

CITY OF DUBOIS/SANDY TOWNSHIP JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 19, 2024 @ 6 p.m.

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 6 p.m.; DuBois City Council and Sandy Township Supervisors convened at their Joint Board Meeting. Board Members present were: Barry Abbott, Jim Aughenbaugh (by phone), Bill Beers, Shane Dietz, Elliot Gelfand, Jennifer Jackson, Sam Mollica, Pat Reasinger and Mark Sullivan. Also present were: Public Works Director/Engineer, Chris Nasuti; Sandy Township Chief of Police, Kris Kruzalak; Zac Lawhead, DuBois Codes Officer; and City Secretary, Korbi Slocum.

Absent: DuBois/Sandy Township Manager, Shawn Arbaugh; and Supervisor Richard Whitaker

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Co-Chairman Pat Reasinger.

Roll Call

All board members except Richard Whitaker were present.

Executive Session

Reasinger announced an Executive Session took place prior to the meeting to discuss personnel on one of the committees.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

There were no comments.

Correspondence

None to present.

Clearfield Commissioner Tim Winters

Commissioner Winters discussed resources available through Clearfield County. "The 5% hotel tax collected through Clearfield County is disbursed through Clearfield County Recreation Tourism Authority, for practical purposes it's Visit Clearfield County. Each year, they solicit grants and sponsorship proposals. There will be a deadline of November 30. A committee then awards monies for the 2025 season. With the baseball fields and the huge investment and great success DuBois has had with their athletic fields, you need to plan ahead for next year. Over the last four years, I believe \$140,000.00 has been requested on the baseball side and \$90,000.00 has been granted. So, we do have a long-term relationship from the county tourism point of view with the baseball facilities. Sports tourism is a growing business. It's not a matter of 'build it and they will come'; sometimes you have to pay them to come." Reasinger asked how much Clearfield County takes in from the hotel tax. Winters replied, "In round numbers, \$600,000.00. It did increase from 3% to 5%, so that may go up a little bit. It is a competitive grant and sponsorship. We solicit proposals from partners throughout the entire county. DuBois baseball is a little different. That is a long-term investment in facilities. We will always partner to the extent that we can. We do have others. These are facilities that are going to be here for the long-term, so there's always going to be a degree of partnership." Abbott asked what portion of the hotel tax that's collected from DuBois comes back to DuBois. Winters shared some statics. "From 2020 to date, DuBois applied for \$195,000.00 (not including baseball) and was awarded \$95,000.00. Baseball alone, from 2020 to 2024 (not including 2021), they've applied for \$140,000.00 and been granted \$90,000.00. Historically, the money is awarded throughout the

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Clearfield Commissioner Tim Winters (continued)

county based on who applies. Everybody gets their share, but you have to apply." Abbott questioned why the award for Small College World Series over the past five years went from \$25,000.00 the first year down to \$5,000.00. Winters responded, "This is not intended to fund things for perpetuity. You get things up and running and, I think you want to look at other outside sponsors as well. The number of people applying for grants has increased exponentially." Beers asked what percentage of the \$600,000.00 came from the DuBois/Sandy Township area. Winters replied, "We're geared at the Interstate exits. DuBois fares very well. Clearfield fares very well through the Penn State season. I think Clearfield is ahead on number of rooms, but not by a huge amount." Several other specific questions were asked. Winters referred specific questions to Executive Director Sue Swales-Vitullo. "She can answer any questions you may have. My main point on being here is to get this on your radar for next year."

Old Business

Managers' Progress Report

- Architect Update
- Special Counsel Update
- Tax Structure, Budget, and Utility User Fee Subcommittee

Preliminary floor plans for the addition and upgrades to the existing DuBois Municipal Building have been completed and are available for review. There is a full set of plans at both the DuBois and Sandy Township municipal buildings. We are getting information this week on the construction schedule and project budget that I will get out to everyone. You can discuss that at the July 17 meeting.

Special Counsel continues to make progress on Social Security, pension and civil service issues. We don't have anything to present tonight. Shawn will have the pension options available for you at the July meeting. They have sent the declaratory judgement for civil service to the police union for their review. As soon as it comes back, it will go to the county.

You do need to make a motion to replace me (Nasuti) on the Tax Structure, Budget and Utility User Fee Subcommittee. Abbott moved and Gelfand seconded to remove Chris Nasuti upon his retirement and replace him with Scott Farrell from the City. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Jackson, yea; Mollica, yea; Sullivan, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 9-0.

At the last meeting there was a discussion about expanding the committee. You could choose to expand that committee. You could choose to hire a consultant to help you through that committee process. I think you should take action on one of those issues. The motion was made by Beers and seconded by Jackson to put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a tax consultant and see if we can get it covered under the STMP program and to hold off on the committee until we get a consultant hired who can meet with Shawn Arbaugh and give some direction. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Jackson, yea; Mollica, yea; Sullivan, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of the Minutes from May 15, 2024

The motion was made by Beers and seconded by Sullivan to accept the minutes from May 15, 2024, as presented. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Jackson, yea; Mollica, yea; Sullivan, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 9-0.

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

New Business

- Approval of Invoices
 - McNeese, Wallace & Nurick, LLC - \$6,048.00
- Parks and Recreation Director Position
- DuBois City Refinancing Bonds
- Authorization to hire for vacant positions
 - Sandy Township Planner/Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer
 - Sandy Township Public Works Director
 - DuBois City Engineer

The invoice is for work McNeese, Wallace & Nurick, LLC is doing on the pension, civil service and Social Security issues. Abbott questioned two identical entries on 4/2/24 and 4/10/24 for K. Weibley reviewing and summarizing retirement plan provisions. "Is there an error on the bill?" Nasuti replied, "Mr. Weibley is the counsel for the police unions. Our counsel, Adam Santucci, would be discussing different options with Mr. Weibley. I'm sure they're having multiple discussions. I will verify that before we pay the invoice." Gelfand asked if the past due amount listed (\$1,728.00) is part of the \$6,048.00 on the agenda. Nasuti replied, "We approved that one last time." Gelfand clarified, "So we'll be good after we pay the \$6,000.00?" Nasuti confirmed, "Correct." The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Beers to pay the invoice as listed. Abbott asked, "Are we going to pay this bill without answering my question?" Nasuti replied, "No, I will call him tomorrow." Gelfand amended his motion to add the stipulation that the amount be paid as long as Chris confirms the amounts are proper. Nasuti clarified, "We will approve this at Monday's City meeting. We bring it here for the board to bless, but the City physically pays the bill, so we approve it at ours. If there's any change, it will be noted at the meeting on Monday night." Beers who seconded the original motion accepted the amended motion. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Jackson, yea; Mollica, yea; Sullivan, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 9-0.

At a previous meeting, the Joint Board authorized moving forward with the Parks and Recreation Director position. We had a committee put together with the assistance of our park director and the school district. We are moving forward on developing that job description. We will have more information at an upcoming meeting. Gelfand questioned the position being approved by the Joint Board. Beers understood that it was approved to put the item on the agenda. Reasinger clarified that it was approved to be on the agenda and get a job description. Sullivan added, "I think that's something that will probably need to go in the 2025 budget. We're not looking at hiring anyone this year, are we?" Beers added, "Truthfully, that should go hand in hand if we get this tax consultant when they start looking into everything, so we've got some time." Reasinger said, "I think that's a position we need eventually. We need someone to promote the fields." Nasuti said, "That position is actually approved, I believe, in the agreement." Reasinger said, "We could hire one if we wanted to." Gelfand suggested, "Or, we could take a look at hiring an economic development person first and they would be more in charge. Right now, Shawn and Chris were handling all the grants and things like that. The economic development person would take over grants and business development on the fields and any other kinds of events, marketing, branding things we want to do. They can decide if we want to hire a Parks within that. Right now we have Jim Pullman managing the scheduling of the fields. He's a contractor, not a permanent position. Do we want to hire an eventual parks and rec director to start managing that kind of stuff below the economic development person. I'd like to have that up for consideration before we start moving forward with the parks and rec person."

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

New Business (continued)

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide information regarding a loan refinance/bond issue that the City of DuBois is working on. This will ultimately need to be approved by the Joint Board. The City is looking

at refinancing three variable rate loans and obtaining a \$2 million short-term bond to be repaid through RACP grant for building addition. A few important notes, you all should have a summary in your packet. On the summary page, the first three columns show the three variable interest loans. At the current interest rates, this equates to a debt service payment of \$1,213,369.00 per year. On the second part of the table, the offering yield is the interest rate. It adjusts slightly through the term of the bond, but equates to a debt service payment of \$1,114,700.00 annually for a savings of approximately \$100,000.00 per year. The cost of the bond issuance is \$246,362 with \$45,902 as bond insurance to get us a better rating and receive a lower interest rate. The cost of the \$2 million bond issue is \$24,005. This cost is lower because if we do this at the same time as the other bond it saves some of the redundant fees. We are targeting the end of July/early August to do the ordinance for the bond. These initial numbers are fluid and a product of the daily market index. Shawn wanted to give you an update as to what the City was doing on their end to try and refinance this. Because of the amount of money we're talking about, it will need approval by the Joint Board to do so.

Beers asked, "This will clean up everything or is there any still outstanding in the legal issue that might come out down the road?" Nasuti responded, "I don't think any of these loans had anything to do with the legal issues." Beers clarified, "What I'm saying is, is there anything out there that you don't know yet that might be in this legal issue that didn't crop up yet? Because since you don't have all the facts, that's what I want to know. I'd like to do this one time and not multiple times." Nasuti replied, "I can't tell you anything we don't know about." Reasinger added, "But, there are some other loans you'll see on there that are 2-3% that aren't part of the refinancing." Sullivan interjected, "I think what Bill means is there anything that maybe hasn't been uncovered here." Bill said, "Exactly, that's why I want to bring it up." Reasinger said, "We get stuff every week, Bill." Gelfand added, "We have reached out to most of the financial institutions in the area and asked if there were any accounts, loans, etc., in the City EIN number that we could be made aware of and we have all the responses back from them. I can't say we know everything." Nasuti said, "I think we're pretty confident. These are the three major loans we have." Gelfand added, "We have gone looking as much as we can." This item does not need any action tonight. Shawn will bring it back in July or August. We just want to make sure that everybody in the community knows we are looking at refinancing those bonds.

The motion was made by Sullivan and seconded by Jackson to authorize Sandy Township to hire for vacant position of Sandy Township Planning/Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Jackson, yea; Mollica, yea; Sullivan, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 9-0.

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Beers to authorize Sandy Township to hire a Public Works Director. Gelfand had a question. "Chris was the Engineer and Public Works Director, correct?" Nasuti replied, "Yes. Sandy Township's is different." Sullivan explained, "Matt Cook who retired from Sandy Township was our Public Works Director." Nasuti said, "We have a director and a superintendent; they just have a director." Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Jackson, yea; Mollica, yea; Sullivan, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 9-0.

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The motion was made by Beers and seconded by Jackson to move forward with hiring a DuBois/Sandy Township Engineer. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Jackson, yea; Mollica, yea; Sullivan, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 9-0.

Joint Board Member Comments

Jennifer Jackson

Gave a shout out for DuBois Days, the City workers and Troop 36 who did clean up. How about the DCC Softball? Amazing! We start Musicfest tomorrow night in the park, so be there from 6:30-8:00.

Barry Abbott

Echoed congratulations to the DuBois Central Girls' Softball team being crowned state champions for Pennsylvania. Congratulations for the 75th Anniversary of the Little League. That was quite an entertaining project they put forth. I'm going to ask the Joint Board if they would join Sandy Township as we proceed through the PUC filings against Aqua. In my opinion, we just need a voice vote of confidence that we can move forward because this could affect all of us. They are requesting a total rate increase of \$126.7 million per year. That is per their announcement. Mollica interjected, "I think that's for other municipalities, too." To which Abbott replied, "Well, Sam, we never got that answer. But, I think the Joint Board should be aware of that as Sandy Township enjoins Treasure Lake in fighting this rate increase.

Pat Reasinger

She (Jackson) took all my stuff.

Sam Mollica

I already signed a petition about the Aqua increase, and I've contacted different people just to enlighten myself on how, if there's a possibility of maybe in the future of having Aqua sell the system to the DuBois system. That would solve a lot of problems, I think. They have better water quality which I think is what a lot of them basically want. I think the PUC will protect the rate payers out there, to a certain extent. They're not going to allow price gouging, but you do have to make sure the PUC gets our attention, so it's a good idea to do that. I do want to congratulate what everyone else mentioned about the different organizations that did so well.

Jim Aughenbaugh

Ditto on what was said on all the achievements, especially the DuBois Central Catholic girls and the Little League and the park and everything. Really good.

Open Meeting to the Floor

Dave Lombardo – Treasure Lake

"Barry, did you vote yes on Monday? The township was going to vote whether they were going to get the attorney jointly with the Treasure Lake folks." Abbott replied, "We voted to enjoin with the Treasure Lake to fight the rate increase." Lombardo continued, "I'm on the Board of Directors and Shawn came in." Abbott said, "I think we voted unanimously." The other Supervisors agreed. Beers added, "Now, there's something going around that we're in this civil lawsuit. We're not in a civil lawsuit. We're under the rate increase. We're fighting for you for that. I got numerous phone calls the other day, or Tuesday, about that we're going to give each resident \$50,000.00 under a civil lawsuit."

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

Close Meeting to the Floor

Adjourn

There being no further business to transact, the motion was made by Beers and seconded by Gelfand that the DuBois/Sandy Township Joint Board adjourn. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Jackson, yea; Mollica, yea; Sullivan, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 9-0.

ATTEST: Korbi Slocum

APPROVED: 