

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2023 | 6:02 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on April 17, 2023 and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 6:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

In Attendance: Taylor Munoz, Township Manager; Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor; Jon Tresslar, Township Engineer; Shawn Goucher, Acting Chief of Police; and Jennifer Gambino, Administrative Assistant.

Public Comment – None

Announcements

- The Pocono Township Spring Cleanup will be held Thursday, April 27th through Saturday, April 29th at the Township complex. Residents are welcome to bring their items between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. each day. The Cleanup Fee Schedule is on the Township website at www.pocconopa.gov.

Hearings

- Cold River Properties LLC Conditional Use Hearing – Hearing to consider conditional use application for a proposed daycare located at 2936 Route 611, Tannersville.

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

John Besser presented as applicant. Hearing for conditional use to operate a daycare center for property located at 2936 Route 611, Tannersville. Daycare is a conditional use in a commercial zone. L. DeVito outlined criteria for daycares as a conditional use. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the conditional use subject to appropriate pavement markings. Mr. Besser outlined the steps they have taken to meet state regulations for establishing the daycare at the location, including pavement markings, signage, number of children, supervisory personnel, crosswalks, playground, and safety components. Further commissioner discussion regarding various concerns.

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

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve conditional use that the applicant will paint the parking lot to designate drop off areas, traffic flow, parking and crosswalk for the children to and from the play area; that the tenant comply with and obtain all required licenses from the state, with a copy provided to the Township; that bollards be placed/located around the playground area; installation of speed bumps; that if parking spaces must be removed, that it be reviewed by Zoning and/or the Township Engineer; and comply with any and all ordinances. Roll call: J. Belvin, yes, E. Gnadtt, yes; K. Meeker, no; J. Lastowski, yes; R. Wielebinski, yes. Motion carried.

Presentations – None

Resolutions

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to pass Resolution 2023-12 Granting a six-month time Extension to Poconos Hospitality, LLC to Satisfy Conditions of the Plan Approval of the

Poconos Hospitality Land Development Plan. E. Gndt asked for clarification of timeline. All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the April 3, 2023 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Financial transactions through April 13, 2023 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 E. Gndt, to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel – None

2. Travel/Training Authorizations

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve the Township Manager's attendance, with associated transportation and lodging costs, at the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management (APMM) Annual Conference in Pittsburgh from May 22-24, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report of the President

Richard Wielebinski

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve an access easement and maintenance agreement with TL Realty for access to the Township-owned Old Learn Farm open space parcel. R. Wielebinski provided details regarding the proposed access and trail plans. Clarification provided regarding terms of agreement. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to publicly advertise the Township's 2023 road paving bid package for letting on May 15, 2023. E. Gndt asked about the roads included in the bid package. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve Trapasso Hotel Land Development Construction Escrow Release No. 5 in the amount of \$188,425.61 per the Township Engineer's recommendation letter dated April 13, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve the terms of a letter provided by Natural Lands for a \$5,000.00 grant to offset the Township's costs for revisions to the Zoning and SALDO ordinances. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Discussion and possible action regarding the installation of "Children at Play" signs on Talon Drive - Township manager contacted by a resident on Talon Drive expressing concerns about traffic on the cul-de-sac and safety of the children on that stretch of road. Request for signage to slow traffic in the area.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to install "slow children at play" sign on Talon Drive for protection of the children in that neighborhood. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to amend the agenda for awarding of material bids. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to award Pocono Township's 2023 material bid for SP Surge and alternate material bids for 2B Crushed Stone, Ballast 2-4" Crushed Stone, and 9.5 mm Asphalt to Eureka Stone Quarry. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gnandt, to award the Pocono Township 2023 material bid for QPR High Performance Cold Patch to Hei-Way. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to award the Pocono Township 2023 material bid for 2RC Crushed Stone to Heidelberg Northeast. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Jerrod Belvin – Vice President

- Discussion and possible action regarding commercial traffic on Bartonsville Avenue and Beehler Road - Discussion regarding limiting of commercial traffic on Bartonsville Avenue. Issue with trucks detouring on Township roads to avoid SR 611 traffic, specifically Bartonsville Avenue and Beehler Road. Will look into engineering required to meet PennDOT specifications.

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to authorize Township engineer to evaluate requirements for limiting truck traffic on Beehler Road and Bartonsville Avenue for deliveries only, no through traffic. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Discussion and possible action regarding Township board vacancies – No update.
- Emergency Management Update
 - Laurel Lake Dam – Engineer for the HOA evaluating cost for the dam. Will connect Township engineer with their engineer to coordinate design, as Township is planning improvements for Laurel Lake Road. HOA wanted to know if Township could help prepare survey work. The Township would spend approximately \$2,000 to \$2,500. Will add to agenda for next meeting.
- Update – PPL utility lines and possible drainage issues on Bartion Court – No update.

Ellen Gnandt – Commissioner

Asked for update regarding PJJWA. L. DeVito shared that Attorney Maturgia stated that one of BCRA's concerns is that DEP has looked at the PJJWA system. BCRA is working to get a consent order identifying where there are deficiencies and capping exposure to those deficiencies as best they can, so that they do not immediately get fines and penalties when they acquire the system. Further discussion regarding the future of the system. Asked for update on the dog park.

Jerry Lastowski – Commissioner

Asked about sign for a construction company near intersection of Wiscasset/SR 611. Discussion regarding additional Butz property violations.

Keith Meeker – Commissioner - None

Reports

Police Report

- General police updates - Highlighted items in monthly police report.
- Installation of barbed wire around impound yard complete - Installed last week.

Public Works Report

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve a COSTARS quote for the purchase of a new tow behind broom in the amount of \$25,360.50. E. Gmandt asked whether it is in the budget. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Current Public Works projects – Working on pipework and various roads needing repaving.
- Mountain View Park updates – No update.
- TLC Park updates
 - Splash Pad Installation – Set to begin this week.
 - Dog Park Project(s) – Grading and seeding the enclosure.
 - Sealing of Lower Pond – Pond holding water and the level is low due to lack of rain.
- Update regarding potential lease purchase of new backhoe – Current discussion regarding owning a sweeper versus renting a sweeper. Looking to purchase a backhoe instead.

Administration – Manager’s Report

- Recap of April 15 Fishing Derby – J. Gambino gave a recap. The event was a success and appreciated by the public and Board.
- Tannersville Lion’s Club to donate \$10,000.00 toward inclusive sensory play equipment for TLC Park.
- Due diligence ongoing regarding Swiftwater bus stop dumping issues – Previously discussed, will follow-up.

Discussion regarding potential sewer service to Paradise Township.

Township Engineer Report

- Update – 25 MPH speed limit on Tara Drive, Bull Pine Road, and Terrace Drive – Have begun looking into the process. Found conflicting information in PennDOT regulations as to whether a study is required.
- Update – Potential installation of speed tables on Learn Road for speed control – Reviewing PennDOT publication for speed calming devices.
- Learn Road safety enhancement project and roundabout survey work - Continuing design work.
- Parking area design for Old Learn Farm open space parcel adjacent to PPL easement – Complete and submitted to public works.
- Update – TASA SR 611 sidewalk project – Design continuing.

Township Solicitor Report

- Turkey Hill sidewalk installation – Applicant to provide updated design to the Township.
- Discussion regarding preparation of an ordinance codifying BCRA’s public water service area for consistency with the Township’s central sewage (Act 537) service area – Still gathering information.
- Zoning Hearing Board updates
 - May 3, 2023 – LVHN Realty Holding Company – Off-street truck loading variance request – Board consensus to not send Township attorney.
- Update – Johnson Appeal Commonwealth Court argument – No update.
- Update – PJJWA transfer agreement - Previously discussed.

Public Comment - None

Adjournment

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.