

## **Walker Township Board of Supervisors**

**Minutes of May 23, 2023**

### **Regular Meeting**

The Walker Township Board of Supervisors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at the Walker Township Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by Joseph Harford at 6:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Morris.

**Present:** Joseph Harford, Matt Johnson, Larry Lashinsky, Julie E. Johns/Treasurer; Jim Morris, Debb Johnston/ Secretary.

**Absent:** Steve Felton & Kirk States

**Guests Present:** Roger Grove, Bill Koppenhaver, Nancy Robb, Warren Peters, Jim Ardrey, Melanie Norris, Travis Norris, Connie Householder, and Ken Evans.

#### **Additions to agenda:**

*A motion was made to add the change order for construction and Taylor Hoover's resignation as Tax Collector. (Johnson/Harford, motion carried)*

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** No public comment on agenda items

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

*A motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2023. (Johnson/Harford, motion carried).*

*A motion was made to approve the minutes from the special meeting held April 27, 2023, for the hearing to adopt changes to the zoning ordinance. (Johnson/Harford, motion carried).*

#### **Treasurer's Report/Payment of Bills:**

The Treasurer's Report and monthly bills were reviewed. A motion was made to pay the presented invoices. *(Johnson/Harford, motion carried)*

#### **Guests:**

Roger Grove & Bill Koppenhaver attended to discuss the building that they started before obtaining a zoning permit. When Jim went to look at it, he told them it was in the flood plain and that they would either have to tear it down or go through a zoning hearing and request a variance to see if they would allow the building to continue, but that they were to stop construction until they were given permission to continue. They debated the flood plain location, and Larry told them that they couldn't change the flood plain – it was delineated by FEMA, and that the only way to continue in the current location would be to request a variance through the zoning hearing board, and the cost for that is \$500, no matter the outcome of the hearing. They left discussing moving the location of the structure.

Nancy Robb attended to ask the Supervisors if they have heard anything from PennDOT about the letter she sent in January. Deb explained that she had reached out to PennDOT and asked about our letter. They appeared to have misplaced it but said that they would put us on the list as of January to have a traffic study done, but they are backed up, and it could be fall until they get a chance to get the study done. The PennDOT rep. suggested calling the State Police and asking them to monitor Hartslog Valley Road more closely until they can get the study done.

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**Progress Reports:**

Kirk submitted a report of activities for the Supervisors but was not in attendance at the meeting. A copy of the submittal is in the meeting packet book.

**Park & Rec Committee:**

The P & R committee applied for and were awarded a grant through the county's program for Act 13 funds to add garbage cans to be placed around the track area. There will be an additional charge for the cans because the county retains an administration fee, which will have to be picked up by the Township. *A motion was made to approve spending the difference out of the park budget. (Johnson/Harford, motion carried)*

**Zoning Enforcement Officers report:**

Jim went over the report that he submitted, highlighting that he had done the campground inspection at Yingling's campground with Matt. They adjusted some of the site numbers with the owners, but everything looked good. He approved the BTAMC building changes. He mentioned that Verizon Wireless has approached him about a location for another tower, and that he had approved the sign permit for Fike Bros. Carpet One building. After reviewing Jim's report, Joe asked Jim if he would go back to the way he had been doing the reports in the past with more specifics and separate times for each job. He indicated that he would.

**Building Committee:**

Change order #3 in the amount of \$18 494.93 was submitted for approval, which included additional concrete used on site, over excavation and filling of areas that were unsuitable for building footings at both the pole building and the wash bay, and changes to the overhead door opening framing in the pole building. *A motion was made to approve the third change order. (Johnson/Harford, motion carried)*

Ken Evans asked the Supervisors if they have considered that by doing the snow rails on the buildings themselves or getting another contractor at some point in the future, they may void the roof warranty? The Supervisors assured Mr. Evans that they would consider his concerns and make sure that another contractor would do the installation in a way that would not void the warranty.

**Planning Commission:**

Julie reported that the PC Board had discussed what was happening at a property on Fairgrounds Rd, previously owned by Lou Maierhoffer. It has recently changed hands, and the new owners have installed a new road down to the creek area, and appear to be clearing out trees, etc., along the creek. Joe attended the PC meeting and suggested that they send the new owners a letter welcoming them to the Township and giving them some contact information and links to our zoning ordinance and flood plain ordinance, as they are disturbing area within the flood plain and along the waterway. Jim spoke up, stating that he had been in contact with the new owners, and had gotten both the conservation district and DEP involved, and that they are working towards a resolution to the issues that have been raised.

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**Old Business:**

Ordinance 2023-5, changes to the zoning ordinance regarding having chickens and ducks in the residential areas of Walker Township as well as a clarification to an existing section of the campground ordinance that would allow single site campgrounds to exist as a permitted use in the conservation district only.

After much discussion on the section amending the single site campgrounds (401.143), it was stricken from the ordinance amendment, and *a motion was made to adopt the amended presented ordinance. (Harford/Johnson, motion carried)*

The school bus stop ahead signs on Fairgrounds Rd were installed.

**New Business:**

Larry presented the PC and Supervisors with a draft of a solar farm ordinance and asked them to look it over, make any changes that they felt necessary, and plan to adopt it in the near future. The planning commission is going to review over the next month and have some recommendations for the Supervisors for next month's meeting.

The discussed paperwork that had been distributed for standards for cleaning channels, culverts, and around bridges. The Supervisors would like to set up a meeting with the people that would like to do something in Cree Manor, the zoning officer, and someone from the conservation district so that the homeowners can understand what they are and are not allowed to do. Ken Evans spoke up that he knows of an organization that does this type of work at no cost – a community service. He is supposed to get Deb the information to contact them.

*A motion was made to change next month's meeting date from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of June. (Harford/Johnson, motion carried)* Larry asked them if they would be available around 3 that afternoon to get together and sign the closing paperwork on the loan for the new construction. They agreed – Julie is to notify the Authority Board reps.

The Supervisors acknowledged the winter traffic maintenance agreement for 2023 – 24 – the third year in a 5-year contract with the State.

**Personnel:**

*The Supervisors made a motion to accept the resignations of both Deborah Johnston as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, and Taylor Hoover as of June 10<sup>th</sup>. (Johnson/Harford, motion carried)*

*A motion was made to give Jairus and Garth \$1 / hour, retroactive to the date that they received their water licensing. (Johnson/Harford, motion carried)*

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**Miscellaneous:**

The Right to Know policy was discussed. Joe asked about how this works. Larry explained that when there is a RTK request submitted, it goes to the Township. They have 5 days to respond, either with the requested information, or by asking for an extension to get the requested information. The only costs that can be recouped are the cost of copying documents at .25/copy. There are no reimbursements allowed for administrative time, either by staff or solicitor or engineer.

Joe asked if the office can set up meetings at the July or August meeting with both the Fire Department and the State Police to give reports on their activities to date so far this year.

**Public Comment on non-agenda items:**

Jim Ardrey requested that the Supervisors consider offering to issue 4-H participants a temporary permit to raise an animal as a 4-H project on their property. The Supervisors asked him to talk to the PC about this request.

Warren Peters asked about getting a retired person to do the park maintenance so that our employees might be able to do other things, and maybe at a lesser cost.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to attend to, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM.  
(*Johnson/Harford motion carried.*)

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E Johns, Acting Secretary