

WALPACK MAYOR AND COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 26, 2025

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

NOTE: The system employed by the Township of Walpack for conducting its remote public meeting 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.

Roll Call: Mayor Victor Maglio, Deputy Mayor Ken Bechtold, Committeeman James Heigis, MCFO Ashley Kannaley, Attorney Glenn Kienz, Clerk Christine M. Von Oesen

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve the June 24, 2025 Mayor and Committee meeting minutes. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Committeeman Heigis. All in Favor.

Resolutions:

Resolution R-30-25. A Resolution approving bills and vouchers for payment. Bills list attached. Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to approve R-30-25. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Committeeman Heigis. All in Favor.

Discussion:

Deputy Mayor Bechtold will post the (4) Certificates of Registration in the appropriate buildings.

Attorney Kienz will respond to a zoning inquiry regarding solar and wind energy.

Mayor Maglio stated that Walpack, being the small municipality that it is, does not always align with procedures developed for larger municipalities. Mayor Maglio met with Congressional Representative Kean's office, via a remote TEAMS meeting, regarding the schoolhouse roof repair, and other issues, and Congressional Representative Kean's office was receptive to our Walpack issues.

Attorney Kienz concurred, stating that Walpack is a microcosm compared to other townships with more taxpayers. Walpack has limited reserves. Regarding the roof repair, Attorney Kienz asked if the Walpack Historical Society has been contacted. He added that the State may be more helpful financially than the current Federal

government. Attorney Keinz suggests an Executive Session for the next meeting. Attorney Keinz added that prevailing wage is an issue. Attorney Kienz offered to reach out to the County Historical Society, if the Walpack Historical Society has not yet done so. The roof fix is not an easily resolved issue.

Mayor Maglio continued, adding that this goes beyond the roof, there will be other needs in the future. Legal and financial considerations should be discussed in Executive Session.

Deputy Mayor Bechtold is in favor of holding Executive Session.

Deputy Mayor Bechtold spoke with Bill Truhan who suggested that the Federal government would help finance this project. Attorney Kienz disagreed.

Committeeman Heigis is in favor of having an Executive Session.

Attorney Kienz requested that an Executive Session be scheduled for the next meeting.

Deputy Mayor Bechtold will attend the police meeting at Stillwater, as he had attended previously, and found valued information which he shared at a prior Walpack Township Mayor and Committee meeting.

Mayor Maglio opened the meeting for Public comment.

Bill Schwab asked if the Executive Session will be solely about the roof and future needs. Attorney Keinz responded that discussion would entail alternatives to repair and saving the building. Ashly added that she has had discussion with the auditor regarding prevailing wage and bidding, which all fall under the Local Public Contract Law, which cannot be avoided. Mr. Schwab asked if those procedures would still need to be adhered to if the Walpack Historical Society were to rent the building. Attorney Kienz responded that the landlord remains responsible and it would not be worth pursuing the rental option.

Attorney Kienz will talk to Wayne McCabe, retired Sussex County historian.

Mr. Schwab thought that he had heard that if a lease were engaged, some of the regulations that bind the municipality might be circumvented. He added that Mr. McCabe had proven to be a great grant writer for the county.

Attorney Kienz asked Mr. Schwab if he has any historical paperwork about the schoolhouse. Mr. Schwab indicated that he had some historical deeds and maps.

Attorney Kienz stated that we are working with diminishing assets.

Attorney Kienz shared that Mayor Maglio had received a nomination for a State Mayor of the Year award, by a reporter who had followed him in Walpack for many years.

Mayor Maglio replied that we are a team, both now and historically speaking.

Hearing no further Public comment, Mayor Maglio closed the Public comment portion of the meeting.

CFO Kannaley added that the audit should be available for the September meeting.

Mayor Maglio thanked the Walpack Historical Society for their efforts to preserve Walpack for future generations.

Mayor Maglio requested a Motion to Adjourn. Motion by Deputy Mayor Bechtold. Second by Committeeman Heigis. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen
Walpack Clerk