

**POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
**OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2014, 2014 4:30 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on 10/16/2014, at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA, and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 4:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Rich Wielebinski, present; Jerry Lastowski, present; Greg Hill, arrived at 4:45 p.m.; Tom Felver, present; and Brad Wise, present. Gregg Schuster, Twp. Manager; and Regina Zuvich, Twp. Treasurer were present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** R. Wielebinski requested the meeting to adjourn at 6:30 p.m., noting this is the first of many workshops concerning the budget.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

G. Schuster, Twp. Manager, explained the process of the preparation for the draft budget.

Health Insurance cost discussion - G. Schuster, Twp. Manager, noted the Health Insurance cost will rise approximately 20% and he is investigating various options. Non-Union employees' policy can be changed but union employees will need contract adjustments. He suggested the Board meet with Health Insurance Administrator Benecon to review the options they offer.

G. Schuster reviewed the line item budget numbers for expenses.

T. Felver questioned the future of the former rental properties. G. Hill noted it is a hazard to leave the buildings empty. R. Wielebinski requested the discussion be continued to the Regular Meeting's agenda on 10/20/2014.

G. Schuster noted increases in the budget for an additional central printer and upgrades to the server. B. Wise asked if the budget for technology included the sewer system. G. Schuster suggested the Township move towards a 'Cloud' based system.

T. Felver questioned the Engineering costs. Discussion followed. Scott Gilliland, Twp. resident, suggested placing the Twp. Engineer and Attorney on a retainer instead of an hourly rate. G. Hill felt that by going outside the area for professional services it has benefited the Township.

Discussion concerning Police overtime. Pocono Township Police Chief, Kent Werkheiser, explained the need for overtime for Police Officers.

Judy Coover, Twp. resident, questioned the proposed tax increase and additional expenses.

Scott Gilliland, Twp. resident, thanked the board for allowing a public hearing to review the budget and recognized G. Schuster's efforts in preparing the budget. He requested the budget show the fixed costs and the discretionary spending so it can better show areas that the tax increase/decrease maybe taken from.

Monica Gerrity, Twp. resident, questioned if time clocks were installed. G. Schuster stated that he is working on it.

Tom Felver and Greg Hill left the meeting.

Diane Zwiefel, Twp. resident, questioned if the Township has considered hiring a contracted Public Works Director instead of a full time employee with benefits. R. Wielebinski stated there is a need to a full time Public Work's director who is familiar with the Township, to oversee the projects.

D. Zwiefel, questioned why the Township manager does not live in the Township. J. Lastowski noted G. Schuster did try to purchase a home within the Township but was unable to find a home.

Judy Coover, Twp. resident, questioned the salary paid to the Township Manager and his duties. She felt that the position should have included more duties.

Monica Gerrity, Twp. resident, questioned the need for an additional manager in Public Works since the sewer project will be wrapping up.

Diane Zwiefel noted G. Schuster is the highest paid Municipal Manager in the County and the proposed Public Works Director will be the highest paid also.

R. Wielebinski stated the Board is working to hire a person for the Public Works Director who will work in the best interest for the Township.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and B. Wise, yes.