

WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
August 7, 2024

Supervisors – **James Heckman, Chairman**
Zane Sherman, Vice Chairman
Keith Harter, Supervisor

Solicitor -- **John Miller III**

Township Engineer - **Don Franson**

Zoning Officer - **Mike Lesniak**

Secretary - **Angel Emery**

Guests:	Dennis McDowell	Rich Poorman	Ron Berger
	Tim Meyer	Kris Little	Leah Burd
	Aaron Allgyer	John King	Roy Vonada
	Warren Miller	Matt Nelson	

Chairman Heckman called the August 7, 2024, meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Walker Township Municipal Building.

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

Approval of July 2, 2024 Minutes:

- There was discussion about whether the motion made regarding the July minutes would be corrected, Solicitor Miller recommended making a motion to rescind the motion. Sherman explained that he reached out to the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) for guidance on this issue. It was indicated to him that once a motion is made and carried, it cannot be changed. Solicitor Miller suggested that no motion should be changed if that is how the motion was made in a meeting. **Sherman made a motion to approve the July 2nd meeting minutes as they are currently written 2-1 (Harter voted no)**

Approval June 5, 2024, Minutes:

- **Harter made a motion to approve the minutes as originally written, seconded by Heckman and motion passed 2-1 (Sherman voted no)**

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Warren Miller presented plans to finalize the request for a right of way across the future parkland of the township from Zion Back Road. Miller explained the plans as presented and requested approval to survey the area to help provide public sewage to the new developments. **On a motion by Heckman and second by Sherman motion passed to give Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority the authority to establish a right of way across the township ground for sewer 2-1 (Harter voted no)**

GUESTS

- Denny McDowell: Thanked the fire company for cleaning the park concrete pads.
- Rich Poorman: Inquired about the change to the meeting date and requested better public notification.

6:30 opening the bids for Forest Ave/Hemlock

Gutelius Excavating -\$49,860

Bowman Excavating in Zion- \$46,329

Don Franson's estimate was around \$30,000, he reviewed both bids. Harter finds it to be a waste of taxpayer money since PennDOT and the Township Engineer originally did not recommend this project. Discussion of rebidding it in the spring ensued and if the county would give the township another year since they're granting \$15,000 towards the project. **On a motion by Heckman and second by Harter motion passed to reject the two bids received for the project on Forest Ave 3-0. Heckman made a motion to rebid in January, Sherman seconded, and motion passed 2-1 (Harter voted no)**

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

- Franson reviewed the inspection report for the Hoy Road bridge and reported that no action was needed since the bridge is set to be replaced in 2025.
- Franson presented information on the parking lot painting, he noted that the ADA spot is not compliant and recommended a van ADA parking spot with a loading zone. Estimate on the project in \$35,000-\$40,000, add about \$2,500 per parking spot for expansion if that is desired. **On a motion by Heckman and second by Harter motion passed to table this until Don Franson can provide some more information 3-0.**
- Franson presented information on a mid-block crossing from the new parking lot to the township park. The mid-block crossing and parking lot project could both be put together into one project. Franson is estimating the cross walk will cost around \$10,000. The Board of Supervisors agreed to table this project as well and put the parking lot and mid-block crossing together as one project.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

- Solicitor Miller presented Resolution 24-489, declaring the township's intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records. **On a motion by Sherman and 2nd by Harter motion passed to adopt Resolution 24-489 3-0.**
- Kish Logging has completed their project on Zion Back Road. **On a motion by Sherman and 2nd by Harter motion passed to return Kish Lumber's letter of credit 3-0.**

ZONING:

- Mike Lesniak reported that 10 zoning permits were issued in the month of July.
- Transient and short-term rentals were discussed, Lesniak's position on the matter is that it would have to be zoned for a hotel or motel, and it would have to be inspected as a commercial unit rather than residential.
- Lesniak spoke on 114 Zook Lane, he missed the deadline by a few days but had been in contact with the son of the applicant during that period and let him know that more research was needed. It was also found that the conditions that were set up for this property a few years ago have not been met. It is the opinion of the zoning officer that it is not legal to operate their business at this time as the conditions have not been met.

ROADMASTER:

- Harter discussed ordinance 210, **Harter made a motion to adopt Ordinance 210 minus the verbiage added by Supervisor Sherman which created a loophole for utilities to get out of going through the township to get emergency approval, no second and motion died. Sherman made a motion to remove ordinance 210, March 27th version from the agenda for future Board of Supervisors meetings unless revisions are made to Section 1 and/or Section 9, paragraph N, subparagraph (2) that change the intent of the ordinance, second by Heckman and motion passed 2-1 (Harter voted no)**
- The PennDOT map was reviewed, and corrections were made.
- Harter discussed the itemized list from the fire company for their expenditures for 2023 of money that the township provided to the fire company. **On a motion by Heckman and 2nd by Sherman motion passed to accept the Walker Township Fire Company's annual income and expense summary, as provided for the year 2023 and subsequent years, as evidence of compliance with Second Class Township code section 1553 (c) 2-1 (Harter voted no)**

- Franson provided an update on the Zion Ridge Crest project. He met with a few property owners and letters and door hangers were delivered so that all the residents affected knew exactly what to expect. The moving of the mailboxes was discussed as it was not part of the contract that was awarded. Asking Hawbakkers for a change order to find the price per mailbox that it would cost for them to move the mailboxes as opposed to the township doing it was discussed. Franson will request that information. **Sherman motioned to approve moving the deadline for the Zion Ridge Crest Project to October 15th, Harter seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.**
- Brief discussion was held regarding hiring a new employee for the road crew, the board agreed that a new employee will be hired in September.

Parks and Rec:

- Leah Burd thanked everybody who helped with the cleaning of the concrete, they are getting a lot of good feedback about the pickle ball courts. The fence company has the necessary equipment to fix the fence so that should be happening in the next few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ron Borger, Zion Manor project manager, with PennTerra presented the plans citing that they are basically the same layout that was presented in 2007. Heckman mentioned the conditions that they were given with the original plans and those conditions still stand, Lesniak has recommended sidewalks on both sides of the road in addition to the conditions provided. Franson questioned Tom Songer if he would be contributing funds to the township for the widening of Zion Back Road, like the developers of Deerhaven have agreed to as that road has a lot of pedestrians walking along it so widening would be needed for safety. Borger presented the county comments for the Board to review and offer their input on. One being placement of a fire hydrant and one being road names Frasher Road and Fallow Road. It was determined that the sewage planning postcard needs to go to Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority. **On a motion by Heckman and second by Sherman, motion passed to approve and sign the MOU as presented 3-0.**
- **On a motion by Heckman and second by Sherman to accept Frank Skrzycki's resignation for the Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority 3-0**
- Sherman reported briefly on the NVJPC meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Sherman reported there is no update on the fire hydrant agreement
- Nothing to report on the handbook updates.
- A reorganization meeting was held for the Fire Company Joint Operating Committee (JOC), chair, vice chair and secretary have been appointed and a meeting schedule established.

On a motion by Heckman and second by Sherman, motion passed to approve the July 2024 General Fund bills in the amount of \$71,349.88 and the July 2024 Treasurer's Report 3-0.

On a motion by Sherman and second by Harter, motion passed to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Emery

Keith E. Harter

James B. Heckman

Zane E. Sherman