

WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Monthly Meeting
August 4, 2021

Supervisors – **Keith Harter**
Deborah Zimmerman
James Heckman

Solicitor – **John Miller III**

Staff – **Sue Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer**
Donna Reese – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Vaughn Zimmerman - Zoning Officer
Don Franson - Township Engineer

Guests –

Dennis McDowell, Twp Resident
Rick Bowman – Twp Resident
Bill Shaffer – Twp Resident
Rich Poorman – Twp Resident
Kerry T. O'Hara – WTWA & Resident

David Gibbons – Centre Wisp
Bill Sharp and Paul Takac Spring Creek Watershed Com.
Ed Taylor – Twp Resident
Rod Beard – Walker Township Water Ass. (WTWA)
Dave Fisher – Twp. Resident
Anne Messner – CC Transportation Planner

Zachary Berger – Twp Resident

Call to Order: Chairman Keith Harter called the August 4, 2021 monthly meeting of the Walker Township Board of Supervisors to order at 6:00 pm in the Walker Township Municipal Building.

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

Approval of July 7, 2021: Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the July minutes as presented; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Agenda:

- Anne Messner, Centre County Transportation Planner and works with CCMPO, advised the Board in June there is money available for bridge work in the County. In working with District II, Hoy Bridge came up on a list as a bridge for rehab or replacement. In the June Board of Supervisors meeting the Board motioned to pursue the Federal money for Hoy Bridge and Ms. Messner was at the meeting to answer any questions and give a time line of what is needed from the Board.
 1. Supervisor Harter asked if there were any other sources for funding to help. Ms. Messner responded because of the condition of the bridge she believes Act 13 money will be available. She will send us a draft schedule which will let the Board know what needs to be completed on their part.
- Paul Takav, Bill Shark and Don Franson (Twp. Rep.) presented Spring Creek Watershed Commission (SCWC) One Water Plan. Mr. Takav explained that a One Water Plan is an Innovative Collaborative approach to water resource management where municipalities work together in order to maximize benefits, reduce redundancy, and safe ways. The long-term benefits are reliable high-quality water supplies & ecosystems and long-range recreation benefits for everyone. Phase III is ready to start and SCWC needs the Boards agreement. He will send a resolution for the Board to sign at the September meeting.

- Dave Gibbons with Centre Wisp, a wireless service internet provider discussed fiber to the home for internet access. Mr. Gibbons told the Board that fiber to the home is the future of internet. They recently won participation in the FCC World Digital Funding program to provide internet to underserved areas. The FCC feels Walker Township is almost entirely well served in terms of Broadband and wouldn't qualify for this funding. Walker Township sits between two locations that qualify and he was here to talk about ways they can bring the service to us. Mr. Gibbons came up with a pilot program which isn't set in stone. This is a 5-mile plan from the Township Building and Deitrich Rd. He is open to other areas. In terms of funding, they are willing to offer some private funds to get this program started. They are looking for pilot areas to use their private monies for and expand from there.

Zach Berger, Twp Resident, asked about speed and pricing. He said they will offer 2 Symmetric speeds -- 250 down and up for around \$60.00 a month and 1,000 down and up for \$90.00 a month. There are no costs.

Mr. Gibbons will provide a Franchise Agreement which is needed for them to build in Walker Township.

Guests:

- Rod Beard representing the Walker Township Water Association (WTWA) addressed the Board regarding the correspondence he sent to them on behalf of the WTWA in reference to American Rescue Funding. In the correspondence he stated they have a significant number of costly projects the water company needs to undertake in the near future that will better serve their customers and our constituents. WTWA would like the Board to consider some funding for the water company from the American Rescue Funds when deciding how they are allocating the funds. He mentioned the water line on Zion Back Road that will be affected when the new Parking Lot is installed. This water line needs addressed and they are hoping to do this before the new Parking Lot would be completed and this funding could help. He will submit a request for a specific fund and project.
- Mr. Taylor, Township Resident, expressed concerns regarding the Business located at 1311 Nittany Valley Drive not complying to the conditions set forth for that property (NexTier Completion Solutions/Hull's). Zoning Officer Zimmerman sent a letter to NexTier and Hulls about the complaints and site deficiencies relating to the Conditional Use Application.

Solicitor Report:

- Solicitor Miller presented Ordinance No. 211 amending the Walker Township Zoning Ordinance and the Official Zoning Map by rezoning the property located at 1611 East College Avenue from the Village District to the General Commercial District and amending the Ordinance to include Contractor's Shop and Yard as a conditional use in the General Commercial District. Supervisor Harter made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 211; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Engineer Report:

- Engineer Franson and Supervisor Harter surveyed the roads in the Township that need storm damage issues addressed. They include with estimates Sand Ridge Road – \$25,000, Nittany Ridge – \$45,000, Rodgers Rd – \$10,000, Hemlock St – \$15,000, and Benner Rd - \$12,000. These projects could be considered for American Rescue Funds.
- There have been complaints regarding storm water runoff from a property on Nilson Rd that affects 2 properties on Red Oak Drive. Mr. Franson has been addressing this and the issue is being resolved by DEP with the Property Owner.
- Permits have been sent in to DEP and Design to Penn Terra for the New Parking Lot.

Zoning Officer Report:

- The Zoning Officer reported he issued 4 Zoning Permits and 1 Driveway Permit.

Roadmaster Report:

- Ordinance 210 states that Public Utility Entities and any other person that encroaches upon our Township Roads as far as digging, cutting and would require repairs are subject to obtain a Road Occupancy Permit and pay permitting fees, inspections, etc. The Supervisors will set the Fees by Resolution. Supervisor Harter made a motion for Solicitor Miller to prepare a Resolution to charge a \$1.00 fee for the Road Occupancy Permit and use the Township Engineer's Fee Schedule for any inspections needed; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Blue Ball Rd is part of the 2021 Road Projects to have the DSA replaced. Supervisor Heckman and Supervisor Harter met with Hawbaker's who recommends cleaning up existing ditches, putting in swales and 3 culverts to help with storm water runoff. The Board agreed to add this to the project.
- A complaint was received about the spouting in front of the building overflowing and ruining the landscaping. Mr. Harter contacted Mark Glick and he determined when they put the steel roof over the shingle roof, they never raised the spouting. He provided a quote what it would cost to replace the current spouting with 6 inch and raise it. Mr. Harter hasn't got back to him yet.
- Keck's collision Repair provided an estimate to repair the front grill, headlights, and fender of the 2011 Dodge Ram 3500 for an amount of \$1,653.00. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to repair the 2011 Dodge Ram; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- A request has been made for the cul-de-sac on Korman Rd to be plowed to allow the school bus to turn around there in the winter time. After review, it was determined the cul-de-sac is part of a Township Road. Supervisor Harter made a motion to maintain the cul-de-sac; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.

New Business:

- Act 65 of 2021 amends the Sunshine Law that all local government boards and commissions (governing boards, planning commissions, zoning hearing boards, recreation committees, etc.) must post meeting agendas for all advertised public meetings at least 24-hours before each meeting. This will start August 29, 2021.
- The Board received a survey from Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority. The Board answered they would support increasing recycling to reduce waste tonnage and strongly disagree to a household fee to maintain current recycling efforts in our municipality.
- The Board would like 323 Wood Duck Road to remain as is with proper signage and not a Private Drive as 911 suggested.
- A request from Bryon Walk was received to release his bond for his use of .30 miles of Snyderstown Rd – T-696. Supervisor Harter made a motion to release the bond; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Old Business:

- There has been no response from Pennsylvania American Water regarding a contract for 8 of the 9 hydrants they are billing us for. Due to the fact we haven't been paying for them, shut off notices have been received. Supervisor Harter made a motion to allow the shut off to happen if it actually goes that far; motion second by James Heckman. Deborah Zimmerman voted no. Motion passed 2-1.

Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the July, 2021 General Fund Paid Bills in the amount of \$49,949.89 and the July and revised June 2021 Treasurers Report; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.

Supervisor Heckman motioned to adjourn the meeting; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Wagner