

A Special Meeting of the Dallas Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7:00pm. at the Municipal Building located at 105 Lieutenant Michael Cleary Drive, Dallas, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania for the purpose of Resolution 2019-6 and to discuss the Fire Protection Tax.

Those in attendance included: Supervisor Chairman Frank E. Wagner, Supervisor Vice Chairman William J. Grant, Supervisor Robert J. Wagner, Attorney Thomas P. Brennan, Township Manager/Road Master Martin K. Barry, Police Chief Douglas J. Higgins, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Y. Balutis, as well as approximately 50 other individuals.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

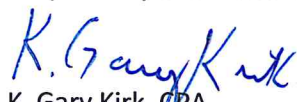
Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to approve Resolution #2019-6**, A Resolution authorizing Supervisor F. Wagner, Supervisor Grant, Supervisor R. Wagner, Township Manager Barry and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk to purchase or sell certificates of deposits, money market accounts or US Government Obligations through the Janney Montgomery Scott firm, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Supervisor Grant explained the history over the past couple of years leading up to the passing of the Fire Protection Tax including discussions with the fire chiefs about the lack of volunteers, difficulty of covering day time hours, increased expenses and decreased fund-raising support. Dallas Township is required to provide fire protection services to their residents. The Fire Tax will be used to hire 4 full time employees (2 at each fire department) with benefits (\$272,600 per year), pay for the fire departments' workers' compensation insurance (\$46,900), maintaining fire hydrants (\$10,000), help with operating expenses based on Dallas Township's prior year contributions to the fire departments (\$60,000), eliminate the fire departments' annual appeal (\$90,000) and future capital purchases (\$8,500). The annual appeal would be eliminated, but the ambulance subscription would continue. The estimated annual expenses to be covered by the tax are \$488,000. A .75 millage rate would be needed to generate \$488,000 in revenue. It is a separate line item on the tax bill and the tax collected will not be comingled with any other Township Funds. A Fire Protection Advisory Committee consisting of both fire chiefs, the Township Manager and Township residents will be created to determine how these funds will be distributed to the fire departments.

Public comments and comments by Township officials/employees included: better communication, using previous year's surplus instead of a new Fire Protection Tax, will neighboring townships who receive services by our fire departments be contributing to the fire departments, annual appeal letter, ambulance membership, the need of 2 fire departments, the Fire Protection Tax has to be an assessed tax and not a per capita tax, a reduction in volunteers, recruitment of new volunteers, homeowner's insurance impact, information about the new Fire Protection Advisory Committee, hoping to hire the new employees by July, post meeting minutes on Township website, encouraging residents to attend monthly meetings, and the fee for the tax collector.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted by,


K. Gary Kirk, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer