

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on May 18, 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, absent; 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

Time stamp: 6:00:19

Ellen Gndt opened a discussion to amend the agenda in order to appoint the chairman of the Environmental Advisory Council prior to their first meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2026. Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long to amend the agenda to add and appoint a temporary chairman of the EAC. All in favor. Motion carried. Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long to approve the agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Time stamp: 6:03:52 – Elizabeth Casciano –construction along Stadden Rd.

Time stamp: 6:09:28 – Lisa Latten – restrictions on organized demonstrations.- non resident

Time stamp: 6:11:47 – John Burns – MCTI Re-Zoning

Time stamp: 6:21:18 – Gina Loyak – MCTI Re-Zoning

Time stamp: 6:23:24 – Patrice Lanucci – MCTI Re-Zoning

Time stamp: 6:27:27 – Cheryl Parks – Core5 Blasting

Time stamp: 6:31:52 – Donna McMahon – Organized demonstrations

Time stamp: 6:34:08 - Donna Jennings – Organized demonstrations – non resident

Time stamp: 6:34:47 – Terry Corso - Organized demonstrations – non resident

Time stamp: 6:35:47 – Gina Loyak – Ordinance for demonstrations

Time stamp: 6:36:42 – Jim Pellegrini - Ordinance for demonstrations

Time stamp: 6:38:39 – Elizabeth Casciano - Ordinance for demonstrations

Time stamp: 6:41:08 – Joe Folsom - Ordinance for demonstrations

Time stamp: 6:42:20 – John Burns – MCTI Re-Zoning

Time stamp: 6:43:01 - Patrice Lanucci – Ordinance for demolitions

Time stamp: 6:46:38 – Tim Harrison – Status of Zoning Update

Presentations - Time stamp: 6:49:45 - Melissa Hutchison – T&M Associates – MS-4 Presentation

Resolutions Time stamp: 7:01

Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve Resolution 2026-20 extending the time frame for the Ertle Development LLC Wawa Project. All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda Time stamp: 7:05

- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to ratify the approval of hiring the investigator for the most recent investigation. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Mike Velardi, nay; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long to postpone the Old business consisting of the minutes of the May 4, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the Financial transactions through May 18, 2026 as presented, including ratification of expenditures in the amount of \$677,094.99 for the following accounts: General Fund, Sewer Operations, Gross Payroll, Capital Reserve, Construction Fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS Time stamp: 7:09:38

- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to postpone the 2026 Materials Bids due to fuel prices for FOB and Delivery. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to waive the Fees for Tannersville Lions Club on Pavillion #3 for August 11th. All in favor Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the purchase of two (2) new, fully upfitted Police Ford Explorers not to exceed \$110,000 each, budgeted for 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the Change Order #1 for the Learn Road Roundabout Project. Patrice Lanucci – voiced her opinion on the contractor. Tim Harrison – questioned change. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to waive and return the Pocono Mountain East Little League permit fees for in light of the backstop construction work performed at the Pocono Township Little League Field. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi (for discussion), to amend the Park Ordinance to restrict organized demonstrations and protest activities within designated children's park and playground areas where necessary to promote child safety, pedestrian access, public welfare, and the intended recreational use of the facilities and provide for alternative designated areas. Time stamp 7:17:11 Mike Velardi had the floor. Time stamp 7:18:52 Solicitor DeVito had the floor. Time stamp 7:22:38 Charles Keppler had the floor. Time stamp 7:24:37 Solicitor DeVito had the floor. Time stamp 7:26:49 Matt Long had the floor. Time stamp 7:28:50 Ellen Gnandt had the floor. Time stamp 7:30:49 Mike Velardi had the floor. Time stamp 7:31:36 Charles Keppler had the floor. Time stamp 7:33:10 Chief Jim Wagner had the floor. Time stamp 7:34:37 Matt Long had the floor. Time stamp 7:35:16 Solicitor DeVito had the floor. Time stamp 7:36:10 Charles Keppler had the floor. Public Comment began: Time stamp 7:37:48 Richard Infante – nonresident commented – Time stamp 7:39 Patrice Lenucci commented on Code of Conduct. Time stamp 7:41:22 Robert Turnbull commented on Ordinance discussion. Time stamp 7:42:51 Jim Pellegrini clarified his applause. Time stamp 7:43:35 Monica Garrity Commented to ask the children if they want to play at a park with a protest. Time stamp 7:45:04 Gina Loyak commented on the protests. Time stamp 7:45:45 Cheryl Parks commented on the protests. Time stamp 7:48:15 Robin Kunz Commented on the protests. Roll call: Ellen Gnandt, aye; Mike Velardi, nay; Matt Long, nay; Charles Keppler, nay. Motion fails.
- Time stamp 7:52.15 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to postpone the Social Media Policy. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 7:55 Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi (for discussion), to approve the amended Park Advisory Board By-Laws. Time stamp 7:55:01 Charles Keppler had the floor. Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gnandt, to say that the Park Board will elect their own chair. All in favor. Motion carried. Back to the original motion: All those in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp 8:02 Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to postpone the MCTI Re-zoning Map and authorize Township Solicitor to advertise the hearing until the next BOC meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 8:06 - Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the purchase of an Impact 3000 Hot Water Pressure Washer budgeted for 2026, in the amount of \$8,050.00 (half of the budgeted amount). All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long to appoint Jim Pellegrini as the temporary chairman of the EAC to run the first meeting to be scheduled at a later date. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Ellen Gnandt – President

- Trees removed that were cut behind Ruby Lane. Paul addressed Cheryl Parks questions regarding more blasting on Core5 project.

Matt Long – Vice-Chairman

Commissioner Comments

Natasha Leap – Commissioner

Mike Velardi – Commissioner

- Time stamp: 8:17 – Addressed false rumors about him resigning along with his opinion on a number of items addressed over the past few meetings to include amusement taxes and parks. He reminded everyone exactly what Memorial Day stands for. Time stamp: 8:19 – Matt Long commented regarding the amusement tax and parks.

Charles Keppler – Commissioner

- Time stamp: 8:20:44 – Questioned the status of the AED review. He also questioned the speed limit on Cherry Lane Church Road. Pat Briegel commented. Charles questioned the solicitor on the status of the amendment to the Data Center Ordinance.

Reports

Manager Report –

Police – James Wagner, Chief – Time stamp: 8:24 Updated everyone on the vandalizing of Glenwood Hall along with the destruction of the nets at Mountain View and TLC parks. Chief thanked Erica on her assistance with the investigation. Chief Wagner also summarized the stats for the month.

Public Works – Patrick Briegel - Time stamp: 8:26:30 – The TLC Splash Pad is going to be opened this coming weekend. The Public Works crew worked with the Park staff to replace the roof on Pavilion One. The PW crew is also working on the back parking lot, tree work, and mowing.

Zoning Report-SFM Consulting – Time stamp: 8:28 – Paul Morgan updated everyone on the stats for the month. He informed everyone that the Zoning Hearing for 1328 Golden Slipper Road has been rescheduled to the 23rd of June.

Township Engineer Report- Jon Tresslar – Time stamp: 8:31:17 – Demolition has started on the TLC park walking bridge. Swiftwater Solar work has been completed but still have an outstanding notice of violation from DEP regarding discharge from two basins. Regarding the possible traffic study, they normally run between 3-5k.

Township Solicitor Report-Leo V. DeVito – Time stamp: 8:35:44

- Golden Slipper Zoning Hearing – Leo updated everyone on the variance request and that zoning and the township will be there in objection.
- Locked AED Program – Monroe County Control Center Indemnification Release form - Leo updated everyone on his findings regarding the AED topic. The Board members weighed in on this matter.

Adjournment –Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.