

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
October 21, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on October 21, 2024 and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 6:06 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**In Attendance:** Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor; Jon Tressler, Engineer; Jennifer Gambino, Events Coordinator; Jerrod Belvin, Township Manager, James Wagner, Chief of Police.

**Public Comment**

Cheryl Parks (Resident) – stressed her frustration over the deterioration of her quality of life and her perceived lack of action from the township regarding the kennel.

Carlene Madison (Resident) – raised concerns about speeding on Glen Oak Drive. Ms. Madison also mentioned an issue with invasive bamboo growing on her property line and asked for the township's assistance.

**Announcements**

The board held a work session on October 15<sup>th</sup> and prior to this meeting for the 2025 budget.

**Resolutions**

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve Resolution 2024-34 to grant conditional approval of 140 Rose Street LDP# 1433 Terrery Dentistry. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda**

- Old business consisting of the minutes of the October 7, 2024 regular meeting.
- General Fund budget adjustments in the amount of \$7,650.00 for the purpose of providing additional funding for the following line items. To cover future expenditures.
- Sewer Operating adjustments in the amount of 14,000.00 for the purpose of providing funding to cover future expenditures.  
Financial transactions through October 17, 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 \$969,813.54.

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 Open the Agenda All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Winot to approve the expenditures for P. Briegel and J. Tressler, to review the speed limit on Glen Oak Drive and if there is no speed limit set for that road, township engineer to do a speed study and determine the correct limit for the road, and post the signs. Discussion was held. All in favor. Motion carried.

- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to purchase (1) Cross Country 21' Tilt Deck Equipment Trailer from Stevenson Equipment (Costars Vendor) for \$13,040.00 as listed in the 2024 capital budget. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to release \$11,137.53 of the Escrow for construction costs to Cherry Lane Development Partners for the Wawa #8187, 2977 Route 611, Tannersville. Discussion was had. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to authorize the township solicitor to advertise a Knox Box Ordinance for hearing on 11/18/2024. Discussion was had. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to advertise Ordinance 2024-06, for No Parking S.R. 611 along the entire frontage of the property known as Monroe County Parcel Number 12.9.1.73. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to approve the Land Development Waiver for MTG Accounting LLC. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by N. Leap, to approve the Land Development Waiver for Sanofi Pasteur – B53 Exterior Freezer Replacement. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Natasha Leap – Vice President**

### **Ellen Gndt – Commissioner**

- Update – SBA Cell Tower – Replaced the engineer on the project. A new set of plans will be submitted.
- Update – Solar Field – The roadway needs to be cleaned up as the trucks come in and out. Phase 1 is the only phase they are able to work in.
- Update – Kennel – Zoning will follow up.

### **Mike Velardi – Commissioner**

### **Brian Winot – Commissioner**

LERTA Update. Meeting with other township's on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Reports**

**Zoning Report** was in the agenda packet.

**Police Report** – September report was emailed out. Calls for service – 4205, motor vehicle accidents investigated – 57, traffic contacts – 464, criminal arrests – 39, summary criminal arrests – 14.

**Fire Report** – Calls – 149 (34 calls up from the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and 23 total for the year). Calls for the year to date – 461. Total number of volunteer hours was 325 hours.

### **Manager Report –**

- Update Emergency Management – Commissioners were sent a letter on some of our hazards to be submitted for the county hazard mitigation grant. Please continue to submit your ideas by the end of the month.
- Update Green Light Go – No recent updates
- NCC Update- The board members did a walk-thru and made some minor changes that have already been addressed. Chief Wagner met with the accreditation board on a number of safety concerns and drop ceilings for the police side.
- Kenny's Way- no update.
- Update – Old Learn Farm ribbon cutting will be October 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- PFM Update – Sewer debt status. The sewer indebtedness should be completed by 2035.
- Request for executive session for personnel and litigation after the BOC meeting.

### **Public Works**

- Public works continue to work on Fall items, drainage, roadside cutting, signage, and intermittent tree work.

### **Events**

Upcoming events:

- Trunk or Treat on October 27<sup>th</sup>
- Tree Lighting at TLC Park December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Memorial Highway Flag
- Park Board update
- The spooky walk at the park was a success with over 500 attendees.

### **Township Engineer Report**

- Learn Road Roundabout – looking to next year for bids
- Updating the 537 plans.
- TASA project – Looking to bid in 2025 hoping to award by end of 2025.
- TLC walking bridge

### **Township Solicitor Report**

- Sewer Business update - Two issues involving Tobyhanna township. First, proposed/ongoing expansion. Second, a report was received last week where total dissolved solids has now doubled.
- Knox Box Ordinance
- Nuisance ordinance update – Held a second meeting with staff to add a definition to the zoning ordinance. Possible blanket stand alone or update the existing ordinance with a definition.
- General Legal update – Sunset Hill shooting range is still pending.
- Archer Lane update – Spoke with attorney for Mr. Archer to reach back out to his engineer.
- Zoning Hearing Board updates. – None
- Learn Road Easement Process working on mini closings and hopefully bid next spring.

### **Public Comment**

**Adjournment – R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m., go into executive session and not return. All in favor. Motion carried.**