

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2023 | 6:42 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on May 1, 2023 and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 6:42 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; Lisa Pereira, Broughal & DeVito; Jon Tresslar, Township Engineer; Shawn Goucher, Acting Chief of Police; Pat Briegel, Public Works Director; Judy Acosta, Zoning; and Jennifer Gambino, Administrative Assistant.

Public Comment

Lisa Bucholz (Jackson Township) – Made remarks pertaining to increase in pH of portions of the Pocono Creek as evidenced by the BWA and Trout Unlimited.

Announcements

- Pocono Township Touch-a-Truck is being held on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your entire family for this free event and enjoy an interactive experience with all types of construction equipment, vehicles, a helicopter, activities, raffle prizes and more. All proceeds to benefit the Pocono Township Volunteer Fire Department. An event flyer is available on the Township website and Facebook page.
- Announced an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel items.

Hearings

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to open a public hearing for consideration of Ordinance 2023-03 to Change the Zoning District Classification from Commercial (C) to Low Density Residential (R) for Parcel Tax ID Numbers 12.116701, 12.116702, 12.116703, 12.116704, 12.116705, and 12.116706; and to Change the Zoning District Classification for Parcel 12.94172 from Low Density Residential (R-1) to Commercial (C). All in favor. Motion carried.

L. Pereira stated the hearing will have to be postponed because the affected properties were not been formally posted, which is a requirement under the MPC and zoning ordinance. Absent the posting, it could be procedurally challenged.

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

Presentations – None

Resolutions – None

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the April 17, 2023 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Financial transactions through April 27, 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 J. Lastowski, to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS - None

Report of the President

Richard Wielebinski

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to rescind Pocono Township's offer for the purchase of the former Pocono Elementary Center property from Pocono Mountain School District. R. Wielebinski stated he has been in attendance at a number of School District meetings. No action has been taken. Recounted past actions, including the Township having given the TLC property to PMSD for a dollar and, following the school burning, the Township purchased it back for \$800,000 from PMSD. Stated concerns about tax dollars being used. J. Belvin stated it was a shame that the Township has not heard back on its offers since fall of 2022. Additional concerns expressed. J. Lastowski stated his disappointment in the School Board's lack of decision-making. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to approve and authorize the Township Manager to execute an encroachment agreement with PPL to allow access across PPL right-of-way to the Old Learn Farm open space parcel. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Jerrod Belvin – Vice President

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to authorize the Pocono Township engineer to conduct survey work in connection with the rehabilitation of the Laurel Lake Dam in an amount not to exceed \$3,000. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Emergency Management Update
 - Laurel Lake Dam – J. Belvin stated there's a meeting at the dam tomorrow (5/2) with the Laurel Lake homeowners, DEP, engineers, and P. Briegel to discuss options for rehabilitation of the dam.
- Update – PPL utility lines and possible drainage issues on Barton Court – No update.

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner - None

Jerry Lastowski – Commissioner

Discussion regarding the defunct bus stops and other zoning enforcement items.

Keith Meeker – Commissioner – None

Reports

Zoning

The developer of Wawa was issued a demolition permit. Upcoming matters for district magistrate. Cases include Birchwood burned out structures. Property maintenance issues on SR 611 property.

J. Lastowski stated there has been a proliferation of temporary signage along major thoroughfares.

Police Report

- General police updates – Coffee with a Cop is on May 20 at Dunkin Donuts.

Ambulance Report - None

Public Works Report

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve a COSTARS quote for the purchase of a Ferris 60-inch mower from Lawn & Golf Supply Company in the amount of \$12,807.00 as provided for in the 2023 Township capital budget. Stated a couple mowers were tested at Mountain View Park. Staff tested out functionality. Stated price was lower than anticipated. R. Wielebinski asked where the company is located. E. Gndt asked how many mowers the park has. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Spring Cleanup recap – Successful cleanup with good staff cooperation.
- PSATS conference recap, including potential utilization of Roadbotics software – Stated the software will give an idea of the road’s quality, life expectancy, and ways to extend the life of the road.
- Current Public Works projects – Working on drainage projects ahead of paving projects planned for this year.
- Mountain View Park updates – Ordered “No Littering” signs. Met with Jean Gupko, volunteer with the Monroe County Gardeners, who will be helping with landscaping and beautification upgrades.
- TLC Park updates
 - Splash Pad Installation – Working to finalize permitting. Pre-construction meeting scheduled for this Wednesday. Working to coordinate final engineering design.
 - Dog Park Project(s) – Additional gate was installed at back of park and ready for maglock installation in the front gate.
- Update regarding potential lease purchase of new backhoe – Spoke with Medico in Hershey and have put out several requests for quotes.

Administration – Manager’s Report

- Current communication with Kegerreis Outdoor Advertising regarding removal of defunct bus stops and replacement with billboards of same dimensions – Discussed previously.

Township Engineer Report

- Status of Laurel Lake survey work – Will be onsite tomorrow morning and will prepare survey work once agreement is reached between all parties.
- Limiting of commercial traffic on Bartonsville Avenue and Beehler Road – PennDOT criteria allows for restrictions. Stated part of the criteria for restricting truck traffic is road geometry.
- Preparation of amendments to Township’s stormwater management ordinance per DEP and MCCD Act 167 model ordinance recommendations – Had a meeting where the MCCD attempted to clarify their position pertaining to a model Act 167 ordinance. LVL will prepare a redlined copy.
- 25 MPH speed limit on Tara Drive, Bull Pine Road, and Terrace Drive – Confirmed that a study is not necessary to post these roads with 25 MPH. Recommendation is that the Township engineer provide substantiating documentation.
- Potential installation of speed tables on Learn Road for speed control – Finished reviewing PennDOT handbook and design criteria and confirming process with PennDOT.
- Learn Road safety enhancement project and roundabout survey work – Survey complete and deeds obtained as of today. Should have something to Township manager this week.
- Parking area design for Old Learn Farm open space parcel adjacent to PPL easement – Essentially complete.
- Update – TASA SR 611 sidewalk project – Discussion regarding design proposed for Learn Road intersection with SR 611 near Turkey Hill.

Received proposed sidewalk design from Turkey Hill.

Township Solicitor Report

- General legal update – White Oak Drive property will proceed with a praecipe for damage hearing in court.
- Turkey Hill sidewalk installation – Discussed previously.
- 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 under discussion, confirming with BCRA what they are looking for with respect to the ordinance.
- Zoning Hearing Board updates – Oral argument last week regarding Crawford STR and Heinzee shooting range matter. Stated Crawford went very well.
- Update – Johnson Appeal Commonwealth Court argument – Waiting on decision.
- Update – PJJWA transfer agreement – Have not heard anything and L. DeVito reached out again for an update.

J. Acosta indicated 332 Butz Ln, Tavaras STR matter, L. DeVito is preparing order of contempt due to continued advertising as a STR.

Public Comment

Lisa Buccholz – Stated it is a sad night with regard to the school district not entertaining the Township's offer for the PEC property. Commended the Township for the amount of work by staff that goes on in the Township offices.

Adjournment

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. and go into executive session. All in favor. Motion carried.