

POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 18th, 2015 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on 05/18/2015 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; Gina Zuvich, Twp. Treasurer; and Pamela Finkbeiner, Twp. Secretary, were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A special meeting will be held on 05/27/2015 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss comments received on the proposed sign ordinance. The meeting will be held at the Pocono Hall Community Room at Northampton Community College.

MINUTES:

T. Felver made a motion, seconded by P. Nish, to approve the 05/04/2015 regular meeting minutes. 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 R. Wielebinski, to approve the 05/14/2015 Special meeting minutes. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, abstained; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

BILLS AND TRANSFERS:

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve the Check listing dated 05/18/2015. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Maxine Turbolski, Twp. resident, spoke concerning HJP Programs. Judi Coover, Twp. resident, questioned the status of the DCED meeting. R. Wielebinski noted a meeting was held with the Police Department to discuss the process. The review should start by late summer.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: No

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

Jerry Lastowski, Vice-President, reported he will be meeting with Senator Casey's Office and the Rural Development Authority to discuss aid for low-income property owners in the mandatory connection area.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS CONT:

Tom Felver, Commissioner, noted the roads in Pocono Manor are still in disrepair due to the Kalahari project.

Peter Nish, Commissioner - no report.

Brad Wise, Commissioner, noted the Sewer Committee meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 9:00a.m., at the Municipal building.

REPORTS:

Emergency Services

Pocono Township Police Chief Kent Werkheiser gave his report on the activities of the Police Department.

Pocono Township Volunteer Fire Co. - Jerry Lastowski spoke on behalf of the Fire Co. and noted 45 calls were handled with the majority being brush fires. G. Schuster noted the burn ban has been lifted.

Central Pocono Ambulance Association, Inc. Manager, Linda Smith reported 214 calls of which 85 were in Pocono Township. She thanked the board for advertising the Donations for Valor. She noted they have arranged for an accountant to do the audit of their records.

ADMINISTRATION:

Township Manager Gregg Schuster gave his report.

1. Zoning Officer Job Description - G. Schuster explained the description was updated based on the Commissioners comments. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve the Zoning Officer Job Description as presented. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.
2. PennDOT Bridge Replacement Program - G. Schuster reviewed the Bridge Replacement Program. He noted two bridges - #194 Rimrock Drive, and #196 Camelback Road were on the list.
3. Acting Township Manager - G. Schuster recommended the Acting Township Manager be Pocono Township Police Chief Kent Werkheiser due to his experience. Judi Coover, Twp. resident, suggested the Board choose the 'Second in command, now. Discussion followed as to if the Board or Township Manager should make the decision. J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski to appointed Pocono Township Police Chief Kent Werkheiser as acting Township Manager in the event Gregg Schuster is unavailable due to an emergency event or time off. Should Kent Werkheiser be unavailable Jeffry Clapper, Public Works Director will be appointed. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

4. Alger Avenue Demolition Bid - G. Schuster reviewed the Bids for the board. L. DeVito, Twp. Solicitor, noted he had prepared a contract for the contractor to sign. J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to award the bid to Robert Turnbull, Bullpine Tree Service, in the amount of \$41,278.00 subject to the contract being signed by the contractor. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

T. Felver requested information on the scoping Meeting with C. Castle Spa and PennDOT. G. Schuster noted a meeting was held to discuss the traffic improvements PennDOT may require once a traffic study is completed. Discussion followed concerning C. Castle's sewer and water needs.

Township Engineer Tim Edinger -

1. Northridge Payment Release #11 - T. Edinger, Twp. Engineer recommended the release. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to approve Northridge Payment Release #11 in the amount of \$63,042.24 as recommended by the Twp. Engineer's letter of 05/11/2015. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Township Solicitor Leo DeVito -

1. Pocono Logistics - L. DeVito explained the history of the Pocono Logistic site. A letter was sent to the property owner to connect to the PJJWA waterline but they did not respond. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by P. Nish, to authorize the Twp. Solicitor to petition Monroe County Court to obtain permission to enter onto the Pocono Logistic property to install the water line. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.
2. Executive Session - Grossi Matter - L. DeVito requested an executive session after the meeting to discuss the Grossi litigation matter.

Township Treasurer Gina Zuvich gave her report for the month of April. She noted the revenue is up due to BIU permits, surplus sale of equipment, and zoning permits. A recycling grant of \$109,000.00 was received. Discussion followed concerning the Supplemental Appropriations to be approved.

PRESENTATIONS:

Bosc Lot Combination - Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering, represented the plan. The plan is to combine two lots on Laurel Lake Road into one. T&M's review letter of 05/11/2015 was addressed. B. Wise noted the lot numbers do not match the plan. A. Bohl will revise the plan. R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to table the Bosc Lot Combination Plan. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED:

Resolution 2015-42 - Kopelson Minor Subdivision Plan. -

Donna Alker, Gilmore & Associates, Inc. and Marc Wolfe, Newman, Williams, Mishkin, Corveleyn, Wolfe, and Fareri, P.C. represented the plan. D. Alker explained the plan. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan at their 04/27/2015 mtg. T. Edinger, Twp. Engineer, noted the plan could change with the realignment of Rt.715. L. DeVito, Twp. Solicitor, prepared the Resolution for conditional approval. R. Wielebinski questioned the abandoned houses on the property. M. Wolfe will contact Sheldon Kopelson concerning the houses.

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to adopt Resolution 2015-42 - Kopelson Minor Subdivision Plan. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Discussion followed on media presentation of plans.

ORDINANCES - L. DeVito, Twp. Solicitor, noted he is working on the Smoking Ban Ordinance for all Township property. Discussion followed on inclusion of all smoking products and the enforcement of the ordinance.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2015-43 Supplemental Appropriations -

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by P. Nish, to adopt Resolution 2015-43 Supplemental Appropriations. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 2015-44 - Benecon Agreement - R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by P. Nish, to adopt Resolution 2015-44 - Benecon Agreement. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Annabella Lastowski, Twp. resident, requested the Township inform Pocono Mountain School District when bridge work is scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

R. Wielebinski a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to adjourn the meeting into executive session to discuss the Grossi Litigation matter, at 8:45 p.m. until 06/01/2015 at 7:00 p.m., at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA 18372. 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