

WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
June 5, 2024

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

Solicitor -- John Miller III

Township Engineer - Don Franson

Zoning Officer - Mike Lesniak

Secretary - Angel Emery
Asst. Secretary- Sue Wagner

Guests:	Tom Little	Rich Poorman	Leah Burd
	Fritz McGrail	Daniel Esh	Jennifer Moyer
	Chris Roan	Roy Vonada	Elmer Glick
	Jeff Masullo	John King	Mr. Esh

Chairman Heckman called the June 5, 2024, 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 April 3, 2024, Minutes: On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to approve the May 1, 2024, minutes with the change Harter recommended of two new hydrants being more than sufficient as opposed to “any additional.” 3-0

AGENDA ITEMS: None.

GUESTS: Fritz McGrail questioned if allowing ATVs on the township roads would be considered. Harter reviewed the Porter Township ordinance; Sherman spoke with members of the community to get their opinions. Harter came up with a list of township roads that may be suitable for ATVs. Heckman suggested that the board work on some things for next month, Harter will send his list of suggested roads to the other supervisors for their review.

Elmer Glick from Starway Roofing questioned some of the conditions they were given to operate on a conditional use, one being the septic and their inability to get in contact with the SEO after multiple attempts and the other being the fence and what exactly the Board of Supervisors wanted for the fence. Other fences in the township were discussed. The board recommended they use wood as the condition was a solid fence and not chain link.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

- Don Franson reported on 404 Forest Avenue. The highway occupancy permit (HOP) was submitted last week, if it comes back in a timely manner, we should still be able to advertise in July.
- Blue Ball Road bridge was inspected by Franson, and he determined that some of the timbers are soft. Franson recommended an open frame steel deck and noted that the current bridge is wearing out quicker than he would have expected. Franson has contacted PennDOT to try to find some used steel decking. **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to have Don Franson look into items needed to replace Blue Ball Bridge 3-0.**

SOLICITOR REPORT:

- Solicitor Miller presented a road maintenance agreement to the board from Big Mountain Lumber LLC for Dunkle Road. **On a motion by Heckman and second by Harter, motion passed to approve the road maintenance agreement with Big Mountain Lumber LLC on Dunkle Road 3-0.**

6:30 pm the bids for Zion Back Road and Zion Ridge Crest were opened as follows:

Zion Back Road-
HRI- \$277,834.90
GOH- \$217,220.00

Franson reviewed the bids for accuracy and completeness.

Harter motioned to accept GOH bid in the amount of \$ 217,220 for Zion Back Road, Sherman seconded, and motion passed 3-0.

Zion Ridge Crest
HRI-\$429,499.00
GOH-\$404,442.00

Sherman noted the budget, and that the township is currently set to run in a deficit and these two road projects are going to go over the budgeted amount for road projects in 2024.

Harter motioned to accept the bid from GOH in the amount of \$404,442, Heckman seconded, and the motion passed 2-1 (Sherman voted no)

ZONING:

- Mike Lesniak reported that there were 5 zoning permits issued in May.
- An old subdivision named Zion Manor is in the process of being renewed, they will have to start all over. It is not an allowable use but at the time of the original application, they were granted a conditional use, and the township will have to still uphold that at this time. Discussion was held about an agreement made at the original time the project was started; this will need to be researched as it should still be upheld.

ROADMASTER:

- **Harter motioned to adopt Ordinance 210 as it was done before Sherman added a water company exception, no second and motion died.**
- The Hoy Road bridge was discussed, as there has been an issue getting one resident to agree to the right of way. Discussion ensued with Solicitor Miller giving his suggestion of not allowing the fence in the right of way as that leaves it open to the township being responsible for maintenance in the future. Solicitor Miller recommended having the landowner sign a release, but it could set a precedent in the township that other residents could start encroaching on other townships' right of ways. Eminent domain was discussed, if that is the route that the township decides to go, it would need to be started soon. Harter questioned if a certificate of non-conformity could be presented to the landowner for signatures, Solicitor Miller agreed that would work. Mike Lesniak will work on putting a non-conformance letter together. **Heckman made a motion to authorize Mike Lesniak to write a letter of non-conformance, Harter seconded, and motion passed 3-0.**
- Harter presented the resolution to allow PennDOT to do a consultant selection for the Hoy Road bridge project. **Harter made a motion to adopt resolution 24-488 allowing PennDOT to do consultant selections, Sherman seconded, and motion passed 3-0.**

- Todd Holden, township road crew, started to pressure wash the tennis court but it is taking too long for them to do. Hiring a company would probably be the best way to do it at this time as the township is currently operating with only two road crew members. Leah Burd will bring it up for discussion at the next parks and rec meeting.
- The tiger mower should be here sometime in mid-July.
- Road crew went to a traffic direction class and learned that when the boom mower is out along the road they should be followed by a truck for safety.
- Heckman questioned if the township could cut bushes back on a township right of way if they're becoming a hazard on the road. Harter will stop and talk to the landowners about it.

Parks and Rec:

- The painting of the lines in the parking lot was discussed, Harter suggested doing the paving and painting all as one project, Harter will get quotes from a few different companies then get in contact with Don Franson.
- Leah Burd presented the idea of a crosswalk from the new parking lot across Zion Back Road and whether there needs to be a sign about pedestrian's crossing. Solicitor Miller would need to review the vehicle code to see what the criteria would be for crosswalks and signage to yield to pedestrians.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heckman questioned Franson about re paving the parking lot. ADA spots need to be redone in the lower lot. **On a motion by Heckman and second by Harter motion passed to have Don Franson look into the paving of the front parking lot 3-0.**
- Sherman reported on the NVJPC, Walker Township is the host for the July meeting. It was reported that the county is asking the townships to remember to post their Act 13 reports on the website. Also, there's a Hazmat form that needs to be updated by the 18th of July.
- The fire company joint operating committee will be meeting June 18th at 7:00 at the Walker Township building to organize the committee. Sherman will make sure the agenda is prepared and take minutes until a secretary is appointed.
- **On a motion by Heckman and second by Harter motion passed to accept the resignation of Paul Gentzel 3-0.**
- Four applicants were interviewed for the full-time skilled laborer position. **On a motion by Harter and second by Heckman, motion passed to hire David Miller to replace the missing member of the township road crew 3-0.**
- **On a motion by Heckman and second by Harter motion passed to appoint Chris Lahr as the planning commission member to finish out Donna Reese's term 3-0.**
- **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to appoint Alan Zimmerman as the planning commission secretary 3-0.**
- **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to accept the resignation of Gary Barrett Sr., from the East Nittany Valley Joint Municipal Authority 3-0.** The secretary will advertise that position on the website as it will need to be filled in January when Barrett's term expires.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Nothing to report on the Walker Township Water Association hydrant agreement.
- Nothing to report on the handbook updates, the township secretaries will be attending a summit with a class on township handbooks. **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to pay for the secretaries to attend the summit 3-0.**

On a motion by Heckman and second by Harter, motion passed to approve the May 2024 General Fund bills in the amount of \$84,388.92 and the May 2024 Treasurer's Report 3-0.

Meeting adjourned for Executive Session at 7:44 pm

Executive Session to discuss compensation for the planning commission secretary.

7:59 regular meeting called back to order

On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman motion passed to set the rate of compensation for the planning commission secretary at \$35 per meeting 3-0.

On a motion by Heckman and second by Sherman, motion passed to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Emery

Keith E. Harter

James B. Heckman

Zane E. Sherman