

WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
May 1, 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: **See Attachment**

Chairman Heckman called the May 1, 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 Sherman and second by Harter, motion passed to approve the April 3, 2024, minutes as presented 3-0.**

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Brett Meyer presented information to the Board regarding local municipalities that are permitting ATVs on township roads. After an extended discussion, the Board decided that they would need more information on the matter before a decision could be made.

GUESTS: No guest comments.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

- Don Franson reported that no changes have been made to Ordinance 210 since the April Board meeting, but pointed out that under the current ordinance emergency repairs are done before the township approves it. Harter prefers the ordinance that was drafted without the emergency one call verbiage in it. **Harter made a motion to advertise and adopt the ordinance, with discussed changes of removing the word "emergency." No second, motion died.**
- Franson asked for approval to advertise the bidding of the pipe project on Forest Avenue for opening at the June 5th meeting. **On a motion by Sherman and second by Heckman, motion passed to advertise the work at 404 Forest Avenue 2-1.** Harter voted no and cited that the township's PennDOT representative did not think it was an ideal plan.
- Franson spoke with the representative from PA American Water, and they are looking at moving the water lines from the center of the road to the shoulders on Madison Avenue.
- The 2024 road projects were discussed. Zion Back Road and Zion Ridge Crest development are the roads going out for bid, Franson recommended a few changes to the Zion Back Road proposal, he will work with Matt Kenep, PennDOT representative, to make the bid from SR64 (East end) to Workman's Lane and include pipes. **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to advertise Zion Back Road from the township building end to Workman Lane and Ridge Crest as a separate bid 3-0.**

SOLICITOR REPORT:

- **On a motion by Sherman and second by Harter, motion passed to adopt ordinance 222, Franchise agreement with Zito Media 3-0.**
- Solicitor Miller presented ordinance 223, an ordinance adopting the Uniform Construction Code. **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to adopt ordinance 223, adopting opt in to the UCC 3-0.**
- **On a motion by Heckman and second by Harter, motion passed to adopt resolution 24-487, appointing the Centre County Board of Appeals as Walker Township's Board of Appeals 3-0.**
- **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to take any actions needed for the township to join the UCC 3-0.**
- There were three bids received for the rental of the farmland, the opening of the bids started at 7:22 p.m., the bids were as follows:
 - Matt Ulmer- \$5500
 - DN Dunkle Farm- \$160/acre
 - Dream Quest Dairy LLC- \$50.15/acre

After brief discussion on the bids, **Harter made a motion to accept the first bid in the amount of \$5,500 if payment is received by May 9th by 4:00 p.m., if not received by then, the bid will be awarded to DN Dunkle Farms, Sherman seconded, and motion passed 3-0.**

ZONING:

- Mike Lesniak reported that there were 11 zoning permits issued in April.
- There is an upcoming variance hearing for a kennel on Shop Lane.

ROADMASTER:

- Harter reported he was contacted by a subcontractor for First Energy/West Penn wanting permission to park a helicopter in the back parking lot for a few days. The board discussed the pros and cons of allowing them to park there. **On a motion by Sherman and second by Harter, motion passed to deny the request to park a helicopter on township property 3-0.**
- Two invoices were received for the Hoy Road bridge replacement, **on a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to approve and pay the two invoices received 3-0.**
- There is dirt and gravel training (ESM) in Clinton County in July, Harter would like to send employees. **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to send anybody from the road crew plus Zane 3-0.**
- Harter requested a written report of the pipes in Zion Ridge Crest and Zion Back Road areas from Don Franson.
- Harter updated the road review list after doing a reassessment of the roads.

Parks and Rec:

- Leah Burd reported that the Parks and Rec board prefers to have the sewer line next to the parking lot, Denny McDowell recommended more planning before the board acts.
- There was a request from the soccer teams to put up netting or a barrier to keep balls from going over the fence. The board approved netting if park and rec is agreeable.
- Line painting and ADA spots in the parking lots were briefly discussed with no action at this time. Harter recommended park and rec put it on their agenda for discussion at their next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heckman would like to see the voting lines be reviewed as there is more room at the fire hall than the township build. **On a motion by Heckman and second by Sherman, motion passed to have the secretaries send a letter to the election board requesting that all of Hecla and Walizer Roads go to the fire hall to vote 3-0.**
- An amended agreement for four additional hydrants on Pike Road with PA American Water was received for approval. Discussion ensued as Harter said two hydrants would be more than sufficient, especially without a guarantee of water. **On a motion by Heckman, and second by Sherman, motion passed to sign the agreement adding four additional hydrants 2-1, Harter voted no.**
- A request from Seven Mountains EMS Council to adopt EMS proclamation week was received and no action was taken.
- Discussion was held regarding the planning commission secretary and their need for a laptop. **On a motion by Sherman and second by Harter, motion passed to authorize Tom Menges to configure a laptop for the planning commission secretary at a maximum cost of \$1,000 3-0.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Nothing to report on the Walker Township Water Association hydrant agreement.
- Nothing to report on the handbook updates.
- The signs have been installed at the compost area.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Harter questioned the fire agreement and when there would be a meeting, Sherman reported that it has proven difficult to find a date that suits everyone, but he will try again to set something up.

On a motion by Sherman and second by Harter, motion passed to approve the April 2024 General Fund bills in the amount of \$75,277.37 and the April 2024 Treasurer's Report 3-0.

Meeting adjourned for Executive Session at 8:28 p.m.

Executive Session to discuss personnel matter- regular meeting called back to order at 8:52 p.m.

On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Emery

Keith E. Harter

James B. Heckman

Zane E. Sherman