

The Dallas Township Board of Supervisors held a Meeting on Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018 at 7:00P.M. in the Municipal Building located at 105 Lieutenant Michael Cleary Drive, Dallas, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Elected and appointed members present included: Supervisor Frank E. Wagner, Supervisor William J. Grant, Supervisor Robert J. Wagner, Solicitor, Attorney Thomas P. Brennan, Township Manager/Road Master, Martin K. Barry, Police Chief, Douglas J. Higgins, Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer, Carl M. Alber, Planning Commission/Zoning Hearing Board Secretary, Tammy L. Miller, Police Officers: Robert J. Odgers, William Acuff, Todd Adams, Bradley Balutis, and John Mendygral, Police Secretary, Susan Maloney, and Township Secretary-Treasurer, Nancy Y. Balutis.

Representative Karen Boback presented Supervisor, Frank E. Wagner, with a **plaque for his fifty years of service as a Dallas Township Supervisor.** Supervisor Wagner served in the U.S. Air Force. While working full-time for Coca-Cola, he worked as a part-time Police Officer for Dallas Township until becoming and serving as the Township's Road Master until retiring in 1999. Supervisor Wagner is a Past Master of the George M. Dallas Lodge #531, the Caldwell Consistory, and is presently a member of the Irem Temple Shrine in Dallas. Representative Boback congratulated Supervisor Wagner and thanked him for his services to our Community.

Police Chief, Douglas J. Higgins, presented Police Officer, Robert J. Odgers with a **Criminal Investigation Award plaque and pin** from the American Police Hall of Fame and Museum. Chief Higgins explained that Officer Odgers had been appointed full time last year to the Luzerne County Drug Task Force. He investigated and arrested a person who had sold drugs that resulted in a fatal overdose. This type of arrest was the first in Luzerne County.

Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to Pay the Bills.** Motion was seconded by Supervisor W. Grant and carried.

Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to pay a total of \$1044.45 towards employee health reimbursements** that had been requested since the last Supervisors Meeting. Total employee reimbursements to date in 2018 is \$6492.31.

Supervisor W. Grant made a **Motion to approve the Minutes** from the September 4th Supervisors Meeting. Motion was seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried.

Attorney B. Jones asked the Board to consider approving a Resolution for the Dallas Area Municipal Authority to act as the conduit to enable Misericordia University to issue a revenue bond to refund all or a portion of its current bond indebtedness, to provide funding to design, construct, acquire, and renovate new facilities and existing facilities of the University, to design, construct, and acquire various other capital improvements (parking and new science building), and to fund capitalized interest on its bonds and a debt reserve - all not to exceed \$35,000,000.00. He said he has also asked Dallas Borough and Kingston Township to approve a Resolution as well. Supervisor W. Grant made a Motion to approve **Resolution #2018-13 authorizing Dallas Area Municipal Authority to act as the conduit to enable Misericordia University to issue a revenue bond not to exceed \$35,000,000.00.** Motion was seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried.

The Fellowship Church requested approval from the Supervisors for the Township to enter into an **Installation and Maintenance Agreement** with them for an **Individual Perc-Rite Micro-mound Drip Irrigation Wastewater Disposal System.** Zoning Officer C. Alber stated in addition to obtaining the Supervisors' approval, they need to obtain the Township's Planning Commission's recommendation as well. The Board elected to table their decision until they see if the Planning Commission recommends its approval at their Meeting scheduled for next Tuesday evening.

Attorney Brennan said that the Township Supervisors have been speaking about amending the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map for some time now, but have never actually proposed amending the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. Amending the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map requires more extensive notice of mailings to everyone in the areas that will be affected. The mailings need to be according to the addresses as shown on the tax bills. We also need to have reasonable postings of the areas involved in the zoning. We are hoping to have the mailings and postings done by mid-October, advertise and hold a public hearing in November, and then act upon it at our December 4<sup>th</sup> Supervisors Meeting. Supervisor W. Grant made a **Motion to propose the amending of the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map with plans of advertising and holding a public meeting in November, and then acting on the proposal in December.** Motion was seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried.

Blackwood Pet Food notified us they will be **discontinuing** their **K-9 Police Dog Feeding Program** at the end of the year. Supervisor W. Grant said we will need

to estimate what it will probably cost per month to feed our K-9, so an additional amount can be budgeted for next year.

**The Back Mountain Library is seeking support** of the Back Mountain Community Partnership and each municipality **for improvements at the Library under a LSA Grant.** The Board of Supervisors agreed unanimously to provide a letter of support for the Library, but because we are seeking grants ourselves for building improvements for our Police Department, the Supervisors agreed that they do not want to sponsor or make application for a grant for anyone at this time.

**The Back Mountain Library asked to be included for financial support in the Township's 2019 budget,** with hopes we might consider an increase next year in what we donate this year. Supervisor W. Grant asked both Supervisor F. Wagner and Supervisor R. Wagner to consider increasing our \$3000.00 budgeted donation for this year to \$5000.00 for next year.

Larry Pellegrini, representing **Misericordia University**, asked if the Township would support an application for them in **applying for a Local Share Grant** in the amount of \$500,000.00 for renovation of their Science Building. Supervisor W. Grant said the Board would be happy to provide a letter of support for the University, but again reiterated that the Township is presently seeking grants for the Township. We applied for an LSA Grant a few years ago for the University's Sidewalk Project. Mr. Pellegrini said that the 2017 grant application required a Township to file the application in order for them to be able to apply for the Grant. He said he hadn't looked at the 2018 application requirements to see if the requirement had changed. If the University is able to apply for the Grant, he asked if the Township would provide a letter of support for them. The Supervisors all agreed they would be willing to provide the support letter if the University needs it.

**Aqua Water is applying** to the PA Department of Environmental Protection **for a Public Water Supply Permit** to install a temporary 30,000-gallon hydro-pneumatic tank to provide temporary storage for the existing 200,000-gallon water storage tank at Yalick Farms, until a permanent replacement water storage tank can be constructed. Zoning Officer, C. Alber, said the present tank needs to be replaced. He said Township Engineer Representative, T. Doughton, said the Township still holds a Letter of Credit in the amount of \$142,897.75 for Yalick Farms.

Supervisor W. Grant said that \$1000.00 had been budgeted for 2018 towards a donation to the Luzerne County Fair, but that the Fair did not ask for any **donation** this year. He asked the Board Members if instead of donating it to the County Fair this year, they would consider donating \$500.00 to the Back Mountain Railroad and the remaining \$500.00 to the Dallas Kiwanis, who both have been very good to our Community this past year. Supervisor F. Wagner made a Motion to donate \$500.00 to the Back Mountain Railroad, \$500.00 to the Dallas Kiwanis, \$3000.00 to the Back Mountain Memorial Library, and \$1000.00 to Blue Chips Animal Refuge. Motion was seconded by Supervisor W. Grant and carried.

We received \$47,660.24 from the Commonwealth of PA for **Foreign Fire Insurance**. The foreign fire insurance amount received was divided equally between the Back Mountain Regional Fire & EMA and Kunkle Fire & Ambulance Company.

We received \$112,425.32 from the Commonwealth of PA for **General Municipal Pension State Aid**. Supervisor Grant stated we knew our municipal minimum obligation would be higher this year because, looking ahead for the future and wanting to make sure our pension fund is sound, we elected to lower our targeted interest rate to 6 ½%. Our pension specialists recently told us that we are number two in the State from the standpoint of solidarity and in what we are doing. The Township's minimum municipal obligation for this year is \$27,260.00. Since the Police Pension Plan is overfunded, and the State does not mandate the amount of State Aid that needs to be deposited into our respective pension plans, Thomas J. Anderson & Associates recommended we deposit \$31,053.00 into the Police Pension Fund and \$108,632.00 into the Non-Uniform Pension Plan Fund.

The Township had planned on participating in Dallas Borough's Summer Rec Program like it had done in previous years, and had budgeted accordingly, before learning that Dallas Borough had decided to stop their summer rec program because of increasing costs. Kingston Township asked Dallas Township if we would like to participate in their **children's summer recreation program**. A total of thirty-seven children from our Township participated in their program. Dallas Township's share to have our children participate in their program amounted to \$5173.71. Supervisor W. Grant said we had come up a little short than what we had budgeted for this year, but said he has since heard nothing but good things about the program and how well the children were kept occupied.

**Police Department Update:** Police Chief, D. Higgins, stated the Police Department has applied for a child safety and booster seat incentive grant.

**Road Department Update:** Road Master M. Barry stated the Road Department has been dealing with storm water problems since our last Meeting. They have finished the majority of the storm water project they have been doing in the Bluff Pointe development. The Gravel Dirt Road grant project on Goldsmith Road is going well. The manufacturer of the truck that was budgeted for 2018 is running behind schedule. The truck probably won't be done until sometime in January of 2019.

We received a **letter of appreciation** from Joe Holdren of Kingdom Hall, Hildebrand Road, PA **thanking Zoning Officer, C. Alber**, for his help and patience during the permit process of the Kingdom Hall Renovation project and for how everything had come together. He also expressed thanks to the inspectors for working with their schedules and responding to their needs during the process.

#### **Citizens' Comments:**

1. **Marge Janosick**, a resident of Windsor Drive, asked who had given permission for Windsor Drive to be paved this year. She said that no residents on the street had been consulted about this. Since the contracted paving project was finished, Mrs. Janosick said water is gushing down the middle of the street when it rains, and she is concerned that the water will freeze in the winter, and make driving hazardous. The curbing on the side of the road is high, preventing her from being able to open her car door to reach her mailbox, and she is afraid to pull up too close to the curb for fear of ruining her tire or something on her car. She stated she has even tripped over the curb. Road Master, M. Barry, said the Road Department is going to build an apron on her driveway to prevent water from flowing down onto her driveway. Once American Asphalt completes their work and inspections are completed, Mrs. Janosick's concerns will be addressed.
2. **Mr. Meade and Mrs. Ondish** – Mr. Meade asked for an update on when the roadway and storm water control issues in Parsons Lane are going to be done. Road Master M. Barry said until recently, Mr. Meade, himself, hadn't signed the Memorandum of Agreement to end all the easements that exist. Supervisor F. Wagner stated that before the roadway can be put in, a storm water study needs to be done to be able to come up with a storm water plan. A retention pond is going to have to be built. Mr. Meade asked when the Township is going to have the storm water study done. He said it

probably would be good to have it done now, with the amount of rain we have been having. Road Master, M. Barry, said that it actually is not a good time to have the study done, because it wouldn't be possible to get an accurate reading as you would from a regular rainfall season. Mrs. Ondish voiced her concerns about the storm water run-off issues occurring. Supervisor F. Wagner said that with it all ready being October, more than likely, the study won't be done until next year.

There being no one else wanting to make comments, Supervisor F. Wagner made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting. Motion was seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried. The Meeting ended at 8:15A.M.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Nancy Y. Balutis  
Secretary-Treasurer