

WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
November 1, 2023

Supervisors – **James Heckman, Chairman**
Deborah Zimmerman, Vice Chairman
Keith Harter

Township Engineer - **Don Franson**

Zoning Officer - **Mike Lesniak**

Secretary - **Sue Wagner**

Guests:

Supervisor Heckman called the November 1, 2023 meeting to order at 6:00pm in the Walker Township Municipal Building.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Heckman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of October 4, 2023 Minutes: Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the October minutes as presented; motion second by Supervisor Heckman. Motion approved by all.

Agenda Items:

- Warren Miller, Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority (SBWJA), gave an update on the meeting with the Township, SBWJA, and DEP regarding the 537 Plan for Snyderstown Rd and Hublersburg Rd. After the meeting, DEP visited the area with SBWJA. Mr. Miller consulted with Walker Township SEO Stan Wallace who said he feels both areas are in good shape and do not need any attention. The Board feels it is not necessary currently to pursue updating the plan.

SBWJA would like a Right-of-Way to run a new sewer line from the Compost area to behind the pole building in the park. The line would then connect to their existing line and flow to the Mingoville Pump Station. Mr. Miller said they will stake the area for the Board to look at and consider.

GUESTS:

- See List Attached
- Leah Burd gave an update on the Centre County Tax Committee meeting she attended for the Township.
- Doug Corman, Township Resident spoke of his concern for the high traffic speed ever since the concrete median was removed at Walker Meadows. Engineer Franson suggested starting with the speed sensory system to determine the speed of the area. Supervisor Heckman is also going to ask State Police to monitor the area.
- Mr. David Arleth asked the Board to consider adding a Solar Energy System to the Municipal Building. He told the Board PA Solar Center will give a free assessment.

ENGINEER REPORT:

- Engineer Franson asked the Board to submit a request to the Centre Commissioners to consider using the 2022 Centre County Liquid Fuels award towards the 2024 Hemlock Dr/Forest Avenue project. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to authorize Engineer Franson to proceed with his request; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman. Supervisor Harter said no. Motion passed 2-1.
- Engineer Franson recommends trimming the tree at the corner of Cemetery Lane and Zion Back Rd to fix a site distance issue. Supervisor Harter spoke with Bill Struble, President of the Zion Cemetery and he said the tree can be removed instead of trimming.

Solicitor Report:

- Solicitor Miller prepared the Right of Way (ROW) Agreement for the new water line along Zion Back Rd by the new Parking Lot. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to sign the Agreement; motion second by Supervisor Zimmerman. Supervisor Harter said they could have followed the roads ROW and the only purpose of running the line was to give Mr. Beard and the Little's a fire hydrant. Supervisor Harter voted no. Motion passed 2-1.
- A Public Hearing was held to discuss adding Contractors Shop and Yard with Conditions to the Agricultural Zoning District. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to have Solicitor Miller prepare an Ordinance to allow addition; motion second by Supervisor Zimmerman. Supervisor Harter said why should we change the Zoning Ordinance every time someone wants to do something; we might as well not have Zoning. Supervisor Harter voted no. Motion passed 2-1.
- Solicitor Miller prepared the resolution for amending the Schedule of Fees. Supervisor Harter made a motion to approve Resolution 23-481 amending the Schedule of Fees for Road Occupancy Permits; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman. James Heckman said no. Motion carried 2-1.

ZONING:

- Zoning Officer Lesniak reported there were 10 Zoning Permits issued in the month of October.

ROADMASTER:

- Supervisor Harter received two quotes for the Road Milling Project to fix the issues around 106 Benner Road.
 1. Bowman, Excavating, Paving and Concrete - \$1,200.00 and the project will be done in 2024
 2. Eby Paving - \$1,345.00 and the project should be able to be done in 2023Supervisor Harter made a motion to accept the Eby Paving quote in the amount of \$1,345.00; motion second by Supervisor Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Parks and Rec:

- Supervisor Zimmerman reported Engineer Franson inspected the equipment on the playground by the ball fields that Parks and Rec said were deteriorating. He said they are in serious bad shape and recommends they be replaced. Parks and Rec will obtain quotes for new equipment and also look into grant opportunities to help with the cost.
- Signage has been ordered with Brownies Signs for the Compost area.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to hold a Special Meeting on November 6, 2023 at 6:00pm to work on the 2024 Budget; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all.
- Supervisor Heckman made a motion to donate \$2,500.00 to the Centre County Library; motion second by Supervisor Harter and approved by all.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion to remove Landyn Carson from his 60-day probation and give him all Township benefits effective on the 60th day of his employment; motion second by Supervisor Zimmerman and approved by all.
- The Secretary would like to email the monthly minutes for all Boards to those Board members who prefer instead of mailing them. The Board agreed.
- Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept Geisinger Health Plan for Employee health care benefits for the period 12/1/2023 – 12/1/2024; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all.
- Supervisor Zimmerman continues to work with the Fire Company to finalize a form for persons interested in being on the Fire Company Joint Operating Committee.

Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the October 2023 General Fund Paid Bills in the amount of \$109,936.77 and Treasurer's Report; motion second by Supervisor Zimmerman and approved by all.

The Board moved to an Executive Session to discuss personnel at 7:35pm

The Board reconvened at 7:58pm

Supervisor Heckman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion second by Supervisor Harter and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan L. Wagner