

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for November on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm. in the Municipal Building located at 105 Lieutenant Michael Cleary Drive, Dallas, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Those in attendance included: Supervisor Chairman Frank E. Wagner, Supervisor Vice Chairman William J. Grant, Supervisor Robert J. Wagner, Solicitor, Attorney Thomas J. Mosca, Township Manager/Roadmaster, Martin K. Barry, Police Chief Douglas J. Higgins, Secretary/Treasurer, K. Gary Kirk as well as over 30 other individuals.

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

Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to approve the Minutes** from the October 1, 2019 Meeting, seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried.

Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to approve employee health reimbursements** that had been requested since the last meeting in the amount of \$973.19, seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2019 is \$4,182.02.

Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:

None.

Agenda:

Supervisor Grant made a **Motion to approve hiring Bernard Posten as a Cadet "B" Police Officer**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried. Officer Posten was introduced by Police Chief Higgins and sworn in by District Justice Brian Tupper.

Secretary/Treasurer Kirk stated that the Police Pension Plan is still fully funded based on our most recent actuarial study and that contributions may be reduced or eliminated again in 2020. Supervisor R. Wagner made a **Motion to approve Resolution #2019-18, Eliminating Police Officers' Contributions to the Police Pension Plan for the year 2020**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried.

Based on the recommendation from Township Engineer Thomas Doughton, Supervisor R. Wagner made a **Motion to approve Resolution #2019-19, Plan Revision for New Land Development for Highpoint Townhouse Development and Authorization for the Township Secretary to sign**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried.

Township Engineer Doughton stated that while reviewing the Highpoint Townhouse Development it was discovered that our zoning map outlined the incorrect property as the Planned Residential Development (PRD). The correct property had been approved as a PRD in previous meetings, however, the zoning map outlined the neighboring property. He would like to review the zoning map to verify that there are not any other discrepancies between the map and our approved ordinances and then have the Supervisors pass any required ordinances to make the corrections.

Township Manager Barry stated that Grandview Avenue was paved about 4 years ago and that pave cuts are not allowed for 5 years. The Rowland's family of 57 Grandview Avenue would like to install a natural gas line to update utilities at their home which would require a pave cut and Supervisor approval. Supervisor Grant made a **Motion to approve a pave cut at 57 Grandview Avenue**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Grant provided an update on the Fire Protection Tax (FPT). The Township and the fire departments are working on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Supervisors plan to eliminate the FPT in 2020, that the funding of fire department services would be through the General Fund and that Dallas Township would fund 60% of the cost of the firefighters up to \$75,000 annually per department. The 60% figure was determined based on Dallas Township's population compared to the total population covered by the fire departments. Also, Dallas Township is approximately 60% of the fire departments' total calls. All 3 Supervisors were in agreement with the information presented. Supervisor Grant made a **Motion to eliminate the FPT in 2020 and continue to work with our solicitor on the MOU to properly disperse funds at a rate of 60% of their expenses**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried. There was discussion concerning the FPT, the MOU and funding of the fire departments including discussion by Raymond Miller, James O'Brien, Alan Pugh and Brenda Pugh.

Supervisor Grant provided the first reading of the 2020 budget. Total expected revenues are \$5,486,850 and expenses are the same. Notable items would be the elimination of the FPT, no property tax increase, consideration of increasing the earned income tax, grants for the salt shed, police station renovations and Southside Park as well as the related expenses to those grants. Supervisor R. Wagner made a **Motion to approve the first reading of the 2020 Budget**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried.

Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to approve the hiring of a Road Department employee by December 2nd**, seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried. This employee will replace an employee who is retiring in the Spring of 2020 and will provide time for training.

Township Manager Barry stated that Douglas F. Trumbower & Associates, Inc. have been working on the plans for the Route 309 Building renovations and plan to advertise for bids this week. Bids must be received by December 13th.

Township Manager Barry provided an update on MS4. The current fixed residential rate of \$5 per month will continue in 2020 and the commercial property 2020 rates will be based on impervious area. DAMA will be doing special projects on storm water including one at the Southside Park.

Township Manager Barry provided an update on the Southside Park. Renovations were put on hold earlier late last year due to concerns that the area was not stable for a playground due to all the storm water coming from Route 309 into the park. We had looked at alternative locations, however, through discussions with Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources the grants we received for a new playground may only be used at the Southside Park location. We will make some adjustments of where the playground equipment will be placed at the park.

Police Update:

Chief Higgins stated that the Police Department is still doing Aggressive Driving & Seat Belt Enforcement. Police Secretary Susan Maloney stated that Correction Officer Kristopher Moules' mother has donated flags for the police station. The American flag and the Thin Blue Line Flag are from the Kristopher David Moules Memorial Fund for the Heroes that was created after Officer Moules was killed in the line of action and the fund will replace the flags annually.

Road Department Update:

Township Manager Barry provided the road department update and stated that they are finishing up summer paving projects and hope to finish Hilldonia Avenue this week. Leaf pick up with the leaf vac truck has already started and bagged leaf pick up will begin the week of November 18th.

Additional Citizens' Comments:

There was a question about when a new Roadmaster would be hired. Township Manager Barry stated that it would happen after the Road Department contract negotiations are completed.

Residents of Grandview Avenue would like stop signs on their street to slow down traffic. A previous certified traffic study from many years ago showed that stop signs were not needed. Township Manager Barry stated that the Police Department recently had the speed counter and timer set up and based on those results a new traffic study is being planned. These residents also thanked the Road Department for cleaning the roads very well during storms.


Residents of Pear Tree Lane stated that they believe that there are some issues with water runoff into their yards, driveways and sidewalks since the road was recently paved. Specifically, that there are no longer gutters on the road. Township Manager Barry stated that the existing gutters were falling apart and had to be removed and new storm water inlets were installed with the paving project. He asked them to provide him their names, addresses and pictures after the meeting so that he could review the situation. Some of the residents stated that the paving project is very nice.

There was a question about the parking ordinance during the winter months and Township Manager Barry stated that in 2018 it was changed to no parking on streets for a period of 8 hours following an inclement weather event.

Adjournment:

Supervisor R. Wagner made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



K. Gary Kirk, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer