

POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Work Session Minutes

DATE: June 24, 2019
TIME: 6:00 pm
PLACE: Township Building
PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: Jerry Lastowski

ROLL CALL:

Harold Werkheiser - Absent
Richard Wielebinski – Present
Chad Kilby – Absent
Jerrod Belvin – Absent

The work session included the planning commission members, Ron Swink, Scott Gilliland, Marie Guidry, Dennis Purcell, Keith Meeker, Bruce Kilby and Jeremy Sawicki.

Also present were Lisa Pereira - Solicitor, Jon Tressler – Twp. Engineer and DonnaASURE-Township Manager.

The work session was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Swink followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Swink asked all to remember Jake Singer, who recently passed away, in our thoughts. Mr. Singer regularly attended all planning commission meetings and he will be missed.

Public Comment – none

The draft Property Maintenance Ordinance was discussed -

- The Board of Commissioners believe this ordinance is needed for health and safety reasons such as snakes and rats
- The possible devaluation of adjacent properties from a property that may not be taken care of
- How can foreclosures be dealt with? Possible letters to the banks that own the property
- This is not to hinder home owners but to protect neighbors
- What types of organizations, such as church groups, are within the community that may be able to help those homeowners who cannot care for their properties themselves
- Length of grass –
 - What would be the correct length of grass? Who decides what is reasonable?
 - How can this be enforced? Could there be liens placed on properties that the township had to deal with?
 - What about property owners that are away for a period of time?
 - How does inclement weather hinder caring for your grass in the amount of time the ordinance would require?
 - How would open spaces and “fields” be affected by this since this is the country?

Officer Aaron Anglemyer stated that if the police were to enforce there would need to be a way to quantify the violation.

Ellen Gndt, Twp. Resident, commented that ordinances are for health and safety and this ordinance would be for aesthetics and would be subjective. She questioned as to how many complaints have been received about these conditions.

L. Pereira, Solicitor, was asked to research as to whether municipalities in surrounding areas have ordinances that deal with this subject.

Discussion took place as to whether this could be combined with a health, safety ordinance. It was also discussed that our current ordinances should be reviewed to see how many of the items in the draft ordinance were actually addressed in existing township ordinances.

Ellen Gndt, twp. Resident commented on what might happen to natural areas?

The boards discussed the financial impact that should be a property owners' responsibility but may fall to the township in the enforcement of this draft ordinance.

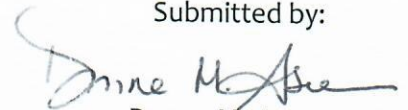
The Board of Commissioners asked the Planning Commission to review and comment on a draft Soil and Erosion and grading ordinance that has been placed into their notebooks.

Public Comment – none.

NO OFFICIAL ACTIONS OR ROLL CALL VOTES WERE TAKEN DURING WORK SESSION.

The work session ended at 7:04pm.

Submitted by:



Donna M. Asure
Township Manager