

WALPACK MAYOR AND COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 30, 2024

Opening Statement: Mayor Maglio stated, "This remote meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been duly advertised."

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Victor J. Maglio, Deputy Mayor James Heigis, Committeewoman Kelly Happe, CFO Ashley Kannaley, Attorney Glenn Kienz, Clerk Christine M. Von Oesen

NOTE: The system employed by the Township of Walpack for conducting its remote public meetings affords the public the opportunity to both listen to, and participate in, the meeting by means of a simple dial-in process which has been made known to the public via an announcement on the Township website since the first remote meeting was announced."

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve the November 21, 2023 Mayor and Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion by Committeewoman Happe. Second by Deputy Mayor Heigis. All in Favor.

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve the January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting Minutes. Motion by Committeewoman Happe. Second by Deputy Mayor Heigis. All in Favor.

Resolutions:

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-14-24 Bills List Resolution. Motion by Committeewoman Happe. Second By Deputy Mayor Heigis. All in Favor.

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-15-24 Transfer Resolution. Motion by Committeewoman Happe. Second by Deputy Mayor Hsigis. All in Favor.

New Business:

The agreement between Glenn C. Kienz, Esq. and the Township of Walpack was accepted.

The County of Sussex Resolution regarding acceptance of Federal Funds for entitlement lands and distribution of Federal Funds for payment in lieu of Taxes 31 U.S.C. 6902 was discussed.

The Walpack Historical Society letter was accepted.

Deputy Mayor Heigis asked about item use and maintenance. He feels that the garage should be removed as it does not sync with the schoolhouse.

Mayor Maglio responded that removal of the garage would pose an added expense for the Walpack Historical Society, and that the first concern is work needed on the schoolhouse.

Deputy Heigis responded that the garage is both a newer building and an eyesore, and that removing it may be necessary for the grant to be acquired.

(WHS member Ken Bechtold was present, and added his expertise during this discussion.) Mr. Bechtold agreed with Mr. Heigis, but added that the National Park Service was storing equipment in the garage. He will bring this discussion to the WHS Committee.

Deputy Mayor Heigis responded that the NPS could clean up the firehouse and use that building for storage.

Mayor Maglio responded that Mr. Bechtold can bring that suggestion to the WHS. Mayor Maglio asked Deputy Mayor Heigis if Walpack Township has an agreement with NPS for their use of this garage. Mayor Heigis was not aware of any such agreement.

Committeewoman Happe asked what is meant by, "if the Township joins another municipality."

Mayor Maglio responded that, if the Township of Walpack were to join another municipality, that caveat provides assurance that the schoolhouse agreement would stand.

Mayor Maglio and Mr. Bechtold agreed that a proposal/lease agreement is needed.

Mr. Bechtold advised that the WHS is seeking approximately \$7000 to \$8000 per year for maintenance of the schoolhouse. This is an increase from the originally anticipated \$5000 per year. Repair costs are predicted to be higher than originally anticipated. WHS is looking for a grant writer with experience in writing grants for historical properties. WHS is also seeking donations and is looking into fund raising. The projected cost to repair the schoolhouse roof and cupola, and removing the existing chimney, is \$45,000 to \$65,000, a figure that would deplete the current WHS fund.

Mayor Maglio requested of Mr. Bechtold that he advise WHS that the Walpack Township Committee is in agreement with the WHS plans to restore the Walpack schoolhouse, and upon approval from the WHS members to proceed, have a lease agreement drawn.

CMFO Kannaley discussed capital funds, adding that the budget is due at the end of March.

Mayor Maglio responded that WHS is applying for grants, and not municipal contributions. Mayor Maglio added that WHS would be submitting a small fee to the Township, which may or may not be compatible, and so, this will be kept in mind as CMFO Kannaley develops the budget.

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to have the Walpack Historical Society proceed with the approval of their members, and upon said approval, develop a lease proposal. Motion by Committeewoman Happe. Second by Deputy Mayor Heigis. All in Favor.

Mayor Maglio opened the meeting for Public Comment.

Mr. Ken Bechtold advised that the Walpack Historical Society has a meeting scheduled at the beginning of February, and he will bring the information from this meeting to them at that time.

Hearing no further public comment, Mayor Maglio closed the meeting to the public.

Adjournment:

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to adjourn. Motion by Committeewoman Happe. Second by Deputy Mayor Heigis. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen
Walpack Clerk