

POCONO TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27th, 2014 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners rescheduled from January 21st, 2014 was held on January 27th, 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; Township Solicitors Leo V. DeVito and Lisa A. Pereira, Broughal & DeVito LLP were 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Richard Wielebinski announced the Zoning Hearing Board (Spirit of Swiftwater) meeting on January 30th, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Commissioners Meeting will be held February 3rd, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Rich Wielebinski introduced the newly appointed Township Solicitors, Leo DeVito and Lisa A. Pereira, Broughal & DeVito LLP to the audience.

MINUTES: R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to enter the 12/30/2014 minutes into the Township records. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; and G. Hill, yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01 - R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by G. Hill, to approve Resolution No. 2014-01 appointing the firm of Broughal & DeVito, LLP as Township Solicitor. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; and G. Hill, yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-02 - R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by G. Hill, to approve Resolution No. 2014-02 hiring of Lafayette College for Township Manager Recruitment. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; and G. Hill, yes. Motion carried.

TIME EXTENSION REQUESTS

The Board acknowledged the receipt of Time Extension requests from:

- A. Pocono Logistics, letter dated 01/20/2014, until March 31st, 2014.
- B. Sheldon Kopelson, letter dated 01/20/2014 - Minor Subdivision Plan, Planned Residential Development (Lot#1), Commercial Development (Lot #2) and New Land Development Plan (Lot #3) until April 4th, 2014.

SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT - CSG Permit Manager Software G. Hill made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve the 2014 GSG Permit Manager Software Support and Maintenance Agreement for \$1,850.00. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, abstained; and G. Hill, yes. Motion carried.

H2O REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST #14

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to approve the Commonwealth Financing Authority (H2O Grant) in the amount of \$132,340.29 for a Total of \$85,827.00 (66.67%). Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; and G. Hill, yes. Motion carried.

2013 AUDITOR - Tom Felver reviewed the applications for Township Auditor and recommended Julian Kirk CPA for the 2013 accounting of Township financial records. T. Felver made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski to approve Julian Kirk CPA as Auditor. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to appoint Peter Nish to the Civil Service Committee. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to appoint Don Simpson to the Civil Service Committee. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to appoint Douglas Blessing to the Civil Service Committee. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

T. Felver made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski to set the terms of the Civil Service Members as per the Twp. Solicitor's recommendation for staggered term limits, as follows: Peter Nish, two (2) year term; Don Simpson, four (4) year term; and Douglas Blessing, six (6) year term. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to reappoint Scott Gilliland to the Pocono Township Planning Commission. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION CONT:

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to appoint Jeremy Sawicki to the Pocono Township Planning Commission. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

ZONING HEARING BOARD

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to appoint Diane Zweifel to the Zoning Hearing Board. Discussion followed. T. Felver suggested Jim Olizarowicz should be considered for the position. G. Hill noted that the Chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board had contacted him regarding J. Olizarowicz. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, no; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Annabella Lastowski questioned alternate appointments to the various boards.

ADVERTISEMENT OF PLANNING COMMISSION AND PARK MEETINGS

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski to authorize the Township Administrator to advertise the meeting of the Pocono Township Planning Commission for the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. unless otherwise advertised and the Mt. View Park Board meetings. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Anthony Maula questioned the appointment of a Township Engineer to review existing plans. Brad Wise noted the Commission is in the process of interviewing Engineering firms.

BILLS

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Wise, to approve payment of the semi-monthly bills: **General Fund - \$178,047.87; Park Fund - \$32.48; Debt Service - \$3,477.01; Sewer Operating Fund - \$60,101.70; and Sewer Construction Fund - \$696,647.50.** Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Monica Gerrity re: Frank Froio payment status. Rich Wielebinski noted F. Froio is now being pay through payroll.

Rich Wielebinski noted since he is employed by Verizon it would be a conflict of interest to vote on any Telecommunication invoices.

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to approve payment of the Tele-Communication bills: **General Fund - \$1,983.59; Park Fund - \$69.60; and Sewer Operating Fund - \$757.03.** Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, abstained; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

2014 BUDGET Jerry Lastowski made a motion to reopen the 2014 Budget, seconded by G. Hill, discussion followed. Twp. Solicitor, Leo DeVito informed the Board of the process to reopen the budget and suggested the Board review the budget and if appropriate, advertise to amend it by 01/31/2014.

Jerry Lastowski express concern the 2 mil decrease may hurt the Township's ability to fund the needed repairs to the Township Buildings and roadways. The Board amended the motion as followed:

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by G. Hill, to move to review the 2014 Budget and if appropriate, advertise to amend the 2014 Budget. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ramona Shupp, Gravatts Way, and John Rinker, Babble Brook Road, raised concerns about Camelback's Employee Shuttle buses using Mt. View Park.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board convened into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, that Police Officer, Christopher Dittman, suspended without pay from 01/21/2014 to 01/27/2014 be terminated as of 01/27/2014, from employment with Pocono Township Police Department and authorizing R. Wielebinski, President to send a letter advising of the disciplinary actions and his rights. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by B. Wise, to convene into executive session for litigation matters, and adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; G. Hill, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.