

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

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on April 6, 2026 and was opened by Chair Ellen Gndt at 6:00 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; James Wagner, Chief of Police; Erica Tomas-Administrative Assistant, Paul Morgan, SFM Consulting.

Announcements

Open space & Police Cost Recovery Ordinance workshop Wednesday May 13th at 5pm, 205 Old Mill Rd, Tannersville PA 18372

Public Comment

6:02 Allan Burns - regarding party status on rezoning ordinance
6:06 Dawn Eilber – regarding dead trees along Sullivans Trail
6:08 Cheryl Parks – regarding Blasting at Core5
6:13 Jim Pellegrini – regarding Jerrod Belvin leaving the Township
6:15 Guy Doleiden – regarding Blasting at Core5
6:17 Patrice Linuci – regarding MCTI rezoning of 4 lots
6:19 Matt Long – Jerrod Belvin resigned

Hearings

- 6:20 *Ellen Gndt abstained from this hearings matters due to a conflict of interest.***
- Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to open the hearing to Repeal the LERTA Ordinance in its entirety. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to close the hearing to Repeal the LERTA Ordinance in its entirety. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the Ordinance to Repeal the LERTA in its entirety. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 6:23 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to open the hearing to amend Ordinance 110 Chapter 470 “Zoning to add definitions of “Fowl and Recreation Use, public/non-profit/noncommercial”. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to close the hearing to amend Ordinance 110 Chapter 470 “Zoning to add definitions of “Fowl and Recreation Use, public/non-profit/noncommercial”. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to adopt the amendment of Ordinance 110 Chapter 470 “Zoning to add definitions of “Fowl and Recreation Use, public/non-profit/noncommercial”. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 6:26 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to open the hearing to consider for adoption an ordinance amending the Pocono Township Code of Ordinances, Chapter 333 to add Article V which will provide controls for the discharges of wastewaters to the township’s sewer system and wastewater treatment plants. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to close the hearing to consider for adoption an ordinance amending the Pocono Township Code of Ordinances, Chapter 333 to add Article V which will provide controls for the discharges of wastewaters to the township’s sewer system and wastewater treatment plants. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to approve the Ordinance of amending the Pocono Township Code of Ordinances, Chapter 333 to add Article V which will

provide controls for the discharges of wastewaters to the township's sewer system and wastewater treatment plants. All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the March 16, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Financial transactions through April 6, 2026 as presented, including ratification of expenditures in the amount of \$541,636.62 for the following accounts: General Fund, Sewer Operations, Gross Payroll, Capital Reserve, Construction Fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- 6:41 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the Phase 2 CoStream Quote based on T&M's Letter dated 2/18/2026. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 6:42 Matt Long Read all of the TLC Park Pedestrian Bridge Bids and made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to Award of the contract to Manichi Inc. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 6:45 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, 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.
- 6:46 Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to approve advertising for the annual township Materials Bids. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 6:47 Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the purchase of a 2026 F-250 Super Cab as approved in the 2026 Capital Budget, in the amount of \$71,117.00 (Costars Price). All in favor. Motion carried.
- 6:49 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to waive the fees for Pocono Garden Club for pavilion #1 on 8/12/2026. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 6:51 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to waive the fees for Pocono Mountain West Boys Wrestling on pavilion #2 on 5/3/2026. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 6:53 Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Matt Long for discussion purposes, to rescind the Mountainview Park parking fee for the 2026 season. Roll call: Natasha Leap, nay; Mike Velardi, nay; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. Motion fails
- 7:06 Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to draft amended zoning map returning 4122 and 4128 Cherry Lane Church Road to R-1 zoning. Roll call: Natasha Leap, nay; Mike Velardi, nay; Matt Long, nay; Charles Keppler, aye. Motion fails
- 7:27 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to Ratify the appointment of James Wagner and Patrick Breigel as acting managers. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 7:27 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to add stipend of \$1000 per week each for the acting manager role to James Wagner and Patrick Breigel to be paid as a separate line item subject to all payroll taxes and pension calculations. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 7:28 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to appoint James Wagner as temporary acting EMC. Roll call: Natasha Leap, nay; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. Motion carried.
- 7:29 Natasha Leap made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi to set the Chief of Police at an annual salary of \$127,920 and for Director of Public works at an annual salary of \$127,036. . All in favor. Motion carried.
- 7:31 Natasha Leap made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi to Authorize the township solicitor to draw up and Benefits the same as the last contract retro to January 5, 2026 set a limit on renewal contracts for 1 year for Chief Jim Wagner and Public Works Director Pat Briegel for 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Ellen Gndt – President

Matt Long – Vice-Chairman

Commissioner Comments

Natasha Leap – Commissioner

Mike Velardi – Commissioner

Charles Keppler – Commissioner

7:34 Letter from Eastern Monroe Public Library

Reports

Zoning Report-SFM Consulting –

Public Works – Patrick Briegel 7:35

Police – James Wagner, Chief 7:37

Manager Report – James Wagner & Patrick Briegel

Township Events Report – Erica Tomas 7:38

Township Engineer Report - Jon Tresslar 7:39

Township Solicitor Report - Leo V. DeVito. 7:40

Adjournment –Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.
All in favor. Motion carried.