

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 5, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on August 5, 2024 and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 6:04 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**In Attendance:** Patrick Briegel, Public Works Director; Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor; Jon Tressler, Engineer; Lindsay Scerbo, Zoning Admin; James Wagner, Chief of Police; Jennifer Gambino, Admin. Asst.; Jerrod Belvin, Township Manager.

**Public Comment**

Julianna Farrell – (Resident) Requested speed bumps on Bog Road and explained concerns.

Cheryl Parks (Resident) Expressed her concern about the Kennel on Ruby Lane.

Karen Doleiden (Resident) Thanked Chief Wagner for the departments quick response to a Ruby Lane Issue.

**Announcements –** An Executive session was held on July 31<sup>st</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup> for personnel and litigation matters.

**Presentations**

Hive to Harvest – Krista Paolucci – Requested the boards consideration to donate Kitchen items from the acquisition of the Kenny's Way property. K. Paolucci outlined the purpose of Hive to Harvest and what they offer within the County. Hive to Harvest has requested the township donate 2 mixers, stainless steel tables and shelving, a convection oven, and a three-bay sink.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to donate 2 mixers, a convection oven, stainless steel tables & shelving along with a three-bay sink. All in favor. Motion carried. E. Gndt asked if Pocono Township residents also would receive help from Hive to Harvest. K. Paolucci stated that it helps all of Monroe County.

**Hearings** – None

**Resolutions –**

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to approve Resolution 2024-17 Authorization to Sign DOT Drainage Facilities Maintenance Agreement. All in favor. Motion carried. E. Gndt asked for clarification on a few items.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve Resolution 2024-18. Core5 Warner Road Warehouse Sewage Planning Module. All in Favor. Motion carried. E. Gndt mentioned that DEP and Core5 have not settled the hearing yet and asked how the resolution will affect this matter. B. Winot stated it has no effect on DEP's determination.

**Consent Agenda**

- Old business consisting of the minutes of the July 15, 2024 regular meeting.
- Financial transactions through July 31, 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 N. Leap, to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

**Commissioner Comments**

**Richard Wielebinski – President**

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to add one speed table on Abeel Road, not to exceed \$10,000. All in Favor. Motion carried.

A lengthy discussion was had about the pending Nuisance Ordinance along with a determination that a public meeting will be held on the matter on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at the township building at 6:00 PM.

**Natasha Leap – Vice President**

N. Leap made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to add one additional employee under the park staff to the 2025 budget to staff MVP gate for Memorial Day thru Labor Day, allowing residents within the 183 zip code free access, and anyone outside that zip code a \$10.00 fee, M-Th, \$15.00 F- Sun. Lengthy discussion was had. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Ellen Gndt – Commissioner**

E. Gndt attended the police shooting range demo and found it highly informative.  
SBA Cell Tower – We received a revised submission that hasn't been reviewed yet.  
Solar Field – inspections are ongoing. Inspection report sent to BOC from the Township Manager.  
Kennel – E. Gndt quested why the township doesn't rely on deed restrictions when issuing permits for properties. L. DeVito Clarified.  
Property Files – E. Gndt asked zoning for clarification about information within the property/enforcement files.

**Mike Velardi – Commissioner**

**Brian Winot – Commissioner**

**Reports**

**Zoning –** (Lindsay Scerbo)  
See attached report.

**Police Report –** (Chief J. Wagner)

The hiring process will be re-visited as they have not found any viable candidates in the most recent round of interviews.

**Ambulance Report -** None

**Fire Report –** None

**Manager Report –** (Jerrod Belvin)

- NCC Update- Public Works has been working above and beyond onsite.
- Kenny's Way Update – Park staff have been working diligently to clean the site up. Internet service has been installed and the cameras have arrived and will be installed as soon as possible. The historical Society will be going over the property to assess and get state markers to commemorate that that the Under Ground Railroad came through the property.

- Park Board Update- we should have the bylaw update ready to present to the Board at the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Regional Zoning Update – we are still working with Hamilton Township to outline what we would like the regionalized zoning to look like. Copies of the HSPS Comprehensive Plan have been given to the board.
- Knox Box Ordinance - J. Belvin outlined what the township deals with regarding emergency situations. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to have the township solicitor draw up a Knox Box ordinance. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Fire Company Tax Relief – documents are being reviewed by the fire company and should be ready for discussion and advertising next month.

### **Public Works**

- Paving of the township roads has been successful to date.
- Ongoing work at NCC –. Moving along. Working on water and sewer service. The existing system is in great shape. We are waiting for new pumps.
- The crew has started the Wilkie Rd. project today.
- The gate apparatus has been installed at MVP and is functional
- The TLC pickleball sleeves have been installed and the color should be going on the courts and nets within the next couple of weeks.
- The tennis courts at MVP – a contractor will be coming to assess them for re-surfacing.
- Working on the speed tables with contractors and awaiting pricing on them. Discussion was had about where the speed tables will go.

### **Events**

- July's concert was a success with pleasant weather.

Upcoming events:

- August 15<sup>th</sup> at MVP- Kettle Creek Nature Scavenger Hunt.
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> concert in the park
- September 7<sup>th</sup> Stargazing in the park
- September 14<sup>th</sup> Movie in the park
- September 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Food Truck Festival
- October date TBD – Spooky Trail at MVP

### **Township Engineer Report**

- Learn Road Roundabout – We are at 90% regarding the plans and need to push the utility to get their work done. In depth discussion was had on the pole movement and PPL.
- TASA project is moving forward. The bid-let date is set for December. We are waiting for a few items back from PennDOT.

### **Township Solicitor Report**

- Sewer business update – Meeting with BCRA about revisions to the sewer rules and regulations.
- Archer Lane – we received an extension of time from the archer family to file our complaint. They have appealed that decision. We will file our lawsuit as required.
- Township Fee Schedule – Further discussion was had on changes prior to voting on this matter. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot to approve Resolution 2024-19 amending the township Fee schedule and adding a fee for a Land Development Waiver application, together with the requirement for professional services agreement. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Zoning Hearings: We received the transcripts from the PoconoPlaces LLC hearing. We have briefs through August 15<sup>th</sup>. The ZHB will then reconvene and vote.

- B. Winot enquired about the indemnity agreement being signed by the developer for the Wawa in order to start the process for the crosswalks. The township is collaborating with the Attorney for the Developer.

**Public Comment**

Cheryl Parks (Resident) – commented on the applications for the Kennel on Ruby Lane along with the coming and goings of the residents of the home. Ms. Parks counts every time the owners leave and come back to their home along with each dog she sees.

**Adjournment – R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.**