

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on August 19, 2024 and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 6:01 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Ellen Gmandt, 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; Shawn McGlynn, Building Officer; James Wagner, Chief of Police; Jennifer Gambino, Admin. Asst.; Jerrod Belvin, Township Manager.

Public Comment

Steve Larson (Resident) Commented on the Sewer Extension Project.

Jim Stoker (Non-Resident) Spoke regarding legality of the potential Nuisance Ordinance hearing regarding firearms.

Announcements

An Executive session was held on August 19th for personnel and litigation matters.

Hearings

Pocono Places LLC - Appealing the Township Code Enforcement Officer's enforcement notices for not complying with the townships grading ordinance requirements.

- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to open the hearing for appeal of the township code enforcement officers, enforcement notice for not complying with the Townships grading ordinance requirements for Pocono Places LLC. All in favor. Motion Carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to continue the hearing from 8/19/24 to 9/16/24 at 6 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gmandt, to close the hearing. All in favor. Motion carried.

Presentations

- Brookdale Sewage Planning Module – Nate Oiler w/ RKR Hess. – R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to approve the submission of the planning module for the Brookdale Spa project and approve the Resolution 2024-21. Roll Call; R. Wielebinski, aye; B. Winot, aye; M. Velardi, aye; N. Leap, aye; E. Gmandt, abstain. Motion carried.
- The Ridge at Swiftwater PRD Sewage Planning Module – Sal Caiazza w/ Hanover Engineering – R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve the submission of the planning module for the Ridge PRD and approve the Resolution 2024-15. Roll Call: R. Wielebinski, aye; B. Winot, abstain; M. Velardi, aye; N. Leap, aye; E. Gmandt, aye. Motion carried.
- PTPD Drone Program – Detective Sargent, Earl Ackerman gave an in-depth presentation on the benefits to Law Enforcement of creating a Drone Program within Pocono Township. Grants have been secured along with some donations of units from Sanofi.

Resolutions

- Resolution 2024-20 Granting an Extension of Time to satisfy conditions of the plan approval of the Poconos Hospitality Land Development Plan.

- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to approve to grant an extension of time to satisfy conditions of the approval of the Pocono Hospitality Land Development Plan. All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- Old business consisting of the minutes of the August 5, 2024 regular meeting.
- Financial transactions through August 14, 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 totaling \$508,629.24

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 N. Leap, to sponsor one team to attend the PMCOG Charity Golf Outing at \$500.00. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to rescind the hiring process for Pocono Township Police Department. All in favor. Motion carried.

Natasha Leap – Vice President

- N. Leap made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to adopt Park Board Bylaws & direct Township Manager to advertise for the open positions, interviews to be held Sept 16th. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner

- Update – SBA Cell Tower – Review letter was sent out from Engineering.
- Update – Solar Field – New issues found by Engineering who notified the township via a letter. Zoning has issued a cease and desist. Further review must be done.
- Update – Kennel – Looking for remedy for trucks turning around in other residents driveways.

Mike Velardi – Commissioner

Brian Winot – Commissioner

- Discussion regarding signs on utility poles, ROW's was had.
- B. Winot made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to amend the BCRA Water Service Map Attachment to Resolution 2024-16. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports

Zoning

L. Scerbo reviewed her report with the board.

Police Report

J. Wagner read his report for the board.

Ambulance Report – None

Fire Report – None

Manager Report –

- Update Green Light Go – Modems still have not arrived.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to hire Kenneth Prehart as Part Time Public Works employee & Transfer \$15K from 432.450 Snow and Ice Subcontractor to 430.110 Public Works Salaries. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, for FMS and Dispenser Upgrade in the amount of \$34,808.00 (COSTAR Vendor), using ARPA Funds. All in favor. Motion carried.
- NCC Update – Trees are being cut and lighting is being updated.
- Kenny's Way Update – Internet has been installed and cameras are going up.
- Update – Old Learn Farm – tables, benches and garbage cans have been ordered thanks to the Jane Cilurso Memorial Fund.
- Jennifer Gambino was sworn in for her Notary License.

Public Works

- Sewer Business – Valve station 1 & two have been serviced
- MCTI Sewer Connect Request has been formally received via a letter from them.
- Current Public Works Projects –The Wilke Road project was completed last week. Half the costs were covered by a grant.
- NCC sewer pumps were installed and working properly, and the well pump was installed today.
- Mountain View Park Pickleball courts should be completed within the next two weeks.
- TLC Park Pickleball is nearing completion.
- Paving is complete other than the shoulder work that will be done by the Township Public Works Department.
- Tar/Chip project will start next Wednesday, weather permitting. (Fish Hill Rd. & Barton Glen area)
- The Speed Table quote came in under the \$10,000.00 limit set by the board. Installations being scheduled.
- An in-depth conversation took place regarding the parks, charging for Pickleball Courts and general upkeep and access.

Events

Upcoming events:

- August 15-at Mountain View Park working with Kettle Creek-Natures Scavenger Hunt
- September 7-Stargazing at Mountain View Park
- September 14-Movie at the park-NEWLY ADDED
- September 20-22 Food Truck Festival
- Spooky walk at MVP
- Trunk or Treat
- Tree Lighting at TLC Park

Township Engineer Report

- Learn Road Roundabout is on hold at the present time.
- TASA project final design plans have been uploaded to PennDOT website for review.
- Sewer Business – Updating estimates on sewer expansion area and looking for Grant Funds.

- Archer Lane property is for sale and the potential new buyer would like discuss what is needed to repair the gravel driveway water issues to come into compliance with the Township. A discussion was had by the board.

Township Solicitor Report

- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to advertise the Nuisance Ordinance for a hearing to be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. Rollcall: R. Wielebinski, aye; B. Winot, aye; N. Leap, aye; M. Velardi, aye; E. Gmandt, nay. Motion carried.
- Volunteer tax abatement information will be distributed to the board. E. Gmandt asked about the criteria.
- Learn Road Easement Process is moving along.
- Zoning Hearing Board updates.
 - Continuance of Pocono Places LLC findings and facts are due on Friday.
 - 519 Post Hill Rd. Dimensional Variance involving minimum lot size has been received.

Public Comment

Cheryl Parks (Resident) – Commented on cars turning around in her driveway along with the handling of matters within the Township boards to the posting of the website.

Paul Braccini (Resident) – Commented on the Right of Way on Robin Lane vs Fish Hill and why they differ.

John DeVenter (Resident) Commented on the Right of Way on Robin Lane for planting shrubs. Mr. DeVenter also asked about the Learn Rd. round-about status.

Allison Braccini (Resident) recommended an option to utilize senior citizens to monitor the pickleball courts as volunteers.

Jim Stoker (Non-Resident) w/ the FOAC Institute on gun rights in Pennsylvania. Stressed that the Ordinance will be in violation.

Adjournment – R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.