

CITY OF DUBOIS/SANDY TOWNSHIP JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday - January 12, 2022 @ 6 p.m.

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 @ 6 p.m.; DuBois City Council and Sandy Township Supervisors convened at their first Joint Board Meeting. Board Members present were: Barry Abbott, Jim Aughenbaugh, Bill Beers, Diane Bernardo, Shane Dietz, Shannon Gabriel, Sam Mollica, Kevin Salandra, Mark Sullivan, Edward Walsh. Also present were: City Manager, John "Herm" Suplizio; Township Manager, Shawn Arbaugh; Township Engineer, Mike Haynes; City Engineer/Public Works Director, Chris Nasuti; Public Works Superintendent, Scott Farrell; Redevelopment Authority Director/Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Joe Mitchell; Sandy Township Chief of Police, Kris Kruzalak; Police Chief, Blaine Clark; and City Secretary, Bobbie Shaffer.

Mayor Walsh informed City Secretary Shaffer that all were present from the DuBois City Council and the Sandy Board of Supervisors.

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Walsh.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

Ed Clark, Jr. - Treasure Lake - General Manager/Treasure Lake Property Owners

On behalf of the Treasure Lake Property Owners Board of Directors and himself, he would like to say that they are with the City Council and Township Supervisors and will lend any support that is needed. They are here to help.

Appointments

Temporary Chairperson

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Sullivan to appoint Edward Walsh as Temporary Chairperson of the City of DuBois/Sandy Township Joint Board. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Mollica, yea; Salandra, yea; Sullivan, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 10-0.

Nominations and Elections

Joint Board Co-Chairperson - DuBois

The motion was made by Sullivan and seconded by Beers to appoint Edward Walsh as Co-Chairperson of the City of DuBois/Sandy Township Joint Board. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Mollica, yea; Salandra, yea; Sullivan, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 10-0.

Joint Board Co-Chairperson - Sandy

The motion was made by Beers and seconded by Aughenbaugh to appoint Kevin Salandra as Co-Chairperson of the City of DuBois/Sandy Township Joint Board. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Mollica, yea; Salandra, yea; Sullivan, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 10-0.

New Business

Appoint DuBois/Sandy Consolidation Committee

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Sullivan to appoint Edward Walsh, Kevin Salandra, Chris Nasuti, Kris Kruzalak, Herm Suplizio, Shawn Arbaugh, Joe Mitchell, Daniel Kohlhepp, and Richard Whitaker to the DuBois/Sandy Consolidation Committee. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers,

CITY OF DUBOIS/SANDY TOWNSHIP JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Cont'd)

New Business

Appoint DuBois/Sandy Consolidation Committee

yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Mollica, yea; Salandra, yea; Sullivan, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 10-0.

Appoint Joint Board/Consolidation Committee Solicitor

The motion was made by Bernardo and seconded by Beers to appoint Cafardi Ferguson Wyrick Weis and Gabriel as the solicitor for the Joint Board and Consolidation Committee. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Mollica, yea; Salandra, yea; Sullivan, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 10-0.

Award proposal for the Strategic Management Planning Program

The motion was made by Beers and seconded by Gabriel to award the proposal for the Strategic Management Planning Program to Eckert Seamans/Pennsylvania Economy League. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Mollica, yea; Salandra, nay; Sullivan, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 9-1.

Set Joint Board Meeting Dates & Times

The motion was made by Beers and seconded by Sullivan to set the Joint Board meeting dates as the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, with the exception of July 5 and September 6, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the City of DuBois Municipal Building. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Mollica, yea; Salandra, yea; Sullivan, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 10-0.

Set Consolidation Committee First Meeting Dates and Times

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Gabriel to set the first Consolidation Committee meeting date for January 26, 2022 at 12 p.m. (Noon) at the City of DuBois Municipal Building. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Mollica, yea; Salandra, yea; Sullivan, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 10-0.

Joint Board Member Comments

Kevin Salandra - Sandy Township Supervisor

He stated that he looks forward to working with everyone. As mentioned, it is historic and it's going to be a lot of work to do in a short amount of time. He thinks once we get started we are going to realize it's an even shorter amount of time. He looks forward to working with everyone.

Diane Bernardo - DuBois City Council

She and Supervisor Sullivan were talking; they feel this is long overdue. She believes that Sandy Township and the City of DuBois are going to be the premier consolidation, that everyone around the state of Pennsylvania and the nation will be looking at us to see how we did it. She went on to say, that Supervisor Sullivan made the comment that if we think we have business and industry now, just wait until its consolidated. We will attract people that we never thought we could attract.

Barry Abbott - Sandy Township Supervisor

Mr. Abbott thanked the voters of DuBois and Sandy Township for coming out and supporting the consolidation issue. He went on to thank the Sandy Township Supervisors and the DuBois City Council for embracing it. He went on to say that as Supervisor Salandra said, there is an immense amount of work that needs to take place and we will all need to hit the ground running. He is looking forward to working with everyone. The public made this happen.

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Sam Mollica - Sandy Township Supervisor

Supervisor Mollica stated that he was a young man at 34-year-old the first time the vote for consolidation took place. He is now 66-years-old and very happy to see this day.

Jim Aughenbaugh - DuBois City Council

He's looking forward to working together, it will be a lot of work and we're not always going to agree on everything. We'll just have to agree to disagree sometimes, but we will just need to be respectful of each other. We will all be professional as always and he feels there will be a good outcome. Also, thank you to the public for voting consolidation in.

Shawn Arbaugh - Township Manager

Thank you to everyone that submitted a letter of interest for the committees, we are still looking at various subcommittees; so, if your name didn't get called tonight don't get discouraged. We still have several individuals wanting to be a part of this and we appreciate your interest. He stated he is looking forward to working with everyone.

Herm Suplizio - DuBois City Manager

This has been a long time coming, thank you to everyone in this room for coming out. We have looked at this issue hard and long and I believe we have a great Transition Team. As Shawn said, there is going to be a lot of subcommittees. We have a lot to take care of in a short period of time. I think we can do it. I would like to thank Jason and Libby Gray who worked hard on this along with lot of people in this community. The community embraced this, no matter what the vote was, we have to come through and show we can get this done. I feel we have a spotlight on us, and we need to make sure this consolidation is done properly. I would like to thank our neutral person Dick Whitaker, I believe a lot of people think highly of him and I'm looking forward to working with him.

Edward Walsh - Mayor and President of DuBois City Council

I think everything has been said that I wanted to say. Again, thank you Mr. and Mrs. Gray. I would be remiss if I didn't introduce and say thank you to Terri Cunkle from DCED. She has taken the bull by the horns, and that's why we have gotten as far as we have today. He thanked her on behalf of the Board.

Terri Cunkle - DCED

Thanked Walsh and stated that she is looking forward to working with everyone.

City Manager Suplizio stated he would talk for everyone keep the money coming.

Open Meeting to the Floor

Tony Waylonis - 423 Central Christian Rd - Questions on Consultant

Waylonis - Question concerning the Consultant that was hired; is this going to be advice only or a supervisory situation? Is he going to run the show or just give advice?

Walsh - Mayor City of DuBois - Asked Shawn Arbaugh if he would like to answer.

Arbaugh, Township Manager- The consultant is holding our hand through the process and making recommendations; ultimately, it is going to be the 10-member Joint Board making the final decisions.

Waylonis - Length of Contract?

CITY OF DUBOIS/SANDY TOWNSHIP JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Cont'd)

Open Meeting to the Floor (Cont'd.)

Tony Waylonis - 423 Central Christian Rd - Questions on Consultant (Cont'd.)

Arbaugh - They have until September 30, 2022 to get us a draft of the agreement that should be ready to going to our Solicitor for review.

Waylonis - The funding for this is coming out of the \$200,000 grant, how much of it? How much is it going to cost us?

Arbaugh - The agreement was for \$200,000 with a 10% requirement match; 5% from the City, 5% from the Township. The contact is not to exceed \$220,000.

Waylonis - How much?

Arbaugh, - \$220,000

Waylonis - So we're going to dump all this money on the consultant?

Arbaugh - It is not to exceed \$220,000; so, depending on the time needed, it could be something less than that.

Waylonis - How much money is in the budget that both Sandy and DuBois recently passed to support this merger effort? There are a lot of things you have to cover; such as, if your staff is going to be shrunken because of the merger, you might have to put out money for incentives to retire early \$10,000 to \$15,000 per person. It's going to chew up a lot of money. You may have addition costs with reorganization, vehicles relabeled from Sandy, signage around the area is going to have to be changed....

Suplizio - DuBois City Manager - We have one year to put this plan together and three years to put it in place.

Waylonis - All I am saying is there is a lot better ways to spend the \$200,000. Other municipalities have gone through this. We should ask for their lessons learned and put together your own plan of action.

Walsh - Mayor City of DuBois - This type of consolidation has not been done in the state of Pennsylvania for over 25 years.

Waylonis - Nevertheless it's been done before.

Arbaugh - This program that we entered into, enables us to apply for additional funding for things like you were just talking about. If we don't start here, we cannot get to the next phase 2, 3, and 4 which I believe are what you are talking about. This is why we need to do it this way.

Waylonis - You put together a request for proposals for the hiring of the Consultants. Did you have a tentative plan put together? Or did you just put out a very brief statement?

Arbaugh - We worked with DCED on a very detailed RFP that was sent out across the state and out of state. We had interviews for Consultants from all over even New York City.

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Open Meeting to the Floor (Cont'd.)

Tony Waylonis - 423 Central Christian Rd - Questions on Consultant (Cont'd.)

Waylonis - So, this firm you hired, has done this before?

Arbaugh - They have experience with consolidations, yes.

Waylonis - But not in this state?

Arbaugh - Yes, they do. Actually it's the firm that handled St. Marys.

Waylonis - So, it has happened within the lifetime of this Consultant?

Arbaugh - Correct

Waylonis - Well, there you go you have another community to tap into for advice.

Walsh - They were involved in the St. Mary's consolidation.

Waylonis - Thanked the Board

Walsh asked if there was anyone else with questions or concerns.

Close Meeting to the Floor

Adjourn

There being no further business to transact; the motion was made by Beers and seconded by Gabriel that the DuBois/Sandy Joint Board adjourn. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Mollica, yea; Salandra, yea; Sullivan, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 10-0.

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____