

**WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**July 2, 2024**

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

**Solicitor** -- **Not Present**

**Township Engineer** - **Don Franson**

**Zoning Officer** - **Not Present**

**Secretary -** **Angel Emery**  
**Asst. Secretary-** **Sue Wagner**

<b>Guests:</b>	<b>Dennis McDowell</b>	<b>Tom Little</b>	<b>Brett Meyer</b>
	<b>Bob Kennis</b>	<b>Chris Roan</b>	<b>Leah Burd</b>

Chairman Heckman called the July 2, 2024, meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Walker Township Municipal Building.

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

**Approval June 5, 2024, Minutes:**

- Sherman questioned the wording in the minutes regarding “the water company exception”. **On a motion by Sherman motion passed to approve the minutes, with the removal of the wording “it was done before Sherman added the water company exception” motion seconded by Heckman motion passed 2-1 (Harter voted no)**
- **Heckman made a motion to approve the minutes with the change discussed, Sherman seconded, and motion passed 2-1 (Harter voted no).**

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Jared from PennDOT and Keven McCloskey from Lochner presented the plans for the Hoy Road bridge replacement. Anticipating a let date of October 10<sup>th</sup>. A traffic count has been completed. This project is 80% funded with a 20% match from Walker Township. The agreement was executed in February of 2022 with a few amendments. The existing structure will be replaced with proposed 10’ lanes and 2’ shoulders. The proposed detour will be SR 445 to SR 64. Construction season is proposed for the beginning of June to the end of August 2025. Heckman signed the right of way clearance certification.

**GUESTS**

- Brett Meyer spoke about opening the roads up to ATVs again. Harter has an idea of roads that would be good but has not made up a list. Heckman spoke about the article in the Township News regarding township roads being open to ATVs, there are a lot of pros and cons, and he has safety concerns.
- Bob Kennis spoke about other townships that have their roads open to ATVs. Sherman would like the public to be informed so that they can come to give their opinions so the supervisors know what their residents would like. Heckman would like to have a special meeting regarding the matter rather than at the regular monthly board meeting. **Heckman made a motion to hold a public meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Harter and motion passed 3-0.**

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

- Don Frason updated on ongoing projects. First being the culverts on Zion Back Road, Frason presented pictures to the Board as well as his recommendations for replacements that need to occur. Frason will inspect any culverts that the Board recommends he look at then it could all be done in one project to replace culverts within the township. Discussion ensued regarding when the project should be done, with the recommendation being this fall. Harter will get in touch with the road crew to see if they've seen any that need replaced or cleaned.
- Frason updated the Board on the HOP for 404 Forest Avenue, it is ready to go out to bid to be opened at the August Board of Supervisors meeting, the plans were reviewed by the Board.
- Heckman discussed the need for a pipe with a catch box on Blue Ball Road, he would like to see another pipe put in as well as approximately six loads of DSA that will need to be rolled in. Conversation proceeded about whether it should be done as a temporary fix or if a longer-term fix should be considered, which would cost a significant amount more, according to Don Frason. **On a motion by Heckman and second by Harter motion passed to get six loads of DSA to put on Blue Ball Road 3-0.**
- Frason updated on Shady Lane Estates, they had a preconstruction meeting to discuss the project, the HOP was completed. No fee in lieu was received and no final plan has been received by the township, Frason and the township will be in touch with Chris Schnure from the county.
- Sam Shultz has been in contact with Frason regarding the Xfinity lines being put in, Frason is awaiting an email and then he will go inspect the areas.
- Frason will inspect the water company work that has been done on the roads and send a letter to the water company stating what roads need to be addressed.

**SOLICITOR REPORT:** Solicitor Miller was not present.

**ZONING:** The Zoning Officer was not present.

- 14 zoning permits were issued in the month of June.

**ROADMASTER:**

- Harter discussed ordinance 210, **Harter motioned to approve ordinance 210 without the addition of the emergency one call wording, no second and motion died.** Heckman would not like to have the boring of the roads that Harter would prefer.
- The road maintenance agreement extension received for Kish Lumber; it was reviewed by Solicitor Miller. **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to approve the road maintenance agreement if John Miller is ok with it 3-0.**
- A lift or bucket truck may need to be rented as there are limbs hanging from the storms that the road crew cannot reach.
- Crack sealing will be done in August.
- Bushes in Hublersburg have been cut back since Harter stopped and spoke with the property owners.

**Parks and Rec:**

- Leah Burd asked Don Frason about the crosswalks, it will be looked at when the parking lot striping is done after the paving of the upper parking lot.
- Tape has been purchased for pickle ball court.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Memorandum of understanding not acted on because Solicitor Miller hasn't reviewed it
- **On a motion by Heckman and second by Sherman, motion passed to pay the right of way acquisition fee received for the Hoy Road bridge project 3-0.**
- Shannon Allsion, EMC, was contacted by Sherman for the 5-year plan update for Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission.
- The Board of Supervisors met with Kathy Fye, Tax Collector, regarding the county going with a different taxing agency. Residents may receive multiple tax bills under the new billing if the township and school district do not switch to the new company. The county made the change without any input from the municipalities who they co-bill with. The new company has not provided what the cost will be at this point. **On a motion by Heckman, and second by Harter, motion passed to send the list of questions that were discussed at the meeting to the Centre County Commissioners 3-0.** Sherman wanted all the residents to know that their taxes will not look the same as they have in the past as GSS has a different billing style and the township has not decided yet whether to switch to GSS or stay with RBA.
- The computer system in the township office was discussed as there have been a few issues with them in the past week. Retention of digital records was discussed by Harter and Sherman. **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to do the memory upgrade for the computers 3-0.** The website was discussed and finding someone to redesign the website that is in place. **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman motion passed to explore updating the webpage and get pricing 3-0.**
- The office credit card limit was discussed and the issues that the office has run into with the small limit. **On a motion by Harter and second by Sherman, motion passed to increase the credit card limit to \$3,000 3-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Sherman reported on the hydrant agreement with Walker Township Water Association, a draft is in progress and will be sent to the BOS and the solicitor when it is ready.
- Nothing to report on the handbook updates.
- July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. is the new fire company joint operating committee meeting date. It will be advertised in the paper and on the website.

Harter thanked Tom Menges and the secretaries for dealing with the issues with the township computers for the last week.

**On a motion by Heckman and second by Sherman, motion passed to approve the June 2024 General Fund bills and the June 2024 Treasurer's Report 3-0.**

**On a motion by Heckman and second by Sherman, motion passed to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. 3-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Emery

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Keith E. Harter

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James B. Heckman

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Zane E. Sherman