

**POCONO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
January 28, 2012**

**MINUTES**

Chairman Frank Hess opened the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: F. Hess, Chairman; H. Werkheiser, Vice Chairman; H. Bengel, Supervisor; Richard Manfredi, Consultant; Jeffrey Durney, Solicitor

**ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

F. Hess announced that the Board had met in executive session to discuss personnel matters.

F. Hess announced that the Township received a grant in the amount of \$194,800 for the Frantz Hill Bridge project.

**BUSINESS OF MEETING:**

J. Durney discussed the purpose of the meeting and the procedures for amending the 2012 budget if the Supervisors elected to make any revisions to the budget.

H. Bengel stated that the Board was interested in getting feedback from Township residents on budget issues and any ideas for further savings and efficiencies.

A request was made to include the full budget on the Township's website, including all exhibits. Concerns were raised that the budget had been removed from the website and that the budget that had been provided only included a rolled-up narrative.

Don Simpson asked questions regarding the Parks and Recreation budget and the manner in which these figures were set forth in the budget.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Township's obligations concerning the Hamilton Jackson Pocono Park. Several comments were made objecting to the expenditure of Township funds in connection with the operations of HJP Park and open space.

Robert Grimaldi expressed his concern about the police contract and any contract that will extend for more than one year. Judy Coover advised that she was willing to offer her services in negotiating the police contract.

H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to eliminate the full-time Sewage Enforcement Officer position. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; and F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Further discussion was held regarding the manner in which these services would be provided in the future. Discussion included the options of contracting the work on a per diem or per application basis and a cost-sharing arrangement with another municipality. Further discussion was held regarding whether the salary savings should be allocated to specific line items. R. Manfredi advised that the money allocated to the SEO salary and benefits, which would now not be spent, would be subject to a future resolution for supplemental appropriations to use this money toward other expenses.

Discussion was held regarding the Zoning Officer position. H. Werkheiser expressed his belief that there was a need for a full-time Zoning Officer. H. Bengel expressed his opinion that the Zoning Officer duties could be handled on a part-time or per diem basis like the duties of the Sewage Enforcement Officer. F. Hess expressed concerns whether there was a need for a full-time Zoning Officer given the current economic conditions.

H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by F. Hess to change the Zoning Officer position from full-time to part-time. Discussion was held as to the correct form of the motion. H. Bengel subsequently moved to strike the motion, seconded by F. Hess. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, no; and F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by F. Hess, to eliminate the full-time Zoning Officer position. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, no; and F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Additional discussion was held regarding the manner in which the Township would provide the services previously handled by the full-time Zoning Officer.

Additional discussion was held about other cost savings measures that the Township should consider and explore.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; and F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.