

**POCONO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
September 17, 2012**

MINUTES

Chairman Frank Hess opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Present: F. Hess, Chairman; H. Werkheiser, Vice Chairman; H. Bengel, Supervisor; Frank Froio, Township Administrator; Jeffrey Durney, Township Solicitor

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR:

Sewer Meeting on September 18, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting on September 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Fall Clean-Up on September 27th through 29th at 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting on September 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTION:

Police Chief Phil Riley introduced Eric Rath, who was recently hired as an Officer with the Pocono Township Police Department. Chief Riley welcomed Officer Rath and his family. Chief Riley advised that Officer Rath would replace Officer Robert Furino who resigned from the force to pursue private sector business interests. Chief Riley thanked Officer Furino for his dedicated service.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A resident complimented H. Werkheiser and the road crew for recent road work that was well done.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

PMHIC Ordinance 2012-05 – PUBLIC HEARING. J. Durney advised that an Ordinance authorizing the Township to join the Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC) had been prepared and the hearing duly advertised. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-05. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried. RESOLUTION 2012-05 ADOPTED.

Northampton Community College – HOP Application No. 14192 -- J. Durney advised that the Board approved serving as the Applicant with respect to a Highway Occupancy Permit with respect to a stormwater crossing at its August 6, 2012 meeting subject to entry into a Maintenance and Indemnification Agreement between the College and the

Township. J. Durney advised that he prepared an Agreement, which had been reviewed by the Township Engineer and had been executed by the College. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to approve entry into the Indemnity Agreement. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to approve execution of the HOP Application No. 14192. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Resolution No. 623 – J. Durney advised that at its June 18, 2012 meeting the Board approved Resolution No. 619 regarding the financing of a 2012 International Truck. J. Durney was subsequently asked to provide an opinion letter to the Bank in connection with the proposed financing. J. Durney requested that the Township provide the relevant documentation certifying that the purchase had been properly approved by the Township at a public meeting. While a purchase order for the truck was signed in 2011, a review of the Township records did not produce any evidence that the purchase of the truck was approved by the prior administration at a public meeting. In addition, a review of the budget for 2012 did not contain any provision for payments for the truck. J. Durney advised that both his office and F. Froio had contacted the truck dealer to explore the available options. The dealer advised that they would accept a return of the truck at a price of \$90,000, with the Township obligated for \$69,933.50, the difference between the original purchase price and the return value. The dealer advised that the buy-back price was low because the truck was a special order vehicle and there is a limited resale market. F. Hess called for a motion regarding the approval of Resolution No. 623. No motion was made. There was additional discussion and public comments regarding the possible alternatives, including further negotiations with the dealer.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Crossing Abilities Playground – F. Hess advised that several volunteers working with Pocono Alliance were seeking the Township’s approval to build an All-Inclusive Playground for special needs children at Mountain View Park. F. Hess advised that Mark Nayman, Pocono Township Park Board President, advised that the Park Board unanimously approved the All-Inclusive Playground. The installation will be at no cost to the Township. Charlie Trapasso, one of the volunteers, provided information regarding the plans and offered that volunteers were both needed and welcomed. The installation would permit children with disabilities to play along side their friends. The Crossing Abilities playground would be the first of its type in the area. Robert Felins, another volunteer, provided additional information regarding the plan, which would include not only playground equipment, but a conversion of a bathroom to handicap accessible. Neal Gallagher, who has been one of the principal proponents of the playground and has been spearheading the project for more than 2 years, provided further information regarding the plans. H. Bengel expressed his strong support for the proposal. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to approve the All-Inclusive Playground at Mountain View Park subject to the submission of plans for review and approval. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Pocono Township Police – 2013 Minimum Municipal Obligation – F. Froio advised that the minimum municipal obligation for 2013 is \$148,468.13. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to acknowledge that the Board had been advised and reviewed the minimum municipal obligation for 2013. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Pocono Township Non-Uniform – 2013 Minimum Municipal Obligation – F. Froio advised that the minimum municipal obligation for 2013 is \$46,095.74. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by F. Hess, to acknowledge that the Board had been advised and reviewed the minimum municipal obligation for 2013. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 625 – Resolution No. 625 would authorize the Township to prepare and file an Application for Assistance under the Pennsylvania Gaming Local Share Account to obtain funding to repair Stadden Road Bridge. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to adopt Resolution No. 625. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 626 – Resolution No. 626 would authorize the Township to prepare and file an Application for Assistance under the Pennsylvania Gaming Local Share Account to obtain funding to repair Wilkie Road Bridge. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to adopt Resolution No. 626. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 627 – Resolution No. 627 would authorize the Township to make certain supplemental appropriations with respect to the Liquid Fuels Fund. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to adopt Resolution No. 625. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 628 – Resolution No. 628 would authorize the Township to prepare and file an Application for Assistance under the Pennsylvania Gaming Local Share Account to obtain funding to replace three (3) aging police vehicles. H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to adopt Resolution No. 628. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by F. Hess, to approve payment of the semi-monthly bills on the Bill Payment List dated September 14, 2012. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

H. Werkheiser made a motion, seconded by F. Hess, to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2012 Special Board of Supervisors Meeting. Roll call vote: H. Bengel, yes; H. Werkheiser, yes; F. Hess, yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A question was asked regarding the chipper that had been advertised. F. Froio advised that this is not a new piece of equipment but that the advertisement was required.

Jane Cilurso asked about the status of the police contract negotiations. F. Hess advised that he anticipated that the contract would be approved at the next Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

H. Bengel made a motion, seconded by H. Werkheiser, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m., until October 1, 2012, 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.