

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for April on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 6:30pm in the Municipal Building located at 105 Lieutenant Michael Cleary Drive, Dallas, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Those in attendance via phone included: Supervisor Chairman William J. Grant, Supervisor Elizabeth A. Martin, Solicitor, Attorney Thomas J. Mosca, Police Chief Douglas J. Higgins, Township Roadmaster Gary VanDeutsch, Township Engineer Thomas Doughton, EMA Coordinator Alan Pugh. Supervisor Vice Chairman Robert J. Wagner, Township Manager, Martin K. Barry, and Secretary/Treasurer, K. Gary Kirk were present at the Municipal Building. Marketing Consultant Amanda Faneck was at the Administration Building and set up Facebook live to allow other residents participate in the meeting.

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

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve the Minutes** from the March 11, 2020 Meeting, March 23, 2020 Special Meeting & April 1, 2020 Special Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve employee health care reimbursements** that had been requested since the last meeting in the amount of \$6,954.37, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2020 is \$8,685.57.

Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:

None.

Agenda:

Supervisor Grant stated that the most recent Declaration of Disaster Emergency approved at the April 1, 2020 Special Supervisors' Meeting needed to be renewed. The only changes from the previous Declaration of Disaster Emergency would be that it would be effective today and continue until May 13, 2020. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve the Declaration of Disaster Emergency of April 8, 2020 through May 13, 2020 and to approve the authorization to be signed in counterpart**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

The Southern Luzerne County Council of Governments has established a COVID-19 Regional Code Enforcement Partnership. Pennsylvania Senators John Yudichak & Lisa Baker and Pennsylvania Representative Karen Boback have contacted us to see if we would be interested in joining and to check with the Back Mountain Council of Governments about joining.

Dallas Township EMA Coordinator Pugh provided a COVID-19 update. Currently there are 16,239 cases in Pennsylvania with 309 deaths. Luzerne County has 1,134 cases with 11 deaths with the majority of the cases in southern Luzerne County. He encouraged people to stay at home and wear masks. Township Manager Barry stated that there have not been any complaints or major concerns from township residents. We have acquired 130 N95 masks from Luzerne County EMA and should receive another 500 in 4 weeks.

Dallas Township's composting site is closed. This is mainly due to our emergency equipment and police department being in close proximity to the composting site. The DAMA composting site on Route 118 will be reopening soon and they will post the times on their website tomorrow.

Supervisor Martin stated that there is proposed legislation in Pennsylvania and Luzerne County concerning making changes to the due dates and payment periods for real estate tax bills and that we will be watching this closely to see if we should make any changes to our due dates and payment periods. Supervisor Grant indicated that in 2019 we received about 85% of our real estate taxes during the discount period and that a lot of these receipts were from mortgage companies that pay from escrow funds they receive from the property owners.

Solicitor Mosca stated that this Ordinance is to update our Rental Inspection Ordinance which will clarify the fee structure. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve Ordinance #2020-1, which amends Ordinance #2019-1 & Ordinance #2016-1, Dallas Township Rental Inspection Ordinance and to approve the authorization to be signed in counterpart**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that the 2020 budget for contacted milling & paving is \$300,000 and that our Engineer Representative, Ryan Doughton, has estimated that Edinger Road would cost about \$312,000. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to advertise for bids for milling and paving Edinger Road, to have the bids opened at the May Supervisor meeting and to have the option to not award the bid depending on the status of the COVID-19 situation**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that our spring cleanup scheduled for the week of May 4th has been postponed. He will select a new date and be coordinating with Kingston Township and Dallas Borough on the new date as we usually all do it at the same time to make it easier for Back Mountain residents.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve the annual fire department donations of \$30,000 each to Back Mountain Regional Fire & EMS and Kunkle Fire & EMS with the funds to come out of the Fire Protection Fund**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that we are still working on updating the street parking ordinance.

Township Manager Barry stated that due to the COVID-19 emergency, we have asked DCED for an extension on using their grant for our Southside Park. The lot consolidation has been completed. Barry Isett & Associates have been mainly working from home and we have not received a more recent update from them. Township Engineer Doughton that the final relocation of the playground equipment needs to be submitted for approval and that our NPDES permit was filed in March, but we have not received an approval yet.

Supervisor Grant reminded everyone that the monthly Supervisors' meetings will change to the first Tuesday of the month beginning July 7th. They will still be at 6:30pm.

Resident Luke Dymond had requested in March to be on the April agenda concerning Police Vehicle & Body Cameras. He was not present on any of the formats available to participate.

Police Update:

Chief Higgins stated that they have received food, masks, sanitizers and supply donations to help them with the COVID-19 emergency. He would like to specifically recognize Axon for their donations. They are doing drive-by's for children with birthdays.

Road Department Update:

Roadmaster VanDeutsch provided the road department update and stated that they are all healthy and have created space in the garage for EMA items. They have been maintaining the equipment and are ready to resume street repair activities as soon as possible.

Additional Citizens' Comments:

Sherry Hogan asked if the masks we received will be shared with first responders and Township Manager Barry stated that they will be shared with our fire departments, road department and police department.

Mark Darbenzio would like to clean up some landscaping on Luzerne County owned property in Dallas Township and was informed to contact the county for their approval.

Karen Rittenhouse wanted to know why Offset Paperback was not closed since someone tested positive for COVID-19. We have been informed that they have received a waiver from Pennsylvania to remain open. Chief Higgins stated that he has spoken to their management and they indicated that they are following the recommended guidelines for operating. If anyone has concerns about their operations, they should contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

There were several questions about extending the real estate tax bill due date. Supervisor Grant stated that we do not have authority to change the due dates and were waiting on Luzerne County and Pennsylvania to pass any legislation on this before making a decision.

Rachel Dunn and several others asked about our composting site and DAMA's. Ours is currently closed and the DAMA composting site will be opening soon.

Amanda Faneck stated that the Fieldhouse is printing "Dallas Strong" t-shirts with proceeds going to the Back Mountain Food Pantry. She also asked about large groups of kids gathering and playing sports at the Dallas School campus. Chief Higgins stated that they have removed kids from the campus and has contacted the Dallas School District about closing the campus and posting signs about no large gatherings.

Supervisor Grant thanked the Meuser & Pugh families for providing free meals at Leggio's this Thursday evening and that we have made a \$2,500 donation to the Back Mountain Food Pantry. EMA Coordinator Pugh stated that people may call 1-800-PAHEALTH with concerns on COVID-19. He also stated that many local businesses have donated supplies and that Office Gina Kotowski helped pay for some groceries of someone in need. Chief Higgins thanked those who were making cloth masks. Supervisor Grant thanked the office staff for the work they were doing in the current circumstances.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



K. Gary Kirk, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer