

POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 17th, 2017 6:00P.M.

The Regular meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on 01/17/2017 at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA, and was opened by Vice-President Bob DeYoung at 6:00 p.m., and requested a moment of silence for John Smiley, former Supervisor and employee of Pocono Township, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Ellen Gnandt, present; Bob DeYoung, present; Harold Werkheiser, absent; Jerry Lastowski, present; and Judi Coover, present.

Leo DeVito, Solicitor, Broughal & DeVito; Jon Tresslar, Township Engineer, Boucher & James, Inc.; Charles Vogt, Township Manager; and Pamela Tripus, Township Secretary, were present.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

- 1) An executive session was held on January 3rd, 2017 to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Maxine Turbolski, Twp. resident, questioned the use of conference calls for absent board members and the marijuana petition.

MINUTES:

E. Gnandt made a motion, seconded by J. Coover, to approve the regular meeting minutes of 01/03/2017 with typo correction. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

J. Coover made a motion, seconded by E. Gnandt, to approve the work session of 01/12/2017. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

BILLS AND TRANSFERS:

E. Gnandt made a motion, seconded by J. Coover, to approve the check listing and transfers list dated 01/17/2017 excepting T&M's invoice Check # 198 in the amount of \$6,669.27. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

E. Gnandt made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve the Ratification list dated 01/17/2017. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

RATIFICATION OF RFP FOR 2015-2016 AUDIT E. Gnandt made a motion, seconded by J. Coover, to ratify the inclusion of the 2015 Audit in the Request for Proposal for 2016 Audit. Chris Ortolan, Twp. resident, questioned the cost of an additional audit. Joe Folsom, Twp. resident, Angela Tullo, Twp. resident, questioned the spending of additional funds for a second audit without knowing the issue. Jerrod Belvin, Twp. resident, questioned the delay in time to address the issue. Discussion followed.

RATIFICATION OF RFP CONT:

Jack Burns, Twp. resident, noted B. DeYoung and J. Lastowski voted in favor of passing the audit.

Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Absent

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

Bob DeYoung, Vice President, none.

Jerry Lastowski, Commissioner,

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by B. DeYoung, to approve the 2017

Fire Police:

Alvin Kresge Sr. Captain

Kevin Kresge Lieutenant

Richard Shay

Chris Kinsley, Sr.

Patrick Kresge

Gerald Lastowski

Steve Jacobs

Thomas Kresge

Chris Kinsley Jr.

Donald Simpson

Peter Gallagher

William Ward

Robert Gupko

Corey Sayre

Angela Tullo

Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

Judi Coover, Commissioner -

J. Coover made a motion, seconded by E. Gnandt, to change the BOC By-laws from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Meeting times), remove sewer meetings, and a typo correction. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

Ellen Gnandt, Commissioner -

Change of payroll period - no action taken.

Public work session for personnel policies - J. Coover made a motion, seconded by E. Gnandt, to authorize the Township Secretary to advertise a public work session on Monday, January 23rd, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Pocono Township Police Chief Kent Werkheiser, gave his report for December 2016.

Police Force staffing - Police Chief Werkheiser requested the Board of Commissioners consider hiring three new officers. Discussion followed. Angelo Tullo, Rich Wielebinski, Rolland Cheesman, Jerod Belvin, Jack Burns, Joe Shupp, Dean Hartshorn, and Victoria Kresge, Twp. resident, spoke in favor of hiring additional officers.

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by B. DeYoung, the Civil Service Commission to make conditional employment offers to three Police Officer candidates. Discussion followed. Roll call vote: E. Gndt, no; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, no. Motion failed. Discussion followed. Angelo Tullo, Twp. resident, spoke concerning police coverage.

J. Coover made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, the Civil Service Commission to make conditional employment offers to two Police Officer candidates recommended and the flexibility to move on to the next candidate on the list. Discussion followed. Jack Manual, Pocono Township Police Officer spoke concerning an officer that may not come back from injury. Roll call vote: E. Gndt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

Rolland Cheesman spoke concerning the two Commissioners reason for only two, instead three officers. Discussion followed.

Pocono Township Volunteer Fire Company - J. Lastowski read the Fire Company's report.

St. Luke's Ambulance - Jessica Burns gave St. Luke's report.

ADMINISTRATION:

Vacancy Board Chair Position - Discussion followed. J. Coover made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to appoint Joe Shupp as Pocono Township Vacancy Board Chair for 2017. Roll call vote: E. Gndt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board reappointment - J. Coover made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to reappoint Mark Love to the Pocono Township Zoning Hearing Board for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2019. Roll call vote: E. Gndt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

Pocono Jackson Joint Water Authority position-B. DeYoung made a motion, seconded by J. Coover, to appoint Don Simpson to the PJJWA. Discussion followed. L. DeVito noted since Don Simpson served on the Civil Service Commission, he could not serve on any other Township board. B. DeYoung and J. Coover withdrew their motion. No action taken.

ADMINISTRATION CONT:

Petition regarding amendment of Light Manufacturing Definition in a Commercial Zone. Discussion followed. J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by B. DeYoung, to send the Petition regarding amendment of Light Manufacturing Definition in a Commercial Zone to MCPC for review. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

Maxine Turbolski, Twp. resident, questioned the status of the Medical Marijuana petition.

American Legion Post 903 TLC Park Events for 2017 - J. Coover made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve the American Legion Post 903 TLC Park 2017 events: May 20th Armed Forces Day Ceremony, May 29th Memorial Day, June 10th Flag Retirement Day Ceremony, and August 19th 100th Anniversary of WWI. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

Spruce Lake Request for Use of TLC Park - No action taken.

2017 Conferences:

- a) February 13th, 2017 PML Capital Conference - Harrisburg.
- b) May 16-18, 2017 Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management Annual Conference - Bedford.

J. Coover made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve Charles Vogt, Twp. Manager, to attend the 02/13/2017 PML Capital Conference and the 05/16/2017 to 5/18/2017 Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management Annual Conference. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Plaza 611 Update - C. Vogt gave an update on the project.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No report.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR REPORT:

Boucher & James, Inc. Agreement for Professional Services - L. DeVito noted all was in order. No action taken.

Lamar/Rubin Zoning Hearing Board Sign Application - J. Coover made a motion, seconded by E. Gnandt, to not authorize to the Twp. Solicitor to attend the Lamar/Rubin Zoning Hearing Board Sign Application. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

DCNR Agreement - No action taken.

Kleyman/Slice of Life/Feelin' Good - Discussion followed. Chris Ortolan, Twp. resident, spoke concerning creating a Township ordinance to regulate Short Term rentals. J. Lastowski suggested short term rentals be placed on the next work session agenda.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER REPORT:

Jon Tresslar, Twp. Engineer gave a status report on the Sewer redesign.

PRESENTATION:

Pocono Heritage Land Trust and Trout Unlimited Pocono Creek Project - Don Miller, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, and Don Baylor, Trout Unlimited updated the Township on future Pocono Creek Stream restoration projects. They requested a letter of support for a Monroe County Mini-Grant. J. Coover made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to authorize the Twp. Manager to write a letter of support for BTU and PHLT's Monroe County Open Space Development Mini-Grant application. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by B. DeYoung, to support the Pocono Creek Wild Trout Habit Restoration and Stream Access Project Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited requests 1,3,4,5,6,7,& 8 as outlined in document presented at the 01/17/2017 meeting.

1. Permission to complete in stream Wild Trout Habitat Restoration Project - Phases II, III, and IV on Pocono Creek between Rt. 715 Bridge and Warner Road.

3. Permission to temporarily stockpile large boulder material donated by NCC and BCRA on Alger Ave. and possibly TLC park land.

4. Permission to develop a trailhead kiosk and marked single track loop trail on the George and Olive Learn Preserve.

5. Permission to install a small (Two to three car) off road parking area and fishing access nature trail on PHLT Pocono Creek Preserve off Old Mill Road Bridge to be located on/along upstream gravel access road upstream of Old Mill Road Bridge.

6. Permission to post appropriate signage designating the section of Pocono Creek in project area from Rt. 715 Bridge downstream to Lower edge of Learn Preserve.

7. Permission to contact neighboring stream owners about this project related to permissions for stream access as needed to install in-stream habitat restoration features.

8. Approval to identify and list Pocono Township as one of the cooperating partners for this project on project signage and printed literature as appropriate.

Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2017-03 - Establishing the Park and Recreation Board of Pocono Township - J. Coover made a motion, seconded by E. Gnandt, to adopt Resolution 2017-03 - Establishing the Park and Recreation Board of Pocono Township. Roll call vote: E. Gnandt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ramona Shupp, Twp. resident, thanked the Board.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

J. Lastowski a motion, seconded by J. Coover, to adjourn the meeting into executive session to discuss Werkheiser litigation at 8:50 p.m., until 02/06/2017 at 6:00 p.m., at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA. Roll call vote: E. Gndt, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and J. Coover, yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Pamela Tripus
Township Secretary

*A recording of the entire meeting will be kept on file at the Township for perpetuity and will be made available to anyone who may wish to obtain the verbatim meeting.