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

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on July 6, 2026 and was opened by Chair Ellen Gnandt at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Ellen Gnandt, present; Natasha Leap, absent; 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
The Board held an Executive session prior to this meeting to discuss legal matters and personnel.

A special meeting will take place on July 14th at 6 p.m. for interviews regarding the open seat on the Board of Commissioners.

The township opened the building from 8 to 8 as a cooling station to those without power.

Public Comment
Time stamp: 6:04 Donna McMahon – Resident – Thanked the township for all they do and updated everyone regarding the Library.

Time stamp: 6:07 Cheryl Parks – Resident – Commented on quality of life.

Consent Agenda Time stamp: 6:09:54

- 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 June 15, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Financial transactions through July 6, 2026 as presented, including ratification of expenditures in the amount of $707,865.51 for the following accounts: General Fund, Sewer Operations, Gross Payroll, Capital Reserve, Construction Fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Time stamp: 6:12 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gnandt, to approve the purchase of a PC306 Cold Planer with 42 Gal. Water Tank that was included in this year's budget in the amount of $22,000.00 (item is less than budgeted). All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:14 Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, pending Leo DeVito's review, to approve fixed annual Bioxide pricing at 3.16/gal with parts and service fee of $1,100/mo., to include monitoring service, contract from Evoqua Water Technologies LLC. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:15 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gnandt, to approve the advertisement of the bids for the Bartonsville Ave. and Stadden Road Sewer Extension project. Discussion took place among the board and public. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:21 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gnandt, to waive Pavillion #2 fees for Vision of a Better Tomorrow (nonprofit) All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:22 Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to authorize the Township Solicitor to advertise for the MCTI rezoning hearing. Discussion followed by the board and public. Roll call: Ellen Gnandt, aye; Matt Long, aye; Charles Keppler, nay. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:35 Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the monthly fee of $20 for enrollment in the Positive Pay program as an added form of security for township banking. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Tim stamp: 6:38 Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to accept the resignation of Commissioner Mike Velardi. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Time stamp: 6:37 Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gnandt, to re-open the acceptance of candidates for the open alternate seat on the Planning Commission with a deadline of July 28th to accept letters of interest & resumes in order to conduct interviews at the August 3rd BOC meeting. Lengthy discussion was had regarding the deadline date and interview date. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Ellen Gnandt – President – Time stamp: 6:44 – Announced that anyone without power are to call 1-800-DialPPL for updates.

Matt Long – Vice-Chairman Time stamp: 6:45 – Thanked both the Police Dept. & Public Works Dept. for all of there assistance over the holiday weekend with the weather emergencies. Time stamp: 6:45:23 - He enquired about the police wing. Time stamp: 6:46 – Pat Briegel updated everyone. Time stamp: 6:47 Matt Long commented regarding the resignation statement of Mike Velardi.

Commissioner Comments

Natasha Leap – Commissioner - Absent

Charles Keppler – Commissioner – Time stamp: 6:54 – Apologized for the AED mistake and commented on the cooling station here at the township building.

Acting Managers Reports – Patrick Briegel – Time stamp: 6:57 – Thanked the board for the recognition to the staff over the Holiday weekend weather events. Pat acknowledged the Pocono Township Fire Department for their assistance with an issue at the township building. He spoke about speed limit signs on two township roads and stated the work is progressing on the TLC bridge.
Jim Wagner – Time stamp: 7:00 – Thanked his command staff, Brad Harrisson, DPW, the Fire department and Commissioners regarding response during the weather event.

Reports

Zoning Report-SFM Consulting – Time stamp: 7:02 – Paul Morgan reviewed his zoning report with the board. The board and public questioned a number of items regarding properties, inspections and individuals utilizing private property electrical supplies.

Fire Report –Time stamp: 7:09 - Corey Sayer, Assistant Fire Chief – reviewed his quarterly fire reports with the board to include 358 calls from January to June 30th with June being the highest with 72 calls.

Township Engineer Report- Jon Tresslar – Time stamp: 7:17 – The township is still waiting on confirmation for delivery of the bridge for TLC. DCED grants for up to 3M are opening up. We are looking at the Stadden Road Bridge repair/replacement for a potential submission as the bridge is in need of repair. Discussion was had among the board, Pat Briegel and Jon Tresslar. Time stamp: 7:31 - Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long to amend the agenda and open it to allow a motion and possible action item concerning the Stadden Road Bridge, whether to repair or replace along with whether or not the township applies for a grant to assist in doing so. Time stamp: 7:32 Discussion was opened to the public with questions and recommendations. All in favor. Motion carried. Time stamp; 7:37 - Charles Keppler made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gnandt, to direct the solicitor to apply for the grant to replace the Stadden Road Bridge. Discussion was had among the board, legal and the township engineer. The motion was withdrawn by both the first and second. Time stamp: 7:40 – Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gnandt, to direct the engineer to prepare the necessary paperwork for adopting a resolution at the next board of commissioners meeting to either repair or replace the Stadden Road Bridge. Discussion: Time stamp: 7:41 – public concern regarding truck traffic should be taken into consideration. All in favor. Motion carried.
Time stamp: 7:43 - Charles Keppler asked Jon if he had the opportunity to do the speed study on Cherry Lane Church Rd yet. Jon said no.
Time stamp: 7:43:23 – Ellen Gnandt questioned Jon and Paul regarding concerns with the Core5 project.

Township Solicitor Report - Leo V. DeVito – Time stamp: 7:47 – Nothing new to report.

Adjournment –Ellen Gnandt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.