

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2022 | 7:16 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on August 1, 2022 and was opened by Vice President Jerrod Belvin at 7:16 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

In Attendance: Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor, Broughal & DeVito; Jon Tresslar, Township Engineer, LVL Engineering; Taylor Muñoz, Township Manager; Shawn Goucher, Acting Chief of Police; Robert Sargent, Public Works Supervisor; and Jennifer Gambino, Administrative Assistant.

Public Comment - None

Announcements

- “Yoga in the Park” is ongoing at Mountain View Park, with both Mommy & Me classes and Beginners Adult Yoga throughout the remainder of the summer. Please visit the Pocono Township Facebook page for specific details or contact the Township at 570-629-1922 to reserve your spot.

Hearings - None

Presentations – None

Resolutions

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to approve Resolution 2022-28 Approving a Supplemental Appropriation for the 2022 Budget in the amount of \$250,300 from the Township’s General Fund balance for the purpose of replenishing funding for the line item titled Professional Services – Building Codes Officer. E. Gnadtt asked for clarification. All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the July 18, 2022 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Financial transactions through July 28, 2022 including:
 - Ratification of sewer operating expenditures in the amount of \$637.87.
 - Ratification of gross payroll for pay period ending July 24, 2022 in the amount of \$119,137.13.
 - Vouchers payable in the amount of \$49,143.07.
 - Sewer operating fund expenditures in the amount of \$13,959.67.
 - Capital reserve fund expenditures in the amount of \$12,689.01.
 - A Fire Tax disbursement of \$1,590.34.
 - Budget adjustment transfers of \$123,100.00 for line items specified in the accompanying Budget Adjustment Request to provide funding for the remainder of the year.
 - A transfer of ARPA funds in the amount of \$808.33 to the General Fund for the purpose of covering Trair implementation costs.

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – None

Report of the President

Richard Wielebinski

- Consideration of the request of Avrumi Abramczyk, of Camp Mechaya in New York, to allow 200 people in Mountain View Park being transported via coach buses. J. Belvin stated he is not in favor of approving buses entering the park, per the existing Township policy, and included concerns with trash. E. Gndt stated she believes larger groups would be able to come to the park if a bus dropped off the students. J. Lastowski stated he supports continued prohibition of buses. L. DeVito stated the Township should formalize a response to the request via motion.

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to return pavilion reservation fees to Camp Mechaya and enforce the no-bus policy. Roll call: J. Belvin, yes; E. Gndt, no; J. Lastowski, yes; K. Meeker, yes; R. Wielebinski, yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Jerrod Belvin – Vice President

- Emergency Management Update
 - Update – PPL utility lines and possible drainage issues on Barton Court. Currently evaluating whether drainage issues exist.
 - Update – Installation of security cameras at TLC Park – IT consultant working on installation of security cameras.

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner

- Discussion of grid scale solar ordinance for Pocono Township. Stated she shared Polk Township's solar ordinance and would like everyone to consider. Liked conditional use, acreage and tree replacement percentage components.
- Update – Amusement Tax collections. Discussed previously.
- Zoning ordinance changes including 80% impervious coverage in RD zones. Stated she feels the Township should review the existing 80% impervious surface allowances in RD zones for possible change.

Jerry Lastowski – Commissioner

- Update – Paving of Burton Road following UGI project work. J. Lastowski stated if UGI wants to do anything in the future in Pocono Township on Township roads, ensure restrictions are in place.
- Discussion whether any plans have been provided to the Township regarding Margaritaville project.
- Discussion regarding Birchwood enforcement and outstanding issues at Pocono Manor.

Keith Meeker – Commissioner - None

Reports

Zoning

Discussed upcoming Zoning Hearings. Investigated 1079 Sullivan Trail and confirmed the property has been mostly cleaned up, with most cars there previously now gone. Two RVs remain. Proceeding with civil complaints on three other STRs. R. Wielebinski asked whether a response was received from enforcement on Lori Zimmerman's property.

Police Report

- Update – Patrol officer hiring process – All candidates passed the PT test. Oral interviews this Wednesday.

- Monthly statistics – Presented July monthly statistics for various categories. Overtime is down from last month, partially due to the District Judge being absent.

Ambulance Report – None

Public Works Report

- Current Public Works projects – Drainage projects approximately 70% complete.
- Mountain View Park updates. Reaching out to installer for new slide at Mountain View Park to discuss installation details.
- TLC Park updates.
 - Delivery and installation of TLC Park Playground Structures tentatively set for around August 8.
 - ESSA Field scoreboard donated by Camelback has been installed.
 - Concrete poured for bridge plaque installation. Forms were put in for the plaque installation and will face them with stone.
- Park Lane Culvert Replacement – Dirt and Gravel Grant. Approximately 80% complete.
- Update – Replacement of rims on Township basketball courts. Waiting on order of double rims for TLC park.
- Update – Township postings on Municibid. Generator has been posted and Truck #12 will be posted tomorrow.
- Investigating the purchase of a park truck from Municibid.

Administration – Manager’s Report

- Finalizing official rules for 1) TLC Park and 2) the TLC Park Basketball Court. Will present to Board when complete.
- DCED Multimodal grant application submitted for Learn Road/SR 611 Safety Enhancement Project.
- Evaluation ongoing regarding electric supplier rates – Ongoing, no update.
- 2022 Township Events
 - Community Day – Saturday, September 10, 2022
 - Trunk-or-Treat – TBD
 - Christmas Tree Lighting – TBD

T. Muñoz inquired about need for a deputy treasurer as a check signatory.

Township Engineer Report

- Public bid for Mountain View Park fence projects. Bid being completed for tentative advertisement next week.
- Public bid for TLC Park spillway wingwalls. Met with Randy Peechatka last Friday to discuss his suggestions. Will incorporate some suggestions into the bid, including installation of concrete caps on top of the walls.
- Anticipate survey and staking out of TLC Park dog park and border fence between parking lot and BP gas station will be complete next week.
- Update regarding sidewalks for Wendy’s and Turkey Hill – Regarding Wendy’s, reviewed improvements proposed by PennDOT that go all across the Wendy’s project. Asked Pennoni for latest PennDOT plans. Regarding Turkey Hill, will reach out to the engineer that submitted the land development plans. J. Belvin asked about sidewalks for St. Luke’s Ambulance. L. DeVito provided update.
- Engineering study for identified stormwater projects – Laurel Lake Road and Oakwood Acres. Amy is coordinating with Bob regarding Oakwood Acres. Will need a permit from DEP to address Learn Road issues.
- Parking area design for Old Learn Farm open space parcel adjacent to PPL easement. Received the CAD drawings necessary to continue design.
- TASA SR 611 sidewalk project. Kickoff meeting held July 29 with representatives for the project and walked the scope of the project area. Included PennDOT and consultants. E. Gmandt stated the amount of the grant will trigger a single audit.

- Update – Righthand turn lanes from Route 611 onto Rimrock Road and Bartonville Avenue. Sent PennDOT an email regarding highway occupancy permits. Waiting for further information.

Township Solicitor Report

- Zoning Hearing Board updates
 - Heinzee LLC hearing on August 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. – Stated there will be Paradise Township residents in attendance as well, as the hearing has garnered attention.
 - Core5 hearing on August 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. – Discussion regarding whether solicitor should attend. The only item being discussed is reduction in parking requirements. Solicitor will not attend.
- HSPS Comprehensive Plan hearing set for August 15 at 6:00 p.m.
- Update – Drafting and advertisement of Stormwater Management Ordinance changes. Received the changes and placing in ordinance format for advertisement for future public hearing.
- Update – Commonwealth Court argument date set for Johnson Appeal in September. Tentatively set for mid-September.
- Update – Kelly Trust Property. Have upcoming contempt hearing. Some items remain that need to be addressed.
- Update – PJJWA transfer agreement. Will discuss with T. Weitzman Pocono Township's end of the agreement, review changes and submit back to PJJWA.

Public Comment

Dean Hartshorn (Township resident) – Asked about status of Township's paving projects.

Adjournment

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.