

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on October 7, 2024 and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 6:14 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Ellen Gndt, present; Natasha Leap, absent; Mike Velardi, present; 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, James Wagner, Chief of Police, Lindsay Scerbo, Zoning Admin.

Public Comment

Lonnie Lipper (Resident) – Expressed his concern regarding the township stepping back due to legal position regarding the firearms discharge.

The township solicitor, L. DeVito, explained in depth the process, research and reasons behind the townships position at this time. E. Gndt added that the residents are still encouraged to contact the police should they feel the need.

Lonnie Christian (Resident) – Raised concerns regarding proposed ordinances that restrict hunting on private property and the lack of self-defense provisions.

Cheryl Parks (Resident) – Expressed her concerns regarding the monetary impact, property values and use of her property due to the Kennel's non-compliance, including missed opportunities for road repairs and increased traffic.

Announcements

The board held a work session prior to this meeting for the 2025 budget along with an executive session for litigation.

Resolutions

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to approve Resolution 2024-27 to accept the application of the LSA County Grand in the amount of \$250,000.00 for flood mitigation and drainage on Lower Lake Road. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve Resolution 2024-28 Granting an extension of time to satisfy conditions of the plan approvals of the GROSSI Major Subdivision plan. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to approval Resolution 2024-29 Granting Conditional approval of the lot consolidation plan for 2219 White Court. Discussion regarding total acreage. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to approve Resolution 2024-30 appointing Regina Zuvich, Fiscal Administrator, as Pocono Townships Liaison for Berkheimer. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to approve Resolution 2024-31 supporting the Pennsylvania commission for the United States Semi Quincentennial (America250PA). All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to approve Resolution 2024-32 granting Conditional approval of the lot line adjustment plan for 3180 Route 611 – Fountain Court (LDP#1429). All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- Old business consisting of the minutes of the September 16, 2024 meeting.
- General Fund budget adjustments in the amount of \$6,500.00 for the purpose of providing additional funding for the following line items. To cover future expenditures.
- Sewer Operating adjustments in the amount of \$13,500.00 for the purpose of providing funding to cover future expenditures.
- Financial transactions through October 02, 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 \$1,448,785.52.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, 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 accept Trick-or-Treating hours for Thursday October 31, 2024 between 5:00p.m.thru 8:00p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to have L. DeVito review the contract from Kimmel Bourgette for Architectural, Engineering & Project Management for the Police Wing of the former NCC building totaling \$159,500.00 to be invoiced monthly as construction proceeds. Discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to have the township engineer and the Road Supervisor review 719 Cranberry Rd, to place a speed table if feasible. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to advertise Ordinance 2024-05 for the purposes of the Volunteer Special Tax Credit for a scheduled hearing date of November 18, 2024. Discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Natasha Leap – Vice President

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner

- Update – SBA Cell Tower – The applicant has given a 60-day extension to the township for review. They have hired a new engineer.
- Update – Solar Field – Nothing new on the solar field since the last BOC meeting. No new plan has been received as of yet.
- Update – Kennel – Residents comments at the beginning of the meeting sums up the status.
- E. Gndt made a motion, seconded by B. Winot, to accept the PTPD drone program as presented utilizing funds from PMVB 20K, to accept donation of 2 interior drones from Sanofi, 10K in community donations and police budge (\$1,913) & to purchase (1) DJI M#)t for \$14,505.00 & (1) DJI Mavic 3 for \$16,913.98 authorizing the township manager to sign the MOU as approved by Labor Council. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mike Velardi – Commissioner

- Complimented the Neighborhood Hospital along Golden Slipper Road and the work they have been doing to mitigate the stormwater runoff issues along that property.

Brian Winot – Commissioner

- B. Winot made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to authorize the township manager to collaborate with the Pocono Mountain Economic Development Corporation (PMEDC) to develop a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) district within our under-developed Residential Development (RD) and Commercial Districts. Discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports

Zoning Report was in the agenda packet

Police Report – Police Chief, J. Wagner thanked the Board for the Drone program support long with recognizing the current donors of the program. Monroe County Visitors Bureau, N. E. Pa Police Association, Sanofi for the donation of two drones, along with Commissioner Winot and Vincent Trapasso for each of their donations of \$5,000.

Manager Report –

- Update Emergency Management – County’s annual hazard mitigation plan is still being reviewed.
- Update Green Light Go – The antennas have arrived and now waiting on an appointment with PennDOT integration staff.
- NCC Update- Moving along on the admin side. The board will be doing a walk thru Tuesday October 8th at 10 a.m. after a brief discussion.
- Kenny’s Way- We should be winterizing the property within the upcoming week.
- Pocono Township Zoning Amendments Update – Invoice being sent for \$5000 of the grant funds to be released.
- Update – Old Learn Farm ribbon cutting will be October 25th at 1:00 p.m. The trails are already open and have received great reviews. Eli Kresge did an amazing job on creating the trails.

Public Works

- Pump Station 5 Bioxide tank is complete.
- T&M is working on plans for the culvert on Dory Place.
- The Sewer Engineer is working on refining plans, survey, and easements for the MCTI hookup.
- Public works continue to work on Fall items, drainage, roadside cutting, signage, and intermittent tree work.
- Park items – Pickle ball is open at Mountain View Park. Tennis is making progress. The park staff ran conduit for cable. The New Gate was demolished by someone on their phone and left the scene.

Events

Upcoming events:

- Spooky walk at MVP on October 19th
- Trunk or Treat on October 27th
- Tree Lighting at TLC Park December 6th
- Veterans Memorial Highway Flag is currently accepting applications until the end of October.
- Pickleball court reservations continue to come in. The township is looking at Rent to Fund lockers for some park equipment.
- Park board will be meeting to do a walkthrough of the parks within the next couple of weeks.

Township Engineer Report

- Learn Road Roundabout getting ready to bid after the first of the year.
- Updating the 537 plans.
- TASA project – Plans under review with PennDOT and we are still waiting on comments back.
- TLC walking bridge project is in its initial stages.

- Archer Lane – The applicant has not submitted a final plan as of yet. The preliminary has been reviewed and comments stated the plan was found to be inadequate.

Township Solicitor Report

- Sewer Business update - Looking into hiring special council for similar matters.
- Knox Box Ordinance has been sent to the Township Manager who will forward to the Board for action at our next meeting.
- Nuisance ordinance meeting with zoning October 9th to revisit and update in order to move forward.
- General Legal update – nothing new
- Archer Lane update – Litigation is continuing.
- Zoning Hearing Board updates. – None
- E. Grandt ask about the easement status regarding the traffic light at Bartonsville Ave. and Rte. 611 (Ertle)

Public Comment

Lonnie Christian (Resident) – commented on the Cranberry Rd motion along with Learn Rd. speed bumps and suggested a stop sign instead to slow people down.

Dawn Eilber (Resident) – expressed her concern regarding the Skyview Drive mono-pine tower.

Cheryl Parks (Resident) – commented on the negative impact of the Kennel on her quality of life, increased traffic, noise, and safety.

Adjournment – R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.