

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

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on September 3, 2024 and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 6:01 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Ellen Gndant, present; Natasha Leap, present; Mike Velardi, absent; Brian Winot, present. Rich Wielebinski, present.

In Attendance: Patrick Briegel, Public Works Director; Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor; Jon Tressler, Engineer; Jennifer Gambino, Events Coordinator; Jerrod Belvin, Township Manager.

Public Comment

Cheryl Parks (Resident) – Ongoing Kennel Concerns.

Lawrence Lippert (Resident) – Neighbors using other neighbor's shooting range.

Xanthus Winters (Resident) – Expressed his thoughts on neighbors not communicating with each other prior to filing complaints with police.

Announcements

Executive session was held 9/3/24 for personnel issues, land transfer, and litigation.

Presentations

Park Board Interviews-

Brandee Starner (Zoom)
Matt Lentz (Zoom)
Maura Maula
Romane Robb
Lauren Stracey
Dan Snyder

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to appoint Brandee Starner, Matt Lentz, Maura Maula, and Lauren Stracey to the Pocono Township Park Board. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolutions

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to approve Resolution 2024-22 Granting Conditional Approval of the Lot Consolidation Plan of Dean D. Wehr & Patricia A. Wehr. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to approve Resolution 2024-23 Granting Conditional Approval of the Lot Consolidation Plan of Amazing Pocono Properties, LLC. All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- Old business consisting of the minutes of the August 14, 2024 special meeting and the August 19, 2024 regular meeting.
- Financial transactions through August 27, 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 \$359,363.08.

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 waive event fee for Best Auto Police Car Wash on September 14th. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to appoint Frank Cefali as the Township Treasurer at a rate of \$160.00/hr.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to hire Regina Zuvich at an hourly rate, as new Fiscal Administrator conditional on her being able to be bonded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Natasha Leap – Vice President

- N. Leap made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to remove Deed Restriction question from the ZHB application. Roll Call Vote: N. Leap, aye; R. Wielebinski, aye; B. Winot, aye, E. Gndt, nay. Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner

- Update – SBA Cell Tower – Comment letter sent out four weeks ago and an extension was requested.
- Update – Solar Field – Found that total grading plan was not being followed. Revised LDP must be submitted regarding basin 305.
- Update – Kennel –. Police investigating two dogs running loose and citation will be issued.
- E. Gndt made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to have the Township Solicitor create an addition to the Nuisance Ordinance originally capturing the intent of noises & other nuisances. Discussion was held. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Police are working with the Union to produce an agreement for the PTPD drone program as presented utilizing funds from PMVB, donations from Sanofi and police budget.

Mike Velardi – Commissioner

Brian Winot – Commissioner

Reports

Zoning

Police Report

Ambulance Report

Fire Report

Manager Report –

- Update Emergency Management - Fall follow up of the 2025 County Hazmat Plan
- Update Green Light Go – Cabinets and breakers have been installed for the modems that have not come in yet. Another extension is being submitted.
- Pension Plan MMO 2025 for both Uniformed & Non-Uniformed Employees.
- NCC Update- conversion of the gym is taking place and trees are still being trimmed.
- Regional Zoning Update – Regional Comprehensive Plan still being developed

- Update – Old Learn Farm parking access will be paved within the next week. Tables, benches, trash cans and mini free library have come in. Waiting on signage with rules and park language.
 - Energy Update – We were able to get our new four accounts at a lower rate secured for one year.
 - The Township received the Resignation of Marie Guidry, Planning Commission, Vice Chair
 - E. Grandt made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to promote Kyle VanFleet from Alternate Member to Planning Member. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to open the agenda All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to advertise for an Alternate position opening on the Pocono Township Planning Commission Board. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap to contract with Tactical Data Group services at a cost of \$3000.00 per month (2024) and \$3,300.00 per month (2025) for grant writing, & grant administration services. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Works

- P. Briegel attended a free LTAP training for municipal drone use.
- MCTI Sewer Connection – working with sewer engineer and hope to have presentation at next meeting.
- A new software system has been installed for the pump stations and valves. Operators are being trained. We have two new operators.
- The Bi-oxide tank is under construction.
- Stone shoulders were installed on the roads paved by Wayco last week. Line striping will start this week.
- Midland completed the initial Chip/Seal phase last week and are beginning the sweeping phase.
- P. Briegel stated he is beginning the process of developing the roads list for 2025.
- Mountain View Park Updates – Pickleball/basketball courts are being coated this week.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to approve tennis court renovation with Keystone Sealcoating of PA (Co-Stars Vendor) for an amount of \$159,800.00 as planned in Capital Budget 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Men's & Women's bathrooms have been repainted.
- Learn Farm paving next week.
- Wilkie Road is complete.
- Pickleball has been a success at TLC park.

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
- Veterans Memorial Highway Flag currently accepting applications
- Pickleball court reservations are coming in.

Township Engineer Report

- Learn Road Roundabout
- TASA project – Plans under review with PennDOT
- Sewer Business
- Wawa at the corner of Cherry Lane and 611– curb is being widened and sidewalks updated.

Township Solicitor Report

- Sewer Business update
- Volunteer tax abatement – working on it.
- Nuisance Ordinance update Executive session to address
- General Legal update – nothing new
- Archer Lane update – extension to file our complaint.
- Learn Road Easement process – on going.
- Zoning Hearing Board updates.

Pocono Places ZH upheld two out of the three violations.
519 Post Hill Rd. Dimensional Variance September 26, 2024

The Board went into an Executive session to discuss the sale of certain real estate and potential litigation as it involves the newly proposed nuisance ordinance and returned.

Public Comment

Cheryl Parks (Resident) – Expressed her concern when trying to utilize the front part of her property for her dogs, due to the dogs next door.

Karen Doleiden (Resident) – Commented on the dogs that got out and how the barking affects her dogs.

Adjournment – R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.