

**CITY OF WALKER  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
USDA CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FORESTS REQUEST TO VACATE  
Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room  
Monday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 5:45 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Walhof**

- Mayor Walhof called the Public Hearing to order at 5:45 p.m.
- Council members present: Fjelstul, Finney, Worth, Wilkening, Walhof
- Council members absent:
- Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, Administrator  
Wayne Tennis, Police Chief  
Will Hoyt, Landecker & Assoc.  
Robert Harper, USDFA  
Shirley Mallory, Shigobee Twp.  
Neil McMurrin, Resident  
Jay Pederson, Attorney  
Brian Hein  
Carolyn Drude, Elhers and Assoc.  
Andy Peck  
Jeff Holly  
Willard Arends  
Jake Howard

Sylvia Bakker, City Employee  
Dean Morrill, Pilot  
Greg Smith, USDFA  
Bob Mallory, Shingobee Twp.  
Kelly Nelson, Resident  
Pat McMurrin, Resident  
Sheila Johnson, RoJo Northwoods  
Edy Asell  
Neil Linscheid  
Ken Bresley  
Terry Freeman  
Brian Hein  
Tony Sauer

Various members of the USDFA gave the history of the ranger station in Walker since 1938. They thanked the City of Walker for all of the support they have given the forest service in the past. They explained the new plan for their expansion, and the reasons they would like the portion of Factory Street vacated. Safety is a factor, and the US government will not approve the plan unless the portion of Factory Street is vacated. Robert Harper explained that it is key for the forest service to remain in the County Seat.

Council member Fjelstul voiced his concern about the access the City of Walker would lose if Factory Street was vacated. The biggest obstacle the City has at this time is money to do anything. We can't make any decisions we will regret in the future. He also understands the importance of keeping the Forest Service in Walker.

Council member Finney asked what would happen to the current property if they were to move, and the Forest service said that it would probably be at least five years before they would move.

Mayor Walhof asked for comments or concerns from the audience. No comments or concerns were expressed.

Council member Fjelstul asked if public works has discussed this. Mayor Wahlof said that we have three streets to the top of the hill. It was public works recommendation not to vacate the portion of Factory Street.

Council member Wilkening stated that the slopes in any other area were way to steep to utilize.

**ADJORN- Mayor Walhof**

Mayor Wahlof adjourned the Public Hearing a 6:15 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Walhof, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator