

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for February on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 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 Higgins, Roadmaster Gary Van Deutsch, Zoning/Code Enforcement Office Russell Coolbaugh, EMA Coordinator Alan Pugh, Police Department Administrative Assistant Kimberly Landmesser and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk. 12 other people 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 stated that there was an executive session on January 13, 2023 on a personnel matter.

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 January 3, 2023 Organization and Monthly Meeting**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve employee health care reimbursements** that had been requested in January in the amount of \$2,428.12 seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2023 was \$2,428.12.

Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:

None

Agenda:

Supervisor Grant provided a financial update as of January 31, 2023. We have not received any Real Estate taxes in January since the bills have not been sent out. Earned Income Tax collections are at 3.03% of budget or \$46,672 which is slightly below the previous 6 years. Local Services Tax collections are at 2.15% of budget or \$3,758 which is better than the previous 6 years. Our Police Pension Plan is at 117.04% and our Non-Uniform Pension Plan is at 97.24% of the January 1, 2021 actuarial liability. Pension plan assets as of January 31, 2023 were \$5,616,621 for the Police Pension Plan and \$3,139,563 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Our non-restricted cash balance is about \$2,850,000 and the Fire Protection account is about \$39,000.

Supervisor Grant stated that the Pennsylvania Attorney General has filed charges against the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) for allegedly discharging untreated sewage into Toby's Creek. DAMA is a separate entity and Dallas Township is not part of the charges filed.

Supervisor Grant stated that Edward Dudick, Bruce Kerr & Holly Kulp, Dallas Township Elected Auditors met and approved Dallas Township Supervisor Wagner's wage rate as a Road Department employee of \$27.24/hour. They also approved the hourly rate of \$27.24 for any Supervisor who does road inspections.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve Resolution 2023-3, A Resolution for Plan Development for New Land Development for Land Development Co. & Mary Lawler**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

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Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve Resolution 2023-4, A Resolution for Plan Development for New Land Development for Dallas Township Police Department Building**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve Resolution 2023-5, A Resolution to Create an Alternate Member of the Planning Commission and to Appoint Ryan Stoa as the Alternate Member**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve Douglas Higgins Application for Participation in the Act 44 Deferred Retirement Option Plan effective on March 1, 2023**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that Lou Ruckno contacted the Township about some line-of-sight issues and parking issues on Country Club Road. Mr. Ruckno's sister were in attendance on his behalf. They are trying to obtain a Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDot to put a driveway on their property, but they cannot receive one since a neighbor parks their cars too close to where they would like to put in the driveway and there are line-of-sight issues. Township Manager Barry and Township Engineer T. Doughton stated that we would need to pass an ordinance for all state roads in the Township to change parking on state roads. We would also need a PennDot HOP Engineer to do a study. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to have our Township Engineer work with PennDot to look at the right-of-way and parking situation on Country Club Road and all state roads in the Township**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Based on Township Engineer T. Doughton's review of Misericordia University's Sports Dome Project and Attorney Mosca's review of Misericordia University's financial security documents, Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve Misericordia University Financial Security of the Assignment of a Bank Account in the Amount of \$1,418,036.68**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company Excess Maintenance Agreement subject to Attorney Mosca's, Township Engineer T. Doughton's and Township Manager Barry's review**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to Open at Luzerne Bank a Christmas Tree Lighting Bank Account and fund it with \$10,000**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Chief Higgins stated that the speed counter placed on Grandview Avenue had some software issues and did not provide adequate information. It has been fixed and it will be placed in one location on Grandview Avenue for one week and in a different location for another week. Bernie Wanyo asked that it placed in front of his house for one of those weeks. He and Alan Stevens would like to see stop signs placed on Grandview Avenue. Township Engineer T. Doughton stated that a traffic study would need to be completed by a certified PennDot Engineer and that stop signs may not be used to reduce speed on a road.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Advertise for bids for Contract Milling & Paving of The Maples Development**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

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Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to Submit an Application to Borrow \$4,000,000 from USDA for the Construction of a New Police Station on Lt. Michael Cleary Drive**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Advertise for bids for Construction of a New Police Station**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that we have reviewed the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) and that we should approve the 2021 IPMC. We will have to create a 5-person Property Maintenance Code Review board. We plan to include this item on the March meeting agenda.

Township Manager Barry stated that the updated SALDO is ready to be distributed to the Luzerne County Planning Commission and Dallas Township Planning Commission for comments. We will have to have a public hearing on it. Supervisor Grant made a **Motion to Distribute the SALDO to the Luzerne Planning Commission and the Dallas Township Planning Commission, advertise for a hearing on the SALDO on March 22, 2023 at 6:30pm and have a Special Supervisors Meeting immediately following the March 22, 2023 SALDO hearing**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that we hope to have the updated Stormwater Ordinance ready for the March meeting.

EMA Update:

EMA Coordinator Alan Pugh provided the EMA update. They have received some new equipment which was ordered the end of last year, started an EMA Facebook page, the lettering for the trailer has been completed and they have attended the Luzerne County EMA meeting.

Police Update:

Police Chief Higgins provided the Police Update. The Neighborhood Watch meeting in January was on gangs and the February meeting will be on human trafficking. National Night Out will be August 1, 2023.

Road Department Update:

Roadmaster Van Deutsch provided the Road Department update. Winter maintenance was quiet until the last week of January and they used this time to pick up 383 Christmas trees this year compared to 386 in 2022. They performed pothole patching and began work in Northwoods to update the cul-de-sacs. Winter road maintenance will continue in February along with pot hole patching. They will also be replacing faded or damaged street signs.

Planning & Zoning Update:

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Coolbaugh stated that 14 different permits were issued in January, he took some classes on the IPMC, floodplain management, & solar farms. As a result of a fire, an apartment in Country Club Apartments was condemned. He continues to assist the Fire Departments and Police Department when situations arise which involve code violations and safety concerns.

Additional Citizens' Comments:

Fern Leard stated that the Dallas Township Planning Commission meetings are the same time as the Luzerne County Council meetings. While the Planning Commission has been meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every month for at least 35 years, they will be informed of the request. Ms. Leard was asked if she had contacted the Luzerne County Council about moving their meeting and she stated she would ask them.

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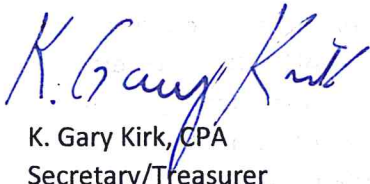
Nicole Rismondo asked about the speed sign on Southside Avenue. Township Manager Barry stated that it had been repaired and will be put back up by Friday.

Robin Kochan asked if the new police building would be used for meetings and parking. Supervisor Grant stated that it would not be used for public meetings but we are planning on having additional parking spaces which may be used by the Administration Building when there is a meeting here.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



K. Gary Kirk, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer

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