on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 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 Robert J. Wagner, Supervisor Elizabeth A. Martin, Township Manager Martin K. Barry, Roadmaster Gary R. Van Deutsch, Police Chief Douglas Higgins and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk. Also in attendance were Russell Coolbaugh, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, and about 40 other people. Holly Daubert participated through GoTo Meeting. Social Media Administrator 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 6, 2022 Monthly Meeting and from the September 22, 2022 Special Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve employee health care reimbursements** that had been requested in September in the amount of \$2,655.28 seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2022 was \$12,002.29.

Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:

Mr. Walter Kochan stated that he is opposed to drop boxes for elections. Several other individuals including Mr. Ian Kennedy and Mr. Harold Bolton also stated that they are opposed to drop boxes for elections. There was discussion about how an election drop box was authorized at Misericordia University, if the Supervisors could prevent election drop boxes in Dallas Township, and how will the election drop boxes be monitored and secured. Dallas Township was informed late Friday evening about the election drop box at Misericordia University and we have been checking with our solicitor and PSATS for guidance as to what we may or may not be able to do. Township Manager Barry will contact Luzerne County and Misericordia University to find out more information about the election drop box and we will have a special meeting on October 18, 2022. We will invite Luzerne County and Misericordia University to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Mary Klem asked about 526 Country Club Road issues. It was determined to begin the agenda and address these concerns as part of that agenda item.

Agenda:

Supervisor Grant provided a financial update as of September 30, 2022. We have received \$1,108,584 of Real Estate taxes which is 99.87% of our budget. This percentage also applies to the Fire Protection Tax. The collections to be received in October will put us over 100% of budget. Earned Income Tax collections are at 84.62% of budget or \$1,184,720 which is better than the previous 5 years. Local Services Tax collections are at 80.79% of budget or \$129,265 which is lower than some of the previous 5 years, but improving. Our Police Pension Plan is at 103.14% and our Non-Uniform Pension Plan is at 85.44% of the January 1, 2021 actuarial liability. Pension plan assets as of September 30, 2022 were \$4,949,695 for the Police Pension Plan and \$2,758,744 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Our non-restricted cash balance is about \$3,820,000 and the Fire Protection account is about \$101,000.

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Olivia Martin is from Girl Scout Troop #30262 and presented her Girl Scout Gold Project. She would like to put a communication board at the Southside Avenue Nature Park. The communication board would have 25-30 symbols and words which would help those with communication difficulties to communicate. It will cost about \$215 and she is raising funds. She would like the Township to do the installation and she will email Township Manager Barry additional information to forward to the Supervisors.

We advertised three pieces of equipment on Municibid and received bids on all three items. Springville Township was the highest bidder at \$411 on the Flink VCT-11 Spinner, Stanley Green was the highest bidder at \$30,000 on the 2009 Dodge Ram 5500 with plow & spreader, and Bobby Gerhart was the highest bidder at \$16,201 on the 2002 Freightliner FL80 with plow & spreader. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve all three bids**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that we have checked the house under construction at 526 Country Club Road and they are following all of our current ordinances. We currently use the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code and are looking to adopt the 2021 version which has some more stricter enforcement provisions compared to the 2012 version. Mrs. Klem also asked about the cut trees, how often the grass has been cut and items being kept at the property. Zoning/Code Enforcement Coolbaugh stated that the owner stated that all the items are being used to construct the house.

Ms. Diane Corbett asked about the Southside Park Phase II plans and expressed concerns about traffic, wildlife, the creek and trees. Supervisor Grant and Township Manager Barry explained that the Southside Park improvement plans have been worked on for over 10 years and that we have used grants for most of the improvements made and are applying for new grants for the future improvements. The grants include streambank restoration, improvements to the roads, additional parking and a DEK Hockey Rink. Actual improvements to the park will depend on which grants we receive. Ms. Corbett thanked Township Manager Barry for his help and for taking time to answer her questions over the past month. Mrs. Nicole Rismondo asked about the status of the speed tracker on Southside Avenue. Township Manager Barry stated that the speed tracker has been received and we are still waiting on the mounting brackets for it. She also asked about the location of the dog park and was informed that a dog park may or may not be in the final plans depending on funding and environmental requirements.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement by Teamsters Local Union #401 and Dallas Township concerning the 2023 wage increase**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried with Supervisor Wagner abstaining since he is a member of Teamsters Local Union #401. The 2023 wage increase will be 4.50% in their base rate and a 1.50% one-time cash bonus.

Township Manager Barry stated that DCNR has additional grant funds available and we would like to apply for grants for more streambank restoration a second walking bridge and some trails at Southside Avenue Park.

There were no additional comments on the Luzerne County Ballot Box to be located at Misericordia University.

Township Manager Barry stated that Township Engineer Ryan Doughton prepared our annual MS4 report. The report shows that we are making improvements to prevent sediment and pollutants going down Toby's Creek to the Susquehanna River. Our audit 2 years ago was favorable.

Township Manager Barry provide an update on the Stormwater Ordinance. We are in the process of updating it and are getting guidance from DEP. We hope to have it ready for January 2023.

Township Manager Barry stated that 911 Communications require that any property that has the possibility of three or more homes on a driveway needs a lane name. There is property on Yeager Avenue which has this possibility. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve Fern Hollow Lane**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that Macko Lane once had three homes on it, but two of them have since been torn down. The remaining homeowner would like to have their address changed back to Overbrook Avenue. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve the change of Macko Lane to Overbrook Avenue**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that we purchased the property on Lt. Michael Cleary Drive next to the Administration Building and we are in the planning stages of building a new police station on that property. Township Manager Barry stated that we received a DCED/LSA grant to be used for the purchase and some site development on the property. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to advertise for bids for tree removal on that property**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that the Vernon Land Group has reviewed and made recommendations concerning updating our SALDO. Those recommendations are being reviewed by our Solicitor, Attorney Thomas Mosca, and our Township Engineer, Thomas Doughton. We hope to advertise in November and have a public meeting in December.

EMA Update:

EMA Coordinator Alan Pugh provided the EMA update. Recently there was a large oil spill on a Luzerne County Road in Dallas Township and neighboring townships. They are reviewing items which may be needed for the winter.

Police Update:

Police Chief Higgins provided the Police Update. Our Police Department participated in an informational booth with the State Police at the Luzerne County Fair. They attended a 2-day entry tool training. The Neighborhood Watch group had 10-12 people at the last meeting. They have created a Facebook page and will have their next meeting in November.

Road Department Update:

Roadmaster Van Deutsch provided the Road Department update. The Jake Moore Road improvements are nearly completed. It was resurfaced with 600 tons of Driving Surface Aggregate and they will be paving 150 feet at the approach from Ransom Road. We received a grant from the Conservation District which will cover some of the costs. Reservoir Road has been graded and Ryman Road had some repair work done to it. They have been clearing overhead obstructions for better sight lines and the flail mower has been clearing side vegetation. The leaf vac truck has made its first round of cleaning up leaves. Additional blacktop work and repairs are planned.

Additional Citizens' Comments:

Ms. Beverly Atherholt from Midland Drive thanked the Supervisors for the paving work done in her neighborhood and that Midland Drive is absolutely gorgeous.

Mrs. Brenda Pugh stated that the Christmas Tree Lighting will be on December 3, 2022 from 5-7pm. This year's tree will be dedicated to Randy Mark.

Supervisor Martin stated that the newsletter will be worked on this week and will be distributed next week.

Mrs. Faneck stated that there are kids crossing the highway from New Goss Manor to get to the Southside Park and it is very dangerous. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to amend the Agenda to Request a Traffic and Engineering Study to be completed on Route 309 near the entrance to New Goss Manor**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner in and carried. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Request a Traffic and Engineering Study to be completed on Route 309 near the entrance to New Goss Manor**, seconded by Supervisor Martin in and carried.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



K. Gary Kirk, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer