

**POCONO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 16, 2013**

**MINUTES**

Chairman Frank Hess opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Frank Hess, Chairman; Harold Werkheiser, Supervisor; Henry Bengel, Vice Chairman; Frank Froio, Township Administrator; Jeffrey Durney, Township Solicitor

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR:**

Sewer Meeting on September 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

PennDOT Meeting (regarding Route 611 bridge replacement) on September 18, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Planning Commission Meeting on September 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Special Sewer Meeting on September 30, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

HJP Park Board Meeting on October 3, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Meeting on October 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Roy Smith advised that the Central Pocono Ambulance Corps received notice from St. Luke's Trauma Center that the Corps and two of its employees had been selected to be honored at the Night of Heroes dinner. R. Smith explained that St. Luke's selects two incidents/outcomes each year from its entire service area wherein exceptional patient care was provided. This year Ricky Bengel and Bill Mussey are being honored for their care of a patient with a cervical spine injury who, if it were not for the care provided, could have died or been paralyzed. R. Smith stated it was a significant honor that should be recognized by the Township and its residents.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Pocono Alliance – Crossing Abilities Playground Escrow. J. Durney advised that at its May 6, 2013 meeting the Board approved the plan for the Crossing Abilities Playground subject to the establishment of an escrow account for future non-routine maintenance. Michael Tukeva from Pocono Alliance provided an update regarding the project, which will result in a \$400,000 playground being installed at Mountain View Park. M. Tukeva advised that there were unexpected costs incurred in the project and requested that the escrow be waived. Jim Becker, a Pocono Alliance Board member, provided further detail

regarding the project and encouraged the Board to waive the escrow requirement. A lengthy discussion followed. H. Werkheiser stated that Pocono Alliance representatives had previously advised that Board that the playground would be installed at no cost to the Township and had agreed to maintain an escrow account. M. Tukeva acknowledged the prior statements but indicated that the project had cost more than anticipated and that Pocono Alliance refused to cut any corners in providing an outstanding playground. M. Tukeva further pointed to the positive economic impact the playground was likely to have in the Township. F. Hess and H. Bengel both offered their support for the playground and the substantial benefits being provided to the Township. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by F. Hess, to approve the request to waive the escrow requirement for Pocono Alliance in connection with the future maintenance of the Crossing Abilities Playground. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, no; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:**

None.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

Mountain View Park – Discussion of Various Items. F. Froio stated that Charlie Trapasso advised that the Park Board approved new signage for Mountain View Park. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to approve the ordering of the new signs to be paid from the Park Fund. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried. F. Froio advised that the Park Board further requested that the Township waive the permit fee for the signs. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to waive the permit fees for the Mountain View Park signs. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried. F. Froio further advised that the Park Board requested that the Township waive the park fees for the Wells Fargo Volunteer Day to be held at Mountain View Park. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to waive the park fees for the Wells Fargo Volunteer Day to be held at Mountain View Park. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Fall Clean-Up – Announcement of Dates. F. Froio advised that the Fall Clean-Up would be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>.

Survey of Lovito Property. F. Froio advised that a proposal had been received for the surveying of the Lovito property in connection with a proposed fix to the sewer line problem. The cost of the survey work is \$4,720. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to approve the proposal for the survey work on the Lovito property in connection with the sewer project. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Monroe County Vo-Tech – Letter of Support for LSA Grant proposal. F. Froio advised that the Vo-Tech had requested a letter of support from the Township in connection with the Vo-Tech’s LSA grant application to obtain funds that would enable the school to connect to the Township’s sewer line. F. Hess advised that the school’s system is failing

and they have requested to hook in to the Township's line. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to authorize the Chairman to send a letter of support for the Monroe County Vo-Tech's LSA grant application for funds to connect to the Township's sewer line. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Library – 2014 Use of Meeting Room. F. Froio advised that the Library had requested to use the Meeting Room in 2014 every Thursday from 8:30 to 11:15 a.m. and one Wednesday per month. These times are the same as in 2013. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to approve the Library's use of the Meeting Room for 2014. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Camelback Employee Parking – Use of Mountain View Park. F. Froio advised that a request was received from Camelback to utilize Mountain View Park for employee parking. F. Froio stated that a number of issues would need to be discussed, including maintenance of the road, insurance and security.

Escrow Releases. F. Froio advised that the escrow accounts on two projects were ready to be released. Jon Tresslar, Township Engineer, provided a letter indicating that the final \$1,500 escrow with Northeast Site Contractors on the Frantz Hill Road Culvert Replacement should be released, as the pavement had been satisfactorily repaired. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to approve the release of the \$1,500 Frantz Hill Road Culvert Replacement escrow to Northeast Site Contractors. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried. F. Froio further advised that the Township was holding \$11,430.11 in escrow for the Pocono Township Volunteer Fire Company, which consisted of insurance monies collected on behalf of the Fire Company by the Township in the 1999-2001 timeframe. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to approve the release of the \$11,430.11 escrow to the Pocono Township Volunteer Fire Company. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

#### **PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

H. Werkheiser made a motion to approve payment of the semi-monthly bills on the Bill Payment List dated September 16, 2013. There was no second. H. Bengel advised that he objected to a payment of \$150 for boots for H. Werkheiser as he understood that H. Werkheiser was not entitled to be reimbursed. A short discussion followed. F. Hess suggested that the issue of H. Werkheiser's entitlement to a reimbursement be reviewed. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by F. Hess, to approve payment of the semi-monthly bills on the Bill Payment List dated September 16, 2013 with the exception of reimbursement to H. Werkheiser for boots pending further review. Approved bill payments: **GENERAL FUND: \$187,870.99; PARK FUND: \$15,990.07; DEBT SERVICE: \$16,249.24; EMERGENCY SERVICES: \$213,005.44.** Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, no; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

H. Werkheiser made a motion, seconded by F. Hess, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2013 Board of Supervisors Meeting. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, abstain; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2013 Board of Supervisors Meeting. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Jack Swersie requested that the Board consider narrowing the scope of the proposed Second Hand Goods Ordinance to make certain that it is applicable only to pawn shops and does not apply to eBay sellers, garage sales and other similar sellers.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

H. Werkheiser advised the audience of several recent break-ins and encouraged everyone to be watchful. Chief Riley further recommended that residents contact the Police Department if they observe anything suspicious.

F. Hess announced that the Board would hold an informational meeting regarding the issue of First Class versus Second Class Township forms of government.

Chief Phil Riley announced that Dr. Jeffrey Wert had donated \$1,000 to the Police Department in order to have the Department purchase another long rifle. Chief Riley further advised that another family had also donated \$1,000 to purchase a long rifle. The Board expressed its gratitude for the donations.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Scott Gilliland requested that information regarding the Township's fixed and discretionary expenses be prepared and available in connection with the budget meeting to be held. S. Gilliland further recommended that the Township conduct routine safety inspections by a certified inspector with regard to all playground equipment at the park. S. Gilliland emphasized the importance of regular and proper inspections for insurance purposes. A short discussion followed. F. Hess advised that the inspections would be reviewed with Dean. S. Gilliland further expressed his concern that the Board was not always fully prepared to consider matters that were on the agenda.

Judi Coover asked whether the Board votes before approving letters in support of LSA grant applications. F. Froio advised that it was his understanding that the Board does vote on such letters. J. Coover expressed concern that there were several items added to the agenda after the agenda was made available to the public.

J. Cilurso asked about an agreement with F. Froio. F. Hess stated that no written contract had been entered into. J. Cilurso asked about the appointment of a Public Works Director. F. Hess advised that no decision had been made. A short discussion followed.

J. Cilurso asked who would work on the budget for the Road Department. F. Hess advised that all of the Supervisors would work on the budget.

Frank Ruggerio stated that he thought H. Werkheiser had done a great job as Roadmaster and that the Board should let him take his job back.

Jake Singer expressed his concern with the height of the grass near the Welcome to Pocono Township sign. H. Werkheiser stated that he would have someone look into it.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m., until October 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pocono Township Municipal Building.

Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.