

POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 31st, 2015 8:00 A.M.

The special meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on 12/31/2015 at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA, and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Leo V. DeVito, Broughal & DeVito LLP, Twp. Solicitor; Gregg Schuster, Twp. Manager were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Monica Gerrity commented on the amendments to the contract and questioned responses from other services.

Barry Albertson (Suburban EMS) stated that the closest unit would respond if all of Suburban units were unavailable.

Monica Gerrity discussed response times, locations, and the potential of PMC building a hospital.

Adam Muzak (St. Luke's) clarified mutual aid protocol.

Diane Zweifel questioned where patients will be transported.

Barry Albertson stated patients will be transported to the closest appropriate facility.

Angela Tullio commented on the selection process and communication.

Ramona Shupp commented on a potential recusal of Commissioner Wielebinski.

Vincent Trapasso commented on the length of the process.

Dawn Larenzis commented on PMC building a hospital.

Monica Gerrity questioned how the contract was developed and commented on transparency.

Diane Zweifel commented on an antenna at the Weis strip mall.

Attorney Joe Bouba, representing St. Luke's, commented on the lame duck status of the Board and the potential overturning of the agreement.

Attorney Marc Wolfe, representing Pocono Medical Center, commented that he believes the contract would survive a challenge.

Monica Gerrity commented that she would like the closest ambulance to respond.

Angela Tullio commented on the status of Central Pocono Ambulance and that they are not closing. Solicitor DeVito responded that any closure of Central Pocono Ambulance was not a factor.

Joel Coover asked for the benefits of having a contract.

Heidi Picard spoke in favor of a contract and listed benefits.

Linda Smith commented on agreements and mutual aid.

Diane Zweifel commented on the potential recusal of Commissioner Wielebinski.

Jake Singer spoke in favor of Central Pocono Ambulance.

Senator Mario Scavello commented on legal information he had forwarded.

Commissioner-elect Judi Coover commented on an offer from her and Commissioner-elect Harold Werkheiser to not challenge the designation under certain conditions.

Vincent Trapasso thanked the Commissioners for the time they spent on this.

Jack Swersie commented on the perception of the process.

Charlie Trapasso thanked Pocono Medical Center for investing in the community.

Diane Zweifel commented on the proposal from the Commissioners-elect.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2015-97 - Approving an agreement for emergency medical services.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to adopt Resolution 2015-97 approving an agreement for EMS services. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and T. Felver, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Annabella Lastowski commented on others speaking on behalf of Commissioner-elect Werkheiser.

Steve Cunningham (Pocono Medical Center) stated that they look forward to providing EMS services and that the planned hospital will include a level 2 trauma center.

Ramona Shupp stated that she will not use Suburban.

Carol Smith spoke in favor of Central Pocono Ambulance.

Commissioner-elect Judi Coover stated that she had permission from Commissioner-elect Harold Werkheiser to speak on his behalf.

Dawn Doneras commented that the Board didn't listen to the people.

ADJOURMENT:

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 a.m. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and T. Felver, yes. Motion carried.