

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2023 | 6:15 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on January 3, 2023 and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 6:15 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

In Attendance: Taylor Munoz, Township Manager; Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor; Jon Tresslar, Township Engineer; Amy Montgomery, Engineer; and Jennifer Gambino, Administrative Assistant.

Public Comment

Lisa Bucholz (Jackson Resident) – Stated there are questions regarding the draft ordinance addressing truck terminal and warehouse uses in the Township. Would like to have a meeting with the Township Manager to discuss questions or concerns with the proposed ordinance.

Announcements

- The Township ice skating rink at TLC Park is open 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily on a weather-permitting basis. Please follow the Township Facebook page or call the office to check on its status. We encourage Township residents and their families to enjoy the ice rink!
- The Public Hearing for adoption of the Township's curative zoning amendment addressing distribution, warehouse and trucking terminal uses will be held at the February 6, 2023 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

An executive session was held prior to the meeting for litigation and personnel matters.

Presentations – None

Hearings – None

Resolutions – None

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the December 19, 2022 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Financial transactions through December 29, 2022 as presented, including ratification of general fund expenditures, sewer operating expenditures and gross payroll; vouchers payable, sewer operating expenditures, construction fund expenditures, capital reserve expenditures and transfers.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Advertisement of 2023 Township Meetings

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to set the Board of Commissioners meetings for the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. When a meeting date falls on a Township holiday, the meeting will be held the following day. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to set the Board of Commissioners Sewer Committee meetings for the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. When a meeting date falls on a Township holiday, the meeting will be held the following day. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to set Planning Commission meetings for the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m., with one additional meeting on January 23, 2023. When a meeting date falls on a Township holiday, the meeting will be held the following day. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. 2023 Board, Committee & Other Appointments

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to appoint Tom Felver to the Pocono Township Vacancy Board with a term to expire December 31, 2023. E. Gndt asked for clarification as to whether each individual was asked. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to re-appoint Lew Ginsberg, Natasha Leap and Brad Harrison as members of the Zoning Hearing Board with a term to expire December 31, 2025. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to appoint Taylor Muñoz to the Monroe County Tax Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to re-appoint Randy Peechatka to the PJJWA Board with a term to expire December 31, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to re-appoint Marie Guidry to the PJJWA Board with a term to expire December 31, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to re-appoint Tom Wise to the Broadhead Creek Regional Authority (BCRA) Board with a term to expire January 1, 2028. E. Gndt asked for clarification on length of term. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to appoint Berkheimer as EIT Tax Collector for Pocono Township. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to set the mileage reimbursement rate at 65.5 cents per mile. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to appoint the following Pocono Township Volunteer Fire Department members as 2023 Fire Police as required by Chief Michael McMann: Kevin Kresge, Sr.; Christopher Kinsley, Sr.; Peter Gallagher; Robert Gupko; Donald Simpson; Christopher Kinsley, Jr.; Thomas Kresge; Stephen Jacobs; Preston Baransky; Robert Kinsley; Angela Tullo; Corey Sayre; and Jerry Lastowski. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Personnel – None

4. Travel/Training Authorizations

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to approve the attendance of Taylor Muñoz, Township Manager and Jerrod Belvin, Commissioner, at the PSATS 2023 Annual Conference, April 23-26, 2023 in Hershey, PA. Registration, travel and hotel costs will be covered by the Township. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to appoint Jerrod Belvin as voting delegate at the 2023 PSATS Annual Conference. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report of the President - None

Commissioner Comments

Jerrod Belvin – Vice President – No update.

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner. Asked for update on PJJWA acquisition. L. DeVito stated he will work with Jackson Township solicitor to get update on status.

Jerry Lastowski – Commissioner. Discussion regarding the bus stop in Swiftwater and ongoing dumping issues. Further conversation regarding their status as a nonconforming use.

Keith Meeker – Commissioner - None

Reports

Police Report – No update.

Public Works Report

- Current Public Works projects include ongoing winter maintenance items.
- Mountain View Park updates.
 - Update – MVP fencing project will begin when weather allows.
 - Update – Installation of new slide. No update.
- TLC Park updates.

Administration – Manager’s Report

- No additional update.

Township Engineer Report

- Sidewalk installation for Wendy’s and Turkey Hill. Received communication from Turkey Hill’s engineer.
- Parking area design for Old Learn Farm open space parcel adjacent to PPL easement.
 - Easement needed from adjoining property owner (Lovito). In progress. L. DeVito will follow up.
- Update – TASA SR 611 sidewalk project. Design is ongoing.
- Update – Righthand turn lanes from Rt. 611 onto Rimrock Road and Bartonsville Avenue. No update.

Township Solicitor Report

- Zoning Hearing Board updates – No updates.
- Update – Tobyhanna Act 537 Sewage Capacity Request - No update.
- Update – Closing for sale of Bartonsville Avenue parcel - All documents exchanged. Following up with counsel for the purchaser and hopeful of completion within the next week.
- Update – Johnson Appeal Commonwealth Court argument - No update.
- Update – PJJWA transfer agreement – Discussed previously.

Public Comment

Joe Folsom (Resident) – Commended the Township for the work on the tree lighting and positive feedback from the public.

Adjournment

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.