

Walker Township Board of Supervisors

Minutes of December 13, 2023

Regular Meeting

The Walker Township Board of Supervisors held its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, December 13, 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 Kirk States.

Present: Joseph Harford, Chairman; Matt Johnson; Steve Felton; Larry Lashinsky, solicitor; Kirk States, Roadmaster; and Julie E. Johns, Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent: Jim Morris, Zoning officer

Guests Present: Melanie Norris, Roy Spickler, Kevin Fluke, Peggy Stuller, John Cirko, Deb & Doug Glazier, Ryan Fisher, Kim Myers, Tim Furlong, Susan Himes, Rebecca Berdar- TDN, and Mike Lang.

Additions/Changes to agenda: No changes

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to remove the personal information in the 3rd paragraph concerning Michael Hoffer's release. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)

A motion was made to include guests Travis Norris & Kim Myers in the minutes to the budget workshop. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 21, 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 \$18,746.71 from the general fund. (Felton/Johnson, motion carried)*

A motion was made to pay Penn State Construction \$2125.50 for final payment of Phase 1 construction. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried) This money was from the General Fund and was not from the loan.

Guests:

Tim Furlong, representing the Huntingdon Regional Fire & Rescue, made a report of activities they have participated in over the last year. He said they responded to 381 incidents year to date, with 27 being in Walker Township. He submitted a report that was placed at the end of the meeting packet folder which outlined their expenses, which totaled \$45,863.16 this month, including equipment maintenance, loan payments, fundraising expenses, insurance, etc. He reported that their latest sandwich sale made approx. \$2,000. They also worked on the Christmas parade, toured Mutual Benefits buildings to get familiar with the layout in case of fire, and are planning to work with a couple entities in Walker Township to do the same type of thing after the beginning of the year. He also reported that they are looking to replace the engine/rescue vehicle at the McConnellstown station, and that from the time they order the truck they will have approximately a 3 year wait to receive it. It will also likely cost approximately \$1.2 million.

Park & Rec Committee: n/a

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Progress Reports:

Kirk reported:

- Working on sign evaluation since late November, straightening, replacing reflectors, painting posts, and replacing signs that have lost their reflectivity.
- The walking trail at the park has washed out again, and he would like to place some drainage under those areas in the spring so that the water doesn't continue to wash over the surface.
- Cutting trees and brush and working on filling potholes on Blue Moon Rd.
- Getting the trucks ready for snow
- Purchased the spreader box, and now need to get the control wiring done, and get it mounted in the bed of the Authority truck that is used to help plow snow.
- Working on the inside of the old HAPCO building, pressure washing/ removing shelves and other items on the walls so that they can be cleaned and repainted, working on the floors in the breakroom to add drains for a sink, and also a slop sink in the garage. The concrete will need to have some kind of surface treatment once they are all done with their work. Mt Union Lumber was there to get a quote ready for that treatment.
- Ordered a dumpster to clean out all the stuff left behind from New Enterprise
- Working on running the spouting under ground from the front of the building to keep it from running out onto the hard surface and freezing.

Zoning Enforcement Officers report: Jim was not in attendance.

Planning Commission: There was no planning commission meeting in December.

Building Committee: Nothing to discuss yet on Phase 2

Old Business:

The proposed budget was discussed. It was noted that when preparing the budget at the workshop, it was overlooked that the Supervisors said at last year's meeting that they would work to bring the fire tax up to the 3-mil threshold over the next 3 years. The increased it .5 mils in 2023 and intended to do that same thing for the next 2 years. That amount would change from \$61,000 to \$76,000 collected. *A motion to adopt the 2024 budget with an increase of .5 mil for fire tax and changing the grant funds and expenses to match the grant application request. (Felton/Johnson, motion carried)*

Resolution 121323-1, setting the fire tax millage at 2.5 mils for 2024 was reviewed. *A motion was made to adopt resolution 121323-1. (Johnson/Felton, motion carried)*

Lois Kyper's request for lighting on the curve ahead sign was discussed. This was not as simple as just going out and placing a light on that sign. PennDOT would require that we make an application to the sign division in Hollidaysburg, and they would have to come out, look at the situation, and then give us the guidelines for doing that work, as far as what would be approved, etc. This would also become a maintenance issue for the Township for perpetuity. We already pretreat the road before winter storms, and the Supervisors decided to take a wait and see approach until after the State has done what they have proposed for the road surface in the spring.

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New Business:

Garret reached out to Julie to get the address for the new building when he was working on the application for power for Valley Rural Electric. There hadn't been an address issued when they applied for the current structure that was there because it was still in the planning stages. Julie reached out to the mapping office at the courthouse to start the process of getting the new building addressed. They told her that since the new admin building and the current storage building would be accessed from the same road off Fairgrounds Rd., they would need to propose a private road name that both buildings could be addressed to. This is a requirement of the 911 addressing system. We will need to come up with a name for the road that will become the new admin building's address in the future.

A resolution was introduced recognizing Steve Felton for his many years of service to the Township, as zoning officer, laborer, Authority Board member, and lastly Supervisor. This is his last meeting as Supervisor. *A motion was made to adopt resolution 121323-2 honoring Steve Felton. (Harford/Johnson, motion carried)*

Personnel:

There will be a 3% raise for the five Township/Authority employees, Kirk, Bill, Jairus, Garth, and Julie.

An ad is to be placed in TDN to advertise for the zoning officer's position that will be left vacant when Jim takes office as Supervisor.

Miscellaneous:

Julie asked the Supervisors what their thoughts were concerning moving the money at FNB into the investment at Kish Bank because they were getting more interest at Kish than at FNB. Joe suggested reaching out to FNB and asking if they would be willing to match the rate to keep the money.

Public Comment on non-agenda items:

Mike Lang raised his concerns about the construction of the storage building/salt shed. He said the building was useless and wants to know who was on the building committee and who proposed the building design. He says that the building was not constructed high enough, and that a dump truck won't be able to drive out with its bed up to dump the material.

Julie was questioned about what her hours are at the office and how she is paid based on the different jobs that she does.

Kevin Fluke, Penn Twp. Supervisor, commented that the Supervisors should be careful in considering adding lights, as they have been saddled with the blinking light at the intersection of Rt 26 and Seven Points Rd.

Adjournment:

With no further business to attend to, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM. *(Johnson/Felton motion carried.)*

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E Johns, Secretary/Treasurer