

POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5th, 2015 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on 01/05/2015, at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA, and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Rich Wielebinski, present; Jerry Lastowski, present; Tom Felver, present; Peter Nish, present; and Brad Wise, present.

Leo V. DeVito, Broughal & DeVito LLP, Twp. Solicitor; Tim Edinger, T&M Associates, Twp. Engineer; Gregg Schuster, Twp. Manager; and Pamela Finkbeiner, Secretary were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a) There are currently two vacancies on the Civil Service Commission, one vacancy on the Recreation Committee, and one vacancy on the Planning Commission
- b) Special Meeting to interview Civil Service Commission candidates and other committee candidates at 4:30 p.m. on 1/07/2015.

MINUTES:

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners regular meeting of 12/15/2014. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

T. Felver made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Special meeting of 12/29/2014. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

BILLS AND TRANSFERS:

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by B. Wise, to approve the Check Listing, dated 01/05/2015 (excepting all tele-communication bills). Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by B. Wise, to approve the Check Listing, dated 01/05/2015 (tele-communication bills). Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, abstained; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dennis and Teresa Purcell, Randy Peechakta, Monica Gerrity, Ron Swink, Twp. residents, spoke concerning traffic problems on Rt. 715 and Camelback Road. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONT:

R. Wielebinski stated Crossing's insurance company will no longer cover the hiring of flaggers for traffic control at the intersection. The Crossings contacted the Township and agreed to pay for Pocono Township Police to assist with Thanksgiving weekend traffic.

G. Schuster noted the agreement with the Crossing was for only the Thanksgiving weekend. The Crossings is not required to pay for any other time.

Diane Zweifel and Jane Cilurso Twp. residents, suggested the Board set up a meeting with all parties involved and PennDOT to work together to resolve the traffic problems on Sullivan Trail, Camelback Road, and Rt. 715.

G. Schuster, Twp. Manager, will coordinate a meeting.

Frank Frailey, Wiscasset Drive, Scotrun, requested the board take action on a recent sign put up at Pocono Brew Pub. The sign's brightness affects the neighboring properties. G. Schuster, Twp. manager, will request the Zoning Officer look into the matter.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: None

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Gerald Lastowski, Vice President, noted 01/06/2015 is the anniversary of 1st Class board. He thanked the members for their service.

He informed the Board the Yuhas Superfund site cleanup will start soon. He acknowledged Cindy Gregor, Twp. resident, for her efforts in getting the Yuhas property cleaned up.

Thomas Felver, Commissioner: None

Peter Nish, Commissioner: None

Bradley Wise, Commissioner: None

REPORTS:

Pocono Township Fire Co. appointment of 2015 Fire Police-

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Wise, to appoint:

Alvin Kresge Sr. - Captain

Richard Shay - Lieutenant

Patrick Kresge

Christopher Kinsley Sr.

Kevin Kresge

Gerald Lastowski

Steve Jacobs

Thomas Kresge

Christopher Kinsley Jr.

Donald Simpson

Peter Gallagher

William Ward

Robert Gupko

Corey Sayre

As Pocono Township Volunteer Fire Company Fire Police for 2015. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION:

Township Manager Gregg Schuster:

Salary increases for full-time, non-union employees. G. Schuster noted he did not include salary increases in the 2015 budget since a policy for increases for non-union employees is not in place. He suggested: 1) No increase; 2) same as Union contract increase; 3) merit based raises; or 4) a blend of cost of living and merit. G. Schuster preferred merit and performance based raises. P. Nish noted without job descriptions, evaluation of employee's duties cannot be determined. J. Lastowski stated a merit system must be totally objective with clearly defined and attainable goals if it is to work as designed. Monica Gerrity, Twp. resident, asked what the raise was from the previous year. P. Finkbeiner stated the Secretary and Treasurer were brought up to the same rate as the one union Twp. office employee last year.

B. Wise noted the evaluation process would take work and a lot of time to develop. No action taken.

D. Zweifel, Twp. resident, questioned the Road crew start time. P. Finkbeiner noted the road crew was out on the road at approximately 7:30 a.m., each morning.

Linde Bid Acceptance/Rejection - J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by B. Wise, to reject the Linde Bid for the repair to the sewer line. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Township Engineer Tim Edinger noted the Learn Road drainage pipe has been installed. T. Felver questioned why the cones are still in place over the grates. T. Edinger noted they are waiting for the ground to settle before final grading can be completed.

Camelback parking lot is done except for lighting.

Camelback Lodge and Waterpark E&S inspections are continuing.

Township Solicitor Leo DeVito: None

PRESENTATIONS:

Interview - Mike Velardi for Civil Service Commission - P. Nish asked if he was available for Tuesday morning meeting. M. Velardi noted he worked during the day and would be unable to attend. P. Nish stated attendance of the meetings is necessary for the position. Board thanked M. Velardi for attending but declined his application to the position.

BENECON - Health Insurance - Kate Lobley, Benecon Account Manager, spoke concerning the Pocono Township's Health Care plan. Pocono Twp. is part of Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC). She noted the increase this year is due to the high rate of claims. Key points - Affordable Care Act, future tax on 'Cadillac Plans' and projected future increases in cost to the Township.

G. Schuster noted the Township can change the policy going forward such as employee contributions, better education of employees concerning healthcare, and plan design changes to help keep costs down. He suggested yearly or bi-yearly meeting with the Benecon Account Manager to keep the Board informed.

PLANS:

Donaldson Lot Consolidation Plan - A time extension letter was received until 03/02/2015. The surveyor requested the plan be tabled. T. Felver made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to table the Donaldson Lot Consolidation Plan. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 2015-01 - Hart/Harrigan Minor Subdivision - Don Pensyl, Surveyor, represented the plan. The plan calls for a subdivision from the Hart property to be combined with the Harrigan property. T. Edinger, Twp. Engineer, recommended approval noting the outstanding issues are addressed in the Resolution. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to approve Resolution No. 2015-01 - Hart/Harrigan Minor Subdivision Plan - Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

TLC Parking Ordinance - G. Schuster, Twp. manager, noted that Ordinance would control commercial vehicles parking on the TLC property without permission from the Township. The Ordinance allows the Township police to fine violators \$25.00, plus cost of prosecution. Discussion followed. P. Finkbeiner suggested a fee for parking of commercial vehicles that request parking at TLC. Monica Gerrity, Twp. resident, noted concern about activity at the park that might be inappropriate. Lonnie Marino, Twp. resident, suggested allowing Tractor Trailer drivers to use the park by permit for a fee. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to authorize the Twp. Solicitor to amend the draft and advertise the TLC Parking Ordinance. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

PSATS Agreement - G. Schuster, Twp. manager, explained the Ordinance is for the Township to participate in the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors Unemployment Compensation Group Trust. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to authorize the Twp. Solicitor to advertise the PSATS Agreement Ordinance. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 2015-02 - Reappointing Lynn Lansdowne to the Vacancy Board. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by P. Nish, to adopt Resolution 2015-02 reappointing Lynn Lansdowne to the Vacancy Board. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 2015-03 - Approving amendments to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Discussion followed concerning the lowering of the test score. P. Nish noted he did not feel it would lower the quality of applicant by lowering the written part from 75 to 70. J. Lastowski concurred that 70 was acceptable considering the other testing required. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by P. Nish, to adopt Resolution 2015-03. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J.

Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

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RESOLUTIONS CONT:

Resolution 2015-04 - Specifying the Benefits of Chief Werkheiser - P. Nish made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to adopt Resolution 2015-04 - benefits to Pocono Township Police Chief Werkheiser. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 2015-05 - setting the 2015 Board of Commissioners Meeting Dates. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to adopt Resolution 2015-05. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 2015-06 - Bicentennial Celebration Committee. Discussion followed. The Board concurred that only Township residents can serve on the Committee. J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by P. Nish, to adopt Resolution 2015-06 - Creation of a Bicentennial Celebration Committee. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Monica Gerrity, Twp. resident, requested the Township investigate a property on Rt. 715 with junk vehicles. R. Wielebinski noted the Township does not have a property maintenance ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss the Grossi litigation, until 01/20/2015 at 7:00 p.m., at the Pocono Township Municipal Building. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted
Pamela Finkbeiner
Township Secretary