

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for February on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 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, Attorney Thomas J. Mosca, Township Manager Martin K. Barry, Police Chief Douglas J. Higgins, Township Roadmaster Gary Van Deutsch, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Russell Coolbaugh, Police Department Administrative Assistant Kimberly Landmesser and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk. There were 4 other people 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 Wagner made a **Motion to Pay the Bills**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve the Minutes from the January 2, 2024 Organization Meeting and January 2, 2024 Monthly Meeting**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Approve Employee Health Care Reimbursements** that had been requested in January in the amount of \$162.18 seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2024 was \$162.18.

Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:

None.

Agenda:

Supervisor Grant stated that there was a major rain storm on September 9, 2023 and a Declaration of Disaster Emergency was declared that day and has been continued through February 6, 2024.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Approve a Declaration of Disaster Emergency until March 5, 2024 unless Terminated Sooner**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Supervisor Grant provided a financial update as of January 31, 2024. We have not received any Real Estate taxes and the tax bills are expected to be mailed in mid-February. Earned Income Tax collections were 3.13% of budget or \$50,153 which is similar to the previous 5 years. Local Services Tax collections were 1.71% of budget or \$3,076 which is better than most of the previous 5 years. Our Police Pension Plan is at 115.10% and our Non-Uniform Pension Plan is at 96.56% of the January 1, 2023 actuarial liability. Pension plan assets as of January 31, 2024 were \$6,086,602 for the Police Pension Plan and \$3,423,512 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Our non-restricted cash balance is about \$3,026,000 and the Fire Protection account is about \$41,600.

Supervisor Grant stated that Bruce Kerr & Holly Kulp, Dallas Township Elected Auditors met and approved the following wage rate for following Dallas Township Supervisor who is also employed by Dallas Township:

Robert Wagner, Road Department - \$28.11/hour

They also approved the hourly rate of \$28.11 for any supervisor who does road inspections.

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Township Manager Barry stated that Misericordia University had requested a reduction in their Financial Security for their Sports Dome based on the work completed. Township Engineer Thomas Doughton has reviewed the work completed and has recommended that the Supervisors reduce Misericordia University's Financial Security from \$1,418,036.68 to \$197,570.84. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Approve to Reduce Misericordia University's Financial Security for their Sports Dome from \$1,418,036.68 to \$197,570.84**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that we are still working on the Construction Easements for 29 & 31 Dorchester Drive.

Attorney Mosca and Chief Higgins discussed the Memorandum of Understanding with Delaware County and the Luzerne County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Intergovernmental Agreement and how they may allow us to receive some reimbursement for overtime. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Amend the Agenda to include the Luzerne County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Intergovernmental Agreement**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Approve the Luzerne County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Intergovernmental Agreement & Memorandum of Understanding with Delaware County subject to Attorney Mosca's review**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that we held a public hearing on December 19, 2023 concerning Ordinance 2024-1, Volunteer Firefighter Real Estate Tax Credit and we have not received any comments since the hearing. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Approve Ordinance 2024-1, Volunteer Firefighter Real Estate Tax Credit**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that we have met with Back Mountain Regional Fire & EMS Fire Chief Harry Vivian and Kunkle Fire Company Fire Chief Jack Dodson to establish criteria for volunteers to receive the real estate tax credit. Volunteers who meet the requirements in 2024 will be eligible to receive the real estate tax credit in 2025. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-2, Volunteer Firefighter Real Estate Tax Credit Eligibility Requirements**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried. Supervisor Grant asked Township Manager Barry to send a letter to the Dallas School District to encourage them to also provide a tax credit to volunteer firefighters.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-3, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant Application for Dallas Township Southside Nature Park Rehabilitation Phase 3**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that Luzerne County would once again like to use one of our garages as a polling place. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Approve the Polling Place Agreement with Luzerne County for 2919 State Route 309 Garage**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Chief Higgins stated that we have been approved for a COPS Grant which would pay 50% of two police officers wages for three years. We are required to have the officers hired by September 30, 2024. Only a few police departments in Pennsylvania were approved for this grant. Supervisor Wagner made a

Motion to Approve the Advertising for the Hiring of Two Police Officers, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that we will need to update our Floodplain Ordinance to meet the requirements of FEMA & PEMA. Our updates need to be completed by the end of June 2024.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Begin the Review of our Floodplain Ordinance to agree with FEMA & PEMA**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

EMA Update:

EMA Coordinator Pugh provided a written EMA update which was read by Supervisor Wagner. There was a fuel spill which was handled by EMA Deputy Chief Jack Dodson. There is no additional information on the September flooding appeal. Work was performed on the EMA response trailer and quotes are being obtained to have additional markings on the EMA response trailer and cargo trailer. The EMA laptop has had the Luzerne County GPS module installed. Township Manager Barry is checking on a price for a hot stamp to mark the barriers. He suggested we consider getting more N95 masks.

Police Update:

Police Chief Higgins provided the Police Update. The January Neighborhood Watch meeting went well and the next one is scheduled for February 22nd. The COPS Grant will provide for a Community Resource Officer. National Night Out will be August 6th.

Road Department Update:

Roadmaster Van Deutsch provided the Road Department update. There were several snow, ice, and rain events during January. They worked with Kingston Township Road Department and John Levitsky from the Conservation District to stabilize the Toby's Creek streambank along North Main Street at the Kingston Township & Dallas Township border. They picked up 327 Christmas Trees. Routine maintenance continues on our roads including pot hole patching. Supervisor Grant asked about which roads were approved in the 2024 budget for paving and for tar & chipping. Lakeway Manor & Cloverleaf Drive were included in the 2024 budget for contracted milling & paving and Goldsmith Road was included in the 2024 budget for tar & chipping. Tar & chipping is subject to the weather and contractor availability. Since we plan on using Liquid Fuels funds for tar & chipping, PennDOT does not allow tar & chipping after October 1st.

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Update:

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Coolbaugh provided the Planning & Zoning update. 26 permits were issued in January and he did 198 rental inspections. He dealt with some detention basin issues and did some electrical inspections with BHW. Of the 142 building permits issued in 2023, 10 were for new single-family homes and 37 were for commercial permits.

Additional Citizens' Comments:

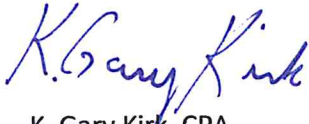
Resident Ryan Stoa asked about the discussion at the January meeting about amending the Zoning Ordinance so that the Supervisors would approve special exceptions for land disturbance instead of the approval being done by the Zoning Hearing Board. It was stated that the original Zoning Ordinance had the Supervisors approve the special exception. In a 2018 amendment, it was changed to the Zoning Hearing Board. There has been discussion about changing it back to the Supervisors as well as changing the amount of earth disturbance required for special exemption based on the zoning district. We are considering having a total review of our Zoning Ordinance being done as part of several municipalities

from the Back Mountain Community Partnership having their Zoning Ordinances being reviewed. The review would take 14 months.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to Adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



K. Gary Kirk, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer

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