

WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
August 3, 2022

Supervisors	–	Keith Harter Deborah Zimmerman James Heckman	
Solicitor	–	John Miller III - Absent	
Staff	–	Sue Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer	
Guests	–	Min Xian – Spotlight PA Reporter Rich Poorman – Twp. Resident Tom Little – Twp. Resident Greg Shufran Chris Harter – Twp. Resident Tom Jacobs – S&A Homes	Rod Beard – Twp Resident Denise Poorman – Twp. Resident Joe Yakich – Twp. Resident Tim Meyer – Twp. Resident Jeffrey L. Seymour – Twp. Resident

Call to Order: Chairman Keith Harter called the August 3, 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 July 6, 2022 Minutes: Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve the July minutes as presented; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Guests:

Chris Harter representing Walker Township Fire Department, said he came to the meeting, as he has been for the past couple years, to discuss a millage increase for funding for the Fire Company. He attended the PA State Emergency Services Institute meeting on July 7th that he had invited the Board to attend. There was a lot of good input and recommendations from Commissioner McGarvey out of Harrisburg and local Commissioners – Use your Community and Educate the public. The Fire Department took their advice and will hold a public meeting at the Fire Hall on August 16th at 7:00pm.

Supervisor Zimmerman asked if the Fire Company would be sharing their financial needs at the meeting. She said for months they have been asking for financial information to determine the Fire Company's needs and no one has responded yet. Mr. Beard, solicitor for the Fire Company, gave the Board the Fire Company tax returns for 2018, 2019, and 2020 and explained 2021 were not ready yet; along with the Compliance Audit for the Relief Association. He also said they are working on getting more information for the Board. He understands the need to know where the money is going and feels both sides need to come to an Agreement on how the funding is going to work. Mr. Beard went on to discuss the condition and cost of the equipment, maintenance, training, and safety gear. He explained because of supply and demand there is a need for a plan for those costs. Supervisor Zimmerman and Supervisor Harter brought up the Fire Ordinance that they proposed a couple months prior and had asked the Fire Company for comments and revisions. Chris Harter said they looked at the Ordinance but there were no terms on money donations and the Fire Company wanted a guarantee. The fire company suggested a work session with the Board, but Supervisor Zimmerman said it would need to be a special meeting and open to the Public.

Supervisor Zimmerman and Supervisor Harter state the Board needs accountability. The public has a right to know what their monies will be paying for. The Board gave the Fire Company a \$125,000 donation in 2021 for Debt Service and are willing to continue giving donations. A one mill increase would average out to be approximately \$107,000.00 a year, what would the Fire Company be using that for - operations or equipment? Chris Harter replied all of the above.

Tim Meyers, Township Resident, said the fire company is all volunteers. He would like the Board to give the Fire Company donations without any strings attached so they can continue to respond as needed. Supervisor Zimmerman responded and said the Board is continuing to give the fire company money through all these discussions, she is not in favor of giving away the tax payers money till she can see what their expense are.

Supervisor Heckman said he is in favor of the Millage increase.

Bids were opened for the Walker Township Stormwater Improvements:

1. Bowman Excavation/Paving/Concrete - \$87,320.00
2. John Claar, Inc. - \$105,705.13
3. Stone Valley Construction - \$107,943.00
4. Mid-State Paving, LLC - \$110,725.00
5. Dave Gutelius Excavating, Inc. - \$177,745.00

Supervisor Harter made a motion to conditionally award the Stormwater Improvements Bid to Bowman Excavation/Paving/Concrete based on Engineer's review and recommendation to award and receipt of easements from the following properties: 125 Red Oak Dr, 348 Benner Road, and 404 Forest Avenue. The motion was seconded by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.

Bids were opened for the Walker Township Shoulder Upgrades:

1. Mid-State Paving LLC - \$97,840.00
2. Bowman Excavation/Paving/Concrete – 114,206.00
3. Dave Gutelius Excavating, Inc. – 161,519.75
4. Stone Valley Construction – 198,705.00

Supervisor Heckman made a motion to conditionally award the Shoulder Upgrades Bid to Mid-State Paving, LLC based on Engineer Franson's review and recommendation to award; motion second by Keith Harter and approved by all three Supervisors.

Guests (cont'd):

- Richard Poorman, 404 Forest Avenue, spoke with the Board regarding his stormwater issues and the proposed Stormwater Improvement to fix the problem. He does not agree with the proposed swale/ditch and disagrees where the location of the water line is. Mr. Poorman will contact the Water Association to set up a meeting with them to confirm the location of the water line.
- Joe Yakich, 369 Walizer Rd, discussed the stormwater concern at his property and the new S&A 5-Lot Subdivision. The Township Engineer visited the site after a heavy rainstorm and noted a slight increase of the elevation of the ground at the driveway entrance into the S&A development. He made recommendations to the developer. Tom Jacobs from S&A Homes disagrees and said the issue is a preexisting condition. Supervisor Harter said that Mr. Jacobs and the Township Engineer should meet and discuss the issue and keep Mr. Yakich along with the Board informed of their findings.

ZONING:

- Supervisor Harter reported there were 8 Zoning Permits.

ROADMASTER:

- Eck's Garage was contacted regarding the approximate 3,000 miles on the new truck and the difference in value for a truck with 3,000 miles vs zero miles. Eck's Garage response was those miles were on the truck when it arrived to their garage. It was driven from Mexico not shipped. The warranty will start with the exact mileage that it was when it arrived at Eck's. The truck is currently at Maxwell as it keeps blowing a fuse.
- The Tiger Mower has required several repairs. Mr. Harter said this piece of equipment should be considered for replacement in the future.

PARKS AND REC REPORT:

- Supervisor Zimmerman reported she contacted CPI but there is currently no one working in the department to discuss the excess blocks Parks and Rec has.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Board reviewed the Final Plan – Subdivision for Mark and Sadie Esh - CCPCDO #97-22. Supervisor Harter made a motion to conditionally approve the Municipal Response Request after Planning Commission and Parks and Rec. review; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- The Meets or Exceeds letter was sent to the Centre County Planning Commission for Nittany Rental Properties, LLC & Samuel & Dorothy Byler Lot Addition/Replot Proposal – CCPCDO No. 86-22.
- The Bellefonte High School Academic Awards were issued to:
 1. William Brininger
 2. Kaley Fisher
 3. Nolan Weaver
- The CPI Academic Awards were issue to:
 1. Caitlyn Bechdel
 2. Abigail Billett
 3. Colton Deitrich
- Supervisor Harter made a motion to open a CD with First National Bank in the amount of \$520,863.37 with an interest rate of 2.45 percent APR, and close the Township's current CD with Jersey Shore Bank with a balance of \$520,863.37 and no penalty fees for early withdrawal; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Harter made a motion authorizing the Planning Commission to send a letter to PENNVEST asking them to provide appropriate funding for the Booster Station and Waterline Improvements Project for the Walker Township Water Association; motion second by Deborah Zimmerman and approved by all three Supervisors.
- Supervisor Harter said the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission Fire Study discussion has resumed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- There was no action on hydrant fees on Tax Bills
- The revised Solar Ordinance was reviewed. Supervisor Harter made a motion to have the Solicitor review the Ordinance. If satisfactory, advertise it so it can be approved at the September meeting; motion second by James Heckman and approved by all three

Supervisor Heckman made a motion to approve July General Fund Paid Bills and Treasurers Report in the amount of \$45,682.95; motion second by Keith Harter 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 9:06pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan L. Wagner