

WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 6, 2022

Supervisors	–	Keith Harter Deborah Zimmerman James Heckman
Solicitor	–	John Miller III
Staff	–	Sue Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer Don Franson – Township Engineer
Guests	–	Tom Little – Township Resident Kris Little – Township Resident Tim Meyer – Township Resident Chris Harter – Township Resident Dennis McDowell – Township Resident Jeffery L. Seymour – Township Resident Chris Roan – Township Resident Rodney Beard – WTFC Representative

Call to Order: Chairman Keith Harter called the April 6, 2022, 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 March 2, 2022: Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the March minutes as presented; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Guests:

- Chris Roan provided Quarterly Reports from the Walker Township fire company for review.

Solicitor Report: -

- Supervisor Heckman made a motion to rescind the motion made at the March meeting for the release of A.M. Logging LLC's Bond for the use of Deitrich Rd T-474 as they are not finished using the road; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Heckman made a motion to adopt Ordinance 213 to approve a schedule of fees for the Tax Collector to use; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- The Bellefonte Borough requested the Board adopt an Ordinance to establish pretreatment pollutant limits for discharge of waste water into the waste water collection and treatment system of the Borough of Bellefonte. Supervisor Heckman made a motion to adopt Ordinance 214 amending the previous Ordinance 129; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- PSATS asked the Township to recognize the programs, projects, and events in the next five years to inspire future leaders and celebrate all Pennsylvanians contributions to the United States over the past 250 years. Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt America250PA resolution Number 22-467; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Comcast is seeking approval for their Franchise Agreement. In this Agreement, the Franchise Fee is 3% instead of the 5% they were paying. The Board wants to keep the fee at 5%. They also would like complimentary Basic Service to the Township Building, Fire Houses, and School if Comcast's infrastructure would change and they provide service in those locations. Solicitor Miller will send these comments to Comcast.

Engineer Report:

- Engineer Franson presented the final drawing for the Zion Back Road New Parking Lot. He will add the water line relocation that is affected by the new parking lot to the bid package. The bid will be advertised on April 18th and April 22nd and awarded at the May 4th meeting.
- Flooding issues continue to be a problem for the property located at 125 Oak Drive. Engineer Franson said he would like to put in a stilling basin below the existing pipe under the road and add this to the stormwater projects.

ZONING:

- Supervisor Harter reported there were 13 Zoning Permits and 2 Driveway Permits.

ROADMASTER:

- Road sweeping will be starting the week of April 11th.
- Traffic counters will be installed on Hoy Road as part of the Hoy Road Bridge project.

PARKS AND REC REPORT:

- Supervisor Harter made a motion to accept the quote from Jabco's Custom Lawn Care LLC to completely renovate and reconstruct the infield at the Walker Township Park, Field 2; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors. The work will not be done until fall.
- Supervisor Harter made motion to approve the Soccer and Nittany Valley Little League Facility Use Agreements; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- The Parks and Rec Board received a request from someone wanting to rent the Pavilions to bring an inflatable bounce house. The insurance company said that the Township would be liable if anyone was hurt and a Certificate of Liability Insurance should be in hand before rental. The Parks and Rec Board made the decision it will not allow the use of Bounce Houses in the Park without a Certificate of Liability Insurance.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Rod Beard representing the Walker Township Fire Company addressed the Board. After the Board of Supervisors March meeting, the Board sent a letter to the Fire Company requesting additional information to support a previous millage increase request in December of 2021. The Board denied the request and donated \$120,000 to the Fire Company. This money is kept in an account the Township controls and distributed to help with the Fire Companies Debt Service. The Board said it would review any future millage requests in 2022. A letter was received the day after the Board meeting from the Fire Company asking for a one mill increase. Mr. Beard said he has been reviewing the Fire Company records and looked at the study that was done jointly with the Township and the Fire Company about 20 years ago. He said some progress has been made on both sides from the study. One thing that wasn't anticipated in the study was the nature of costs increasing for Fire Companies. It is significantly more than anyone anticipated - - trucks, equipment, etc. He said the Fire Company wants to comply to the Boards requests understanding Code requires the Fire Company to do so if the Township gives the Fire Company a donation. General discussion was held regarding the requests the Board had in their letter. Mr. Beard inquired why the Township was holding the donation money in an account for the Fire Company. Supervisor Heckman said he attended a class where it was advised when money is donated to a Fire Company to hold that money in an account at the Township. Supervisor Zimmerman also attended a class that supports that statement. The money that was donated is used for Debt Service. Supervisor Heckman said he is in favor of a one mill increase to be used for apparatus and equipment. Mr. Harter said he agrees with everything Mr. Heckman said but stated the Fire Company can't guarantee that's what the increase would be used for and why he wants it to stay in an account in the Township. Supervisor Zimmerman states she voted no against a millage increase in 2021 because the Township is in a financial situation it can donate to the Fire Company more money than a millage increase would bring in. She said it isn't that she is against a millage increase. If the Township has the money in the budget, it should be given on a year-to-year basis to the Fire Company, along with helping with additional expenses above the donation amount such as hoses so it doesn't cause an increase in taxes for our residents. Chris Harter, President of the Fire Company, reconfirmed with Solicitor Miller what he said in a previous meeting that the Township can't guarantee the money every year and Solicitor Miller agreed. Mr. Harter said without that guarantee is why we have pursued the millage increase. Mr. Beard said to be clear of his understanding the Township is not totally against a millage increase but wants to control the funds if that happens. Mr. Beard and the Board agreed with some planning and communication both sides can be satisfied.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for Deerhaven 3B; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.

New Business (con't):

- John and Anna Allgyer Minor Supervision – CCPCDO 35-22
 1. Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to have the Interim Zoning Officer issue a Meets or Exceeds letter for the plan; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.
 2. Supervisor Harter made a motion to approve the Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration for the plan; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.
 3. No Parks and Rec Fee-In-Lieu is required for this plan
- Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion for Victorian Signs to replace the sign for the Municipal Building damaged by weather over the years for a quote of \$3,485.00; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors. The new sign will look the same as it did before.
- There was no action taken on the request from Clearwater Conservancy to help with the Watershed Cleanup.

Supervisor Harter made a motion to approve March General Fund Paid Bills in the amount of \$336,849.04 and the March Treasurer's Report; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three Supervisors.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan L. Wagner
Secretary