

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on August 3, 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; Dan McCreary, 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

An Executive Session was held at 5:00 pm prior to this meeting regarding personnel.

6:04 Ellen Gndt read Charlie Trapasso's letter to the board to oppose Cell Tower at Mountain View Park. Exhibit "A"

Public Comment

6:06 Jim Pellegrini wants a zoom link and email addresses for the EAC and Mtn. View Park

6:12 Cheryl Parks Core5 issues, Kevins Way, Cell Tower/ Mtn. View Park

6:15 Randy Peechatka Cell Tower at Mtn. View Park

6:16 Donna McMann Library update

6:17 Gianna Folcom Cell Tower at Mtn. View Park

Presentations

6:20 Marissa Buatti interview for open Planning Commission Alternate seat. Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to appoint Marissa Buatti as an Alternate to the Pocono Township Planning Commission. Roll Call: Dan McCreary, aye; Charles Keppler, aye; Ellen Gndt, aye; Matt Long, nay; Natasha Leap, nay. Motion carried.

6:33 Jaklynn Nacinovich interview for open Park Board Seat. Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to appoint Jaklynn Nacinovich as a member of the Park Board. Roll call: Dan McCreary, aye; Charles Keppler, nay; Ellen Gndt, aye; Matt Long, aye; Natasha Leap, aye. Motion carried.

6:37 Discussion took place with an overview of Mr. Engler's request among the board and Township Engineer. (Mr. Engler had not arrived at the meeting yet.) Ryan Engler – Robert L. Collura, Civil Engineer & Surveyors – Request for relief : 71 Laura Loop Rd. and 307 Tara Hill Rd. Pushed back in the agenda.

Consent Agenda

- 6:39 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
 - Old business consisting of the minutes of the July 20, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners and the Special Meeting minutes of July 14, 2026.
 - Financial transactions through August 3, 2026 as presented, including ratification of expenditures in the amount of \$424,669.58 for the following accounts: General Fund, Sewer Operations, Gross Payroll, Capital Reserve, Construction Fund. Discussion: Spelling Correction to be made. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- 6:40 – Pat Briegel explained how the township was approached to place a cell tower at the park. Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to discuss the Cell Tower Lease within Mountain View Park proposal. Discussion took place among the board and public. Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap to not move forward with consideration of the cell tower in Mountain View park. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 6:54 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to approve a new position of IT Manager/Digital Services Administrator. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 6:55 Discussion took place between the solicitor and the board regarding Solicitor to draft the 2026 Employment Contracts for DPW Director, Patrick Briegel and Chief of Police, James Wagner, Retroactive to January 5, 2026.
- 6:57 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to advertise for IT Manager or Hire current subcontractor as a township employee. Discussion: Charles Keppler made another motion to strike the Hire current subcontractor from Ellens motion. After a discussion among the board, Dan McCreary seconded Charles Keplers' motion. Further discussion took place. 7:07 Roll call vote on Charles Keppler's motion with Dan McCreary Second to advertise for IT Manager. Natasha Leap, nay; Matt Long, nay; Ellen Gndt, nay; Charles Keppler, aye; Dan McCreary, aye. Motion failed. Ellen Gndt rescinded her motion, seconded by Natasha Leap. 7:06 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to advertise for the IT Manager. Roll call: Natasha Leap, nay; Matt Long, nay; Ellen Gndt, aye; Dan McCreary, aye; Charles Keppler, aye. Motion carried.
- 7:10 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Natasha Leap, to schedule a workshop to review and update the policies and procedures that govern commissioners, managers, and all non-union personnel. i.e.; Commissioner Bylaws, Manager's Ordinance, Personnel Policy and any other recommendations from management or the board to be held September 24th at 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 7:12 Natasha Leap made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to approve the "COPS" grant application, letter of support and Resolution 2026-26. Discussion took place among the board. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 7:18 Ryan Engler – Robert L. Collura, Civil Engineer & Surveyors – presented his request for relief : 71 Laural Loop Rd. and 307 Tara Hill Rd. Discussion took place among the board and Township Engineer. 7:30 Dan McCreary made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gndt to deny relief for 71 Laural Loop Rd. and 307 Tara Hill Rd. Discussion took place among the public and board. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 7:33 Matt Long made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to authorize the Township Solicitor to draft Government Transparency Ordinance or Resolution. Discussion took place among the board. Public comment started at 7:45. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 7:49 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to declare 3408 Route 715 a dangerous structure and order the structure to be vacated and repaired and if not repairable, to be demolished ASAP. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 7:58 Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Charles Keppler, to declare 268 Laurel Lake Road accessory structure a dangerous structure and order the structure to be vacated, repaired, and/or demolished. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Ellen Gndt – President – 8:00 - EAC items covered prior

Matt Long – Vice-Chairman

Natasha Leap – Commissioner

Dan McCreary – Commissioner

Charles Keppler – Commissioner

- 8:00 – CJERP - Discussion took place among the board regarding sewer access, regional zoning and regional police.

Reports

Public Works – Patrick Briegel – 8:06

- 611/715 project waiting on utility companies to complete their work for earth work to continue. Pocono
- Pocono Heritage Land Trust and DPW are working together on the walking trail.
- Storm damage cleanup is ongoing. Traffic light question addressed, lights in Glendon Hall.

Zoning Report – SFM Paul Morgan - 8:14 – Reviewed zoning stats and reminded everyone of the Zoning Hearings on the 25th of August starting at 5pm.

Township Engineer Report- Jon Tresslar – 8:16 – Stadden Road grant application has been submitted. TLC park bridge wingwalls are done. Analysis on Cherry Land Church Rd. should be ready soon. Railroad Drive needs to have heavy truck traffic restrictions placed on it.

Township Solicitor Report-Leo V. DeVito. – 8:22

- Cherpko/Settlement – update by Leo DeVito. Natasha Leap made a motion, seconded by Ellen Gndt to accept the settlement agreement with Cherpko. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment –Ellen Gndt made a motion, seconded by Matt Long, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.