

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for December on Tuesday, December 6, 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, Attorney Thomas J. Mosca, Township Manager Martin K. Barry, Police Chief Douglas Higgins, Roadmaster Gary Van Deutsch, Zoning/Code Enforcement Office Russell Coolbaugh and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk. EMA Coordinator Alan Pugh participated through GoTo Meeting. Approximately 25 other people were in attendance. 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 November 1, 2022 Monthly Meeting**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve employee health care reimbursements** that had been requested in November in the amount of \$1,084.91 seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2022 was \$13,087.20.

Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:

Ms. Dianne Corbett stated that several residents would like to make statements and ask questions concerning Agenda Item #15, Southside Avenue Park Area Residents and Supervisor Grant stated that they may make their statements and ask questions when we get to that Agenda item. Ms. Corbett stated that the residents were wearing green in support of their concerns about some of the possible improvement projects at the park.

Agenda:

Supervisor Grant provided a financial update as of November 30, 2022. We have received \$1,114,679 of Real Estate taxes which is 100.42% of our budget. This percentage also applies to the Fire Protection Tax. The collections to be received in December will be around \$7,000. Earned Income Tax collections are at 101.70% of budget or \$1,423,754 which is better than the previous 5 years. Local Services Tax collections are at 107.11% of budget or \$171,373 which is better than the previous 5 years. Our Police Pension Plan is at 114.80% and our Non-Uniform Pension Plan is at 95.42% of the January 1, 2021 actuarial liability. Pension plan assets as of November 30, 2022 were \$5,509,034 for the Police Pension Plan and \$3,081,051 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Our non-restricted cash balance is about \$3,241,000 and the Fire Protection account is about \$90,000.

We received two bids for the Cutting and Removal of Trees at Lt. Michael Cleary Drive. They were:

Kocher Tree Service, Inc: \$16,750.00

Morgan Site Services, LLC: \$15,960.00

Both bids included a bid bond. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to have Township Manager Barry review the bids and to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

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Supervisor Grant provided the second reading of the 2023 budget. The 2023 expenditures are \$6,302,200 and we will be using \$294,700 of the expected 2022 excess of over \$600,000. The budget includes a tax increase from 1.65 mills to 1.95 mills. There is no increase in the Fire Protection Tax of .35 mills. Most of the increases in expenditures are in wages, benefits and paving. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Approve the 2023 Budget**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that our 10-year cable franchise agreement with Comcast is due for renewal. We previously had a hearing on this and had a public meeting on the Ordinance prior to the monthly meeting. Township Manager Barry stated that there are about 2,950 cable subscribers and we receive about \$30,000 a quarter from the cable franchise agreement. We will also receive free cable services to our Administration Building, Police Station, Road Department Building and Back Mountain Regional Fire & EMS Building. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve Ordinance 2022-1, an Ordinance Authorizing Execution of a Cable Franchise Agreement Between the Township and Comcast of Colorado/Pennsylvania/West Virginia, LLC**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that Pennsylvania passed Act 57 effective January 1, 2023 which provides for people who purchase real property and do not receive a real estate tax notice in that year, may request a waiver of interest, fees, penalties in excess of the face amount of the real estate tax notice. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve Resolution 2022-19, A Resolution to Implement Act 57 of 2022**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that OMNIA Partners is a group purchasing organization and that we could save money on our Cintas contract by joining OMNIA Partners. There is no fee to join OMNIA Partners and there may be other contracts which we may save money if we join. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve Resolution 2022-20, A Resolution to Join OMNIA Partners Cooperative Purchasing Organization**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that the approved 2023 Budget included an increase in the real estate property tax from 1.65 mills to 1.95 mills. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve Resolution 2022-21, A Resolution to Levy a Real Estate Property Tax of 1.95 mills for 2023**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that DAMA has prepared an Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan with Addendum. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve Resolution 2022-22, A Resolution to Adopt DAMA Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan with Addendum**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that the Dallas Township Police Association has met with the Supervisors concerning the 2023 pay increases and have agreed to a 5.0% increase in 2023 and a 4% increase in 2024 subject to the Consumer Price Index. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve Dallas Township Police Association Contract Addendum #3**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that our contract with No Nonsense Neutering has been effective in controlling feral cats and that the proposed 2023 contract will be for up to 3 vouchers per household at a cost to the Township of \$40 per cat with a maximum of 60 vouchers in 2023. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve the No Nonsense 2023 Renewal Agreement**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that we had previously approved a lease with North Branch Land Trust to lease office space in our Administration Building conditional on USDA's approval. We have received USDA approval. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve the North Branch Land Trust Office Space Lease Agreement effective January 1, 2023**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried with Supervisor Martin abstaining since she is employed by the North Branch Land Trust.

Township Manager Barry stated that the Dallas School District would like have PennDot do a School Zone Improvements Study on Hildebrandt Road. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to make a Request to PennDot for a School Zone Improvements Study on Hildebrandt Road**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry provided an update on the SALDO. Engineer Thomas Doughton recently submitted some additional suggestions and Attorney Mosca, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Coolbaugh, Secretary/Treasurer Kirk and himself met last week to review those suggestions and other items. We will make a draft copy of the SALDO based on these suggestions and submit it to the Planning Commission to review.

Supervisor Grant and Township Manager Barry stated that we are continuing to review the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) 2018 & 2021 updates. We are using the 2012 version and we should update to one of the newer versions. Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Coolbaugh has been checking with other municipalities as to which version they use and will be attending a seminar in January on the IPMC. The newer versions should allow the Township to have more provisions to better maintain properties.

Supervisor Grant thanked Ms. Faneck for the work she has done as our Social Media Administrator as earlier this week she provided us notice that she will be ending her contract with Dallas Township effective December 31, 2022. She has helped the Township with Facebook and other events.

Ms. Diane Corbett, Ms. Amy Kuiken, Ms. Nicole Rismondo, Mr. Justin Bendnar, Mr. Jack Bestwick shared concerns about the proposed second phase improvements to the Southside Park. Mr. Bestwick also read a statement from Ms. Jill Kersteen Michaels who was not able to attend the meeting. They presented a petition with 66 signatures which stated that they opposed the planned structures of a "hockey dek, bleachers, access roads, multiple parking lots, public bathrooms, dog parks, and disproportionate lighting." Supervisor Grant stated that the process for the park improvements began over 10 years ago and included public input as to what should be included. He also stated that we have been approved for a \$250,000 DCNR grant for streambank restoration, 1 bridge and 25-30 parking spaces, we have submitted with the Dallas Kiwanis for a \$600,000 LSA grant for additional items, and that Laird Landscape Architecture is working on the design. There was a suggestion to have the dek hockey rink placed at the Kunkle Park. The Dallas Kiwanis is also doing fundraisers to raise funds for the dek hockey rink. Discussion included working with John Levitsky from the Conservation District on planting trees, improving and paving Sago Street, stormwater issues, potential timeline of the improvements and additional community involvement. Supervisor Martin stated that we are very transparent as to what we are doing and encouraged community involvement. Ms. Fern Leard posted on Facebook that she would like the park to remain more in line with nature without a sports complex. Ms. Sherry Cochran Hogan posted on Facebook that the Kunkle Park is deeded to remain natural.

Mr. Alan Stevens presented a petition concerning cars speeding on Grandview Avenue. Supervisor Grant stated that we will review it and add it to the January agenda.

Supervisor Grant stated that the 2023 Organization Meeting will be held January 3, 2022 at 6pm and the January Monthly Meeting will begin immediately after the Organization Meeting.

EMA Update:

EMA Coordinator Alan Pugh provided the EMA update. They participated in the Christmas Tree Lighting and purchased 2 torpedo heaters which were used at the Christmas Tree Lighting. He would like the Supervisors to see if there is a way to bill for the recent large oil spill on a Luzerne County Road in Dallas Township and neighboring townships since we used large amounts of supplies.

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Police Update:

Police Chief Higgins provided the Police Update. The next Neighborhood watch meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2022 which will include discussion on outlaw motorcycle gangs. They have received 16 applicants so far for the recently advertised new police officer position.

Road Department Update:

Roadmaster Van Deutsch provided the Road Department update. The leaf vac has picked up 50 loads and over 60 tons for compost recycling, over 2 miles of roads were paved in 2022, they are grateful for replacing old equipment and purchasing the Ram 5500 mini dump truck and the dirt & gravel road roller, the new salt shed is working out well and is stocked with salt and anti-skid. The Road Department has had 2,326 days without lost time due to a work accident. They are performing some overall road maintenance and weather permitting will begin work on the Northwoods cul-de-sacs.

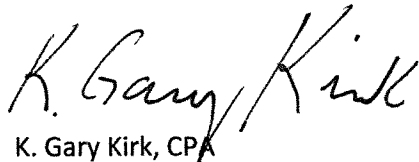
Additional Citizens' Comments:

Ms. Brenda Pugh thanked the Supervisors, Police Department, Road Department & Ms. Faneck for their help with the Christmas Tree Lighting. They hope to have the high school band, athletes and chorus participate next year.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



K. Gary Kirk, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer

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