

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2022 | 7:09 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on January 3, 2022 and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 7:09 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

In Attendance: Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor, Broughal & DeVito; Jon Tresslar, Township Engineer, Boucher & James; Taylor Muñoz, Township Manager; and Robert Sargent, Roadmaster.

Public Comment

Sara Hagner (2156 Deerfield Way) – Provided information regarding testing completed by hired engineering and water testing services, along with a dye test completed by the Hagners. Stated a Hawk Mountain Labs report tested soils on their property and indicated some contamination. Went into depth recapping portions of the testing completed. Asked if there is any way for the Township to help get the Hagner family through this time. Also claimed light pollution from a neighboring property is causing headaches with their children.

James Hagner (2156 Deerfield Way) –Echoed further concerns regarding pollutants in their well. Stated issues with drinking water has led to disease with puppies.

Announcements – None

Hearings – None

Presentations – None

Resolutions – None

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the December 20, 2021 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Financial transactions through December 28, 2021 including:
 - Ratification of vouchers payable in the amount of \$25,522.86 and sewer operating expenditures in the amount of \$528.34.
 - Ratification of gross payroll for the pay period ending December 26, 2021 in the amount of \$112,017.45.
 - Vouchers payable in the amount of \$68,307.72.
 - Sewer operating fund expenditures in the amount of \$4,672.76.
 - Capital reserve fund expenditures in the amount of \$4,078.00.
 - An American Rescue Plan Act transfer to the General Fund of \$7,645.00 for implementation costs for the Township's new e-permitting platform and hazard pay.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – None

Report of the President – None

Commissioner Comments

Jerrod Belvin, Vice President – None.

Ellen Gndt – Asked for update regarding the Township covering costs of stormwater mitigation along Pocono Creek.

Jerry Lastowski – Requested a brief executive session at end of the meeting for discussion of litigation.

Keith Meeker – None.

Reports

Public Works Report

- Current Public Works projects – Completing outdoor projects and preparing for snow.
- TLC Park Project Update – No update.
- Update – Park Lane Culvert Replacement – Dirt and Gravel Grant – No update.

J. Lastowski stated neighbor has pine trees along the road next to his property and Paradise Township plows his road. Asked whether concerns are addressed to Pocono or Paradise. R. Sargent stated that the Townships work together.

Administration – Manager’s Report

- Interviews for Township job openings are scheduled for this week.
- Preparing resolutions for the consolidation of the Township municipal complex properties and Township fee schedule. Will have up-to-date fee schedule reflecting up-to-date costs for the Township at next meeting.
- Regional HSPS Comprehensive Plan update – Still waiting on draft plan.

T. Muñoz presented a request from the Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA) for an annual donation.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to amend the agenda for consideration of a donation to BWA. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to donate \$500 to the Brodhead Watershed Association as a Stream Steward for 2022. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski asked for an update regarding a dangerous tree on Learn Road. The Township road crew will take it down.

Township Engineer Report

- Update – Consolidation of the Municipal Complex Lots – Prepared the legal description for the lot consolidation and the drafting of a resolution.
- Update – Righthand turn lanes from Rt. 611 onto Rimrock Road and Bartonsville Avenue – Provided update on PennDOT review and obstacles.

Township Solicitor Report

- Zoning Hearing Board updates.
 - Update – Taveras Appeal – County Court ruled in Township’s favor. Waiting to see if appealed to Appellate Court.

- Update – Johnson Appeal - Additional 30 days requested for Johnsons to file their brief at the Commonwealth Court.
- Update – PJJWA transfer agreement – PJJWA solicitor feels confident agreement will be complete by end of January.
- HJP Park Agreement between Pocono and Jackson Townships – Waiting to hear from Jackson Township.

R. Wielebinski announced that an executive session was held at 5:30 p.m. for personnel issues.

Public Comment - None

Adjournment

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Grandt to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. and go into executive session and not return. All in favor. Motion carried.