



Dickinson Township
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
April 1, 2024

PRESENT: ROBERT LINE, III, ROB KOLE, JEN DEGAETANO - SUPERVISORS; Larry Barrick, Manager; Marjorie Bear, Assistant Manager/Secretary/Treasurer; Glenn Kelso, Public Works Director; Matt Boyer, Solicitor.

ABSENT: Brandon Brookens, Zoning/Codes Enforcement Officer; Jason Reichard, Engineer

VISITORS: Harold Cooney, Marty Williams

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Kole called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The DTWP Park and Recreation Board is seeking a volunteer to serve on their Board. Please contact the Township Office at (717) 486-7424 if you are interested in serving.
- The DTWP Planning Commission is seeking a volunteer to serve on their Board. Please contact the Township Office at (717) 486-7424 if you are interested in serving.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Supervisor DeGaetano and seconded by Vice Chairman Line and unanimously passed to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor DeGaetano mentioned two amendments to the last paragraph of New Business #1, which she supplied the corrected wording for the statement she made, and to correct the spelling of Torren Ecker's name.

A motion was made by Supervisor DeGaetano and seconded by Vice Chairman Line and unanimously passed to approve the March 18, 2024 Regular meeting minutes, as amended.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Line and seconded by Supervisor DeGaetano and unanimously passed to pay the bills for April 1, 2024.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Kole announced that the Board held an executive session on March 26, 2024 at 4:30 PM to discuss personnel.

Chairman Kole reported that at the March 18th Board meeting he offered to help address Manager Barrick's concern about the cost of the FPR coalition. Chairman Kole reported that he reviewed the budget and found 3 areas with a possible savings of \$112,000 annually.

1. Chairman Kole suggested that we are below par with interest rates on our accounts. The general fund balance was at \$1.5 million one year ago and remains at \$1.5 million today. The general fund interest rate is currently at 1.25%. Standard money markets rates today are 4.5% to 5%. By increasing the interest on that account alone the Township would gain an additional \$30,000 to \$50,000 of interest income annually. The Solicitor was directed to survey other Township's on current interest rates.
2. Chairman Kole pointed out that the health insurance plan should be reviewed. Based on a Kaiser Family Foundation annual benefit survey, the Township cost for health insurance is 35% higher than the national average. He suggested looking at possible changes such as benefit plan changes, modification to the employee contribution rate, and implementing a spousal policy that would restrict coverage for spouses that are offered coverage by other employer sponsored health insurance plans. Manager Barrick mentioned with the current plan being part of a consortium, the Township receives up to \$50,000 back each year after claims for the year are reviewed, which is a good savings on the overall health insurance package. Chairman Kole acknowledged that the consortium is an excellent plan and agrees that no changes should be made to that arrangement. He suggested to be cautious on making any of the changes that he highlighted as to not disrupt the employees and look for win-win opportunities such as the spousal policy that alone would save \$27,000 per year. Total potential savings for these ideas would be \$64,000 annually.
3. Chairman Kole also mentioned possible changes to the current time off policy that includes vacation, sick, and personal time but also has a backend financial liability to the Township by having to payout unused sick time. He suggested that the Township consider a change to a paid time off policy. A paid time off policy would be a more employee friendly system and would save the Township \$8,000 of back-end liability.

Supervisor DeGaetano agreed these are areas that are worthwhile looking into.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT Nothing to report at this time

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT (non-agenda items) None

PUBLIC HEARINGS None

PLAN REVIEW/CONDITIONAL USE HEARINGS None

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Kole placed #1 business item at the end of New Business.

2. Discussion on the need to record meetings and posting vs. not posting the recordings

The Board held a discussion on the recordings of the meetings. Solicitor Boyer advised the Board that the recording is a tool to prepare the minutes and recommended not posting them. Once minutes are prepared and approved, the recording can be destroyed. Written minutes are a public record of recording the actions taken by the Board. Vice Chairman Line was in favor of continuing to post the recordings as a way to be transparent with the residents which builds trust. Marty Williams stated she listens to all the recordings to get a better picture of what is going on. Chairman Kole felt the written minutes include more detail than is needed to be done but he appreciates the extra layer of transparency.

A motion was made by Supervisor DeGaetano and seconded by Vice Chairman Line and unanimously passed to table the decision on posting the recordings of minutes to allow for more time to consider the options.

3. Trash Contract Discussion and direction.

The current contract is scheduled to end in March 2025. Several options to possibly provide a savings was discussed to include picking up recycling every other week; increasing the number of annual tags/bags to 12 instead of the current 6; requiring all trash be placed in bags, retaining the tags/bags option; in-house billing; and joining

the South Hampton Township contract. The Board must provide direction on the options, review and update the current Ordinance, and the Request for Bids (RFB) be prepared. The Manager was directed to provide a draft Ordinance and RFB within the next month for discussion, receive resident input, and keep the process moving forward.

4. Discussion on starting a Farmland Preservation Program for Dickinson Township Farms.

A map was provided that indicates the properties in the Township that are in the preservation and/or agriculture security area. Preservation is a county program where the landowner sells off the development rights, which is in perpetuity. Agriculture security is a stepping stone in preparation for the preservation program. There are also 3rd party programs. Townships can put a tax in place to provide funds to help farmers with land preservation. The Board expressed interest in maintaining the rural character of the Township and will meet with Silver Spring Township to hear about their efforts in providing funding for preservation purposes.

1. Prioritize Goals and Objectives of the Supervisors

The Board agreed that the list provided is laid out nicely and suggested it be marked as a draft and made available to the public for review. The next step would be to meet with the various Township Boards/Commissions for their input and then to hold a town hall meeting with the residents to share the initiatives for the next few years.

MANAGER'S REPORT Nothing to report

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT Nothing to report

TREASURER'S REPORT Nothing to report

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT Nothing to report

PUBLIC WORKS Nothing to report

ENGINEER'S REPORT Nothing to report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT Nothing to report

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Marty Williams questioned her role at the meetings, whether to voice her concerns or not, and to attend or not. The Supervisors expressed interest in hearing from residents and encouraged attendance.

OLD BUSINESS None anticipated due to workshop nature

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Line and seconded by Supervisor DeGaetano and passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Bear

Marjorie E. Bear
Asst Manager/Secretary/Treasurer

