

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for February on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 6:30pm. Due to winter storm Orlena and COVID-19 Declarations of Emergency, the meeting was held through GoTo Meeting.

Those in attendance included: Supervisor Chairman William J. Grant, Supervisor Vice Chairman Elizabeth A. Martin, Supervisor Robert J. Wagner, Solicitor Attorney Thomas J. Mosca, Township Manager Martin K. Barry, Police Chief Douglas J. Higgins, Township Roadmaster Gary VanDeutsch, Township Engineer Thomas Doughton and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk. Marketing Consultant Amanda Faneck set up Facebook Live to allow additional residents to participate in the meeting.

The meeting began with 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 January 4, 2021 Organization Meeting and Monthly Meeting & from the February 1, 2021 Emergency 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 \$1,719.06 seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2021 is \$1,719.06, all of which related to 2020 health care services.

**Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:**

None.

**Agenda:**

Supervisor Grant provided a financial update as of January 31, 2021. We have approximately \$2,679,000 available in the General Fund and \$172,000 in the Fire Protection Tax fund. For 2020, Real Estate taxes collected were at 100.41% of our budget, our Earned Income Tax were at 101.95%, and Local Services Tax were at 98.22% of budget or about \$2,900 below budget. As of January 31, 2021, our police pension plan is at 160.45% and our nonuniform pension plan is at 123.96% of their January 1, 2019 actuarial liability. Total pension plan assets as of January 31, 2021 were \$8,667,154.01.

Supervisor Grant stated that the Supervisors had an Emergency Meeting on February 1, 2021 for the purpose of making a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to winter storm Orlena. The Declaration allows us to make any emergency purchases needed during the emergency and would allow us to be eligible for any government aid which may be available due to the emergency.

Supervisor Grant stated that the most recent Declaration of Disaster Emergency approved at the January 4, 2021 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 March 2, 2021. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve the Declaration of Disaster Emergency of February 2, 2021 through March 2, 2021**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry provided a COVID-19 update and stated that Township employees are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination. Some have already received, some are scheduled and others will be scheduled to receive it soon. We have not received any concerns or complaints from Township

Residents. We have received a check from Luzerne County for items we purchased during the emergency and hope to receive funding from FEMA for items not approved by Luzerne County.

Supervisor Grant stated that Elected Auditors Bruce Kerr & Amanda Faneck held their annual meeting and approved Supervisor Wagner's hourly wage rate while working in the Road Department at \$24.55/hour. They also approved the hourly rate of \$24.55 for any Supervisor who does road inspections. Elected Auditor Holly Kulp did not participate in the meeting.

Township Manager Barry stated that resident Harry Cooper has expressed interest in serving on the UCC Board of Appeals. Township Engineer T. Doughton and Zoning/Code Enforcement Office Carl Alber recommend that he be appointed. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to appoint Harry Cooper to the UCC Board of Appeals for 2021**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve Resolution 2021-3, A Resolution to Set the Tax Collector Compensation**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried. The Resolution sets the Tax Collector's compensation for the year 2022 and annually thereafter at 2.50% of the amount actually received.

Brent Berger, Quad3 President/CEO, explained that DAMA had several sanitary sewage overflows ("SSO") in 2017, 2018 & 2019 and was put on a consent order of agreement ("COA") from DEP. As part of the COA, DAMA had to prepare an Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan. As a member municipality of DAMA, Dallas Township is required to approve the "Official Plan". Nothing in the plan will prohibit any building in Dallas Township and the plan states how DAMA will rectify the SSO over the next 3 to 5 years. DAMA rates may go up by \$20-\$30 a year for Township residents. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve Resolution 2021-4, The Final Interim Act 537 Plan**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that there have been more and more food trucks lately in Dallas Township and the Supervisors had asked that we do research to see about a needed ordinance or permitting process. Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Alber did some research of other communities with a food truck ordinance. He prepared a draft that was reviewed by the two of them and Attorney Mosca and Secretary/Treasurer Kirk. The proposed Ordinance which would regulate, control and otherwise inspect entities know and identified as Mobile Food Facilities within the Township for the purpose of ensuring the public health, safety and welfare of Township residents along with people who patronize Mobile Food Facilities. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to advertise an Ordinance Regulating Mobile Food Facilities**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Roadmaster VanDeutsch discussed the need to replace our Flail Mower. He estimates that a new Flail Mower will cost between \$130,000 to \$140,000. The 2021 budget includes \$150,000 for a Flail Mower and we plan to use State Liquid Fuels funds for the purchase. We hope to receive it by May or June.

Township Manager Barry stated that we have all 3 contracts for the new Salt Shed signed and that he has met with 2 of the 3 contractors. Site work was scheduled to begin this week, but has been delayed due to the snow.

Township Manager Barry stated that the retaining wall at the Southside Avenue Park is in progress, but work has been slowed due to the winter weather. EBI, LLC has made some suggestions for

improvements and we are waiting on Barry Isett & Associates and the Luzerne Conservation District to approve those suggestions.

Township Manager Barry stated that we have two older obsolete mowers, two older vehicles and four lengths of pipe that we would like to sell. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to advertise and sell the obsolete/surplus equipment**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

**Police Update:**

Chief Higgins provided the Police Department update. They are currently doing some mandatory training, some officers have received their COVID-19 vaccinations and they are very busy. We have received donations towards the purchase of an UTV. Supervisor Grant asked about the status of reimbursement of our expenses related to the Biden Rally. Chief Higgins stated that they have emailed and called the local Democratic Committees, but never received a reply and those emails and phone numbers are no longer in service. Supervisor Grant stated that Dallas School District Superintendent Thomas Duffy said that they had received payment for the event. Chief Higgins will contact Dallas Superintendent Duffy about obtaining reimbursement from them.

**Road Department Update:**

Roadmaster VanDeutsch stated that they have been very busy with the winter snow storm beginning on Sunday around noon and continuing until Tuesday evening. Overall, the equipment did well and Eli's Towing did help with one truck. They had picked up 446 Christmas trees and are looking forward to the new salt shed. They are currently down 1 employee due to COVID-19 restrictions, but do not feel they need any temporary/substitute employees as everyone has been able to handle the extra work.

**Additional Citizens' Comments:**

George Kebles commented on Facebook "Best road department in the Back Mountain, thanks for all the hard work."

**Adjournment:**

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



K. Gary Kirk, CPA  
Secretary/Treasurer