

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for December on Tuesday, December 3, 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 14 other individuals.

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

Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to approve the Minutes** from the November 4, 2019 Meeting, seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Grant made a **Motion to approve employee health care reimbursements** that had been requested since the last meeting in the amount of \$640.58, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2019 is \$4,822.94.

**Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:**

None.

**Agenda:**

Based on the recommendation from Township Engineer Thomas Doughton, Supervisor R. Wagner made a **Motion to approve Resolution #2019-20, Plan Revision for New Land Development for Maple Street Estates and Authorization for the Township Secretary to sign**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried.

Based on the recommendation from Township Engineer Doughton, Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to Release a portion of Dallas School District's Financial Security concerning their building project which will reduce the financial security from \$1,620,683.90 to \$761,272.60**, seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried.

Township Engineer Doughton stated that the consultant (Jack Varaly) that we used to prepare the Zoning Map is still trying to find the original AutoCAD. If it cannot be located, we may have to have a new one prepared in order to make the necessary corrections to the map.

Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Teamsters Local #401 and Dallas Township for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024**, seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried. The approved contract will be attached to the approved minutes.

Township Manager Barry stated that M&J Excavation, Inc. has completed 99% of the Pear Tree Lane project. We will pay them \$274,193.30 and withhold \$2,000 until the remaining work is completed in the spring of 2020

Township Manager Barry discussed No Nonsense Neutering and the services they provide concerning feral cats. For a cost of \$35 per cat, their volunteers will catch, spay, neuter and release the cat to its original location. The cost will be included in the 2020 budget. Supervisor R. Wagner made a **Motion to approve the No Nonsense Neutering agreement**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Grant discussed the Fire Protection Tax (FPT) and that it will be eliminated in 2020 and that any funds collected and not disbursed in 2019 would be used for 2020 items. We will cover expected shortfalls in the fire department's fund drives due to the FPT and will provide 60% of the soon to be hired firefighters' expenses. The paid firefighters will provide daytime coverage when volunteers are not as readily available. We will be providing 60% of the expenses since that represents the amount of coverage the fire departments provide to Dallas Township. The hope is that the fire departments will request funding from the other municipalities where they provide services. Township Manager Barry stated a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by both fire departments. Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to transfer from the FPT funds to the General Fund \$20,123 for Volunteer Firefighters Workers' Compensation, \$392.92 for advertising expenses and \$7,886.49 for fire hydrant expenses**, seconded by Supervisor R. Wager and carried. Supervisor R. Wagner made a **Motion to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Kunkle Fire Company**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried. Supervisor R. Wagner made a **Motion to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Back Mountain Regional Fire & EMS**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry discussed the Local Share Account (LSA) grants. We had requested \$325,000 for the building of a salt shed, but only received \$100,000. DAMA has indicated that it will not be using the LSA grant previously approved for the Overbrook sewer extension and we will request that it be transferred to the LSA grant we have to help build our salt shed. The LSA grant for Ecumenical Enterprises, Inc. to extend the sewer system from Yalick Farms to their proposed new nursing facility on Route 118 is in the design phase. We plan on submitting an LSA request for equipment as part of our Police Building remodel and expansion.

Supervisor Grant discussed the proposed 2020 budget. Due to certain 2019 budgeted expenses like the Southside Ave Park playground and the salt shed not being completed in 2019, not all of the FPT funds being dispersed, the second School Resource Officer not starting until September as well as a large realty transfer tax payment in December 2019, our 2019 surplus will be around \$700,000. Since our budget is on a cash basis, we will carry over this surplus to our 2020 budget. The FPT of .75 mills will be eliminated with the funding of the fire departments to be from remaining 2019 FPT and the 2020 general fund. The real estate tax will be increased from 1.25 mills to 1.45 mills, so overall there will be a .55 mill decrease in tax. The average taxpayer will have a decrease of \$88 in total real estate taxes between the .2 mill increase and .75 mill FPT decrease. The last real estate tax increase was in 2016. In about 3 years we may to increase the real estate tax to cover the fire department items. Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to approve the 2020 Budget as prepared**, seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that the Southside Park playground is proceeding. Supervisor R. Wagner made a **Motion to approve the Barry Isett & Associates Design Proposal agreement in the amount of \$50,200**, seconded by Supervisor F. Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that the MS4 fees for homeowners will remain at \$5 per month for the next 5 years and that beginning in 2020 the commercial rate will be based on impervious area. An educational program will be starting soon to better inform homeowners and commercial businesses.

Township Manager Barry stated that over 12 contractors have submitted for bid packages and many of them attended today's pre-bid meeting on the police building renovations and addition. Bids will be opened at a special Supervisors' meeting on Friday December 13, 2019 at 3:30pm.

Supervisor Grant stated that there will be a special Supervisors' meeting on Monday December 30, 2019 at 3:30pm for the approval of the 2020 budget and other year-end business.

Supervisor Grant stated that the 2020 Annual Reorganizational meeting will be on Monday January 6, 2020 at 6pm with the January monthly meeting beginning after the Reorganizational Meeting.

Supervisor Grant reminded everyone that the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be Saturday December 7, 2019 beginning at 5pm at the Back Mountain Little League Fields.

**Police Update:**

Chief Higgins stated that newly hired officer, Bernard Posten, is doing well.

**Road Department Update:**

Township Manager Barry provided the road department update and stated that they have replaced and will be replacing faded street signs, have rebuilt a section of Church Road & Krispin Road. The leaf vac was out 19 days and was on every Township street at least 4 times and in some of the larger developments they picked up 5 times. They are currently doing winter road maintenance including fixing pot holes.

**Additional Citizens' Comments:**

Resident Bruce Kerr asked about the FPT and since it has been eliminated in 2020, what will happen in future years. Supervisor Grant responded that the existing FPT funds will be used in 2020 and the plan is to continue funding the fire departments through the general fund. We will contribute 60% of the paid firefighters' expenses with the hope that other municipalities will also contribute. There may have to be a real estate tax increase in future years to cover these costs, but not a FPT.

Resident Brenda Pugh asked if the \$30,000 annual donations to the fire departments will continue and the Supervisors responded that it would be. She also asked if the Road Department would be able to plow the Christmas Tree Lighting parking area and was informed that it will be done.

Supervisor F. Wagner is retiring at the end of his term and was thanked for his 51 years of service as a supervisor and over 60 years of service to the Township as a police officer, road department employee and roadmaster. He stated that he was happy to serve and has seen lots of changes over the years as the Township has grown from around 2,700 people to around 10,000.

**Adjournment:**

Supervisor F. Wagner made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor R. Wagner and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



K. Gary Kirk, CPA  
Secretary/Treasurer