

**POCONO TOWNSHIP
COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 16th, 2014**

A Special meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on January 16th, 2014 at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA, and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALLS: Richard Wielebinski, present; Jerry Lastowski, present; Tom Felver, present, Greg Hill, present; and Brad Wise, present. Pamela Finkbeiner, recording secretary was present.

ACKNOWLEDGE OF COMMENTS: President Rich Wielebinski noted each visitor has the right to comment at this time or before any action is taken on a matter.

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE - Dr. Matthew J. Connell, Dean of Monroe Campus addressed the Board requesting the Board allow the former Township Attorney Jeff Durney, and former Township Engineer Boucher & James, Inc. to continue with the NCC project. Dr. Connell expressed concerned that a change in Attorney and Engineer could delay the soft opening of the college, scheduled for May of 2014.

Jennifer Wise-Werkheiser and Ridgley Werkheiser, Scotrun; Diane Zweifel, Tannersville; Tom Wise, Scotrun; David Pearson, Scotrun; Judy Coover, Henryville; Dennis Purcell, John Bramley ,Tannersville; and Harold Werkheiser, Tannersville; questioned the various aspects of the project. Dr. Connell stated the HOP for the project has been 2 years in the application process. A digital sign application will be submitted for a variance request.

Greg Hill spoke in support of the college but felt the hiring of a former attorney and engineer would be unusual.

JULIAN KIRK, CPA - 2012 AUDIT RESULTS

Julian Kirk, CPA stated the 2012 Audit report showed a fund balance of 7.1 million in the Government fund; 2 million in Sewer Operations; and an approximately 1 million surplus in the General Fund.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR - Tom Felver noted the Commissioners took the selection of a Township Solicitor very seriously. All applicants were interviewed.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by G. Hill, to appoint Broughal & DeVito LLP as Township Solicitor. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Greg Hill stated the references were excellent with regards to Broughal & DeVito and there were no conflicts in matters with the Township.

Scott Gilliland, Swiftwater; and Jennifer Wise-Werkheiser, Scotrun; supported the Commissioner's decision to hire Broughal & DeVito LLP.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE, MEYNER CENTER

David Wolgom gave a summary of services provided by the Meyner Center to assist local governments in the process of hiring a Township Manager. The process will take approximately 3 months to complete. The proposal includes assisting in development of a job description, ordinance, advertising, background checks and interviewing process for the recruitment of a Township Manager.

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to approve the hiring of the Lafayette College Meyner Center at a capped rate of \$5,000.00 to assist the Township in the recruitment of a Township Manager. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jerry Lastowski read a letter from Keith and Carol Yost praising the Pocono Township Fire Department, Pocono Township Police Department, and Central Pocono Ambulance for their quick response at a fire in their home.

MINUTES

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve the minutes of the 01/06/2014 regular meeting and the 01/09/2014 Special meeting. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Gilliland, Monica Gerrity, Henryville; Maxine Turbolski, Swiftwater; re: Township Budget and process.

Diane Zweifel, re: salaries.

Marie Guidry, Henryville, questioned appointments to volunteer board positions.

Jack Rader, Jackson Township Supervisor requested the Board appoint one member to the Pocono/Jackson Water Authority. He also requested the Board look into rescinding a previously approved Ordinance.

Dennis Purcell, re: NCC digital signage.

Teresa Purcell, re: hiring of manager.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard Wielebinski noted the Board is requesting letters of interest from the public to fill the vacancies.

Brad Wise attended the HJP Park Board and there is a need for two volunteers to serve on that committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT:

Pocono Township Police Chief Kent Werkheiser met with Jerry Lastowski concerning updating the Police Department Manuals to today's standards.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to convene into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. to discuss litigation matters. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened at 9:30 p.m., no further actions were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.