

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2022 | 6:19 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on December 5, 2022 and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 6:19 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: Taylor Munoz, Township Manager; Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor; Jon Tresslar, Township Engineer; Shawn Goucher, Acting Chief of Police; Judy Acosta, Zoning Officer; and Krisann MacDougall, Administrative Assistant.

Public Comment

Mike Velardi (Resident) – Had honor of attending the Tree Lighting on Friday night. Said it was a terrific event and commended all Township staff for their work.

Announcements

- Announced an executive session was held immediately before the meeting this evening to discuss personnel issues.
- The Board of Commissioners held an executive session on Thursday, December 1st for the purpose of discussing the potential acquisition of Pocono Elementary Center.

Presentations

- Swearing-in of new Patrol Officer Kylie Tausendfreundt – District Magistrate Daniel Kresge.
- Re-zoning request of Khalid Mashriqi, owner of 386 Camelback Road – Khalid Mashriqi was not present for re-zoning request.
- Westhill Villas – Discussion regarding proposed land development plan, including stormwater mitigation, sidewalks, and curbing – Individuals representing Westhill Villas was not present.

Hearings

- Local Agency Hearing – 249 Camelback Road – Appeal of Lori A. Grossi and Felicia Damato regarding an enforcement notice dated September 9, 2022 and revocation of a transient dwelling unit permit dated September 12, 2022, issued by the Township Zoning Officer for violations of Chapter 302, Transient Dwelling Use of Single-Family Dwellings

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to open public hearing. All in favor. Motion carried.

L. DeVito provided summary of proceedings for the Board of Commissioners. Stated the matter was originally advertised for November 7, 2022, but request was made to continue to today's hearing. Reviewed exhibits. Appeal of a noise violation and revocation of a TDU permit.

J. Acosta stated there was agreement between parties to a stipulation of facts previously agreed to at prior meeting. Attorney John Lisman present on behalf of the owners of 249 Camelback Road. Complete transcript of the hearing was recorded by a court reporter.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to uphold the 9/9/22 enforcement notice and the revocation notice dated 9/12/22. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to close public hearing. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolutions

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve Resolution 2022-38 Authorizing the Submission of a PA Small Water & Sewer Grant Application to the PA DCED in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purpose of extending public sewer and water service up Warner Road to the site of the proposed Tannersville Point apartments. 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 November 21, 2022 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Financial transactions through December 1, 2022 including:
 - Ratification of general fund expenditures in the amount of \$226.80 and sewer operating expenditures of \$644,928.35.
 - Ratification of gross payroll for pay period ending December 2, 2022 in the amount of \$144,539.64.
 - Vouchers payable in the amount of \$70,382.26.
 - Sewer operating fund expenditures in the amount of \$670.42.
 - Capital reserve fund expenditures in the amount of \$28,341.54.

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

NEW BUSINESS - None

Report of the President

Richard Wielebinski

R. Wielebinski thanked staff and Road Crew for all that was done with the planning of the tree lighting. Commended staff on a great event.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to approve Construction Escrow Release No. 3 in the amount of \$64,822.94 for the Trapasso Hotel Land Development project. E. Gndt asked for clarification. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to approve an agreement with Penn Strategies for community planning and grant writing services in the amount of \$3,500 per month for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Discussion regarding terms of agreement and cost. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Jerrod Belvin – Vice President

Discussion regarding Green Light Go grant status for traffic light upgrades on SR 611.

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner

Asked question of J. Tresslar regarding regular inspection of solar fields.

Jerry Lastowski – Commissioner

Brought up issue of garbage at bus stop location in Swiftwater. T. Muñoz will follow up with County Waste Authority.

Keith Meeker – Commissioner - None

Reports

Zoning – J. Acosta provided update.

Police Report

- General police updates – S. Goucher reviewed monthly police report.

Ambulance Report – Will forward report for BOC review.

Public Works Report

- Current Public Works projects – Completing leaf cleanup.
- Mountain View Park updates
 - Update – MVP fencing project – Contractor is ready, weather dependent.
 - Update – Installation of new slide – Placeholder.
- TLC Park updates – Commended Public Works for work done for TLC Tree Lighting ceremony.

Administration – Manager’s Report

- Update – Transfer of PJJWA Small Water & Sewer grant to BCRA – Discussion regarding transfer. L. DeVito indicated there is a meeting with legal counsel tomorrow regarding the latest updates to the agreement.
- General thanks to the Board of Commissioners and Township staff for a successful year.

Township Engineer Report

- Sidewalk installation for Wendy’s and Turkey Hill – Spoke with PennDOT and their consultants. ROW will be acquired from Wendy’s for the upcoming SR 715 project, which will delay installation of sidewalks. L. DeVito is following up on Turkey Hill installation.
- Parking area design for Old Learn Farm open space parcel adjacent to PPL easement.
 - Easement needed from adjoining property owner (Lovito) is in progress. L. DeVito spoke with attorney for Tom Lovito, who is preparing the necessary paperwork.
- Update – TASA SR 611 sidewalk project – Design work proceeding.
- Update – Righthand turn lanes from Rt. 611 onto Rimrock Road and Bartonsville Avenue – On hold.

Township Solicitor Report

- Zoning Hearing Board updates
 - 11/22/22 – Wawa hearing request for variance related to underground detention basin located within the floodplain – Wawa was granted request for a variance.
- Update – Tobyhanna Act 537 Sewage Capacity Request – There is ongoing litigation, so this is a placeholder at this time.
- Update – Closing for sale of Bartonsville Avenue parcel – A settlement sheet was received on this property. Asked the Board to authorize a general resolution to authorize appropriate officers to execute closing documents for the sale of the Bartonsville Avenue property.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to authorize a general resolution to authorize appropriate officers to execute closing documents for the sale of the Bartonsville Avenue property. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Update – Johnson Appeal Commonwealth Court Argument – No update.

- Update – PJJWA transfer agreement – Discussed previously.

J. Belvin asked about 2168 White Oak legal proceedings.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gnanadt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.