

# Walker Township Board of Supervisors

**Minutes of July 18, 2023**

## **Regular Meeting**

The Walker Township Board of Supervisors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, July 18, 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 Chris Linn.

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

**Absent:** Larry Lashinsky

**Guests Present:** Warren Peters, Melanie Norris, Chris Linn, Donald, Kim & Roy Spickler, Rodney Johns, Tim Furlong & James Grissinger from HRRF.

**Additions/Changes to agenda:** A motion was made to add Resolution 071823, waiving fees for youth to have chickens or ducks as projects and the representatives from HRRF as guests.

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

### **Approval of Minutes:**

*A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2023 meeting. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried).*

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

The Treasurer's Report and monthly bills were reviewed with the addition of a check to transfer fire tax money to the fire tax account, \$3,533.50. A motion was made to pay the presented invoices. *(Felton/Johnson, motion carried)*

### **Guests:**

Tim Furlong & attended to give the Township Supervisors a report on the state of the Fire Co. Tim told the Supervisors that they had responded to 21 incidents in the Township as of this meeting and they've been holding at least one fundraising even each month. Joe asked about the comparison of fund-raising success from previous years to this year and Tim replied that pre-covid, they would do 600 chicken halves and sell out, at the last sale, they prepared 300, and only sold 275. The gun raffle is their biggest fund raiser, and it has been performing as it always did. Their ticket sales are down this year but they have more tickets to sell as well, They have a new home for the raffle, the H.C. Fairgrounds, and the date is Saturday, July 22, 2023.

They are preparing a fleet replacement plan and will be looking at replacing the squad truck at a cost of \$1,250,000 with a wait time of over 30 months. As of this date, they are anticipating ordering it in 2024. Once their replacement plan is completed, they will be asking all the municipalities they serve, Hunt. Boro, Oneida, Henderson, and Walker to review it with them. They also mentioned that currently it costs \$5500 per person to outfit a firefighter, and that equipment is only good for 10 years. They have between 45 – 50 people at this time.

They told the Supervisors that Huntingdon Boro has a 2 mil tax, Oneida makes a donation annually equal to 3 mil, Henderson collects .5 mil for HRRF, and Walker is at 2 mil.

### **Park & Rec Committee:**

The contract for the Act 13 money was received. The committee should be good to order the trash receptacles.

Joe asked if they would be planning a meeting to go over the master plan and decide what elements they would like to start working on. Chris replied that that was the plan later this year.

**Progress Reports:**

Kirk reported that they have been:

- Mowing berms and banks – until the arm mower broke. The first time, they tried to replace the cables that broke and were told it would cost \$200 and take 60 days to get them. Kirk had Rick Johns weld it and it has held. They started to mow again, and finished Lloyd, which needed done before the seal coat, and then another part broke in the mower. This time the parts will cost \$786 and are 120 days out if ordered. Kirk has discussed trading services with Penn Township, and they have agreed to do Redstone Ridge Rd when they are doing their side of it and will trade time for berm work with our equipment. They intend to try the Authority's bush hog mower attachment in at least the high traffic areas. They still need to do Iron Ore, Blue Moon, Simon Fox, Orchard, Trey & Jennifer Dr. Joe asked if PennDOT might be able to help us?? Kirk is to check. All in all, it's probably not worth paying to repair the mower that will eventually be traded in with the tractor. They were giving us around \$1500 in trade that we will have to reimburse, but we would likely spend that much to repair it.
- The new mower for the tractor that was purchased this spring has still not arrived at the dealer for installation (it had a 180-arrival window). We are told that it should be in the end of July, but as of this date, we are not aware of any arrangements being made to get the tractor to the mower installer and get it on.
- Discussed honeybees that have made their home in the basement of the office.
- Since they can't mow right now, they have ordered stone to work on Orchard Rd.
- The basketball court has been cleaned. The lines need repainted – this fall, as well as the pavilion need to be painted.
- Musser was in and flushed the cross drains that plug up – Simon Fox Rd, Cider Press and the bottom of Cree. They could not get the drain at the bottom of Cree Manor to open – it is full of willow tree roots. They think the only solution is to dig about 60' of the pipe up starting from the outlet until they get to the blockage and replace the pipe.
- They discussed replacing the bench at the pond in the park. The cost to replace it with the same benches that we purchased with the last Act 13 grant have doubled, so they also discussed using the concrete ends and putting either recycled material or pressure treated wood on for the seats and backs. The cost is significantly less – a pair of concrete ends are \$130, and an extra \$65 if they need a middle support, plus the cost of lumber. The replacement bench was \$813 per bench before shipping.

**Zoning Enforcement Officers report:**

Jim went over the report he submitted for June's permitting.

- He told the Supervisors that Roger Grove shed has been moved out of the flood plain and has been permitted.
- He talked about the new owners at 11041 Fairgrounds Rd. They have completed all requirements from Conservation and DEP. He was asked about the camper that is sitting on the property. This brought up a discussion about the ordinance revision that was stricken from the last revision before it was adopted that would have delineated what the P.C. meant for single site campers when they updated the campground ordinance in 2022 – which was that it would be an allowed use in the conservation district, but would be limited to that district only. This needs to be settled because right now the ordinance is vague.

**Building Committee:**

The building meeting minutes were reviewed.

*Draw request #7 from Penn State Construction for \$218,037.49 and a credit change order (#4) -\$8927.22 were approved. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

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**Planning Commission:** no planning commission meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:**

The 2003 Ford F-350 was advertised for bids to sell it twice with no response. A resident approached the office last week and said he was interested in it for parts. Julie asked him to submit a sealed bid that the Supervisors could open at the meeting and determine whether they would sell it based on the amount of the bid. Rob Swan submitted a bid of \$325 to purchase the 2003 Ford. *A motion was made to accept the offer, and sell the truck to Rob Swan at a cost of \$325. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

Resolution 071823, waiving fees for youth projects for chickens and ducks was introduced. *A motion was made to approve the resolution. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

**New Business:**

The date for the Town Hall Meeting to discuss tax levy and water/sewer rate increases to fund the new facilities was discussed. The date of August 2<sup>nd</sup> was set at 6:00 p.m. at the fire hall. Julie is to notify the Authority and PC of that date and ask them to attend a planning meeting the evening before at 6:00 at the municipal building. Julie will place the ad for both meetings ASAP.

**Personnel:**

*A motion was made to name Julie Johns as Walker Township secretary. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

**Miscellaneous:** None

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

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to attend to, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM. *(Johnson/Felton motion carried.)*

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E Johns, Secretary/Treasurer