

WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
February 1, 2023

Supervisors	–	Keith Harter Deborah Zimmerman James Heckman
Solicitor	–	John Miller III
Staff	–	Sue Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer Don Franson – Township Engineer Mike Lesniak – Zoning Officer
Guests	–	See Attached List

Call to Order: Chairman Keith Harter called the February 1, 2023, monthly meeting of the Walker Township Board of Supervisors to order at 6:00pm in the Walker Township Municipal Building.

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

Approval of January 3, 2023, Minutes: Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the January minutes as presented; motion second by Supervisor Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Agenda Items:

- Jake Knisley said his car received damage after a recent snow-storm in December. He was retrieving his mail at the same time a plow came by and snow ended up under his tires and he slid into his mailbox. He wanted to know if the Township would help with the cost of the damage. Supervisor Harter explained the Township policy is that any snow damage done in the Township's Right of Way is not the Township's responsibility. Solicitor Miller confirmed that policy.
- Anne Messner of Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) attended the meeting to update the Board on the following current projects they are working on:
 1. The Long-Range Plan is updated every 5 years and due by 2025. Their focus is safety, corridors of concern, drainage, and modes of transportation. Supervisor Harter shared Rt 64 is an area of concern. Ms. Messner said the based on the completed speed study and crash history the only thing that can be offered at this time are warning signs reminding drivers to put their seat belts on. The crash history doesn't warrant further investigation. She realizes it sounds small, but sometimes you have to start small and as time goes on if that doesn't work, they look at something else. Mr. Harter said another area of concern is the upper end of Snyderstown Rd where it sits diagonal to Hublersburg Rd. Zane Sherman, guest, asked if Rt 445 (the Rt before Brush Valley and Nittany Valley) is on the safety corridor plan. He said there seems to be an increase in truck traffic and with the turns and visibility it is a concern. He also is surprised there isn't a weight limit on the road. Ms. Messner said District Two has been watching that Route and has put signage up, but she will bring the concern to them. She said the Long-Rang Plan is in the early stages and will be in touch throughout the process.
 2. Active Transportation Plan. This is a new effort for the CCMPO to go County wide. Their goal is to provide access throughout the County for bicycling and walking facilities.

Agenda Items (con't):

- John Sepp, Penn Terra Engineering, representing Tom Harris of the Harris Subdivision said Mr. Harris wants to separate a two-acre lot off his parcel. The Subdivision creates a cul-de-sac at the end of Deitrich Rd to the Township.
 1. Supervisor Harter made a motion to approve the Municipal Response Request with no comment; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
 2. Supervisor Harter made a motion to authorize Zoning Officer Lesniak to issue a Meets or Exceeds letter upon the Townships approval of the Deed of Dedication and HOP; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
 3. Supervisor Harter made a motion to approve the Declaration of Private Shared Driveway Right-of-Way upon receipt of approval from the County; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
 4. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the road name Vandermark Dr; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
 5. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to accept Parks and Rec Fee-in-Lieu recommendation of \$2,500 for the Harris Subdivision; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.
 6. Supervisor Harter made a motion to conditionally approve the Sewage Module upon signature of the Sewage Enforcement Officer; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Heckman made a motion to appoint Denny Brown to the Spring Benner Walker Joint Association Board representing Walker Township; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Engineer Report:

- Engineer Franson reviewed and approved the Deerhaven 3B Surety. The County recommended the Surety Agreement be a Three-Party Agreement, which would be an Agreement between the Township, Developer, and the Surety Owner. The Township feels the Two-Party Agreement between the Township and Developer is sufficient.
- Mr. Franson received from PennDot copies of the map for 2 plots that are to be vacated for Cemetery Lane and given back to the property owners. Before any action is taken to do this, Mr. Franson will ask Michelle Mayes with PennDot for a new map and documentation concerning the cul-de-sac on Cemetery Lane.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

- Supervisor Heckman made a motion to conditionally approved the Road Maintenance Agreement from A. B. Walk, Jr. to bond Snyderstown Rd - .10 miles, Sand Ridge Rd – .70 miles, and Crust Rd - .10 miles; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.

ZONING:

- Ken & Stacy Ingram 2-Lot Subdivision – CCPCDO File No. #159.22 is taking 10.1 acres from their existing parcel to make a new parcel.
 1. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to send the Municipal Response Request with no comments to the County; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.
 2. Supervisor Harter made a motion to conditionally approve the Fee-in-Lieu pending Parks and Rec Committee recommendation; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
 3. Supervisor Harter made a motion to authorize Zoning Officer Lesniak to issue the Meets or Exceeds letter; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all Supervisors.
 4. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve and sign the Sewage Planning Module; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- The Daniel L. Mattern – CCPCDO File No: 134-22 Subdivision is splitting the Mattern’s 73.4 parcel into 37.4 acres and 36 acres. This Subdivision was tabled until the Planning Commission reviews the plan.
- Zoning Officer Mike Lesniak reported he issued 8 Zoning Permits.

ROADMASTER:

- Roadmaster Keith Harter recommended looking at Zion Back Rd, Benner Rd, Nittany Ridge Rd, and part of Hoy Road along with fiber mending Rodgers Rd and Crust Rd for the 2023 road projects. The parking lot in front of the Township will be considered as well. More discussion at the March meeting.
- The compost pile area on Zion Back Rd is getting big and Supervisor Zimmerman will get prices to have it removed.

PARKS AND REC REPORT:

- Parks and Rec received the Facilities Agreement from Nittany Valley Little League. Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the Agreement; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.

GUESTS:

- Richard Poorman, 404 Hemlock Dr. gave a statement to the Board:

There have been a few things left out of the minutes. To show your transparency, PennDot is not opposed to a closed pipe system and the Supervisors have decided to go with an open system because it is cheaper. After spending \$81,108.00 for our neighbor, they won't spend the additional \$10,000 to \$12,000 to extend the storm pipe to the drain in front of our home so we don't have a 27-inch ditch - 30 feet up our side yard and front yard. We will not maintain the ditch that will be an eye sore to our property when we had a flat yard to begin with. So, at this point I will revoke the Easement.

- Several guests in attendance had comments, concerns, and questions regarding the Conditional Use Applications to install utility ground mounted solar energy systems. Rod Beard, representing the applicants and developer, stated the Developer gave the Board an extension to the February 1st Board meeting for their decision. If there are conditions attached to that decision they are expecting to see the conditions at tonight's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Supervisor Harter made a motion to deny the Conditional Use Application for CE-Shady Farm LLC to set up a Zoning Ordinance to preserve the agricultural aspects of Walker Township and protect the health and safety of the Community; motion second by James Heckman. Deborah Zimmerman voted no. Motion passed 2-1.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion to deny the Conditional Use Application for Confer 1, LLC to set up a Zoning Ordinance to preserve the agricultural aspects of Walker Township and protect the health and safety of the Community. Supervisor Zimmerman said that by denying these applications we are setting the Township up for future financial liability and we can seek better uses for our funding. The motion was second by James Heckman. Supervisor Zimmerman voted no. Motion passed 2-1.
- Supervisor Harter said he will sign the Fire Agreement with reference to the January minutes why he said no to the Fire Company Fund Agreement. Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to pay the \$125,000 to the Fire Ten Year Plan Account for the Walker Township Fire Company; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion for Solicitor Miller to draft an Agreement to be annually reviewed for snow removal for the two Walker Township Fire Company locations; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors. Mr. Chris Harter said this will be a huge savings for the Fire Company.
- Supervisor Heckman made a motion to order a set of Walker Township property address labels from the Centre County Assessment Office for Pleasant Gap Ambulance; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors. Pleasant Gap Ambulance will reimburse Walker Township for the labels.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion to appoint Spring Benner Walker Joint Association as Walker Township's agent to update the 537 Plan; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Work continues on an emergency protocol between the Township and Fire Company to use the Fire Hall for any emergency situations that warrant this need.

New Business (con't):

- Supervisor Heckman made a motion to contribute \$450.00 to the Bellefonte High School awards program for 2023 and contribute to CPI three \$100.00 awards for three 2023 seniors; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.

Supervisor Harter made a motion to amend the Agenda to include signing the Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority Member Municipality Contribution Agreement.

- Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to sign the Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority Member Municipality Contribution Agreement; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.

Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the January, 2023 General Fund Paid Bills in the amount of \$73,681.96 and January Treasurers Report; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Supervisor Heckman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan L. Wagner