

Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

A special meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on November 30, 2021 and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Jerrod Belvin, present; Ellen Gndt, present; Jerry Lastowski, present; Keith Meeker, present; and Rich Wielebinski, present.

In Attendance: Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor, Broughal & DeVito via Zoom; Frank Cefali, Township Treasurer; Paola Razzaq, Fiscal Administrator; and Taylor Munoz, Township Manager.

Public Comment – None

Announcements – None

Hearings – None

Presentations – None

NEW BUSINESS

Report of the President

Richard Wielebinski

- Discussion and action regarding amending the 2022 Proposed Budget, revising the proposed 2022 municipal tax rate following the receipt of Pocono Township's 2022 certified total assessed value.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to authorize the Township Manager to make available for public inspection the proposed FY 2022 Pocono Township Budget with a revised millage rate of 2.429 mills, as required by the First Class Township Code, as of Wednesday, December 1, 2021, with versions available in hard copy at the Township office and posted on the Township website. Under discussion, E. Gndt stated she did not believe a real estate tax increase was necessary with the increased amusement tax and use of the fund balance. Further discussion regarding the real estate tax. J. Lastowski stated he would rather rely on more predictable numbers from a small increase in the real estate tax and see how the amusement tax performs in 2022. Roll call vote: J. Belvin, yes; E. Gndt, no; J. Lastowski, yes; K. Meeker, yes; R. Wielebinski, yes. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to authorize the Township Manager to advertise the revised FY 2022 proposed budget, as required by the First Class Township Code. Under discussion, E. Gndt asked whether it was necessary to re-advertise. R. Wielebinski stated he would rather err on the side of caution and advertise the new, lowered millage rate even if the Township is not required to do so. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to set Pocono Township Commissioner compensation at \$5,450 per year, per Section 703 of the First Class Township Code for Townships with a population of 10,000 or more but less than 15,000. Under discussion, it was clarified that the increased rate will apply to all new terms moving forward. R. Wielebinski further specified that the purpose of the increase is to help incentivize additional interest in running for the Commissioner position in the future and expressed his disappointment that individuals are not coming forward to run for elected positions. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments – None

Public Comment – No comment.

Adjournment

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.