

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on June 15, 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; James Wagner, Chief of Police; Erica Tomas-Administrative Assistant, Paul Morgan, SFM Consulting.

Announcements

Ellen Gndt reminded everyone of the decorum policy.

Public Comment

Donna McMann – Resident – Voiced her concerns regarding the library tax.

Beata Babel - Resident – voiced her concerns about a short-term rental.

Jane King - Resident – questioned the status of Glennwood Hall.

John Fagliarone - Resident - questioned what zones allow STR's

Presentations

Pat Briegel, acting co-manager Presented service plaques to the following former members of the Planning Commission: Claire Learn and Joe Folsom.

- Time stamp: 6:14 - Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to advance Jordan Merring from an alternate to a full member with the Planning Commission effective immediately with a term to expire 12/31/29. All in favor. Motion carried.

Time stamp: 6:19 - Interviews for one member and two alternate members for the Planning Commission.

- Frank Riehle
- John L. Wallens

- Time Stamp: 6:25 - Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to appoint Frank Riehle as a member and, John L Wallens as alternate members to the Pocono Township Planning Commission to complete the current term with an expiration date of 1/2/2027. All in favor. Motion carried.

Time stamp: 6:26 - Lehigh Valley Health Network, Atty. S. Graham Simmons III – Golden Slipper Zoning Matter. Discussion took place among the board.

Resolutions

- Time stamp: 6:42 - Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve Resolution 2026-23 Act 537 Update. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:43 – Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to approve Resolution 2026-24 Learn Road Condemnation of land for Right-of-way and Aerial Easement. All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- Time stamp: 6:44 – Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natsha Leap, to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the June 1, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Financial transactions through June 15, 2026 as presented, including ratification of expenditures in the amount of \$698,163.11 for the following accounts: General Fund, Sewer Operations, Gross Payroll, Capital Reserve, Construction Fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Time stamp: 6:48 – Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to nominate Brad Harrison for EMC and submit for the governor's appointment. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:49 – Natasha Leap made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gndt, to approve the sponsorship of two teams to attend the PMCOG Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament to support Monroe County Nonprofits. Discussion took place among the board. Roll call: Ellen Gndt, aye; Natasha Leap, aye; Mike Velardi, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, nay. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:53 Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to waive Pavillion #4 fee's for NEPA 10-13 Club (Retired Law Enforcement) All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:53 – Natasha Leap made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve Pocono Logistics (an approved land development)Waiver request of Section of Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance: SALDO §390-59D (to use a stone pavement area in lieu of paving) as per the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Discussion took place. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:58 – Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to waive pavilion #1 fees for the Girl Scouts of PA. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:59 - Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to schedule a hearing on the updated Data Center Ordinance for July 20th. Discussion took place. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 7:01 – Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gndt, to perform a speed study on Cherry Lane Church Road. A length discussion took place among the board and public. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 7:12 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Mike Velardi, to approve the construction escrow release #4 of Phase 2 – Lands of The Spirit of Swiftwater in the amount of \$35,198.85. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 7:13 – Mike Velardi made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gndt, to approve the conditional final plan for Phase 3 PRD - The Ridge. Discussion: Jim Pellegrini asked for clarification. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 7:16 – Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gndt, to approve the AED Indemnification Agreement with the County Control Center reviewed by Township Solicitor. Pat Briegel commented regarding reaching out to our insurance provider. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 7:17 – Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to approve the Sewer Rules and Regulations reviewed by Township Solicitor. Discussion took place among the board. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 7:21 – Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to authorize the zoning office to investigate both 268 Laurel Lake Road and 3408 Route 715 in accordance with chapter 382 of the Township Code of Ordinance. Paul Morgan described the properties. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Ellen Gndt – President

Time stamp: 7:23 - Ellen asked for the board to allow for Leo and Pat to draw up the lease for the church to use our old building to store their stuff.

EAC meeting will be held June 18th from 6-7p.m. as advertised.

Park Board Meeting will be held June 23rd at 1p.m. as advertised.

Commissioner Comments

Natasha Leap – Commissioner

Mike Velardi – Commissioner – Time stamp: 7:25 - Mike read a statement regarding his opinion and disapproval of how township business has been conducted and tendered his resignation effective immediately.

Charles Keppler – Commissioner – Time stamp: 7:34 – Discussed the Library and finding a space for them here in Pocono Township in the future.

Matt Long – Vice-Chairman – Time stamp: 7:35 – Stated that the open seat would need to be advertised immediately. Leo DeVito explained the process. A special meeting will take place on July 14th at 6 p.m. for interviews with all letters of intent and resumes due by the end of the month.

Manager Report – Time stamp: 7:41 – **Pat Briegel** updated everyone on the implementation plan for FOG. The public will be notified on the process. Police departments lot has been repaved. TLC Bridge is moving along. The township received a request from WIC regarding the old admin. building. Charles Keppler asked if a speed study was done on Post Hill Road.

Police – James Wagner, Chief – Police report was distributed to the board earlier to include: 1257 calls, 28 criminal arrests, 17 summary arrests, 48 traffic accident investigations and 595 traffic contacts for the month.

Reports

Zoning Report-SFM Consulting – Paul Morgan informed the board of the 20 permits: 11 for zoning, 7 building, one well and one TDU that were issued by the zoning office. Zoning hearing coming up regarding side yard setback for inground pool. Charles Keppler ask Paul for an update on the dangerous structure in Pocono Manor. Paul Clarified for the public.

Township Engineer Report- Jon Tresslar – Learn Road trees have been address and moving slowly with regard to the roundabout. The original survey for Core5 was questioned by the developer. Jon has reached out to the surveying company to clarification on pin placement and property lines.

Township Solicitor Report-Leo V. DeVito – updated the board on Mr. Burns rezoning of some MCTI's lots. Title search was done to clarify questions. The original deed has no restrictions on the remaining lots that MCTI still owns. Leo advised that it be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

Adjournment –Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.