

The Board of Supervisors of Dallas Township held their monthly meeting for September on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:30pm in the Administration Building located at 105 Lt. Michael Cleary Drive, Dallas, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Those in attendance included: Supervisor Vice Chairman Elizabeth A. Martin, Supervisor Robert J. Wagner, Township Manager Martin K. Barry, Police Sergeant Brian Feeney, Roadmaster Gary R. VanDeutsch, and Secretary/Treasurer K. Gary Kirk. Supervisor Chairman William J. Grant and Attorney Thomas J. Mosca attended via GoTo Meeting. Also in attendance was resident Leonard Kozick. Resident John Rittenger participated via GoTo Meeting. Facebook Live was set up to allow additional residents to participate in the meeting with 20 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 Grant and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve the Minutes** from the June 29, 2021 Zoning Map Hearing, August 10, 2021 Zoning Map Hearing, August 3, 2021 Monthly Meeting and August 30, 2021 Special Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

There were not any employee health care reimbursements in August. Total employee health reimbursements made for 2021 is \$7,169.40.

Citizens' Comments Concerning Agenda Items:

None.

Agenda:

Secretary/Treasurer Kirk provided a financial update as of August 31, 2021. We have received \$1,035,069 or 100.01% of the Real Estate taxes which is better than the previous 4 years. Earned Income Tax collections are at 81.46% of budget or \$1,059,012 which is better than most of the previous 4 years. Local Services Tax collections are at 62.12% of budget or \$99,390 which is lower than the previous 4 years. We have received about \$19,000 of LST in September which brings the total collected closer, but still lower than the previous 4 years. Our Police Pension Plan is at 129.77% and our Non-Uniform Pension Plan is at 107.42% of the January 1, 2021 actuarial liability. Pension plan assets as of August 31, 2021 were \$6,227,642 for the Police Pension Plan and \$3,468,374 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Our non-restricted cash balance is about \$3,600,000 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.

Township Manager Barry stated that our cable franchise fee agreement will be coming up for renewal. We have been contacted by the Cohen Law Group to see if we would be interested in having them represent us again. They represent several municipalities and the more that are represented the lower their fee. It is estimated that there may be more than 10 local municipalities represented which would reduce our cost to be between \$5,000 to \$8,000. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to contract with the Cohen Law Group to negotiate our cable franchise fee agreements**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve Ordinance 2021-2, An Ordinance Amending the Dallas Township Zoning Ordinance to Correct the Zoning Map**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that the Police Discipline Policy is in process with Attorney Mosca and the Police Association working on it. It is expected to be ready for the October Supervisors' meeting.

Roadmaster VanDeutsch stated that the Sedlar Road paving has been completed and that Township Engineer Ryan Doughton and New Enterprise did an excellent job.

Township Manager Barry stated that Luzerne County Election Bureau has previously requested that we get bathrooms in the maintenance building that is also used as a voting district. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to get Design and Bid Specifications for an addition to the maintenance building**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried. Supervisor Grant suggested that we try to get grants as well as see if Luzerne County would provide some funding to help with the addition.

Township Manager Barry stated that the Southside Nature Park is going well. They are working on the sidewalks and planting trees. Stormwater work started today and should be completed in 3-4 days. The paving of Southside Avenue and the parking lot by our Road Department should be in about 2 weeks.

Township Manager Barry stated that a new Road Department employee was included in the 2021 budget to be hired in the fall. Nine applications were received and interviews have begun. Depending on the qualifications, the new employee will either be a laborer or if they have their CDL, then as a Roadworker. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to approve the hiring of a new Road Department employee in the second half of October**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Sergeant Feeney stated that our Police Department has been asked by the Pennsylvania State Police to participate in a Touch-a-Truck event on September 26, 2021 at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds. Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to allow our Police Department to participate the in the Touch-a-Truck event**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried.

Township Manager Barry stated that we are planning on having ribbon cutting events for both the new salt shed and Southside Nature Park on September 24, 2021.

Police Update:

Sergeant Feeney stated that the Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) upfit and the repairs to car #11 are complete and they will be ready for the Touch-a-Truck event along with a new utility trailer. The paperwork for the purchase of the new Chevrolet Tahoe has been completed. Officer Paul Henn is attending Emergency Vehicle Operators Training this week. The FBI had an opening in their Hostage Negotiation Training program and they requested that one of our officers attend the training. Officer Bill Acuff attended and completed the 40-hour course last week. Permission has been obtained from the Parker family to allow our Police Department and specifically the new UTV to go across their property to get to both sections of the Back Mountain Trail.

Road Department Update:

Roadmaster VanDeutsch provided the Road Department update. In addition to the completion of the contracted milling and paving on Sedlar Road, double yellow stripes and stop bars were done by Universal Line Painting. Also, two sets of "SLOW" markings were added for the doglegs for driver awareness. They have been working to keep up with more storm activity especially with Hurricane Ida producing more than 6 inches of rain. He thanked the crew for their work maintaining drains and ditches prior to and during the hurricane and clearing fallen trees with no major issues. They assisted in various way with the Master Gardeners project at the administration building as well as with the Southside Nature Park. The entrance to Spencer Road off Lake Street was milled and a new approach was paved with more base repair planned. They are looking forward to paving Southside Avenue and the new Southside Nature Park parking lot. Weather permitting, they will be wrapping up the dirt and gravel road maintenance.

Additional Citizens' Comments:

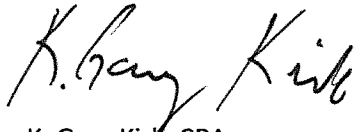
None

Township Manager Barry stated that the Southside Nature Park is not open to the public until the construction is completed.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Wagner made a **Motion to adjourn**, seconded by Supervisor Grant and carried. The Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Gary Kirk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "Kirk".

K. Gary Kirk, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer