

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for August on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 6:30pm in the Administration Building located at 105 Lt. Michael Cleary Drive, Dallas, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Those in attendance included: Supervisor Chairman William J. Grant, Supervisor Vice Chairman Elizabeth A. Martin, Supervisor Robert J. Wagner, Attorney Thomas J. Mosca, Township Manager Martin K. Barry, Police Chief Douglas J. Higgins, Roadmaster Gary R. VanDeutsch, Township Engineer Thomas Doughton and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk. Also in attendance were residents Diane Dreier and Anne Davies. Resident Wayne Dotter participated via GoTo Meeting. Facebook Live was set up to allow additional residents to participate in the meeting with 6 people participating at various times.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve the Minutes** from the July 6, 2021 Monthly Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve employee health care reimbursements** that had been requested in July in the amount of \$1,060.10 seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2021 is \$7,169.40.

#### **Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:**

None.

#### **Agenda:**

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to make a change to Agenda Item Number 16 to read Bluff Point instead of Pine Bluff**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

Supervisor Grant provided a financial update as of July 31, 2021. We have received \$1,032,039 or 99.71% of the Real Estate taxes which is better than the previous 4 years. Earned Income Tax collections are at 61.11% of budget or \$794,475 which is better than most of the previous 4 years. Local Services Tax collections are at 51.38% of budget or \$82,216 which is lower than the previous 4 years. Our Police Pension Plan is at 127.10% and our Non-Uniform Pension Plan is at 104.09% of the January 1, 2021 actuarial liability. Pension plan assets as of July 31, 2021 were \$6,099,217 for the Police Pension Plan and \$3,360,831 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Our non-restricted cash balance is about \$3,300,000 with the Fire Protection account being about \$100,000. We also have \$485,106 in funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) which is 50% of the amount we will receive. No expenditures have been allocated from the ARP yet.

We have been approved for a \$500,000 grant in LSA funds for the Back Mountain Community Partnership (BMCP). The BMCP had requested \$510,081.60 on behalf of Dallas Borough, Dallas Township, Franklin Township, Harveys Lake Borough, Jackson Township, Kingston Township and Lehman Township for Police and Public Safety Equipment. Dallas Township's request was \$89,528.96. Based on the approved amount our allocation will be \$87,159.

Township Manager Barry stated that there is a lack of police vehicles available and a delay in new purchases of vehicles. Chief Higgins has found a demo vehicle which will be available by the end of August. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to purchase the Police Demo vehicle in the amount of \$56,148 using the BMCP LSA grant**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that the Cohen Law firm which handled the cable franchise fees for us and other municipalities several years ago is contacting those municipalities again to see if they would like them to negotiate the new contract. There should be at least 7 municipalities involved and our cost should be between \$9,200 and \$9,900. Attorney Mosca will be reviewing the contract and we have until October to decide if we would like to use them.

Attorney Mosca stated that the Dallas School District signed the black-lined version of the School Resource Officer contract amendment. He has requested that they sign the clean version. We will wait until we receive the properly signed version before making a motion to approve it. The amendment would adjust payment if the district is closed for 2 weeks and allow them to make payments on a quarterly basis.

Since tonight is National Night Out (NNO), Chief Higgins provided the **Police Update** at this time so that he could attend NNO. We are currently an accredited police department and will be having our reaccreditation in May 2022 and are working to make sure everything is ready for this process. The call volume has increased recently and new officer Jonathan Martinez is doing extremely well. Also participating in tonight's NNO are Dallas Borough & Kingston Township Police, the FBI, the State Police, the Fish & Game Commission, Back Mountain Regional Fire & EMS, Kunkle Fire & EMS, some churches and Dallas Cheerleaders.

Supervisor Grant stated that the Zoning Map Corrections hearing will be August 10, 2021 at 5:30pm at the Administration Building. This will be a second hearing due to some technical difficulties with GoTo Meeting during the hearing on June 29, 2021.

Township Manager Barry stated that our SALDO document needs to be updated. Our Planning Commission will be working on this and hope to present it to the Supervisors by January.

Township Manager Barry stated that Suez Water would like to install a new fire hydrant near the corner of Irem Road and Shrine View Drive. Suez would pay for the installation and we would pay for the rental. Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to approve Suez Water to install a new fire hydrant near the corner of Irem Road and Shrine View Drive**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that the Southside Nature Park is about 70% complete and weather permitting may be all complete by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Township Manager Barry stated that the DEP Streambank Restoration Grant is being reviewed and is almost complete. After completion, the work to be done will be presented to our Planning Commission.

Supervisor Grant stated that we are beginning the process of Phase 2 at the Southside Nature Park. Items being considered include an ice/street hockey rink, pavilion, multi-purpose field, dog park and parking. We have applied for a \$400,000 grant from DCNR and a \$236,000 grant from DCED for Phase 2.

Supervisor Martin made a **Motion to hire Laird Landscape & Architecture to prepare the Phase 2 design at a cost of \$150,000**, seconded by Supervisor Wagner and carried.

Supervisor Grant stated that we were approved for a \$366,597 LSA grant for land acquisition, site development, ADA improvements and a parking lot on the property next to the Administration Building.

Township Manager Barry stated that the Local Technical Assistance Program provided a traffic engineer to do a traffic study in Haddonfield Hills & Shrine View Developments. Their preliminary study indicates that the speed limit should be 25 MPH. The complete study should be ready in September.

Mr. Dotter resides on Fairgrounds Road and would like to have the fence moved back to the previous location and the dirt mound blocking the road be put back. There was discussion on these items including the impact on other property owners in that area. Township Manager Barry will discuss these items with the other property owners and report those discussions with the Supervisors.

Township Manager Barry stated that we have received a letter from the Kebles Family from Goldsmith Road. They are happy with the improvements made to the road and would not like to see the road tarred & chipped. There was discussion about other ways to reduce dust as well as that we could not make any improvements on the road for about 5 years without Luzerne Conservation District approval since they provided grant funds to make the improvements

Ms. Dreier is the President of Bluff Point Homeowners Association. She stated that there is not any storm water drainage in Bluff Point and it has caused water damage to some housing units and the parking lot. She asked why a storm water system was not installed, would the Township be willing to install one now and when the road is repaved, could we put in drains. Township Engineer T. Doughton stated that Bluff Point was built before the current storm water regulations. We would have to analyze the site along with the current storm water ordinances to see what could be done. Roadmaster VanDeutsch stated that they made some improvements in the spring which has helped and plan on doing more improvements this fall.

The Sedlar Road Miscellaneous Repairs & Wearing Course Overlay bid was awarded to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company in the amount of \$248,419.70. Work started on Monday. Roadmaster VanDeutsch stated that the Road Department has replaced a pipe in preparation of the paving.

Supervisor Grant stated that Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Carl Alber is planning to retire effective December 31, 2021 and thanked him for his many years of service. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to advertise to hire a full time Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried.

#### **Police Update:**

Provided earlier in meeting.

#### **Road Department Update:**

Roadmaster VanDeutsch provided the Road Department update. In preparation to the contracted milling and paving on Sedlar Road the entire road was bermed and overhead branches were removed. On Glendalough Road, a deteriorating cross drainage pipe was replaced. Grading of dirt and gravel roads is continuing despite several setbacks. Weather has caused several interruptions with some heavy downpours and winds knocking several trees down throughout the Township. This July had the most

rain and severe storms since 2007. As part of line painting, "STOP" bars were painted at the existing stop signs on Pear Tree Lane, Crestview Drive and Idlewood Drive. Work was also completed near Mr. Evans's home on Shupp Road with added blacktop to complete a previous water complaint. He shared that Mr. Alber will be missed as Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer as he does a very good job and it has been great working with him.

Supervisor Grant thanked the Road Department for their help with the Master Gardeners project at the Administration Building.

**Additional Citizens' Comments:**

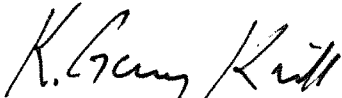
Supervisor Martin stated that Rob Friedman will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccination clinic and will provide a \$40 gift certificate to one of his restaurants to everyone who receives a vaccination.

Township Engineer T. Doughton stated that despite rumors to the contrary, Tractor Supply has resubmitted paperwork to build a building off of Upper Demunds Road.

**Adjournment:**

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor Martin and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



K. Gary Kirk, CPA  
Secretary/Treasurer