

**WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**September 6, 2023**

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

**Township Engineer - Don Franson**

**Zoning Officer - Mike Lesniak**

**Secretary - Sue Wagner via Phone**

<b>Guests:</b>	<b>Dennis McDowell</b>	<b>Leah Burd</b>
	<b>Chris Harter</b>	<b>Tom Little</b>
	<b>Rich Poorman</b>	<b>Tim Meyer</b>
	<b>John Fisher</b>	<b>Leroy Vonada</b>
	<b>Zane Sherman</b>	<b>Elmer Glick</b>

Supervisor Harter called the September 6, 2023 meeting to order at 6:03pm in the Walker Township Municipal Building.

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

**Approval of August 2, 2023 Minutes:** Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the August minutes as presented; motion second by Supervisor Harter. Motion approved by all.

**Agenda Items:**

- John Sepp, Penn Terra Engineering, presented the revised plan for Shady Farm Estates with all the changes discussed at the August meeting. Supervisor Harter made a motion to approve and sign the plan; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors. Supervisor Harter made a motion to accept Parks and Recs revised recommendation for Fee-in-Lieu in the amount of \$100,000.00 for 40 lot; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

- Engineer Franson continues to work on surveying 404 Hemlock Drive. He met with Mr. Poorman and they were able to locate 2 pins, but he wants to expand the survey to see if he can locate another.
- The Township received Centre County Liquid Fuels money for 2023 in the amount of \$15,000.00 to help with the cost to repair the beam on the Rodgers Road bridge. Larson Group inspected the bridge and says the beam is fine. Per the advice of Matt Kenepf, PennDot, Mr. Franson should look for another project to use the money for or give it back.
- In August, complaints were received from residents in Forest Heights regarding the work being done by Centre Wisp (Black Bear Fiber). Mr. Franson met with Centre Wisps Dave Gibbons, President, the Foreman, and General Manager. They have agreed to move a pedestal back which was too close to the road and would be hit by a plow. Other complaints included a speed bump created when they bored under the road and damage to properties. Mr. Franson did not see evidence of this and asked them to keep photos as the work is done.
- Deversa Construction is installing conduit for Comcast in the Springfield area. The Foreman contacted Mr. Franson and the Township and said there are 3 driveways in the Springfield Development and one in Hillrise Dr they cannot bore under. They are to contact the home owners and let them know they will have to have their driveway cut. Mr. Franson will inspect the work after completed.
- The site distance issue for Cemetery Lane still needs to be investigated.
- Mr. Franson suggested 2 different options to repair the drainage issue for the Benner Road property.
- Spring Creek Watershed Commission would like to raise their rates by \$.05 per person. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to accept the increase, motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- There was no action on the 2024 Centre County Liquid Fuel application.

**Solicitor Report:**

- Solicitor Miller received the final updated Franchise Agreement from Zito Media. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to sign the Agreement; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- A request has been received from John and Elsie Glick, 121 Hoy Rd Howard, to change the zoning from the Agriculture District to the Commercial District. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to hold a public hearing on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- At the August Board meeting Supervisor Harter asked to see the Right-of-Way Agreement for the Walker Township Water Association line that was installed under the new parking lot on Zion Back Road. After research, it was determined no such Right-of-Way exists. Supervisor Harter made a motion for the Water Company to draw up a Right-of-Way Agreement for use of their line on Walker Township private property and to pay the Township \$100,000 for the Right-of-Way. Jim Heckman voted no and Supervisor Zimmerman said she would like to investigate the costs further. The motion died. This will be on the October Agenda.

**ZONING:**

- Zooning Officer Lesniak reported there were 16 Zoning Permits and 1 Driveway Permits issued in the month of August.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion for the Solicitor to prepare a resolution to increase the Road Occupancy Permit Fee to \$100.00 for the first 20 ft. and \$1.00 per ft after that; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and Jim Heckman voted no. Motion carried 2 to 1.

**ROADMASTER:**

- It was noted when the Roadcrew go out after hours for an emergency, they should be paid for 4 hours not 2 hours. Paul and Todd will be compensated for their time.
- There needs to be a reassessment of the speed limit between the Roy Vonada property and Worricks Garage going both ways. There is not consistent signage.
- The Roadcrew added stone to some shoulder on Benner Road.
- The Roadcrew will attend an 811 Identifying Marking Class on September 14, 2023.
- Supervisor Zimmerman will arrange for a tub grinder to clean up the compost area because it is getting full and contact TC Transport to see if they would like the mulch. She will also have a sign made up for liability purposes at the site.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 911 contacted the Township regarding 3150 Nittany Valley Dr. To get to this property, you take a right off Nittany Valley Dr and then Coder Lane begins, which means 2 roads off one entrance. Supervisor Harter made a motion to change 3150 Nittany Valley Dr to a Coder Ln address; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion to hire Landyn Carson to fill the vacant full-time Road Maintenance position; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion to promote Paul Gentzel to the Road Foreman position increasing his hourly pay rate to the same as the previous Foreman and make it retroactive to August 1, 2023; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion to increase Todd Holden's hourly pay rate by \$2.96 and make it retroactive to August 1, 2023; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- East Nittany Valley Joint Authority revised their request for the American Rescue Funds the Township received.
- Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion for the Township to reimburse Cindy Kunes who will be attending the Township Officials Conference on October 3, 2023; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Harter would like the Fire Company notified the following grants are available– Federal grant through Homeland, State Grant that is yearly, Garver Fund, State Forestry Grant and American Rescue through FEMA.

Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the August 2023 General Fund Paid Bills in the amount of \$48,231.47; motion second by Supervisor Zimmerman and approved by all.

Supervisor Heckman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan L. Wagner