

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on June 19, 2023 and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 6:00 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; John Tresslar, Engineer; Shawn Goucher, Acting Chief of Police; Patrick Briegel, Public Works Director; and Jennifer Gambino, Administrative Assistant.

Public Comment – None

Announcements

- Executive session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters.
- The Township will host a series of three outdoor concerts this summer on the ballfield off Alger Avenue adjacent to the Little League field. The series will kick off this Thursday, June 22 at 6:00 p.m. with live music performed by Erin McClelland. Visit the Township Facebook page for more information.

Hearings – None

Presentations – None

Resolutions

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve Resolution 2023-14 Granting Conditional Approval of the BAD Properties of Monroe, LLC, and Robert J. & Esme A. Fellins Final Minor Subdivision Plan. E. Gndt asked for clarification. 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 June 5, 2023 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Financial transactions through June 15, 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 K. Meeker, to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel – None

Travel/Training Authorizations – None

Report of the President

Richard Wielebinski

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve construction escrow release No. 7 for the Trapasso Hotel Land Development in the amount of \$129,261.77 as recommended by the Township engineer in a letter dated June 15, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to publicly advertise 2023 micro-surfacing projects for Laurel Lake Road, Beehler Road, and part of Old Mill Road. R. Wielebinski asked if there was any conflict with the dam restoration project. Discussion regarding micro-surfacing of roads and trial run to see how the process will apply to Township roads. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to approve Payment No. 12 to Hayden Power Group in the amount of \$2,655.00 for the Pump Station 5 electrical/controls contract. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Jerrod Belvin – Vice President – No update.

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner - Asked for status of PJJWA. L. DeVito stated closing scheduled for June 26 at BCRA office and mandatory connection ordinance will be under consideration on July 3.

Jerry Lastowski – Commissioner – Commended Public Works for taking care of the bus stop. Asked L. DeVito for update regarding rusted trailers on Butz property.

Keith Meeker – Commissioner – No update.

Reports

Zoning - None

Police Report

- General police updates – S. Goucher provided a summary of monthly statistics. Overtime was a little higher due to traffic control work for the Crossings and Great Wolf. Discussion regarding Coffee with a Cop and training.

Ambulance Report – None

Public Works Report

- Current Public Works projects - Completing roadside cutting and drainage swale work.
- Mountain View Park updates - Maintenance crew repainting all the parking lot lines. Took down dead trees at issue in the playground area and in the way of the zipline installation. Met with a master gardener to discuss ideas for the bank behind the Heritage Center. Looking to install a seating area for people to enjoy. Getting pricing on tennis court repairs/resurfacing.
- TLC Park updates
 - Splash Pad Installation - Pouring of concrete has been delayed twice due to rain forecast. Shooting for end of this week. Plumbing and electric and all sub-surface work is complete.
 - Dog Park Project(s) - Dog park equipment has been assembled and installed.
- Update regarding potential lease purchase of new backhoe – In process of demoing a CAT backhoe and a CASE backhoe for comparison.

E. Gndt asked about ability of Township to clean up the rear of the Township storage yard. Also asked about ability to post additional speed limit signs on Alger Avenue. Discussion regarding traffic calming measures, including speed tables on Learn Road.

J. Tresslar identified three areas of Learn Road for installation of speed tables.

Motion made and withdrawn regarding installation of speed tables.

Administration – Manager’s Report

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to approve a COSTARS quote from MRC, Inc. in the amount of \$114,192.46 for a Mountain View Park challenge course manufactured by GameTime. E. Gndt asked for clarification regarding spending and timing of in lieu of funds. Equipment will be covered using open space fees restricted for recreation uses. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Discussion and possible action regarding a request from the Monroe County Conservation District to sponsor the Pocono Creek Stream Gauge.

J. Belvin stated the stream gauge is used when there is flooding and/or when a burn ban is necessary. Stated the Township should continue to sponsor.

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to donate \$500 to the stream gauge. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to appoint Henry Andress and Preston Baransky as Special Fire Police for the Pocono Township Volunteer Fire Company. E. Gndt asked for clarification in regard to residency. All in favor. Motion carried.

Township Engineer Report

- Status of Laurel Lake survey work - Completed a couple weeks ago. The engineer for the Laurel Lake HOA has asked for some assistance with preparation of the base plan. The HOA should have everything they need now, including a large area map for the necessary analysis.
- Preparation of amendments to Township's stormwater management ordinance per DEP and MCCC Act 167 model ordinance recommendations - T. Muñoz will send to the BOC this week.
- Potential installation of speed tables on Learn Road for speed control - Discussed previously.
- Learn Road safety enhancement project and roundabout survey work - Providing more detail as a result of completing survey work.
- Update – TASA SR 611 sidewalk project - Another update meeting held this past week. The Township is on schedule with design. A lot of clearances are needed. Discussion regarding timing.

J. Belvin asked about status of sidewalks for Turkey Hill, Wendy's, and St. Luke's. Wendy's waiting on final design from PennDOT. Turkey Hill needs to redesign their sidewalk plans. St. Luke's has not proceeded with their project. J. Belvin also asked about Rimrock turn lanes status.

Township Solicitor Report

- Update – BCRA mandatory connection ordinance for PJJWA & Act 537 public water service area - Will be on agenda for July 3 public hearing and adoption.
- Update – Maintenance and operation escrow requirements for land development projects that require installation of new traffic lights - Working on draft language.
- Zoning Hearing Board updates
 - Crawford Appeal – Court of Common Pleas affirmed the Zoning Hearing Board's opinion.
- Update – Johnson Appeal Commonwealth Court argument - No update.
- Update – PJJWA transfer agreement - Closing on June 26.
- General legal update. On June 28, there will be a contempt petition hearing regarding the Taveras/Rodriguez property being used as a short-term rental. On July 12, there is a hearing regarding the White Oak Property compelling Mr. Giusaldi to clean up his property. Regarding the rusted trailers on the Butz property, that is being resolved between the Trust attorney and the estate attorney.

Public Comment - None

Adjournment

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.