

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held a Public Meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 5:30pm in the Administration Building located at 105 Lt. Michael Cleary Drive, Dallas, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the Public Meeting was to present information about building a new Police Station.

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 Higgins, Roadmaster Gary Van Deutsch, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Russell Coolbaugh, EMA Coordinator Alan Pugh and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk. Sergeant Todd Adams, Officer Bradley Balutis, Sergeant Brian Feeney, Police Department Administrative Assistant Kimberly Landmesser, Detective RJ Odgers and 12 others were in attendance. Administrative Assistant Landmesser set up Facebook Live to allow additional residents to participate in the meeting.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Grant provided a history of the current police station building, pictures of the current police station, the purchase of about 2 acres of land on Lt. Michael Cleary Drive to be used to for the construction of a new police station, and some design work and illustrations of the new police station. Some of these items were part of a Power Point presentation and some of the items were on display in the meeting room. The current building does not have locker rooms, showers, separate bathrooms for officers and non-officers, or adequate storage space. Supervisor Grant shared about remodeling the existing building or remodeling the Administration Building, but the costs were very high for what we would get. We received a \$367,000 LSA grant which was used to purchase the land in January 2022 for \$205,000 and will be used for land development. We hired the architectural firm of WKL Architecture and they have met several times with the police department to determine their needs. The expected costs of \$6,780,000 includes the land purchase, site development, legal & professional fees, construction, furnishings, and contingency costs. We plan to pay for it with grants, \$750,000 of remaining American Rescue Plan funds, \$1,000,000 of our existing funds and borrowing \$4,000,000 from USDA. The USDA borrowing would be a fixed rate for 35 years with their current rate being 3.75%. Every .1 mill of tax provides about \$70,000 of revenue for the Township and the loan would need about .3 mills of tax to pay for the annual loan payments. We are also working on reducing the building costs and may be able to reduce it by \$1,000,000. A \$3,000,000 loan would require a .22 mill tax increase. We are also applying for more grants to reduce our costs. Township Manager Barry shared about some of the remodeling which has been done over the past 50+ years to the current building.

Clarence Michael asked about the Administration Building and the amount we receive in rent and was told that the rent we receive is about 50% of our loan payment. He visited the current police station and was able to take a tour of it. Based on what he saw during his tour and how things have changed concerning police work in the Township over the past 50 years, he believes that a new police station is needed.

Detective Odgers shared the police departments concerns with the existing building. These included how prisoners are brought into the building, bathrooms shared with prisoners, evidence room is at maximum capacity, processing area is too small, interview area is close to the holding cell, locker room is a shared locker room for males and females, and that the shower area is in the garage.

Fern Leard asked what would happen to the existing building if we build a new police station. Supervisor Grant stated that one possibility would be to sell it, but we would have to build a new building to provide bathrooms for the road department. We have applied for a grant to build a new building since one of our buildings is used for a polling location and does not have bathrooms.

Alan Pugh asked if the amount presented included all the equipment and was told that \$500,000 has been included for furniture and equipment. He believes a new police station is needed.

Randolph Gordner asked about getting a tour of the current police station and Chief Higgins said that he would talk to him after the meeting to schedule a tour.

Supervisor Grant stated that Dallas Township's share of the real estate taxes is about 10.32% of the total real estate tax bills and that the average assessed house of \$187,000 pays about \$364 to the Township.

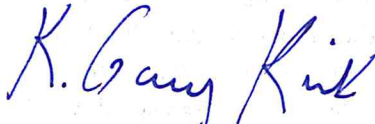
Mr. Pugh would like the Township to consider not selling the property where the current police station is and maybe use it for the Road Department.

Tony Barbose commented on Facebook about whether the current building would be sold or kept and what was the estimated cost of the new building. Supervisor Grant stated that we have not made a final decision about if the building will be sold and the current projected costs of the new police station are \$6,780,000.

Adjournment:

The Meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



K. Gary Kirk, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer

004626