

POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 5, 2014 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on 11/05/2014, 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; and Brad Wise, present.

Mark Ambrose, T&M Associates, Twp. Engineer; Gregg Schuster, Twp. Manager; and Gina Zuvich, Treasurer were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

RESOLUTION:

Resolution No. 2014-62 - revisions to the Sewer Connection Manual as recommended by the Township Engineer, Mark Ambrose. M. Ambrose discussed the recommendations. B. Wise made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to approve the revisions to the sewer connection manual. B. Wise, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; R. Wielebinski, yes; and T. Felver, yes. Motion carried.

PROPOSED 2015 BUDGET

G. Schuster opened the discussion. He noted there are several proposed new positions and the EIT has been down from last year. He requested direction from the Board concerning how the Board wished to proceed as far as a tax increase. T. Felver and R. Wielebinski noted they were not in favor of a tax increase for 2015. J. Lastowski and B. Wise stated they were not in favor of a tax increase but were concerned that all the services were met. G. Schuster noted several options to maintain the present tax rate and the 3.5 Million fund balance could be reduced. B. Wise spoke concerning the various equipment and road maintenance projects which could be costly. T. Felver questioned funding for the future purchases of Trucks and road maintenance projects.

Recommendation of a third detective for the Police Department - G. Schuster noted it would be over \$100,000 for an additional detective. Kent Werkheiser, Pocono Township Police Chief, requested the Board consider the position to help handle the increased amount of crime in the Township. Discussion followed on the future of the rental properties and proposed storage use of the land.

B. Wise asked if the Security improvements, training for Underground Storage Tank inspectors and training for the Emergency Response Team where included in the Budget. Discussion on the Emergency Response Team and training needed.

G. Schuster requested another budget workshop to address the Board's questions and recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Monica Gerrity, Twp. resident, commented concerning Police overtime for court time and if the Judge could coordinate with the Police Department to help reduce the overtime. She questioned the procedure for employee time cards.

J. Coover, Twp. resident, questioned who will audit the time clocks for all employees and who at present validates the employee's time.

G. Schuster, Twp. Manager, noted he is working with an IT company to utilize the time clocks. He noted it is more of a concern as to what the employees are doing than the timing.

T. Felver spoke concerning the recent changes to the Township and he requested G. Schuster move forward with the time clocks.

B. Wise questioned as to the overtime paid for time clocks. K. Werkheiser noted the patrolmen are paid for two hours minimum for emergency call outs. Discussion followed.

M. Gerrity questioned the taxes for health insurance coverage. G. Schuster reviewed the health insurance options available to the employees.

M. Gerrity noted her disappointment in the low turnout for the meeting.

J. Coover noted if the EIT is down it may mean earnings are down for the Township.

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by B. Wise, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; B. Wise, yes; and

T. Felver, yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Pamela Finkbeiner
Secretary