

**CITY OF DUBOIS/SANDY TOWNSHIP JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, September 18, 2024 @ 6 p.m.**

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 6 p.m.; DuBois City Council and Sandy Township Supervisors convened at their Joint Board Meeting. Board Members present were: Barry Abbott, Bill Beers, Shane Dietz, Elliot Gelfand (by phone), Sam Mollica, Richard Whitaker, Pat Reasinger and Mark Sullivan. Also present were: DuBois/Sandy Township City Manager, Shawn Arbaugh; Public Works Superintendent, Scott Farrell; DuBois Codes Officer, Zac Lawhead; DuBois Interim Police Chief, Shawn McCleary; Sandy Township Police Chief Kris Kruzelak; and City Secretary, Korbi Slocum.

**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**

Elliot Gelfand was present by telephone. Jim Aughenbaugh and Jennifer Jackson were absent.

**Executive Session**

The board was in executive session prior to this meeting to discuss union contracts and legal issues.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items Only**

There were no comments.

**Correspondence**

None to present.

**Old Business**

Managers' Progress Report

- Architect Update
- Special Counsel Update
- Tax Structure, Budget, and Utility User Fee Proposal
- Fire Study Update

The work for the renovations at the DuBois Municipal building is out for bid. The deadline is October 10, and we hope to award the work on October 16. Bids for renovations to the Sandy Township building were not part of that. They will go out at a later date.

The actuarial review is still under way for the pension plans. We are in a holding pattern on the police pension because they are waiting for an opinion from the Attorney General's office. Work on the non-uniform pension is moving along and we hope to have some results by October 16.

We are on hold with the Pennsylvania Economy League until the Executive Department signs off on the STMP Grant. Once that is signed, we can officially award. We have a draft contract in place and ready to go.

The last in-person visit will be September 25, 2024. They will visit the remaining five fire stations.

## CITY OF DUBOIS/SANDY TOWNSHIP JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

### Approval of the Minutes from August 21, 2024

The motion was made by Beers and seconded by Whitaker to accept the minutes from August 21, 2024, as presented. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Mollica, yea; Whitaker, yea; Reasinger, yea; Sullivan, yea. Motion passed 8-0.

### New Business

- DCED Letter of Intent – Technical Assistance/Assistant Manager Position
- Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Part-time Officer
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program
- Approval of Invoices
  - KTH Architects - \$35,336.50

Not many of the Assistant Manager candidates we interviewed have experience with municipal government. DCED will help us search for qualified candidates. The letter of intent will allow us to work with DCED on the Assistant Manager search. The motion was made by Beers and seconded by Reasinger to approve and sign the DCED Letter of Intent. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Mollica, yea; Whitaker, yea; Reasinger, yea; Sullivan, yea. Motion passed 8-0.

Chief Kruzalak is recommending the hire of retired Trooper Bernard Snyder as a part-time Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Officer. Snyder is a 25-year veteran with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and was previously a full-time police officer with Sandy Township prior to entering the State Police in 2000. In this new position, his vast experience in motor carrier enforcement will aid in the development of the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) for Sandy Township and the City of DuBois. The program's objectives are to improve commercial motor vehicle safety on our highways including Routes 219, 255 and 322 by performing preventative safety inspections, assist in crash investigations and reconstruction, ensure proper posting of signage and weight limit enforcement, and provide an education and outreach component to local commercial motor vehicle owners and operators. In addition, he will cover as needed as School Resource Officer (SRO) at DCC and assist in the Booking Center on Fridays. The cost for these additional duties will be covered by the county. Snyder will be hired by Sandy Township.

Board members had questions including the timing of the hire (he needs to be active or lose his certifications), were other current full-time officers offered the position (none have the specialized training), is Snyder aware of the SRO duties (yes and he will have to do some training first), is the agreement with DOT in writing (we have a mutual aid agreement), will Sandy Township receive all of the fines or will it be 50/50 and is that in writing (the fees will be shared and no), and will he have a set number of hours (whatever we can fit in but some of his SRO hours will be scheduled). The motion was made by Mollica and seconded by Reasinger to approve hiring Snyder as the part-time Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Officer. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Mollica, yea; Whitaker, yea; Reasinger, yea; Sullivan, yea. Motion passed 8-0.

We are partnering with Northcentral for this grant program. This is a good opportunity, especially with consolidation, to put in for this grant to help us do some things zoning wise, land use wise and to bring our ordinances together. We also look at things like housing supply. We will come up with a good plan for the area and this is a good starting point. We are not certain of the cost to bring in a consultant – we think about \$250,000.00. It is an 80/20 matching program so we would seek \$200,000.00 in grant funding with a \$50,000.00 match of Township/City funding. This is worthwhile and will help us progress toward the

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consolidated plan that we need to have done by 2027. The motion was made by Reasinger and seconded by Beers to approve moving forward with the grant program. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Mollica, yea; Whitaker, yea; Reasinger, yea; Sullivan, yea. Motion passed 8-0.

The motion was made by Beers and seconded by Whitaker to pay the invoice for KTH Architects in the amount of \$35,336.50. Arbaugh reminded the board that 90% of the cost is covered by the grant with the remainder covered 5% each by Sandy Township and the City of DuBois. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Mollica, yea; Whitaker, yea; Reasinger, yea; Sullivan, yea. Motion passed 8-0.

### Joint Board Member Comments

#### Barry Abbott

"Pat and I were at the new bus terminal. It is quite a building! Last week's worker training was well attended by employees from both Sandy Township and the City who are our backbone. Ed Yahner (of Waste Management) gave a nice presentation for the commercial service increase at the City Council meeting on September 9th. I can't wrap my head around the removal of benches. You can't erase history. I am against it. Our residents have to get over the hatred going on around the City, on the Internet, and personal attacks. Over the next several months, let's focus on creating something positive." Abbott listed a number of suggestions including various community celebrations, free downtown parking to bring people downtown, and partnering with Treasure Lake. "We need to look better and act better. Help each other, don't tear each other down. I'm 100% in on consolidation. Let's move on!"

#### Richard Whitaker

"I echo Barry's positivity. We do have things to overcome, but we have some great things going on and we need to emphasize that."

#### Shane Dietz

"I like some of Barry's ideas. Block parties are a lot of work, but I think it would be fun to have a few more of those. I'm all for it."

#### Pat Reasinger

"I'm definitely for the parade."

#### Sam Mollica

"I want to disagree about the garbage company. Being in business for almost 40 years... when you try to get out of their contract, they threaten to sue you and do other things. It wasn't a pleasant experience. Barry brings up good ideas. As far as people complaining about things, I don't want to stop people from coming to meetings and speaking... that's their right. I like to hear their point of view."

#### Shawn Arbaugh

"The joint staff meeting between Sandy Township and City of DuBois employees went very well, just to interact and get to know each other. We're going to do more things together. It was a great day and a great event. I want to let everybody know there is going to be a bridge dedication ceremony for the Sandy Bridge on October 17 at 1:00 p.m. in memory of Officer Brad Wilson. It is put together by Joe Woods and the military Order of the Purple Heart and VFW."

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Mark Sullivan

"I want to thank Barry for his comments. The only one I want to touch on specifically is, I agree with you 100% on trying to erase history. There's a lot of articles out there on the net that touch on the 52-some cities that touch on all types of violence. Ever since the George Floyd incident right up through to today where people were tearing down statues and vandalizing monuments of our past citizens. I think that is a slippery slope and I agree with you, Barry, that we should not be erasing history."

**Open Meeting to the Floor**

Dave Lombardo – Treasure Lake

Lombardo questioned the letter of intent, if Treasure Lake would have access to the person hired, and what that person's responsibilities would be. Arbaugh clarified, "We were looking for an Assistant Manager/Economic Development Coordinator. We want to see more municipal government experience with the folks. We help on some grants as we have capacity now, as needed. We're actually partnering on a grant coming up here with Treasure Lake. We have some really good personnel, one of them is Scott Farrell. As far as utility and infrastructure goes and replacement, he's got a lot of good ideas and knows what needs done and when it needs done. We're not quite as up to speed because we had some personnel changeovers, but we are quickly getting up to speed. As far as our water and sewer infrastructure in the City, Scott's got a really good handle on it, and he could share his expertise." Lombardo asked Reasinger about the trees he has talked about and if they have been planted. Reasinger said, "Today I was out with Scott from Penn State Extension and we marked a lot, probably 80 spots for trees. We need to do the 811 to see where all the utilities are. We're not going to be able to plant all of those trees, but... it will probably be the middle of November is when we're going to need help to plant the dormant trees." Lombardo mentioned the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Tri-County Coin Club Show October 13<sup>th</sup> in Falls Creek.

**Close Meeting to the Floor**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to transact, the motion was made by Beers and seconded by Mollica that the DuBois/Sandy Township Joint Board adjourn. Roll call was as follows: Abbott, yea; Beers, yea; Dietz, yea; Gelfand, yea; Mollica, yea; Whitaker, yea; Reasinger, yea; Sullivan, yea. Motion passed 8-0.

ATTEST: Karbi Sloceum

APPROVED: 