

DERRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Minutes, December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting

5:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Derry Township Board of Supervisors was called to order in the Municipal Building at 5321 Route 982, Derry, PA at 5:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion was made by James Prohaska and seconded by Donald Kepple to adjourn the previous meeting.

Voting: Donald Kepple-yes, James Prohaska-yes, and David Slifka-yes

Members present were: David Slifka, James Prohaska, and Donald Kepple - Supervisors; Terry Giannini, Code Enforcement Officer; Samuel Dalfonso, Solicitor; Donna Wano, Secretary/Treasurer

Announcements:

Snow Removal on Township Roads – Reminder to residents to remove vehicles and portable basketball hoops off the road right-of-ways.

The meeting was opened to the public for comments:

Tony Pratt thanked Jim for stopping out about paving project in Brenizer.

Mark Piantine, DTVFD Fire Chief reported as of December 5, 2023 they had over 3,000 manhours on fire calls and over 1,700 training hours. He also wanted to clarify the funds from the Fire Relief Fund from the last meeting – this is not a tax. This comes from 2% of residents' homeowners insurance that goes back to the municipality in which you live and is used by the Fire Department to pay insurances and to certify their equipment. Last year it covered \$4,300 to service their air packs, \$3,800 for rescue tools, \$1,200 for ladders, \$1,500 for tower truck, \$7,000 for members life insurance and \$11,000 for air and emissions insurance. This money cannot be used for their general budget. As for the \$52 local services tax, they only get 25% of that and the department needs to request from the supervisors – this year they used for \$20,000 for their portion of the loan payment on the building and \$38,000 on the tower truck loan which is paid once a year. The Fire Tax does not go to the Fire Department. There is an agreement with the supervisors to use Fire Tax monies to pay the building loan payment. Residents are questioning the fundraisers and donations because of this. He commended the supervisors on helping to get grants for the fire department and being there when needed on fire calls. In 2019 the department put a comprehensive plan together for a 20-year plan of the department. Two recommendations were for a new fire station and to add a ladder truck in the township. They were able to purchase used

truck from Ligonier for \$250,000 and put \$136,000 in refurb on it – a new one today would cost approximately \$1.5 million. ISO regulates homeowners insurance. ISO made recommendation 10 years ago to get the ladder truck. Going through ISO audit at this time which includes everything to be tested and certified, along with training. Went together with Unity Township for training package. What he hopes from this ISO audit is their rating goes down. Right now at median 6 but would like to be at low 5 or high 4 which would save taxpayers on homeowners insurance.

Gina Scheller expressed admiration to David Slifka on a remarkable 18 years of service. Government officials receive more criticism than accolades especially at the local government level. Since the township supervisor lives in the township where they serve, they are visible and approachable every day, not just during business hours. She has worked with many local leaders and David has raised the bar to a new level. His drive and motivation showed everyday when he came into the office - even when he had health issues, he powered his way back to take care of the township along with the other supervisors (not to shortchange anyone here), but we know Dave's term is coming to an end, so I personally wanted to thank him for what he has done for Derry Township and for her and wish him the best going forward.

State Representative Jill Cooper also wanted to say how much she appreciated working with David and to publicly thank him. He welcomed me to Derry and told me about the township and kept me engaged even though I only cover 23-1/2% of the township. She's only been in her position for a year and quickly realized that your local township controls the safety of your neighborhood, the value of your home, the education for your children and most people don't have any idea who they are and the community should get to know them. It's critical to have people in that position that cares about their community. He treats people with respect and brings a calm to the situation and tries to find solutions. It's been an honor to work with you and your fellow supervisors as well. I wish you the best and it's been a privilege.

Motion was made by Donald Kepple and seconded by James Prohaska to approve Minutes of November 8, 2023.

Voting: Donald Kepple-yes, James Prohaska-yes, and David Slifka-yes

Motion was made by James Prohaska and seconded by Donald Kepple to approve the payrolls of November 9 and 22, 2023 for payment.

Voting: Donald Kepple-yes, James Prohaska-yes, and David Slifka-yes

Motion was made by Donald Kepple and seconded by James Prohaska to approve the bills of November 8 and 22, 2023 for payment.

Voting: Donald Kepple-yes, James Prohaska-yes, and David Slifka-yes

Motion was made by James Prohaska and seconded by Donald Kepple to approve Treasurer's Report for November 2023.

Voting: Donald Kepple-yes, James Prohaska-yes, and David Slifka-yes

Motion was made by Donald Kepple and seconded by James Prohaska to adopt the proposed Budget for 2024.

Voting: Donald Kepple-yes, James Prohaska-yes, and David Slifka-yes

Motion was made by James Prohaska and seconded by Donald Kepple to approve the Local Share Assessment Agreement for the period beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 with the Westmoreland County Transit Authority.

Voting: Donald Kepple-yes, James Prohaska-yes, and David Slifka-yes

Motion was made by Donald Kepple and seconded by David Slifka to approve Resolution No. 650-2023 authorizing appropriation of moneys received under the American Rescue Plan to purchase Digital Sign in the amount of \$30,260.

Voting: Donald Kepple-yes, James Prohaska-yes, and David Slifka-yes

Motion was made by James Prohaska and seconded by Donald Kepple to approve Resolution No. 651-2023 authorizing appropriation of moneys received under the American Rescue Plan for payment of 2023 Spring Cleanup in the amount of \$23,112. David Slifka gave breakdown of the total cost for the Clean-Up. Of 20 dumpsters, 5 were for electronics and 5 were for appliances which Salandro's took at no charge. The other 10 were for garbage that we had to pay. There were over 71 tons of tires which amounted to approximately 4,000 total. The cost of disposal was \$33,273 which we split with Westmoreland Cleanways. Freon total amounted to \$1,960 which Westmoreland Cleanways paid. We would like to give our thanks to Westmoreland Cleanways and Salandro's again.

Voting: Donald Kepple-yes, James Prohaska-yes, and David Slifka-yes

David Slifka wanted to thank the residents of Derry Township for giving him the opportunity to represent them for the last 18 years. I also wish the best for the Board of Supervisors next year and beyond and that the residents give them total support to make Derry Township a better place to work and live.

Motion was made by Donald Kepple and seconded by James Prohaska to recess until Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Voting: Donald Kepple-yes, James Prohaska-yes, and David Slifka-yes