

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on December 2, 2025 and was opened by Chair Richard Wielebinski at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Ellen Gnandt, present; Natasha Leap, present via Zoom; Mike Velardi, present; Brian Winot, absent; Rich Wielebinski, present.

In Attendance: Leo DeVito-Township Solicitor via Zoom; Jon Tresslar- Engineer; Patrick Briegel-Public Works Director; Jerrod Belvin-Township Manager; James Wagner, Chief of Police; Erica Tomas-Administrative Assistant, Paul Morgan, SFM Consulting; Jennifer Gambino, PW Asst. Mgr.

Resolutions

- Rich Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to Table Resolution 2025-37 Accepting the revised Sewer Rules and Regulations. Ellen Gnandt asked for an explanation. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Rich Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve Resolution 2025-42 extending the time line on the Pocono Hospitality LDP #1341 for (1 year) 6 months. Ellen Gnandt stated her opinion on the extension. Rollcall vote: Ellen Gnandt, nay; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Rich Wielebinski, aye. (3-1) Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Rich Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the transfer of moneys from the General Fund to cover the bonuses for the manager in the amount of \$12,500, the public works director in the amount of \$6,500 and the Chief of Police in the amount of \$6,500 along with the appropriations list. The public commented on the matter along with Rich Wielebinski and Mike Velardi. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rich Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the Consent Agenda listed below. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Old business consisting of the minutes of the November 17, 2025 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Rich Wielebinski clarified that the Board of Commissioners does not have the authority to allow anyone to encroach on wetlands as per a discussion regarding Core5 with Ellen Gnandt.
- Financial transactions through December 2, 2025 as presented, including appropriations & ratification of expenditures in the amount of \$377,475.14 for the following accounts: General Fund, Sewer Operations, Gross Payroll, Capital Reserve, Construction Fund, Transfers.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Comments

Richard Wielebinski – President

- Rich Wielebinski eliminated the Motion to Accept the Eligibility list of the following PTVFC members to include active firefighters, life members and active members: Harry Andress, Nick Balacsak, Preston Baransky, Mitch Bartholomew, Al Camacho, Tom Gallagher, Joe Gilliland, Brad Harrison, Chad Kilby, Bridget Kresge, Kevin Kresge Jr., Ron Labar, Paul Layman, Thomas Learn, Matthew Lentz, Julia Loua, Mike McMann, Jordan Merring, Tom Moser, Thomas Olsen, Bruce Opachinski, Ronald Otis, Chris Proulx, Robert Rasely, Gabe Romano, Corey Sayre Jessica Sayre, William Sayre, Mike Sierra, Brian Wessner, Nipper Anglemyer, Thomas Beseckar, Donald Bonser, Ray Butz, Jim Brennan, Peter Gallagher, Robert Gupko, John Fedish, Thomas Ferrel, Paul Frantz, Paul Johnson, Jerry Lastowski,

Ray Mraz, Patrick Ross, Dennis Schmoyer, Doug Smith, Bradley Wise, Jerry Yongken, Steve Jacobs, Dave Kalucki, Chris Kinsley Jr., Chris Kinsley Sr., Robert Kinsley, Alvin Kresge Jr., Alvin Kresge Sr., Dan Kresge, Kevin Kresge, Tom Kresge, Randy Rasely, Randy Rode, Joe Folsom, Bill Sebring, Dale Sebring, Kyle Sebring, Todd Sebring, Troy Sebring, Mike Shay, Donald Simpson, Nick Starner, Amy Bullis, Gabby Bullis, Bryden Fair, Pamela Learn, Laura McMann, Angelia Myers, Mike Putnam, Abigail Putnam, Brandee Starner, Angela Tullo, Mike Velardi. Due to changes that need to be made prior to being voted upon.

Ellen Gnandt stated that she was contacted by taxpayers regarding the motions below and would like to discuss further in an executive session. Mike Velardi and Rich Wielebinski respectfully disagreed with her based upon prior discussions and motions.

- Rich Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to award James Wagner a performance bonus of \$6,500 for his assistance in accreditation work & Police architectural assistance to be drawn from 454.110. Rollcall vote: Ellen Gnandt, nay; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Rich Wielebinski, aye. Motion carried. Ellen Gnandt stated that she wanted to have a discussion prior to the motion and asked that the minutes reflected that.
- Richard Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to award Patrick Briegel a performance bonus of \$6,500 for his Project Management, and utilities connections, in the construction of the new admin wing, to be drawn from 454.110. Rollcall vote: Ellen Gnandt, nay; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Rich Wielebinski, aye. Motion carried. Ellen Gnandt stated for the same reason as the prior motion..
- Richard Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to award Jerrod Belvin a performance bonus of \$12,500 for his Project Management & Tech installation/ provisioning, in the construction of the new admin wing, to be drawn from 454.110. Rollcall vote: Ellen Gnandt, nay; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Rich Wielebinski, aye. Motion carried. Ellen Gnandt stated for the same reason as the prior motions.

Natasha Leap – Vice President

Ellen Gnandt – Commissioner

- Update – Solar Field – The entire site has been stabilized. They are ceasing any construction operations until the first of the year. The Conservation District recommended they raise the skimmer on basin 305 in order to resolve prior issues. Ellen Gnandt asked regarding any prior agreements for when the site is decommissioned. Leo DeVito stated that once the lease is up they must replant all the trees.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Richard Wielebinski, to forward the new map regarding the Pocono Manor Historic District re-write to the Planning Commission and MCPC for recommendation and advertise for a public hearing for the 27th of January. Discussion took place. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to appoint Zelenski Axelrod as Pocono Township Auditor for 2025 and have them provide a separate engagement letter to perform audit on Amusement tax specific details to be worked out with auditors and BOC for 2025 with a cost of \$19,305. Rich Wielebinski asked for explanation regarding a separate audit for amusement tax. Ellen Gnandt stated that the township has a right to go in and audit anyone who is paying that tax. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt asked regarding the Core5 warehouse questions she has for the solicitor and he hasn't heard anything yet.

Brian Winot – Commissioner

Richard Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to approve the solicitor to advertise the draft Ordinance for the December 15th BOC meeting with a snow date of December 16th regarding Truck Traffic restrictions on Back Mountain Road and parts of Brookdale Road. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mike Velardi – Commissioner

Mike Velardi made a shout out to the DPW staff for the amazing work they do prior and during snow events.

Mike also let everyone know that he has tickets still available for the fundraisers.

Reports

Zoning Report-SFM Consulting – Paul went over the report with the board.

Police – James Wagner, Chief

The chief gave a shout out to Pat Briegel and the DPW crew for the assistance in solving the traffic nightmare that occurred at 611 and Brookdale Road today.

- Rich Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to approve the purchase of GSA – Paragon ADA Kit in the amount of \$7,414.32. Discussion: Ellen Gnandt asked if it can be purchased this year. All in favor. Motion carried.

Manager Report – Jerrod Belvin

- Police Wing Update – Thank you for the amazing work they police department does during the black Friday shopping season. Minor changes being made and ready to go out for bid in January.
- Defined Benefit Approvals – Sent to board.
- Liquid Fuels Audit – sent to board and approved for 100% allotment. Ellen Gnandt asked regarding the calculation by Foster and Foster and accuracy. Jerrod Belvin confirmed they have been checked.

Public Works – Patrick Briegel

Patrick Briegel stated that the gratitude is mutual with respect to Chief Wagners' prior comments.

- The access gate for the rear parking area has been installed. We are just waiting on the controller.
- The leaf cleanup was a success. We had over three dozen residents participate and hope for even more next year. Some residents utilized the leaf drop off at MVP.
- Congratulations to the DPW crew for an amazing job with the first snow event of the season.

Township Events Report – Jennifer Gambino (First Meeting of Month)

- Tree lighting December 5th
- Magic Mistletoe Market December 6th

Township Engineer Report- Jon Tresslar

- Sewer Business on going.
- Learn Road safety enhancement project and roundabout survey work is out for bid.
- TLC walking bridge – currently working on demolition plan for the existing bridge.

Township Solicitor Report-Leo V. DeVito.

- Rich Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to advertise the Draft Ordinance Hearing for December 15ths BOC meeting with a snow date of December 16th, to dissolve the PJJWA. Discussion occurred between the board. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Rich Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to send the Draft Ordinance regarding Fowl & Recreation Use with a restriction of 5 acres or more to have a rooster. Discussion occurred between the board regarding roosters and acreage. Discussion followed by the public. Rollcall: Ellen Gnandt, aye; Natasha Leap, nay; Mike Velardi, aye; Rich Wielebinski, aye. Motion carried. (3-1)
- Upcoming zoning hearing December 23, to put in a small cell tower at Camelback.

- Leo thanked the board for the consideration regarding the weather and meeting attendance via zoom.

Adjournment – R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to adjourn the meeting 7:14 p.m.
All in favor. Motion carried.