

BOS MINUTES

Dickinson Township Board of Supervisors

December 16, 2024, Dickinson Township Meeting Room
6:00 pm

Attendance

Board Members:

Chairman Rob Kole, Vice Chairman Robert “Bob” Line III, Jen DeGaetano

Absent:

Jason Reichard, Engineer

Staff:

Lucas Martsolf, Marge Bear, Glenn Kelso, Laci Hockenberry, Abigail Miller,
Matthew Boyer, Solicitor

Visitors: Harold Cooney, Charley Westcott, Paul Wilson

Call to Order

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

Opening Announcements

- A reminder that more information about our community can be found on our website at www.dickinsontownship.org
- The Board of Supervisors held an executive session on December 12, 2024 at noon for one hour to discuss personnel.

Agenda Approval

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

Public Comment – Agenda Items Only - None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Supervisor DeGaetano and seconded by Vice Chairman Line and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of November 18, 2024; ratify bills from December 2nd, 2024; and pay bills for December 16, 2024.

A motion was made by Supervisor DeGaetano and seconded by Vice Chairman Line and unanimously passed to approve the November 26, 2024 minutes; to approve and ratify the bills for December 2, 2024 and December 16, 2024.

Board of Supervisors Reports

Chairman Kole thanked staff for all they have done and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Vice Chairman Line thanked staff and said he appreciates their efforts throughout the year.

Supervisor DeGaetano said she has enjoyed getting to know everyone in her first year of learning the ropes. She appreciates everyone and looks forward to more good things to come.

Public Hearings None

Plan Review/Conditional Use Hearings

a. Monismith preliminary/final subdivision plan

Paul Wilson was present and stated this plan combines 3 lots into one 2 acre lot which makes it more useful. The county, staff, and engineers comments have been addressed. The easement note for the existing driveway, as requested, has been placed on the plan to alleviate any conflict in the future between land owners.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Line and seconded by Supervisor DeGaetano and unanimously passed to approve the Monismith preliminary/final subdivision plan.

Boards, Committee, and Authority Reports

- a. Planning Commission – Bob Line said the Planning Commission will be meeting in January to talk about FPRs because they are very concerned. He thanked Solicitor Boyer for providing the information. The more the problem can be addressed, the better it will be. After the Planning Commission discusses FPRs and ASA (Agriculture Security Areas 7 year review), they will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.
- b. Parks & Recreation – Nothing to report
- c. Zoning Board – Nothing to report
- d. Municipal Authority – Nothing to report

Staff Reports

Managers' Report – Chairman Kole thanked the Interim Manager for a lot of good information, especially with the school district. Vice Chairman Line requested a copy of the Manager's schedule, which has been provided to the Chairman.

Assistant Manager / Treasurer Report – Chairman Kole said he likes the page that was added to the report which provides account balances from previous years.

Emergency Services Report – Charley Wescott provided the months report of responses and mentioned the fire ban is over, going from a drought to all this rain now. He mentioned that 15 smoke detectors were provided to families who did not have any. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Public Works Report – The grant money for the bridge project on Cold Springs Rd will come available from the County in 2026.

Zoning Officer’s Report – The Zoning Hearing Board is in need of one member and one alternate member.

Engineers Report – Nothing to report

Solicitors Report – Nothing to report.

New Business/Request for Board Action

a. Approve Motion to Adopt the Final 2025 Operating and Capital Budget.

Chairman Kole thanked staff for their time in putting together the new format and mentioned the old format was posted on the website. The new format provides a story behind the numbers and would be good for the public to see. It provides an opportunity for the Board to weigh in on capital projects and review them piece by piece. The new format will be used from here on and the public will appreciate it.

Supervisor DeGaetano mentioned this is her first budget cycle and the new format provides a lot more detail and is very helpful. We will be doing things that everyone will appreciate.

Vice Chairman Line wishes there would have been more public discussion about the budget. This new format is more of a template and how we are going to spend the money in the new year will come later. He would rather see that before the budget as has been done in the past where things were narrowed and locked down for the spending. He is not confident there was good debate on the road projects to be worked on in the coming year.

A motion was made by Chairman Kole and seconded by Supervisor DeGaetano and passed by majority vote to approve the Final 2025 Operating and Capital Budget. Vice Chairman Line abstained from voting.

b. Resolution 2024-11 Budget & Establishing 2025 Taxes

A motion was made by Supervisor DeGaetano and seconded by Vice Chairman Line and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution 2024-11, establishing the General Fund Real Estate Tax effective January 1, 2025, at a Millage Rate of 0.75 mills, establishing the Fire Real Estate Tax effective January 1, 2025, at a Millage Rate of 0.25 Mills on assessed valuation and an Earned Income Tax or Net Profit Tax at a rate of one percent.

Resolution 2024-12 Discontinuing of the Burn Ban.

A motion was made by Supervisor DeGaetano and seconded by Vice Chairman Line and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution 2024-12 which discontinues the burn ban initiated by the Township Fire Administrator.

c. Request from Employees for a one-time payout of unused paid time off.

Chairman Kole stated that the board had received a request from staff for a one-time payout of unused time. Although he wants to support staff, he believes it becomes a hard cost to the Township which was not budgeted for. After review of the personnel manual section 703 there is a provision for it to be rolled over according to the manual. He stressed the importance of taking the time off and wants to see staff be able to do so.

Supervisor DeGaetano said that it is important to follow the guidelines of the personnel manual and to not set a precedence by paying out unused time. We are in line with what is being done industry wide.

Vice Chairman Line believes policies are made to be changed for different situations. He does not believe that this would be setting a precedence because of this extraordinary year. Staff has put in many more hours than they were compensated for. There is nothing in the manual that would address paid time off and personal time for current employees for or against. He noted other entities such as Carlisle Area School District and the state is able to change policies based on a situation and we saw this during covid. He is in favor of the payout.

A motion was made by Chairman Kole and seconded by Supervisor DeGaetano and passed by majority to reject the request for a one-time payout of unused time off. Vice Chairman Line voted No.

Old Business - None

Closing Announcements - None

Public Comments - Non-Agenda Items Only - None

Executive Session

The Board of Supervisors held an executive session from 6:30pm until 7:08pm to discuss personnel and litigation.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Supervisor DeGaetano and seconded by Vice Chairman Line and passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laci Hockenberry
Receptionist/Asst Secretary/Treasurer