

A Meeting of the Dallas Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 7th, 2018 at 7:00P.M. In the Municipal Building located at 105 Lieutenant Michael Cleary Drive, Dallas, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The following elected and appointed officials attended: Supervisor Frank E. Wagner, Supervisor William J. Grant, Supervisor Robert J. Wagner, Solicitor, Attorney Thomas P. Brennan, Township Manager and Road Master, Martin K. Barry, Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer, Carl Alber, Township Engineer Representative, Thomas J. Doughton, Planning Commission Chairman, Jack Dodson, and Secretary-Treasurer, Nancy Y. Balutis.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to pay the Bills**. Motion was seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried.

Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to approve employee health care reimbursements in the amount of \$277.16 that had been requested since the last Board of Supervisors Meeting**. Motion was seconded by Supervisor W. Grant and carried. Total health care employee reimbursements to date for 2018 is \$4441.41.

Supervisor R. Wagner made a **Motion to approve the Minutes** from the July 3rd, 2018 Meeting. Motion was seconded by Supervisor W. Grant and carried.

Financial Requirements and Minimum Municipal Obligations for Employee Pension Plans for 2019.

Supervisor W. Grant said the Township's Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Plan for the year 2019 is \$62,363.00 and \$115,057.00 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. It is more than it has been in previous years because we moved our targeted return from the 7% range to 6 1/2% range. We had a Meeting today with our Pension Investment Advisors. They told us that out of 155 municipalities that they provide services to, Dallas Township is number two in the State from the standpoint of solidarity and in what we are doing. Malvern is number one and we are number two. They said Townships would die to have what we have. We are 86% funded on our Non-Uniform Pension Plan and 130% on our Police Pension Fund. We are putting a little more money into it, because we lowered the target rate down to 6 1/2%, because as they referred to it, we are not kicking the can down the road. We are stepping up early on so that we will not have any issues going forward. One of the things that was brought up was the possibilities of a cost of living benefit for the Non-Uniform employees who do retire. The Township already has an analysis from Thomas J. Anderson and Associates, so it is something we will take a look at the next time the union contract comes up. The Pension Advisors couldn't say enough about the good things we are doing with our Pension Funds. At this point, Supervisor W. Grant says he thinks we have made all the right moves over the past three or four years, and we are in fabulous shape.

Pennoni Associates requested Dallas Township adopt an Ordinance stating that Yalick Road is owned and maintained by the Township.

Township Engineer Representative, T. Doughton, said Yalick Road is an official Township Road on the Road Docket of the Clerical Court. He said he didn't see it, but that R. Doughton had. Attorney Brennan said that if it is there, that should satisfy the requirements that Pennoni Associates requested. He said it could be a Township Road, itself, because of use, but also a Township Road because of public record. He recommended we tell Pennoni Associates where they can find it, and leave it go at that.

We received a letter from the Pa Department of Environmental Protection informing us that the **Air Quality Program State-Only (Natural Minor) Operating Permit No. 40-00008 was issued to Offset Paperback Manufacturing, Inc.** They suggested reading the permit and all special conditions accompanying it, to assure all conditions are satisfied, and advised us that any appeals must be filed with the Environmental Hearing Board within thirty days of receipt of written notice, which will be August 30th. However, there was no copy of the permit enclosed with their notification letter. Township Engineer Representative, T. Doughton said this is just a renewal. We have gotten copies of the permit in the past. It is for their incinerator that incinerates paper after paper. We had a fire down there a few years ago. Because they have an incinerator, they are required to have an Air Quality operating permit. There are many companies in the Back Mountain, including American Asphalt and Coates Reprographics that have incinerators and also have air quality permits because of toxic emissions. We have seen Offset Paperback Manufacturing's permit in the past. It is just notification of their renewal.

Dallas Township would like to thank **Dallas Area Municipal Authority** for the check they sent us in the amount of \$1000.00, to help with costs associated with our **Spring Clean-Up**.

The **Township's Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** will be held Thursday, August 16th from 1:00P.M. To 3:00P.M. The Ribbon Cutting ceremony will take place around 2:00P.M.

Proposals for the **Renovations to the new building for the Police Department** are being accepted until Thursday, August 23rd at 1:00P.M. They will be opened during a special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors on August 23rd, 2018 at 1:30 P.M. The Meeting will be advertised.

Resumes are being accepted until this coming Friday **for the position of a Township Secretary-Treasurer**. To date, nine resumes have been received.

Due to the absence of Police Chief, D. Higgins, there were **no Police updates to report.**

Road Department Updates.

Road Master, M. Barry, said since our last Meeting, the Road Department has been working on a couple of storm water projects, did a major project on Goodleigh Road and rechanneled some water that was affecting some homes on Upper Demunds Road. This project was worked on jointly with PennDot. It is about 90% complete. We just have to do pave renovation and finish some grass planting. The rain we have been having for the past six or eight weeks has created a lot of storm water facility problems. The Road Department has been doing a lot of cleaning and evacuating out of the storm water systems, as well as pothole patching, grass cutting, and making sure all of the berms are clear for line of sight.

Citizens' Comments.

Mr. and Mrs. Pryor of 95 Sedlar Road said they have major concerns over the speeding and reckless driving being done on Sedlar Road. Supervisor F. Wagner said he knows the Police have been out sitting and watching. Mr. Pryor said they have resided at their home now for thirty years, and the speeding that is now taking place is horrendous. They are taking their lives into their own hands trying to get out of their hidden driveway. It is getting worse daily. He asked if they could just get some kind of posting there. Supervisor F. Wagner said he thinks it will help when they go back to normal on Friday and open up the bridge on Hildebrandt Road. He said he agrees, cars are flying. Mrs. Pryor agreed the speeding has gotten worse since Hildebrandt Road was closed. The thing that gets her attention now is the car that is going 25mph. Her husband almost got broadsided coming out of his driveway by a car driven very fast by a young driver. When the driver actually got his car under control and stopped, he actually ended up on the Pryor's lawn approaching a wall that they have, missing it just by inches. Mrs. Pryor said It is posted at 25mph on Hildebrandt and Upper Demunds Road as you get off Sedlar. She said she was watering her flowers this morning at 6:30A.M. when a rig with a flatbed came flying through around the corner going to Upper Demunds Road. He had to be going around 45mph. She said she is sure he wasn't making a delivery at the end of the road at that hour of the day. She said they have stopped and talked to the Police Department. They even went and spoke to the Dallas School District after witnessing two Dallas District school buses from Davis go flying down their road toward Hildebrandt Road that had to be going at least 45mph. Mrs. Pryor said she doesn't know what can be done. She asked if there wasn't another road that could have been opened to diversify some of the traffic on Sedlar. Supervisor F. Wagner said no, Sedlar is a shortcut to Hildebrandt. Mrs. Pryor said she thought Pear Tree Lane could have been opened for a short amount of time, while Hildebrandt was closed. Engineer Representative, T. Doughton said it could not have been opened, as it is not a

public road. It is a private drive that belongs to the School District. If we opened it and there was an accident there, we would be held responsible. It is not a public road. Through traffic cannot go through a private drive. Mrs. Pryor said she didn't know that, that she hadn't been told that by the person she had spoken to at the School District. She said she doesn't know what can be done, but that it is a death trap pulling out of their driveway. Supervisor W. Grant, who lives on Hildebrandt Road said he thinks Supervisor F. Wagner is correct about the traffic changing once Hildebrandt is reopened by Rte. 309. He, himself, never used Sedlar Road when Hildebrandt was open, but he uses it a couple of times now every day. He said he thinks they are going to see a reduction in traffic on that road once Hildebrandt is opened back up and running. Township Engineer Representative, T. Doughton, who lives on Upper Demunds, said the traffic has increased double since the closing of Hildebrandt, both night and day. The traffic never stops. Mrs. Pryor said it's not the traffic but rather the speed of the drivers. Mr. Doughton said he, too, has almost gotten hit once or twice by the Pryor's property. Mrs. Pryor said she can't even take a walk anymore - it is too dangerous! Fire Chief Jack Dodson said a tree had fallen down on the roadway that they had to cut up. Because of the speed and traffic on the road, they had to put the fire truck right across the road so they could get the tree cut. He said the problem in today's world concerning traffic is that, no matter where you go, nobody cares. Mrs. Pryor asked if a traffic study could be done. Township Manager, M. Barry, said a traffic study had been done before the first detour, and nothing can be done now until all the detours are all finished. Once traffic is regulated back the way it should be, with the roads opened back up, they are going to do another traffic study and look at the traffic count. Our Police Department has a traffic counter that is also able to judge the speed. Once everything is back up and normal, they are going to wait three weeks and then put that up and in place. Chief Higgins, who couldn't be here tonight, had called M. Barry and told him he has had a car out there in the traffic lines monitoring the speed. Mr. Doughton said that in order to reduce a traffic speed, you have to do a certified traffic study, which isn't a simple thing to do. He agrees, something has to be done. The curve by the Pryor's home is terrible. Mrs. Pryor said anything we can do will be greatly appreciated. Mr. Doughton said we will do everything we can to help. Road Master, M. Barry said that to answer a question Mrs. Pryor had asked earlier regarding the different colored road signs, he said the 25mph yellow and black signs there now, are advisory signs and are able to be enforced by the Police. The white and black signs are regulatory signs. Mr. Pryor said anything that can be done would be appreciated. He thanked the Supervisors for their time.

2. A letter was received from **Richard K. Roberts of 28 Mapleseed Drive** about concerns of the deteriorating and hazardous roads within the Maples Development. Supervisor F. Wagner said they have been working up there quite a bit on both sides of the road about a foot out. When the Maples was developed, the right material base was not put in. Some of the drains settled and twisted. Road Master M. Barry said the Road Department still has

four concrete lids that are failing and need to be replaced and they have another 500 or 600 feet of road berm to reinforce. Supervisor F. Wagner said Mr. Roberts wants it paved. However, we don't just pave to make a street look pretty. Incorrect base was put in. Hopefully, by next year we will have all of that work done and can look at paving.

Secretary-Treasurer, Nancy Balutis stated the **SPCA** is telling residents who take stray cats and kittens to them that they will not take them because Dallas Township is not participating in a program with them. The SPCA is telling residents to take their strays to the Township. Zoning Officer/ Code Enforcement Officer, Carl Alber, said someone had come to the Township just today and had cats and kittens out in their car. The SPCA had given them a note to bring them to the Township and ask for Secretary-Treasurer, Nancy Balutis. Attorney Brennan asked if the Supervisors had met with the SPCA recently, as they had requested we meet. Supervisor F. Wagner and Supervisor W. Grant said they had. Supervisor W. Grant said they had told them they were going to charge us \$50.00 per animal up to \$100.00 for dogs and \$50.00 for cats if we did not agree to participate with them. If we agreed to participate, they were going to charge us a lot less per resident. We would have to pay 20% for the first year, then 40%, then 60%, and so forth for five years, when it reached its max amount, which was somewhere around \$6000.00. The first year we would be at \$1500.00. We told them we would look at this and consider it, but that it wasn't in our budget for this year. It would have to be budgeted for in October for next year. We didn't tell them to go away, but rather told them we would look at all of it and when it comes time to budget in September or October, we would consider all of that. Attorney Brennan stated the Township has the dog situation at hand. He asked if we should maybe ask the SPCA what their fee might be if we only used their services for cats. Code Enforcement Officer, C. Alber, said that stray cats are out of control. He spoke to the SPCA about this situation approximately three years ago. The SPCA does not want anyone feeding stray cats. Once you start feeding them, the number can go from feeding two cats to feeding fifteen. Then the person feeding the cats comes and says they can't afford to feed all the cats. Attorney Brennan said he realizes we need help. The SPCA gave the Township a proposal which applied to both dogs and cats. We might want to try to go back to them and tell them we have the dogs covered, but ask what their proposal might be if we were to enter into an agreement with them for just cats. It may not be half - it could be more than half, but it would be something we could counterpose to them as part of the process. If they put their fees on the number of Township residents, instead of it being 20% for the first year, maybe it would only be 16%. Until we have a proposal, we don't know just what their fees might be. Supervisor W. Grant said they did give us a proposal. He believes it was something like fifty cents per resident based on 9500 residents, leaving a number of around five or six thousand dollars. Supervisor Grant suggested Secretary-Treasurer, Nancy Balutis, phone the executive director for the SPCA to see if he could meet with us. We could then make the proposal about just the cats and see what he says.

Maybe we would even be able to start that in this year's fourth quarter, if it isn't going to be too much. Jack Dodson said the SPCA does not take cats all year long. They found that out with the kennel. Code Enforcement Officer, C. Alber, said some rescues that take cats, spay or neuter them and then take them back to where they were brought from originally. When the female cats are unable to get pregnant, the male cats stay away. He said he has a phone number in his office for a rescue who will take cats.

Resident, Brenda Pugh, said she would like to congratulate **Jack Dodson**, one of the Township's fire chiefs, for being front and center in The Times Leader for a Badge of Honor presentation for being a first responder. It is well deserved.

Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to adjourn the Meeting**. Motion was seconded by Supervisor W. Grant and carried. The Meeting ended at 7:35P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy Y. Balutis, Secretary-Treasurer