

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on June 3, 2024 and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 6:12 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Ellen Gndt, present; Natasha Leap, present; Mike Velardi, present; and Rich Wielebinski, present.

In Attendance: Patrick Briegel, Acting Township Manager & Public Works Director; Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor; Jon Tresslar, Engineer; Lindsay Scerbo, Zoning Officer; James Wagner, Chief of Police; Jennifer Gambino, Admin Assistant.

Public Comment

Cheryl Parks (Resident) Expressed her concern regarding the Variance for the Kennel on Ruby Lane. She stated that she feels unsafe due to people she doesn't know utilizing the roadway and stated that deliveries are being made to the kennel address. Cheryl asked for clarification on the timeline they have in order to appeal the ruling on the variance.

Karen Doleiden (Resident) Supports everything Cheryl Parks stated. She stated that the Kennel property has their dogs on the front porch instead of the back yard. Stated Zoning should inspect. Ms. Doleiden questioned the permits' validity along with why any violations hadn't been given.

Brian Davis (Resident) Questioned the township practices regarding small business within the municipality. He feels that a pattern of systemic problems is occurring, and the township isn't as business friendly as advertised.

Interviews:

Dan McCreary –
Brian Winot –
Michael Putnam –
Beata Jazwiec –

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to appoint Brian Winot to the vacant commissioners seat through December 31, 2025. All in favor. Motion carried.

Announcements

- An executive session was held on Monday evening prior to the BOC meeting to discuss personnel matters.
- Concerts in the Park will resume for the upcoming season beginning June 27, 2024.

Presentations

Cherry Lane Development Partners, John Cogan – Discussion regarding the sidewalk completion in accordance with PennDOT's requirements for a supplemental plan to be submitted in addition to the approved plan. Mr. Cogan asked the boards consideration of a temporary CO while this process takes place.

E. Gndt made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to not approve a temporary CO. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolutions -

Resolution 2024-10 – MPMS 79473 – Agreement 05U414 – Place Holder

Resolution 2024-11 – MPMS 79473 – Agreement 05U461- Place Holder

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the May 20, 2024 regular meeting. E. Gndt asked that a change be made regarding her vote on opening the hearing to reflect NO.
 - Capital Reserve Budget Adjustment to reflect General Obligation Debt in the amount of \$5,175,000.00 to fund line to record loan proceeds.
 - Financial transactions through May 29, 2024 as presented, including ratification of general fund expenditures, sewer operating expenditures and gross payroll, vouchers payable, sewer operating expenditures, construction fund expenditures, and capital reserve expenditures.

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

NEW BUSINESS – None

Commissioner Comments

Richard Wielebinski – President

- Land Development Waiver – E. Gndt voiced her concern regarding the waiver. Further discussion was had.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve a Land Development Waiver form as written. All in favor. E. Gndt, NO. Motion carried.

- Gypsy Moths – Residents enquired about the Gypsy moth population w/in the township. This will be followed up on by the Director of Public Works, P. Briegel.

Natasha Leap – Commissioner –

- Emergency Management - No new updates
- Shout out to Jenn regarding the Touch-A-Truck event, Great Job.

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner

- SBA Cell Tower review – No new updates
- Ruby Lane - E. Gndt voiced her surprise that they don't have a C.O. L. Scerbo explained further the process and compliance.
- Solar Field – J. Tresslar said they are utilizing Back Mountain Road. One new citation was served by the Conservation District for sediment into the stream.
- Fire call for illegal burning on non-burn day. E. Gndt stated she feels a violation should result in more than just a warning. Further discussion was had.
- E. Gndt stated that we earned over \$200,000 in interest so far this year.

Mike Velardi – Commissioner –

Thanked Jen and the Public works crew for an awesome job at the Touch-A-Truck

Reports

Zoning

- Fountain Court – One year for non-conformity will be coming up. We are awaiting drawings. N. Leap asked if it would be beneficial to offer extensions. L. DeVito stated that it's up to the board how this is handled in directing the Zoning department. What is the Policy of the board? P. Briegel contributed to the discussion regarding cooperative efforts of Fountain Court.
- Wine Press Inn – Neighbors have reached out regarding maintenance and squatters. Notice was sent out in 2021. Zoning asked if the board would like to proceed with Civil action. The board stated yes. N. Leap asked that prior to filing, reach out to the owners.
- Archer Lane Civil Hearing is scheduled for the 13th at 11:30. On the grading end, the engineer is in the process of preparing ENS plans to assist in rectifying some of the stormwater concerns on the property.
- Cherry Lane – contractors yard – status
- E. Gndt – Citizens Bank lawn height

Police Report –

Deadline to accept applications for a new officer was June 1st. Testing is June 11th. Interviews to follow.

Ambulance Report - None

Fire Report – None

Public Works and Manager Reports

- The crew is working on preparations for paving which is scheduled to begin early July. The projects are expected to continue through August, weather permitting.
- There will be an Asphalt zipper demonstration tomorrow at 9 A.M.
- Parks update – inclusive area has been power washed and painted. New nets have been installed on the volleyball courts. The Splash pad has been getting a lot of use.
- Advertisement for another public works employee has been well received.
- The Ridge LDP – submitted their 356 EDU's reservation.
- Our lady of Victory Church requested a banner be put up for their church. A Resolution is needed. Would the Board be open to this?
R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt to approve Resolution 2024-12 to erect a banner over Route 611 for Our Lady of Victory Church. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Purchase of a Pickup truck for the Sewer Department in the amount of \$57,990.00. P. Briegel asked the Board to authorize him to sign the purchase order and any other paperwork to secure the purchase.
R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to Authorize P. Briegel to sign and secure the purchase of Sewer Truck. All in favor. Motion carried.
- E. Gndt thanked P. Briegel for stepping in during the transition of Management for the township. P. Briegel thanked his staff for helping to make it possible.

Township Engineer Report

- Sewer update – None
- Learn Road Project – We need to get the plans 80% complete and submitted to PennDOT.
- Sidewalk project – Working on securing environmental clearance. We have made a recommendation to use TPE as the inspectors for the job.
- EMS – Green light go. Time extension change order has been signed by the contractor and now in the townships hands for signature.

Township Solicitor Report

- General Sewer update:
- Tobyhanna Township and Kalahari - We are expecting the decision from Judge Williamson in the early part of this month.
- Paradise water and sewer – No new updates
- Kenny's Way – Closed on Friday morning.
- Closing on the Community College property is scheduled for this coming Thursday at 11:30 A.M.
- Kelly family trust property has been sold and the judgement has been paid.
- Potential revisions to the fee schedule. – place holder.
- Pocono places LLC continued to June 25th at 5 P.M.
- Johnson appeal – no new updates
- Potential firearms Ordinance – Special meeting open to public to discuss. June 12th at 6:00 P.M.
- Request to circulate the Managers Contract –

Public Comment

Cheryl Parks – (Resident) 150 Ruby Lane – asked Joanna Wards Ella gutted the 154 Ruby Lane – Ms. Parks has pictures of the amazon deliveries and of the owners comings and goings from their property. She stated the amount of the asking price for the puppies. Questing the size of the dogs changing. Commented on the road, said the owners are abusive to everyone. She claimed a hardship. She stated the septic still smells.

Cory Sayre – (Resident) Assistant Fire Chief – Regarding Fire violations – they do not fine. If issues they will turn it over to the Police. E. Gndt stated they do have the authority to Fine. R. Wielebinski thanked Cory and the Fire Department for their service.

Adjournment

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.