

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on April 22, 2026 and was opened by Chair Ellen Gndt at 6:02 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; Erica Tomas-Administrative Assistant, Paul Morgan, SFM Consulting.

Announcements

Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel.

The Board of Commissioners will have a work session, previously advertised as a joint work session with the Planning Commission, on Monday April 27th at 5 p.m. regarding the Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Map, SALDO Amendments.

Public Comment

6:03 – Monica Garity – Feels Commissioner Keppler violated the Sunshine Act
6:05 – Michelle Bisbing – Feels Commissioner Keppler is sharing Non-Factual information regarding the Pocono Mountains Economic Development Corporation.
6:07 – Maureen Madden – Addressed the Board regarding Jerrod Belvin and “Revenge Politics”.
6:09- Maria Danges – Questioned the process of advertising for the Data Center Ordinance
6:14 – Joe Folsom – Clarified the Planning Commission process for Data Center Ordinance
6:15 – Patrice Lannucci – Voiced her opinion on Representative Madden’s comments to the board
6:16 – Tracy McGarry – Commented regarding the Re-Zoning of property to Commercial
6:18 – Donna McMann – Commented regarding the Re-Zoning, Library and Planning Meetings
6:21 – Cheryl Parks – Commented regarding Re-Zoning, Core5
6:25 – Tom Vanaunt – Commented regarding the Re-Zoning of property to Commercial
6:27 – Rebecca Smith – Commented regarding Core5 and thanked Pat Briegel for trying to help
6:31 – Tim Harrison – Commented regarding Re-Zoning
6:34 – Frank Grieley – Commented regarding Re-Zoning and Data Centers
6:36 – Teri Martin – Commented regarding Government

Presentations

Treasurers Report for year 2025 – Regina Zuvich Time stamp 6:39 pm

Interviews of Environmental Advisory Council: Time stamp 6:42 pm

- Jim Pellegrini
- Randy Peechatka
- Josh Knapp
- Chris Grape-Garvey
- Gianna Leo Falcon - Absent
- Timothy Wah - Absent
- Kyle Van Fleet (Planning)
- BOC Rep

Hearings – Time stamp 7:00 pm

- Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to open the hearing for a Data Center Overlay District Zoning Regulations Ordinance. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to close the hearing for a Data Center Overlay District Zoning Regulations Ordinance in its entirety. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to adopt the Ordinance 2026-07 to enact a Data Center Overlay District. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolutions – Time stamp 7:21 pm

- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to approve Resolution 2026 -17 Letter of No Prejudice for Penn Vest. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to approve Resolution 2026-18 Conditional approval of the Morro - 596 Hearthstone Lot Consolidation LDP 1454. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to approve Resolution 2026-19 Conditional approval of the Members 1st Credit Union LDP # 1446. All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda – Time stamp 7:31 pm

- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the April 6, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Financial transactions through April 22, 2026 as presented, including ratification of expenditures in the amount of \$681,451.52 for the following accounts: General Fund, Sewer Operations, Gross Payroll, Capital Reserve, Construction Fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Time stamp 7:28 pm

- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to amend the agenda and add, Jennifer Gambino and Jerrod Belvin to the list of resignations to sign. Roll Call: Ellen Gnad, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, nay. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to authorize the township to sign the resignation agreement for employees Christopher Gupko, Jennifer Gambino and Jerrod Belvin. Roll Call: Ellen Gnad, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, nay. Motion carried.
- Natasha Leap made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the hire of a new police officer to replace the officer that has resigned. Roll call: Ellen Gnandt, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, nay. Motion carried.
- Natasha Leap made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to authorize Township Solicitor to begin the process of condemnation of areas needed for the Round-about and conveyed to PPL as an easement. Roll call: Ellen Gnandt, nay; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. Motion carried.
- Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to approve the Johnson Control Quote. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to Ratify Police Chief James Wagners salary to reflect the 5% increase agreed upon at \$129,150.00. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to Ratify the hiring of Dee Ackerman as part time Assistant Admin. at the CBA rate. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to Hire Barbara Wein for the full-time vacant Administrative Assistant position. Roll call: Ellen Gnandt, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, nay. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to rescind the job description of Assistant Public Works Manager. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to table the following Two motions:
 - Motion to appoint _____ as Township Secretary with an hourly rate of \$ _____
 - Motion to appoint _____ as Township Right to Know Officer. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to table the following Two motions:
 - Motion to appoint _____ as Assistant Township Secretary
 - Motion to appoint _____ as Assistant Right to Know Officer
- All in favor. Motion carried.
- Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to waive the Pavillion fees for PMSD TEC on May 29th. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Natasha Leap made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to waive the Pavillion fees for Colonial IU20 on May 22nd All in favor. Motion carried.

- Charles Keppler made a motion with no second, to authorize township solicitor to draft an amended zoning map changing parcels 12.3.1.24 and 12.3.1.25 (4122 and 4128 Cherry Lane Church Road) to R-1 zoning and submit to planning commission for review. Motion failed.
- Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to authorize for advertising open Township Management position. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, nay. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Ellen Gndt – Chair

- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to rescind the Gate Fee at Mountain View Park. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, nay; Mike Velardi, nay; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. Motion carried.

Matt Long – Vice-Chairman

Commissioner Comments

Natasha Leap – Commissioner

Mike Velardi – Commissioner

Charles Keppler – Commissioner – Time stamp 8:11

- Discussion of public demonstration ordinance/permitting
- Update on intention to adhere to parliamentary procedure and consideration of amending bylaws.

Reports

Manager Report – Time stamp 8:12

Resignation of Planning Commission Member, Claire Learn

Public Works – Patrick Briegel

Fire Report – Corey Sayer – First Quarter Report Time stamp 8:13

Zoning Report-SFM Consulting – Time stamp 8:19

Township Events Report -

Township Engineer Report- Jon Tresslar

- Learn Road Roundabout – PPL Easements

Township Solicitor Report-Leo V. DeVito. – Time stamp – 8:23 pm

Adjournment –Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.