

Walker Township Board of Supervisors

Minutes of June 27, 2023 Regular Meeting

The Walker Township Board of Supervisors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, June 27, 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 Rodney Johns.

Present: Joseph Harford, Matt Johnson, Steve Felton, Larry Lashinsky, Kirk States, Julie E. Johns, Secretary, and Jim Morris, Zoning officer.

Guests Present: Warren Peters, Jim Ardrey, Melanie Norris, Connie Householder, Chris Linn, Donald, Kim & Roy Spickler, Tom Gruber, Steve Quinn, Paul Beck, Mike Lang, Belinda Morris, Rodney Johns, and Rebecca Berdar, TDN

Additions/Changes to agenda: None

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2023 meeting. (Felton/Johnson, 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/Felton, motion carried)*

Guests: None

Park & Rec Committee:

The Act 13 grant was discussed. There is an application that needs to be approved, signed and returned to the County to get the money we were awarded. *A motion was made to approve the grant in the amount of \$3,273.00 less \$196 in administration costs, a total of \$3,077.00. (Felton/Johnson, motion carried)*

The bench near the pond needs to be replaced. It was discussed that someone might be interested in sponsoring some of the equipment that would be needed at the park.

Progress Reports:

Kirk reported that they have been:

- Working on Iron Ore Rd, cleaning ditches, tailgating stones for surface and building a crown again.
- Primarily mowing the berms and banks along the Township's roads. Will be at least another 2 weeks to complete if everything goes well.
- Need to replace a park bench at the park.
- They have someone scheduled to come and clean the basketball court surface with a pressure washer concrete attachment.
- The pavilion will need to be painted this fall – sometime after Labor Day, as well as the gazebo needs new roof shingles.
- Met with Mike Bowser from PennDOT (new acting district 9 rep.) and got paving bids ready for 2023 paving projects. Will be bidding them as two separate items on the bids, the pavement and the seal coat.
- Maintenance to vehicles, including inspections for T-4 (Ford dump) and some ongoing issues with the dump bed of the International (T-2)
- Purchased replacement flails for the arm mower.

Progress Reports (con't.):

- Discussed the new tractor/mower situation – tractor has been paid for and is sitting at Forshey's waiting for the mower dealer to pick up and install arm mower. The mower is not anticipated to be delivered to the dealer until the end of July. (was 180 day turnaround from order date)
- Had to have the NH tractor tire repaired.
- Looked at the paving bids with the contractors.
- Helped with water leak repair on Pond Rd.
- Patching road surface on Orchard Rd. and planned drainage repair later this summer.
- Asked about OT for berm mowing – Supervisors OK'd
- Need to order at least 2 loads of salt for the commitment for 2022-23 contract. Ask the contractor about putting it in the new building.

Zoning Enforcement Officers report:

- Jim went over the report he submitted for May's permitting.
- He told the Supervisors that Roger Grove has decided to move the structure they started to build in the flood plain. He is working with them on choosing a more suitable location.
- He is working with the new owners at 11041 Fairgrounds Rd. to bring their endeavors into compliance with the conservation district and DEP.
- The Handy's are still working on the property they purchased from Judy Winfree after the fire. They have removed the trees and shed, gutted the house, and are planning to replace the roof and windows as the materials arrive. They plan to side over the bricks and flip the house when completed.
- Verizon wireless contacted Jim about potential locations for a cell tower in our area. His recommendations have been turned over to the Verizon department that deals with this.
- There is an onsite visit with the conservation district and the Supervisors scheduled for June 30th regarding Cree Manor's water issues.

Planning Commission:

The Planning Commission submitted notes from their meeting on the 19th, including asking the Supervisors to consider changes to the sign ordinance within the zoning ordinance that would legislate temporary sign placement and discussed, again, the wording for single site campers in the conservation district, explaining their initial request to change the ordinance to allow single sites as a permitted use within the conservation district only. Currently they would have to go through the conditional use hearings to be allowed to place a single camper on a parcel of land. They also recommended the following changes to the Supervisors regarding the solar farm ordinance that has been being reviewed by both boards. Solar Farm discussion - *See marked up copy of draft ordinance in packet.*

- Paul brought up that in a lot of cases around here, actual property lines were not known on these large parcels because they were surveyed 100 years ago. He asked if there was a way we could require a survey of the property in the PSES before we would issue permits so we were sure they were on their own property, and that they would meet the setback requirements.
- In section 3, (page 3 at the bottom – last 3 paragraphs) We need to integrate our building setbacks for the residential districts, or at least refer to the zoning ordinance and stipulate that they conform to the building setbacks and height requirements - not the accessory use setbacks – for placing ground mounted systems. No placement in the front yard unless they go through zoning hearing.

**Walker Township Supervisors
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 27, 2023
Page 3**

Planning Commission (con't):

- In section 4, page 4, we need to put the *conservation district* in the open line. The general business and industrial districts would be up for discussion.
- On page 6, 6 paragraphs down, the planning commission recommended changing the setback lines for PSES from 100' to 300' from a property line or the right of way of a public roadway. This point was hotly debated, as Porter Township is currently requiring 1000' in their ordinance. We just thought it should be more than 100'. If you think more than 300' is in order, then we are all on board with that too.
- We will need to set fees for the application of the solar farm (PSES) and residential solar use (ASES). Do we need a new application?

Building Committee:

The building meeting minutes were reviewed.

Draw requests (#6) from Penn State Construction for \$119,139.75 and (#2) from D & M Electrical for \$33,120.00 were approved. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)

Old Business:

The changes to the solar farm were discussed, and Larry saw no issues with any of the recommendations above. He stated that they will come up with a new application and set the fees as this progresses. *A motion was made to advertise for adoption of the solar farm ordinance with the suggested changes at the July 18 meeting. (Felton/Johnson, motion carried)*

Jim Ardrey asked the Supervisors again about permitting 4-H members to be able to have animal projects at their homes. He indicated that he attended the PC meeting, and they told him that they were not interested in issuing permits for children to have projects. It was discussed that they could make a resolution to set zoning ordinance fees for animals for some fixed amount of money when application is submitted by youth in 4-H or FFA programs. This would be for the chickens/ducks that the latest ordinance amendment discussed.

New Business:

Bids were received for the 2023 paving projects:

New Enterprise:	Item 1, paving:	\$54,025.56
Grannas Bros:	Item 1, paving:	\$50,778.00
Hawbaker:	Item 1, paving:	\$56,497.50
Russell Standard:	Item 2, seal coat:	\$17,733.54

A motion was made to accept the bids and award the bids to the lowest bidders: Item #1, Grannas Bros, \$50,778.00 and Item #2, Russell Standard - \$17,733.54. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)

Personnel:

A motion was made to appoint Deborah Low as the tax collector, to fill in the remainder of the term vacated by Taylor Hoover last month. (Felton/Johnson, motion carried)

A motion was made to appoint Mitzi Fouse as the deputy tax collector at the request of the tax collector. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)

**Walker Township Supervisors
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 27, 2023
Page 4**

Miscellaneous: None

Public Comment on non-agenda items:

Steve Quinn voiced concerns about the maintenance of Orchard Rd. They discussed that there was drainage work planned, and if the Supervisors were willing, they could do the work to take it back to pre-sealcoat days, scarify the surface – remove the tar & chip coating, crown the road by adding additional stone and compacting it. This would need to be done a couple times a year but would be an improvement to the current surface situation at a fraction of the cost of the bids to pave the road. It was also discussed that we could apply for the grant to redo the road again. Matt asked for numbers on how much we've paid the engineer to do this so far.

Adjournment:

With no further business to attend to, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:18PM. (*Johnson/Felton motion carried.*)

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E Johns, Acting Secretary