

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2023 | 6:20 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on September 18, 2023 and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 6:20 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; John Tresslar, Engineer; Shawn Goucher, Chief of Police; Patrick Briegel, Public Works Director via Zoom; Lindsay Scerbo, Zoning Officer; and Jennifer Gambino, Administrative Assistant.

Public Comment

Elizabeth Casciano (Township Resident) – Expressed concerns about the Stadden Road campground/tiny home project. Concerned because she lives adjacent to the proposed project.

Sammy Jackson & Tom Paff (Township Residents) – Concerned about Air BnB situation in Pocono Manor on Lake Road. Stated there have been twelve complaints lodged at a specific property in Pocono Manor. Discussion regarding recent citations issued.

Juliana Farrell (Township Resident) – Concerns about speeding on Bog Road and asked for consideration for speed bumps on Bog Road.

Joshua Knapp (Township Resident) – Stated our communities are experiencing more frequent major storm events and flooding. Asked that the Township consider the impacts of global warming as it plans for future development.

Announcements

- The Board of Commissioners held an executive session on Thursday, September 14 and tonight for the purpose of discussing personnel and police contract.
- Pocono Township Fall Cleanup will be held September 29th & 30th, from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM each day. Township residents are encouraged to bring difficult-to-dispose-of items to the Township, including electronics which are collected free of charge. The Cleanup fee schedule is located on the Township's website and Facebook page.
- Pocono Township Trunk or Treat will take place on Sunday, October 29 starting at 3:00 p.m. More information will be posted soon!

Hearings – None

Presentations

- MS-4 Year 5 Presentation – Melissa Hutchison, LVL Engineering, to discuss and provide update regarding Township stormwater efforts.

Township required to abide by certain permitting standards through DEP. Discussion regarding minimum control measures for controlling stormwater, including impacts to township facilities. Year 5 report due by September 30, 2023.

Resolutions

Resolution 2023-23 – Motion to pass Resolution 2023-23 Granting Conditional Approval of the Stadden Group, LLC Preliminary Land Development Plan.

Applicant's engineer spoke on behalf of the plan. Erik Roslund present on behalf of the applicant. Asked for discussion of the fee in lieu of portion of the project. Out of 45.64 acres, setting aside over 37 acres. Applicant believes this should satisfy the requirements of the ordinance, without requiring payment of open space fees.

R. Wielebinski asked whether the outside public would be allowed to access the property. Applicant stated open access would not be permitted on the property. Designated open space would be for users of the property.

J. Belvin expressed concerns about how the project benefits the local community. The applicant pointed to the positive economic impact of the proposed project. Further discussion regarding open space requirements.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to pass Resolution 2023-23 Granting Conditional Approval of the Stadden Group, LLC Preliminary Land Development Plan. Discussion regarding typographical changes and requirement for applicant to accept the conditions. E. Gmandt stated her opposition to the developer providing an in lieu-of-fee as opposed to preserving open space. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin to pass Resolution 2023-24 Granting Conditional Approval of the Westhill Villas Preliminary Land Development Plan. Under discussion, the applicant's engineer stated the applicant sought preliminary/final approval. J. Tresslar stated preliminary plan approval was identified at the planning commission meeting because water and sewer details are still outstanding. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to pass Resolution 2023-25 Authorizing the Submission of a Monroe County Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Application in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 to complete the installation of a new pedestrian bridge over the two ponds at TLC Park, adjacent to the Veterans Memorial in Pocono Township. 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 September 5, 2023 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Financial transactions through September 14, 2023 as presented, including ratification of general fund expenditures, sewer operating expenditures and gross payroll; vouchers payable, sewer operating expenditures, construction fund expenditures, capital reserve expenditures and transfers.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to extend a conditional offer of employment to Jill Kozic as the new Police Department administrative assistant. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Travel/Training Authorizations - None

Report of the President

Richard Wielebinski

Discussion regarding installation of speed bumps on Bog Road – R. Wielebinski asked P. Briegel to drive and survey Bog Road to evaluate whether speed tables are appropriate.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to award the 2023 Green Light Go Adaptive Signal Control Project to Telco, Inc. for a total of \$491,261.00 for installation of the Econolite Cobalt Controller and Edaptive Adaptive System. E. Gmandt asked for clarification. J. Tresslar clarified the bid package included four townships, but separate awards are required. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to include in Pocono Township's bid approval four (4) years of support for the Econolite system in the amount of \$6,975.00 per year. Discussion regarding what is included in the contract. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Jerrod Belvin – Vice President

- Provided emergency management update.
- Laurel Lake Dam – No update.
- Update – PPL utility lines and possible drainage issues on Barton Court – No update.

Ellen Grandt – Commissioner – None

Jerry Lastowski – Commissioner

Asked for update regarding a case in front of the district magistrate.

Asked for update on Butz property cleanup.

Asked for update regarding the camera replacement at the SR 314 light.

Asked that the Township investigate whether DCNR is required to maintain long grass on a portion of their property.

Keith Meeker – Commissioner – None

Reports

Zoning – Lindsay Scerbo provided report. Discussion regarding status of Fountain Court remediation.

Police Report

- General police updates.

Letter from Acting Sergeant Eric Rath recognizing three officers for performing CPR and using an AED to save a gentleman's life.

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to prepare official recognition citations for the three officers. All in favor. Motion carried.

S. Goucher provided current police report detailing current call volume and categories of calls. Reviewed O/T report and where the extra hours are being generated.

J. Belvin asked about the status of the LSA grant for P25 radios.

R. Wielebinski asked about burglar alarm responses and whether repeat alarms incur charges to the owner.

Ambulance Report – None

Public Works Report

- Current Public Works projects – Line striping is complete in the Township. Completing installation of road shoulders. Three new employees are working very well and the Township has a great team, with everyone fitting in and learning quickly.
- Mountain View Park updates – Zip line was installed. Work is still to be completed on the grading and mulching of the installation.
- TLC Park updates – Remaining exposed area between the left property line and the splash pad has been graded with topsoil and seed. The Christmas tree has also been moved to a better location. Additional equipment is currently being installed.

- Bartonsville Avenue cross pipes replacement – No update.
- Old Learn Farm parking access – Has visited site with Jim Loysen. Working to complete the MVP and TLC projects before beginning Old Learn Farm.
- Complete – Installation of speed tables on Learn Road for speed control.

Administration – Manager’s Report

T. Muñoz discussed further park improvements underway.

Township Engineer Report

- Learn Road safety enhancement project and roundabout survey work – Geometry and ROW complete. Plans provided to the Township today for discussion with property owners.
- In Progress – Discussion and possible action regarding the Township’s revised Act 167 stormwater ordinance, incorporating changes to the ordinance as prepared by the Township engineer and as required by PA DEP – Still in progress.
- Update – TASA SR 611 sidewalk project – ADA ramp designs have been submitted to PennDOT for review. Next step to identify whether permanent or construction easements will be required.

Received request from Verizon this morning to put an underground line through the field at TLC Park parallel to 715.

Township Solicitor Report

- General legal update – Violation notice sent to Tobyhanna Township regarding strength of effluent. Planning meeting on Thursday regarding the steps required to address the violation.
- Update – Maintenance and operation escrow requirements for land development projects that require installation of new traffic lights. Draft ordinance was sent to Monroe County Planning Commission.
- Zoning Hearing Board Updates
 - Chelsea Pocono Finance – Scheduled for 9/26.
 - Tannersville Point Luxury Apartments – Scheduled for 9/26.
 - SBA Towers – Scheduled for 10/24 and received word that they have changed attorneys.
 - Crawford Appeal – Briefs due next week.
- Update – Johnson Appeal Commonwealth Court argument – Rumored the Township will be attending in November to argue appeal.

New zoning hearing activity includes an applicant looking for a parking variance for proposed apartments; a variance for the Maula Pangea property; and appeal of an enforcement notice issued to Pocono Logistics.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to have L. DeVito attend the Pocono Logistics zoning hearing board meeting on October 19, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

E. Gndt asked if fines are associated with the Tobyhanna violations. L. DeVito stated there are no specific fines and the agreement provides that there would be fines if BCRA leveled fines against Pocono Township. Discussion regarding whether sewer provisions are sufficient to address Tobyhanna’s violations.

Public Comment

Joshua Knapp (Township Resident) – Asked that Stadden be looked at as well for possible speed table installations.

Adjournment

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.