

# **Walker Township Board of Supervisors**

**Minutes of November 21, 2023**

## **Regular Meeting**

The Walker Township Board of Supervisors held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at the Walker Township Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by chairman, Joseph Harford at 6:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chris Linn.

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

**Absent:** Larry Lashinsky, solicitor

**Guests Present:** Tom Gruber, Melanie Norris, Don & Kim Spickler, Roy Spickler, Belinda Morris, Rodney Johns, Chris Linn, Jeff Miller, Anthony Schmidt, and Mike Lang

**Additions/Changes to agenda:** *a motion was made to add the State Police report to the agenda. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

### **Public Comment on Agenda Items:**

Rodney spoke about the budget for the park. He asked them to consider the past practice of carrying over whatever isn't spent from one year to the next and adding to it so that eventually, there would be money to be able to do a larger project. He thought it was wrong to take away money because it wasn't spent when they would need a larger sum to do a project of any type at the park.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

*A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October 17, 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 \$461,501.09 from general fund & loan proceeds & \$33,743.60 from the general fund money market investment for the arm mower that was finally delivered. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

### **Guests:**

PA State Police Sgt. Jared Hartsock attended for a community visit. He reported the list of crimes that have transpired in Walker Township over the past year, including 15 crimes against society, 37 crimes against a person (includes assault investigations), 2 natural death investigations, 1362 domestic security checks, 16 motor vehicle accidents, 2 were DUI, 67 other domestics, and 190 traffic stops/citations. He asked if there was anything that the Supervisors would like them to do. There was no response, just a thank you for the thankless job that they do everyday.

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

Chris Linn reported that since the master plan is now in place, they have been reviewing the projects that were mentioned on it. The committee would like to pursue paving the walking path for 2024, either in part or whole, depending on what grant money might be available. They asked the Supervisors to consider budgeting for this as they work on the budget for next year.

**Park & Rec Committee (con't.):**

Chris has gotten no response back from the Vo-Tech school about the benches for the basketball court.

**Progress Reports:**

Kirk reported:

- The fire extinguishers were serviced. We have 24 total, and needed 3 new ones this year for the new building.
- Finished painting the pavilion and also the bathroom fencing and basketball court and poles to stop cars were refreshed.
- Asked the Supervisors about pulling some of the trash cans for winter
- Finished the path renovations – thinks they had about 28 hours each for 3 guys
- Pam Miller asked about needed a driveway permit-she's having her driveway repaved next spring. The driveway comes out onto Tammerlane Dr. It does not need a drain under it.
- The tractor & arm mower were delivered. The arm mower has been removed and stored in the new building.
- They have been doing ditch work with the new tractor and it is working great. He added a plow edge to the bucket to protect it.
- The cameras at the park are working well. You can click and zoom in if needed.
- Continuing to work on Orchard Rd.; currently they are working on several areas with springs under them.
- Found a spreader like they've been looking for at US Municipal. It's a stainless steel spreader with a gas engine, so there would be no need to have to add electrical wiring to make it work. It was ordered in by another entity and then they decided they didn't want it. The cost is \$6,072. *A motion was made to purchase the spreader. (Felton/Johnson, motion carried)*

**Zoning Enforcement Officers report:**

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

- There was a complaint about trash around the house at 6081 Cider Press Rd. He provided a sample of the letter he proposed to send to the homeowners.
- The condition of the home at 12059 / 12061 Station Rd (double house) was discussed again. He'd received a report that it looked like something collapsed inside the home, but when he looked, he could not see anything from the outside. The upstairs windows were boarded up.
- He has issued a permit for a shed and looked at a hot tub.
- He discussed the school's request for a solar farm at the rear of the school property. The school's contractor attended the planning commission meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and they are interested in pursuing a zoning variance to be able to put the solar panels close to the property line in a residential area. He said that Southside is supposed to be working on a new roof, and possibly the panels could be placed on the roof without having to get the zoning variances needed for their current plan. We need to work on a fee schedule for the ordinance requirements.
- He's working with a resident on Turkey Farm Rd to add a garage. Where they want to put it is in the flood plain, and he's trying to work with them to relocate it to another area on the property.
- The Aponte property, 12055 Station Rd., is coming up for judicial sale the beginning of the new year.

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**Planning Commission:**

The planning commission recommended approval of the Grubb subdivision, contingent upon DEP accepting the non-building waiver that has been submitted. *A motion was made to approve the Grubb subdivision, contingent upon DEP's approval of the non-building waiver. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

**Building Committee:**

The employees are working on some internal projects in the old building. The walls need to be pressure washed before they can be painted, and the concrete floors need to have some work done on them as well. These things were not part of the update that was bid out. It was thought we could do these things ourselves after the construction was complete at a reduced cost.

*A motion was made to approve the construction draws for Penn State Construction, \$371,407.46 and D & M Electrical, \$43,416.00. (Felton/Johnson, motion carried)* There has been money held for both contractors until some final items have been completed.

**Old Business:**

Joe discussed the process for the permitting of the work at the Fairgrounds property that was questioned at last month's public comment section. The engineers did the applications that were necessary to get permitting from Bureau Veritas, and said that typically, municipalities didn't issue permits for themselves, so they didn't pursue that path. Joe apologized, and said that in the future, they would make that application.

**New Business:**

The proposed budget was discussed. Changes were made to the park budget & the equipment budget lines. *A motion was made to approve the advertisement for adoption at the December meeting. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

DEP sent letters out offering free radon test kits for our Township. The Supervisors approved placing the information on the website for anyone who might be interested, and Julie offered to put it on the water/sewer bills for December as well. Julie will reach out to the newspaper to see if they want to run a story on it, or mention it with the highlights from the meeting.

Lois Kyper has requested some help with the curve in front of her home. It's a very sharp, 90-degree, turn and although it's a State Rd., we do the winter maintenance. There are constant accidents there – people running into her fence because they're going too fast to negotiate the turn. She doesn't get it fixed until someone else hits it. The State is working on some things, including putting a non-skid surface on that section of the road in the spring, and painting warnings on the road. They suggested that she call us to ask about placing a flashing light on the sign to draw attention to the curve ahead sign. This would be our responsibility since we do the sign maintenance on all roads in the Township. The Supervisors asked if we could reach out to PennDOT's Twp rep at the Huntingdon shed and ask them about liability if we do something like that.

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**New Business (con't.):**

*A motion was made to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2024. This includes two meetings in January – one for reorganization on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the other at the regular time, the third Tuesday of the month. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

The Home Nursing Agency has requested a donation. *A motion was made to send them \$250. (Felton/Johnson, motion carried)*

**Personnel:** none

**Miscellaneous:** none

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

The Cree Manor drainage was discussed again.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to attend to, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. *(Johnson/Felton motion carried.)*

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E Johns, Secretary/Treasurer