

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 1, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on November 1, 2021 and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 7:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Jerrod Belvin, present; Ellen Gnadtt, present; Jerry Lastowski, present; Keith Meeker, present; and Rich Wielebinski, present.

**In Attendance:** Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor, Broughal & DeVito; Jon Tresslar, Township Engineer, Boucher & James, Inc.; Kent Werkheiser, Chief of Police; and Taylor Munoz, Township Manager.

**Public Comment** – None

**Announcements**

- The Pocono Township Board of Commissioners will host a work session on Monday evening, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Township's FY 2022 budget.

**Hearings**

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gnadtt, to suspend the agenda for the local agency hearing until the sewage enforcement officer arrives. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gnadtt, to open a public hearing for consideration of the application of Christopher and Kori Hogeboom (1327 Waterview Drive) for the waiver of Section 439-4 of the Pocono Township Code of Ordinances to allow installation of a well within 68 feet of an existing absorption field. All in favor. Motion carried.

L. DeVito stated this matter involves a request for waiver of two requirements in Chapter 439 of Township Code of Ordinances. Applicant and attorney presented details regarding the property and request. Applicant stated they live across from the subject property, purchased the property across that had a dilapidated house, tested the septic, and demolished the property. Applicant addressed concerns regarding distance of the well from his septic.

Discussion followed regarding the history of the property and old septic; location of the new septic system; property features and alternative locations; proposed new absorption area; and depth of the original well. H. Beers provided further information regarding testing performed on the old system. Both H. Beers and J. Tresslar stated they are comfortable with the proposal as presented.

Applicant also requested alternative relief, allowing for a second location for the new well if any issues arise with the current proposed location. Township would require a hold harmless agreement as part of the chain of title for both the existing plan and alternate relief.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gnadtt, to close public hearing. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve the application of Christopher & Kori Hogeboom for a waiver of Section 439-4 of the Pocono Township Code of Ordinances, provided the applicant complies with the conditions of the Township engineer's letter and that a hydrogeologist report states installation of the new well does not have negative impact on neighboring wells and, in the alternative, if they locate the well at a second proposed location. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Presentations** - None

## **Resolutions**

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve Resolution 2021-28 adopting the 2021 Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of Pocono Township. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to approve Resolution 2021-29 authorizing the sale of Monroe County tax parcel ID #12.94414; map #12637100775152 to TL Realty Corp. All in favor. Motion carried.

L. DeVito asked that two originals of resolution be shared for the title company.

## **Consent Agenda**

- Motion to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
  - Old business consisting of the minutes of the October 18, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
  - A budget adjustment request of \$52,000.00 to ensure specified line items have sufficient funding for the remainder of 2021.
  - Financial transactions including:
    - Ratification of vouchers payable received through October 28, 2021 in the amount of \$477.24 and sewer operating expenditures in the amount of \$586.53.
    - Ratification of gross payroll for the pay period ending October 17, 2021 in the amount of \$119,810.26.
    - Vouchers payable received through October 28, 2021 in the amount of \$99,766.47.
    - Sewer operating fund expenditures through October 28, 2021 in the amount of \$25,032.66.
    - Sewer construction fund expenditures through October 28, 2021 in the amount of \$19,042.25.
    - Capital reserve fund expenditures through October 28, 2021 in the amount of \$191,509.20.
    - An interfund transfer of \$6,158.34 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Township General Fund for qualifying expenses.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

## **Report of the President**

Richard Wielebinski

- TLC Park projects update - Basketball court is complete and landscaping is done. Complemented the road crew for doing a great job. Acknowledged Pocono Farmstand for a generous contribution of river rock.

## **Commissioner Comments**

Jerrod Belvin – Vice President

- Emergency Management Update – Testing backup traffic light systems over the next week.

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner – No comment.

Jerry Lastowski – Commissioner – No comment.

Keith Meeker – Commissioner – No comment.

## **Reports**

### **Emergency Services**

- Chief Werkheiser stated the police had a critical incident on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Routine patrol of a business turned into a pursuit, where the vehicle was disabled and a standoff ensued. The scene was relinquished to State Police. Letters of commendation have been prepared for all eight individuals involved with the pursuit. Working with four new hires who are training with their field training officers.

R. Wielebinski stated a non-resident commended two of Pocono Township's patrol officers who he observed at Pocono Medical Center.

### **Public Works Report**

- Current Public Works projects – Finishing small projects before end of year.
- TLC Park Project Update – Discussed earlier.
- Update – Park Lane Culvert Replacement – Dirt and Gravel Grant – Waiting to hear from company.

R. Sargent stated he will circle back on quotes for a Township generator.

### **Administration – Manager's Report**

- Township currently accepting bids for the Pump station 5 parcel on Bartonsville Avenue. Bid opening advertised for November 15, 2021. Heard from original person interested and will receive bid from him this week.
- Applications currently being received for the vacant Zoning Hearing Board alternate position. Advertised on Facebook, Savvy Citizen, and township website.
- The PennDOT Multimodal grant application is complete for the SR 611/Learn Road Safety Enhancement Project. Application will be formally submitted November 3<sup>rd</sup> in advance of November 4<sup>th</sup> deadline. R. Wielebinski asked when grant would be awarded, and T. Muñoz indicated possibly Spring 2022.
- Regional HSPS Comprehensive Plan update – Waiting on draft for approval.

### **Township Engineer Report**

- Update – Righthand turn lanes from Rt. 611 onto Rimrock Road and Bartonsville Avenue - Responded to last set of comments from PennDOT and resubmitted. Design drawings are in good shape and finalization of the ROW drawings remain. Discussion regarding getting ROW plans together now to begin negotiating with property owners.

T. Muñoz inquired about whether the active Green Light Go grant funds include updates to the Rimrock light and J. Tresslar will confirm if responsibility for the upgrade was transferred to Stroud Township.

### **Township Solicitor Report**

- 150 Gravatts Way – Contempt petition withdrawn.
- Zoning Hearing Board updates – No pending zoning appeals.
- Update – Taveras Appeal - Waiting for decision from Court of Common Pleas.
- Update – Johnson Appeal - Appeal was taken to Commonwealth Court and waiting on hearing.
- HJP Park Agreement between Pocono and Jackson Townships - Agreement was sent to Jackson Township's solicitor. Responded that agreement will be forwarded to the Board.

Decision was received in the Kopelson case, where the applicant appealed the Township's denial of his land development plan from 2013. Judge Zulick reversed the Township's action, ensuring that the plan will remain for further consideration based on PennDOT's plans for the realignment of SR 715.

**Public Comment** - None

**Adjournment**

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gmandt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. All in favor.  
Motion carried.