

WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Monthly Meeting
January 2, 2024

Supervisors	–	Keith Harter James Heckman Zane Sherman		
Staff	–	Sue Wagner, Secretary		
Guests	–	Leah Burd Tim Meyer Roy Vonada Wyatt Harter	Chris Harter Tom Little Jeffrey Seymour	Chris Miller Kris Little Chris Roan

Call to Order: Supervisor Heckman called the January 2, 2023, Reorganization Meeting of the Walker Township Supervisors to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Walker Township Municipal Building.

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

Reorganization:

- **Supervisor Sherman made a motion to appoint Supervisor Heckman as Chairman; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all.**
- **Supervisor Heckman made a motion to appoint Supervisor Sherman as Vice Chairman; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all.**
- **Supervisor Heckman made a motion to appoint Supervisor Harter as Roadmaster; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.**
- **Supervisor Harter made a motion to appoint Supervisor Heckman as Assistant Roadmaster; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.**

Zoning Report:

- Supervisor Heckman reported there were 10 Zoning Permits for the Month of December.

Approve December 2023 Minutes:

- Supervisor Harter made a motion to accept the Board of Supervisors December minutes; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all.

Guests:

- Leah Burd with the Parks and Rec Committee reported the new playground equipment has been ordered. They are hoping to have it installed in April. Supervisor Harter said the Road Crew checked the condition of the swings at both parks and all are good.
- Chris Harter, Walker Township Fire Company, gave the Board the Fire Companies 4th Quarterly report.
- Chris Miller, Walker Township Fire Company, turned in the Fire Company's Certification for the Use of ARPA Funds form.
- Tom Little, Walker Township Water Association (WTWA), asked how other Utility Companies were being charged for their Road Occupancy Permits. The Secretary and Supervisor Harter said they are being handled the same way as the Water Company and charged the new rates. He also inquired if the roads were being looked at so nothing comes back on the Water Company. Supervisor Harter explained everyone will follow the same requirements as the Water Company regarding the roads being put back to the way they were.

Roadmaster's Report:

- Supervisor Harter made a motion to have the Engineer and Zoning Officer review the Driveway and Occupancy Permits before they are issued; motion second by Supervisor Sherman and approved by all.
- Supervisor Harter would like a change to the Road Encroachment form which would include no open cut to roads unless there is no other option. He stated the Township spends hundreds of thousands of dollars on the roads only to have them cut. Supervisor Heckman said he would not decide on the matter at tonight's meeting but would like to see an example ordinance from other municipalities showing this. This is tabled for February's meeting.
- The Centre County Commissions approved changing the project for the 2022 Centre County Fuel Award from Rodgers Road Bridge to Hemlock Dr stormwater improvements to be done in 2024.
- The security camera has been installed at the Compost area. Discussion was held concerning the hours open for the Compost Area and having no control over who is using it and what is being put there. Discussion was tabled until February meeting.
- Supervisor Harter reported he is seeing road issues on Sand Ridge. He has received calls/concerns from residents at 348 and 945 Snyderstown Rd, Misty Meadows LN and Penny LN regarding the condition of the roads and their driveways from the new water line being installed by WTWA. Tom Little, WTWA, said they have been addressing calls that come into the Water Company. Daversa Construction Company is installing conduit in Walker Township for Comcast. Complaints have been called in and redirected to Daversa to address.

Reorganization (cont.):

- **Sue Wagner was appointed Secretary/Treasurer** on a motion by Supervisor Heckman; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.
- **Angel Emery was appointed Assistant Secretary/Treasurer** on a motion by Supervisor Heckman; motion second by Supervisor Harter and approved by all.
- **Treasurer's Bond was set at \$750,000** on a motion by Supervisor Heckman; motion second by Supervisor Harter and approved by all.
- **John Miller III (Miller, Kistler, Campbell, Inc) was appointed Solicitor** on a motion by Supervisor Heckman; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.
- **Penns Valley Code was appointed as Walker Township's Zoning Agency and Mike Lesniak as our Zoning Officer along with Justin Dashem and Christine Williams as Alternates** on a motion by Supervisor Heckman; motion second by Supervisor Harter and approved by all.
- **Leah Burd was appointed to the Centre County Tax Collection Committee** on a motion by Supervisor Harter; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.
- **Resolution 24-486 was adopted appointing Stan Wallace as Township Sewage Enforcement Officer and Jeff Kreger Alternate** on a motion by Supervisor Harter; motion second by Supervisor Sherman and approved by all.
- **Don Franson (Franson Engineering) was appointed as Township Engineer** on a motion by Supervisor Heckman; motion second by Zane Sherman. Keith Harter voted no and motion passed 2-1.
- **Don Franson (Franson Engineering) was appointed Township Stormwater Engineer** on a motion by Supervisor Heckman; motion second by Zane Sherman. Keith Harter voted no and motion passed 2-1.
- **McCormick-Taylor was appointed Township Traffic Engineer** on a motion by Supervisor Harter; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.
- **Don Franson was appointed Chairman of Spring Creek Watershed Commission and Supervisor Heckman as alternate** on a motion by Supervisor Harter; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.
- **Tim Meyer was appointed to the Township Vacancy Board** on a motion Supervisor Harter; motion second by Supervisor Sherman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- **Donna Reese was appointed Recording Secretary for the Planning Commission** on a motion by Supervisor Sherman; motion second by Supervisor Harter and approved by all.
- **Leah Burd was appointed Recording Secretary for the Parks & Recreation Board** on a motion by Supervisor Sherman; motion second by Supervisor Harter and approved by all.
- **Jeff Seymour was reappointed to the East Nittany Valley Joint Municipal Authority Board** on a motion by Supervisor Heckman; motion second by Supervisor Harter and approved by all.

Reorganization Mtg. (con't):

- **Sue Wagner and Angel Emery were appointed the CDL Program contact persons** on a motion by Supervisor Heckman; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all.
- Supervisor Heckman motioned to **draw from one General Fund budget item to pay another General Fund budget item**; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Heckman motioned to **itemize the bills and prepare a monthly list for Supervisor approval/signatures**; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.
- **Shannon Allison was reappointed as the Township Emergency Management Coordinator and James Heckman as Assistant EMC** on a motion made by Supervisor Heckman; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Heckman motioned to **approve a mileage reimbursement rate of \$.62 ½ cents per mile or whatever the current IRS rate is**; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Supervisor Harter made a motion we officially notify the Fire Company they violated the Fire Fund Agreement in Article 1.7 and Article 1.10 regarding not having facial hair and enforcing it as it is a state law. Supervisor Heckman said he feels the Solicitor needs to review this and come back to the Board with his recommendation. Supervisor Sherman agrees with Supervisor Heckman. There was no second and the motion died. This matter will be turned over to Solicitor Miller. Chris Miller, WTFC, said Solicitor Miller can work with their Solicitor, Rod Beard. Supervisor Harter requests this topic be on February's Agenda.
- Supervisor Heckman made a motion to reappoint Doug Johnson to Nittany Valley Region's Coordinating Committee as voting representative and John (Rick) Dillon to Nittany Valley Region's Technical Committee as voting representative for Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion to hold a Conditional Use Hearing for the John Glick property, 126 Hoy Rd on February 7, 2023 at 5:15 contingent upon Solicitor Miller and Stenographer availability; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion to adopt Resolution 24-485 amending the Schedule of Fees required to accompany the filing of certain applications to the Township and for the issue of various permits; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.

Old Business:

- Supervisor Sherman will work with one member of the Fire Company to come up with a list for the Fire Joint Operating Committee per the Fire Fund Agreement.
- Supervisor Heckman would like Supervisor Sherman since he is new to the Board to meet with one Walker Township Water Association (WTWA) Board representative to discuss their proposed Hydrant Agreement and report back to the other two Supervisors. Supervisor Harter is concerned doing that will upset Spring Township and Marion Township. Supervisor Sherman said he will call Spring Township and Marion Township to see if they would like to work as a collective group to see if one Agreement can be made if any.

Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the December 2023 **General Fund paid bills in the amount of \$35,593.10 and the December 2023 Treasurers Report**; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.

The Board moved to an Executive meeting at 7:05pm and resumed at 7:23pm.

Supervisor Harter made a motion to increase Sue Wagner wages \$1.00 effective December 11, 2023 and a 3% wage increase for all employees starting with January 1, 2024; motion second by Zane Sherman and approved by all.

Supervisor Harter made a motion to take action to add and delete check signers for 2024; the authorized check signers will be James Heckman, Keith Harter, Zane Sherman, and Sue Wagner. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Sherman and approved by all.

Supervisor Heckman motioned to adjourn the meeting; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors. Meeting adjourned at 8:08p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Susan Wagner

James B. Heckman

Keith E. Harter

Zane Sherman