

Walker Township Board of Supervisors

Minutes of September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting

The Walker Township Board of Supervisors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at the Walker Township Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by acting chairman, Matthew Johnson at 6:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Morris.

Present: Matt Johnson; Steve Felton; Larry Lashinsky; Julie E. Johns, Secretary; and Jim Morris, Zoning officer.

Absent: Joseph Harford, Chairman and Kirk States, Roadmaster

Guests Present: Chris Linn, Crystal Woodward, Tom Gruber, Cheryl Bookwalter, Rodney Johns, Melanie Norris, Roy Spickler, Ryan Fisher, Mike Lang, Belinda Morris, and Rebecca Berdar, TDN.

Additions/Changes to agenda: *a motion was made to add Woodcock Valley Wranglers, Crystal Woodward, to the guest list. (Johnson/Felton, 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 August 22, 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 in the amount of \$20,896.75. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

Guests:

Crystal Woodward attended to ask for permission for the Woodcock Valley Wrangler to use a portion of the Township's property on Fairgrounds Rd. for their annual haunted trail, which would be on October 7, 14, 21, & 28. They also requested removing the silt sock in one area. It was determined that the silt sock would need to remain in place but was suggested that they could build a bridge over it if they wanted to use that area. *A motion was made to give them permission to use a small portion of the property for their trail as long as the construction area and silt sock were not disturbed. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

Park & Rec Committee:

Chris discussed the quote to update the camera system at the park. They had questions about resolution, additional cameras, etc. and will need to revisit the process next month after they have a chance to talk to Park Security.

The discussed the bench at the pond needing replaced again, and what kind of bench they would like to use. For cost reasons they discussed using the concrete ends and pressure treated 2 x 4's. It was also brought up that possibly they could reach out to the Vo-Tech or the local boy scout troops to see if they could get two "team" style seat only benches that could be placed at the basketball court and then move the one that matches the others down to the pond. This will also be revisited at next month's meeting as well.

Progress Reports:

Kirk's report was read by Julie:

- He met with Jeff Tate paving about paving the parking lot at the park, and also about a quote to pave the walking path. The quote has not come back yet.
- Continued work on Orchard Rd. to remove the tar and chip and bring the road surface back to dirt (stone).
- There has been so much rain they have been mowing at the park and on Bouquet Street twice a week
- They have been cutting brush on the berms as time and weather allows
- The status of the mower for the new tractor is still limbo. They think now that it will be in some time the beginning of October – maybe we'll see it by the end of October.

Zoning Enforcement Officers report:

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

- He told the Supervisors that he has been talking to George Cates about options for what he wants to do on his property. He has continually built on his property until there is very little else he can do because of lot coverage restrictions.
- Dealing with a complaint about junk cars and garbage at 12061 Station Rd & the condition of 12055 Station Rd residence. The house at 12055 Station fits the definitions of a dangerous structure. Larry is going to look into what we might be able to do to work with the County to help us get that structure torn down.
- The elementary school has approached a contractor about putting solar panels in behind the school building. They reached out to the office and Julie referred them to Jim. He has been talking to them, but the use is too large to be personal, and they would need to go through a zoning hearing because they will not have the setbacks required for the commercial use.

Planning Commission: no meeting in September

Building Committee:

The building construction meeting minutes were reviewed.

They have final walk through scheduled for October 5th at 1:00 p.m. The punch lists have been started by the inspector and Bill, and PSC is working off those now. The Supervisors would like to have a moving get together with the employees sometime the end of the month to get a plan together for moving things from the Orchard Rd. building.

Change order #5 was presented, a credit of \$2,720.72 for payment of topsoil used on the property as well as a credit of the handrailing for the handicap parking space at the front of the building that B.V. inspectors said we do not need. There is also an addition for some paving that had to be done that was in addition to what was on the original contract. *A motion was made to approve/accept Change order #5. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

Draw #8 for \$305,674.64 was also presented. *A motion was made to approve payment of the request. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

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Old Business:

The office received notification of the completion of the speed study for Hartslog Valley Rd. that was sent in in January. They have agreed to drop the speed to 45 miles per hour, and will get orders in to Huntingdon PennDOT to install the appropriate signs. Mrs. Robb has been notified.

Julie has found out that we can move our current website (through PSATS) to our own domain name, which we own through comcast for our emails. PSATS is currently working on moving the sites to a new location and will help us get ours moved to the new domain name, walkertwp.net.

New Business:

The LSA grant is open again, and Julie reached out to the engineers to find out what the cost would be to update the grant application for Orchard Rd. They have responded that it should cost no more than \$1700 to make the application out for the project. *A motion was made to approve them updating the application for Orchard Rd. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

Trick or treat night was set for Tuesday, October 31st from 6 – 8 p.m. in conjunction with Huntingdon Boro's night. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)

Melanie Norris said that the Fire Department needs to get signs that say trick or treat, or caution, but no incident ahead. Julie asked if she would be willing to create some signs that they could put over the faces of the signs they currently use for that night.

A portable sign to announce Township news was discussed. There was concern that it wouldn't be a long-term solution and would be hard to maintain. Julie also mentioned that the Fire Dept. is currently discussing putting an electronic sign at the fire hall and was sure that they would be willing to let the Township use it too if they were willing to share in the cost. The cost number she heard was around \$15,000. The Supervisors felt this would be worth at least talking to the fire department about.

Setting the 2024 millage rate at 3.5 mils was discussed. This would be put into affect to pay off the debt for the new offices and buildings, and it would be recommended that when it was paid off, the current Supervisors continue to keep a 1 mil tax for future expenses so that they aren't in the same predicament that we find ourselves now. Larry said that it could be a recommendation, but that the future Board of Supervisors would need to make that call. This resolution would be set up for the October 17th meeting.

The personnel policy needs some updates to be cohesive for probationary periods and extensions if necessary. Julie is to take the recommendations from the meeting and present updates for next meeting.

Personnel:

A laborer for the Authority was hired on the 19th – Michael Hoffer at a pay rate of \$17.00 per hour.

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Miscellaneous:

Steve asked if they could start working on getting Veteran signs for McConnellstown. Larry told Julie to contact John Cirko who just got done working with Smithfield Twp to do the same thing.

Public Comment on non-agenda items:

Melanie Norris asked about the credit card bills on the treasurer's statements. She wanted to know why they were so different. Julie answered that the bills were different every month. There are some that are monthly, but she uses it to pay for annual bills like insurance and workers comp that don't charge her to use it because they get paid back 1.5% on charges through that particular card. There is never a balance carried.

Cheryl Bookwalter asked about the process to sell the Orchard Rd. property. Larry told her that they would have to get an appraisal of the building and property, and then put it out for sealed bids to be opened at a public meeting like when we purchase vehicles or stone. We would reserve the right to throw out the bids if they are not in line with the appraisal value, and that the value would not be made public until after the bids were accepted and awarded. The anticipation is that this will not happen until sometime next spring to summer at the earliest.

Adjournment:

With no further business to attend to, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM.
(*Felton/Johnson motion carried.*)

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E Johns, Secretary/Treasurer