

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on March 2, 2026 and was opened by Chair Ellen Gndt at 6:06 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, Jennifer Gambino, PW Asst. Mgr.

Announcements

An executive session was held 2-19 & 3-2 to discuss litigation and personnel.

Public Comment

6:08 Cheryl Parks – Blasting update

6:10 Lauren Peterson – Resources of Monroe County – RE: Police Ordinance

6:13 Patrice Lanuchi – Rezoning near MCTI from R1 to R2

Presentations

6:16 PFM – Sewer Rate Study, Penn Vest Loan, Steps to Lower fees

6:35 Charles Keppler questioned ways to expand sewer system

6:35 Ellen Gndt questioned income from expansion and fund balance

Hearings

6:39 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to open the hearing. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ellen Gndt made motion, seconded by Matt Long, to close the hearing. All in favor. Motion carried.

Matt Long made motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to adopt Ordinance 2026-02, Environmental Council Ordinance. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, nay; Mike Velardi, nay; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. (3-2) Motion carried.

6:52 thru 6:56 General Public support

Resolutions

- 6:58 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to approve a 60-day extension after the engineer sent a letter on the project of 135 Warner Rd. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, nay; Matt Long, nay; Charles Keppler, nay. Motion failed. (2-3)
- 7:07 Charles Keppler 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. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, nay; Natasha Leap, nay; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. Motion carried. (3-2)
- 7:08 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to approve Resolution 2026-14 Pocono Township Board of Commissioners Meeting Decorum and Order Policy. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, nay; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. Motion carried. (4-1)
- 7:09 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to table Resolution 2026-15 Pocono Township Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes Policy. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 7:10 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to approve Resolution 2026-16 Pocono Township Board of Commissioners Agenda Policy. All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- 7:11 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the February 17, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Financial transactions through March 2, 2026 as presented, including ratification of expenditures in the amount of \$432,150.63 for the following accounts: General Fund, Sewer Operations, Gross Payroll, Capital Reserve, Construction Fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS 7:14

- Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to authorize Township Solicitor to advertise for hearing on the LERTA Repeal Ordinance. All voting members in favor. Motion carried. Ellen Gndt abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest.
- Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to authorize Township Solicitor to advertise for hearing on the FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) Ordinance. All in favor. Motion carried. Discussion: 7:18
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to authorize Township Solicitor to draft a resolution outlining the fee structure for the police cost Ordinance. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, nay; Mike Velardi, nay; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. Motion carried. (3-2) Time stamp: 7:19 Discussion: 7:28 thru 7:35
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the waiver of fees on Pavilion #3 for Colonial IU 20 on May 14th. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to purchase Kyocera TASKalfa MZ4001, as approved in the 2026 Capital Budget, in the amount of: \$11,560. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gndt, to table the request to repair replace Johnson Controls Environmental Engine, as approved in the 2026 Capital Budget, in the amount of: \$16,545.36. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gndt for discussion, to have solicitor draft clarification of \$390-58 Common open space, recreation areas, and in-lieu of fees. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to authorize President of the Board to sign the intermunicipal agreement with Hamilton Township as a party and that the taxes will be changed upon the issuance of a certificate of occupancy rather than an issuance of building permits for the purposes of LDP# 1401. Discussion Time Stamp: 8:00 All in favor. Motion carried.
- Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gndt, to table the motion to authorize Township Solicitor to advertise Police Cost Recovery Ordinance. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Ellen Gndt – Chair

Matt Long – Vice-Chair

- Environmental Council – Five seats available looking to appoint by April 6th. Invite Planning Commission members.

Commissioner Comments

Natasha Leap – Commissioner

Mike Velardi – Commissioner

Saturday night move your clocks ahead and double check your batteries in your smoke detectors.

Charles Keppler – Commissioner

- Time Stamp 8:24 - Discussion of Aliver AED for TLC
- Time Stamp 8:47 - Discussion on the Park Board

Reports

Time Stamp 8:51 - Zoning Report-SFM Consulting –

Police – James Wagner, Chief

Fire Report – Corey Sayer

Events – Jennifer Gambino – Time Stamp 8:54

- March 21 Movie in the conference room
- March 29 community Egg Hunt

Manager Report – Jerrod Belvin – Time Stamp 8:55

- PennDOT Road Study Update
- Police Wing Update, drawings received
- Year End Recycling Update

Public Works – Patrick Briegel – Time Stamp 8:58

- Public Works update
- Sewer Update

Township Engineer Report- Jon Tresslar – Time Stamp 9:01

- Core 5 Update
- TLC Walking Bridge Update

Township Solicitor Report-Leo V. DeVito – Time Stamp 9:07

- Sewer Business Update
- General legal update
- Leaf Recycling update

Adjournment –Ellen Gmandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. and go into executive session. All in favor. Motion carried.