

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on February 17, 2026 and was opened by Chair Ellen Gndt at 6:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Ellen Gndt, present; Natasha Leap, present; Mike Velardi, present; Matt Long, present, Charles Keppler, present.

In Attendance: Leo DeVito-Township Solicitor; 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.

Announcements

Public Comment Policy has changed. For public comment at the beginning of a meeting, you will be permitted 3 minutes on agenda and non-agenda items only, and on action items, only Pocono Township Residents, Stakeholders & Local Businesses, may speak at the podium and be permitted 1 minute for your comments on that agenda item.

Public Comment

Cheryl Parks - Resident – Commented regarding the Blasting at Core5
Maureen Madden – Commented on Cheryl Parks photos
Maria Danges – Resident – Questioned the Blasting
Josh Knapp - Resident – Commented regarding the Blasting
Peter Shanas - Resident – Commented regarding the traffic up Camelback Mountain. Chief Wagner, Pat Briegel, Corporal Anglemyer, Leo DeVito, and the General Manager of Camelback commented.

Presentations

Mike Stettler – Monroe County Waiste Authority – Leaf recycling and trash disposal drop-off - Time stamp: 6:30 – Ellen Gndt questioned Leaf Pickup compliance.

D&D Engineering – Mountain Edge Townhouse – Waiver requests - Time stamp 6:44 –
Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the waiver of Section 390-29.E.(3) – All in favor. Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the waiver of Section 390-29.J.(1).(c) – All in favor. Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the waiver of Section 390-48.AA -
Roll Call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, nay. (4-1) Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the waiver of Section 390-49.A.(4) –
All in favor. Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the waiver of Section 390-50.D.(5)
– All in favor. Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the waiver of Section 390-50.D.(7)
– All in favor. Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the waiver of Section 390-50.D.(8)
– All in favor. Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to approve the waiver of Section 390-58.
Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, nay; Charles Keppler, nay. (3-2) Motion carried. Josh Knapp and Maureen Madden commented. Time stamp: 7:10 p.m.

Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the waiver of Section 365-8.L –
All in favor. Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the waiver of Section 365-13.B – All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolutions – Time stamp 7:12

- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve Resolution 2026-10 LDP 1445 – Mountain Edge Townhouse. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, nay; Charles Keppler, aye. (3-1) Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve Resolution 2026-12 (LDP 1414 – 135 Warner Road) denial for failure to respond to or address the deficiencies set forth in the engineering review letter dated 2/23/24. All in favor. Motion carried. (Discussion took place among the board, zoning, and Twp. Manager.) Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to rescind the previous motion on 135 Warner Rd. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler to (LDP 1441 – Leisure Lake @ the Pocono's) deny for failure to respond to or address the deficiencies set forth in the engineering review letter dated 3/11/25 unless an extension is received prior to 2/26/26. (Lengthy discussions took place among the board, zoning, and Twp. Manager.) All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the Old business consisting of the minutes of the February 2nd regular meeting, January 20, 2025 regular meeting, January 5th regular meeting, and January 5th Re-Organization meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Discussion: Ellen Gndt stated that corrections to be made regarding the vacancy board appointment, a question on a motion that had no second and a table that had no second. Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to rescind the motion. Roll call; Ellen Gndt, nay; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye.(4-1) Motion carried. Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the minutes of the February 2nd, January 20th, January 5th regular meetings with changes listed above, along with the January 5th reorganization meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the Financial transactions through February 17, 2026 as presented, including ratification of expenditures in the amount of \$841,804.91 for the following accounts: General Fund, Sewer Operations, Gross Payroll, Capital Reserve, Construction Fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion on a motion to declare Pocono Manor Resort a dangerous structure was had. Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to declare Pocono Manor Hotel a dangerous structure. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, nay; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. (4-1) Motion carried.
- Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to authorize township solicitor to advertise a hearing for Police Cost Recovery Ordinance. Time Stamp: 7:34 Discussion by the board and public was had. Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to table the matter of Police Recovery Ordinance. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Discussion regarding a possible Motion to add Stop sign to MCTI Driveway & Laurel Lake Rd. was had. Time Stamp 8:01
- Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to purchase 3 Mio-Vision adaptive systems & installation from Signal Service not to exceed 80,000. Discussion was had with a time stamp of 8:03 All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the bidding and construction schedule for the demolition and construction of abutments for the TLC Park Pedestrian Bridge. Discussion time stamp 8:08. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to purchase a timber pedestrian bridge for TLC Park through Costars. Discussion time stamp 8:09. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the waiver of pavilion rental fees for the Masonic Organization on pavilion #3 for October 25th. Discussion time stamp 8:12 All in favor. Motion carried.
- Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to appoint Mike Stettler Jr. "Inspection Mechanic," in accordance with "Article 30 – Licensing", of the CBA. Discussion time stamp 8:13 All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, that the board ratify and confirm its prior direction given an executive session to retain Gross Law Offices to conduct an independent investigation related to a personnel complaint, authorize the execution of the engagement agreement at \$250/hr., plus expenses, if any, and approve the payment of the invoices submitted pursuant to that agreement, subject to the review and approval under our regular bill payment procedures. Discussion time stamp 8:15. All in favor. Motion carried.

Personnel – Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to table the personnel issue set forth in the agenda for tonight's meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Ellen Gnandt – President

- Solar Field update – Time stamp 8:18:41
- Leaf Recycling - Time stamp 8:19:03
- Blasting – Time stamp 8:20:20

Matt Long – Vice-Chairman

- Discussion- Clarification of Public Misinformation Circulating on Social Media – Time stamp 8:28:21
- Amusement Tax Update – Time stamp 8:32

Commissioner Comments

Natasha Leap – Commissioner

Mike Velardi – Commissioner

- Statements expressed by individual board members are their own and do not necessarily represent the official position of the board nor myself.
- Electoral College system – 8:32:47

Charles Keppler – Commissioner

- Discussion on Public Option for trash collection – Time stamp 8:34:27
- Discussion on Park Board – Time Stamp 8:34:40

Reports

Zoning Report-SFM Consulting – Time stamp 8:38:01

Police – James Wagner, Chief – Time stamp 8:39:36

Fire Report – Corey Sayer

Manager Report – Jerrod Belvin - Time Stamp 8:40

- PFM will be in attendance at our next BOC meeting.
- Vector Control Update – Time stamp 8:40:49
- Core 5 Blasting Schedule - Time stamp 8:42:39
- Police Wing – 8:43:53

Public Works – Patrick Briegel – Time Stamp 8:45

- Update on weather, salt, and cinder supply. Time stamp 8:44:59
- Sewer Business Update Time stamp 8:45:59
- Park staff interviews coming up next week.
- Charles Keppler asked regarding mailbox reimbursement. – Time stamp 8:48:31

Township Engineer Report- Jon Tresslar – Time Stamp 8:52:38

- Sewer Business Update
- Learn Road Roundabout cost update
- TASA Project
- TLC walking bridge-

Township Solicitor Report-Leo V. DeVito – Time Stamp 8:53:17

- Sewer Business Update
- Pocono Manor Old Hotel Update
- General legal update
- Learn Road Easement Process

Adjournment –Ellen Gmandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to adjourn the meeting and head in to executive session at 8:54 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.