

POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12th, 2015 4:30P.M.

The Special meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on 02/12/2015, at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA, and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 4:30p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

BILL AND TRANSFER:

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to approve the invoice for Henderson Door System in the amount of \$2,400.00 - deposit for the repair of the Public Works door. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; and P. Nish, yes. Motion carried.

SIGN ORDINANCE:

L. Pereira, Twp. Solicitor, explained the process for adoption of the ordinance.

She reviewed the draft sign ordinance. Key points discussed:

- Future right-of-way as setback. Discussion of definition of roadways and their respective right-of-way width. At present the Township does not have an official roadway map designating standard or future right-of-ways.
- Height of signs and measurements will be corrected to be uniform throughout the ordinance.
- Shielding of light sources for signage was discussed.
- Digital signage has been added. Automatic day and night dimming was added. Discussion on timing of sign messages.
- Billboards and off premise signage. 300' Billboards and/or Off-premise signs will be allow on the Rt. 80 corridor in Commercial zones only.
- Scenic corridor has been added. Future planning will identify these roadways. Discussion on the legal issues on designating a 'Scenic Corridor'.
- Banners for non-profits. The Commissioners requested wordage to allow limited use of banners over Rt. 611 for sponsored Township and emergency services events.
- Obsolete signs - wordage '*sign and sign structure shall be removed*' will be added.
- Temporary signs - Political Campaign Signs - the Board requested the time be reduced to *thirty (30) days* from sixty (60) days for the political signs before an election and *five (5)* to remove the sign after the election.

- Special sales signs - the Board noted the difficulty of enforcing the signage, especially on weekends.
- Enforcement issues - the Board discussed various methods for enforcement - additional hours for the zoning officer, hiring a full-time zoning officer, or hiring an additional part-time zoning officer for signs only. R. Wielebinski stated the recent court cases which the Township won against illegal signs. G. Schuster, Twp. Manager, noted the fines can be substantial.
- Section 702 - general conditions - non-conforming signs will require property owners to receive permits within 90 days of passing the ordinance once future road right-of-ways are identified.
- Section 703 - prohibited signs - T. Felver questioned if Smuggler's Cove would be allowed to use their 'Buster the Crab' for their special event. T. Edinger, Twp. Engineer, noted it will not be allowed under the new ordinance. Human signs were added under prohibited.
- Section 705 - Non-conforming signs - Note 3 the term '*such sign and its structure will be removed*' will be added.
- Section 703 - unsafe signs - will add the addition of '*by Court order*' for removal. Zoning officer and/or the 'Township's designee' was added.
- Plaza Signs - added percentage of electronic signage on Plaza signs.
- Section 706 - Permits - L. Pereira will add Township '*and/or Emergency services*' sponsored events without permits. L. Pereira, Twp. Solicitor, noted the Permit Extension Act is enforced until 2016 and prohibits the Township to collect renewal fees for permits, including sign permits.
- Section 707 - added for signage along state and Interstate roads highways.
- Definitions were updated and diagrams and/or photos will be added to the definitions.

L. Pereira, Twp. Solicitor, will address the changes to the sign ordinance and submit the revised draft to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank Frailey, Twp. resident, spoke concerning the sign at Pocono Brewing Company. Doris Frailey noted the sign had been dimmed but was still bright at night. T. Edinger, Twp. Engineer, noted the sign maybe required to be moved as part of the Rt. 611 road widening project. Doris Frailey spoke concerning problems with Pocono Brew Pub parking along Wiscasset Road and truck parking across Rt. 611. G. Schuster, Twp. manager, will request the Twp. Zoning Officer to investigate.

ADJOURNMENT: R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; and P. Nish, yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Pamela Finkbeiner
Township Secretary