

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 02, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Pocono Township Board of Commissioners was held on June 02, 2025 and was opened by Chair Richard Wielebinski at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Ellen Gndt, present; Natasha Leap, ABSENT; Mike Velardi, present; Brian Winot, ABSENT. Rich Wielebinski, present.

In Attendance: Leo DeVito-Township Solicitor; Jon Tresslar- Engineer; Patrick Briegel-Public Works Director; Jerrod Belvin-Township Manager; Shawn McGlynn-SFM Consulting; Erica Tomas-Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Gambino, Public Works Asst. Mgr.

Public Comment

Mark Love (Resident) – Offered free mediation services to keep the Eastern Monroe Library Branch open highlighting safety concerns and negotiating a 60-day extension of the closing date while working to secure a new location within the township.

Cheryl Parks (Resident) – Informed the board that one of the Kennel residents received a citation for dumping dog food near trees by a fox den. She expressed concern about children running onto her property from the neighboring property. She urged the board to pass the nuisance ordinance being considered.

Tom VanZant (Resident) – Asked for clarification on the Library issues, and possible places for library to stay or relocate.

Robin Kunz (Resident) – Asked for a timeline on the Glenwood Hall renovations for the Library, emphasized importance of having library.

Monica Garrity (Resident) – Asked regarding a public comment workshop date to be set.

Mary Chekovich (Resident) – Asked about the Pigeon Way bridge plans in the future.

Dan Leddy (Resident) – Questioned the potential of Glenwood Hall, feels it should be torn down.

Donna McMann (Resident) – Asked for a second consideration to add the library to the NCC facility.

Announcements

- An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and litigation.
- A Moment of Silence was held in honor of Marie Guidry, a long-time member of the Pocono Township Planning Commission with a long family history in Tannersville.

Presentations

Isabella Pavuk – Girl Scout Gold Award project presentation of a park Welcome board at the entrance to the TLC park. She outlined her plan.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to allow Isabella Pavuk to work with the township manager for the message board at TLC park for her Girl Scout project. All in favor. Motion carried.

Presentation from Quantifi Media, for new Township Website – Courtney Corosimo, Founder & CEO; The website would cost \$17,500 for development and \$600 annually for hosting & maintenance. Key features include, live streaming, calendar integrations, document management, mobile responsiveness, and search functionality.

Q&A and discussion from the board. The board will revisit this at the next meeting.

Hearings

- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to open the hearing on an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of Pocono Township Chapter 470, Zoning, to amend §470-67(F) to include both private and public nuisance provisions related to kennels; to amend §470-8 to amend the definition of essential services and to add definitions for solar array, solar farm and wind turbine; to amend §470-20 C Commercial District to add solar array atop existing commercial buildings as a conditional use in said district; and to amend §470-21 I Industrial District to add solar array atop existing industrial buildings, solar farm and wind turbine as conditional uses in said district; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent therewith. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Board Comments & Public Comments. L. DeVito stated that the hearing was publicly advertised on May 18th and 25th, 2025. L. DeVito and S. McGlynn explained in detail the reasoning behind this Ordinance with regard to E. Gndt's questions and request for an executive session prior to voting on the Ordinance. This hearing is being recorded via court stenographer.
- Dean Wehr (Resident) thanked the board for trying to get ahead of this matter.
- Mark Love (Resident) asked the board to discuss the applicability if any.
- Jim Pellegrini (Resident) asked for clarification on the ordinance being considered (Swiftwater Solar vs New Solar submission)
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to close the hearing. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve Ordinance 2025-19 Amending the Code of Ordinances of Pocono Township Chapter 470, Zoning, to amend §470-67(F) to include both private and public nuisance provisions related to kennels; to amend §470-8 to amend the definition of essential services and to add definitions for solar array, solar farm and wind turbine; to amend §470-20 C Commercial District to add solar array atop existing commercial buildings as a conditional use in said district; and to amend §470-21 I Industrial District to add solar array atop existing industrial buildings, solar farm and wind turbine as conditional uses in said district; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent therewith. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolutions

- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve Resolution 2025-20 Granting Conditional Approval of the 2054 Route 611 Minor Subdivision (LDP 1444). All in favor Motion carried.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve Resolution 2025-21 Granting Conditional Approval for the Trap Enterprises Event Center (LDP 1438). All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve a consent agenda of the following items:
- Old business consisting of the minutes of the May 19, 2025 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners and updated minutes of May 13, 2025.
Financial transactions through June 2, 2025 as presented, including ratification of expenditures in the amount of \$503,569.56 for the following accounts: General Fund, Sewer Operations, Gross Payroll, Capital Reserve, Construction Fund, Transfers. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Richard Wielebinski – President

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve the new 2025 Peterbilt Dump Truck to be painted green to not cost more than \$10,000. E. Gndt voiced her opinion regarding the way the vote is taking place. R. Wielebinski, aye; M. Velardi, aye; E. Gndt, nay. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to replace the sink and faucet in the bathroom, re-carpet tile and replace threshold in library contingent on them staying for the life of the existing building. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to approve the following PTPD Policies: Community Relations, Bias-Based Policing, Ride-Along, Generative Artificial Intel, Roll Call, Hazardous Material Response, Mobile Fingerprint Identification, Crime & Disaster Scene Integrity, Hostage and Barricade Incidents, Patrol, Special Weapons and Tactics Team, Major Incident Notification, Death Investigation, Private Persons Arrest, Limited English Proficiency, Chaplains, Public Safety Video Surveillance, Child & Dependent Adult Safety, Service Animals, Volunteers, Native American Graves Protection and Reparation, Off Duty Law Enforcement Actions. E. Gndt has asked J. Wagner if he approves, All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to purchase "Administration" sign from Bartush Signs (Costars Vendor) for the Administrative Wing of the New Township Complex in the amount of \$7,559.90. All in favor. Motion carried.

Natasha Leap – Vice President

Ellen Gndt – Commissioner

- Update – Solar Field – Still under cease and desist. The only thing they are permitted to do is reinstall the necessary ENS controls. Inspections are ongoing.
- Update – Kennel – Zoning can now utilize the Ordinance should something be reported.
- Discussion regarding the Knox Box utilization. E. Gndt questioned the mandator necessity of the Knox Box for those who do not have an alarm system. She mentioned penalties for false alarms that is not being utilized, financial burden, security reasons, opt out options. She feels the commissioners missed some items on this ordinance.
- E. Gndt made a motion to extend the due date until 4/15/2026 to hold a work session and work out the specifics with a full board and see if a majority would like to revise the Knox Box Ordinance. No Second, Motion failed.

Brian Winot – Commissioner

Mike Velardi – Commissioner

M. Velardi commended the Township Manager, Jerrod Belvin; Public Works Director, Pat Briegel; and Public works staff for the invaluable work they did to create the new township facilities, keeping all GC & PM in house. Their efforts saved the township almost \$2 million dollars. Noting that Township Manager installed CCTV, Access Control, Phone, Wi-Fi/Network on his own time.

M. Velardi clarified some false accusations made on public media regarding the library. He also listed the ways the township has tried to convince them to stay.

M. Velardi explained that the zoom meetings were discontinued for a short time due to technical problems with an antiquated system in the old facility. We are back online with the newly updated system as of this evening's meeting.

M. Velardi relayed his long experience with the township and his carrier to show how he worked his way up to earn his elected seat on the Board after being accused of being too old at 66.

M. Velardi pointed out property maintenance issues that need to be addressed along route 715 that are becoming a safety issue. L. DeVito suggested the contractor be made to clean up and maintain the area during construction.

M. Velardi announced that Golden Slipper Road will be closed as of June 16th in both directions for a minimum of two months to facilitate moving pipes, drainage, and sewer lines.

Reports

Zoning Report-SFM Consulting

Police – James Wagner, Chief

Manager Report – Jerrod Belvin

- Update Green Light Go - Lower Swiftwater Road is now adaptive and communicating with the system.
- Grants Update – We were awarded the LSA \$200,000 Laurel Lake road drainage project last week. The timeline is to be determined. Hoping to do most of the work in house.
- Police Building Update – Cost study is in. On track for a December 2026 move.
- We officially moved in on Friday and are working out bugs. Everything was built in house by our DPW Staff.
- PennDOT projects – closure of 715 detour has been pushed back until September. PennDOT will be paving 715 from Mountain Road up to Sullivan Trail. Jackson Twsp work will take place during the day and Pocono Twsp work will take place at night. They are still working on the drainage on the route 611 near Pocono Farm Stand and are communicating with us regarding our sewer lateral in that area. E. Gnanadt commented regarding the construction debris on along Routes 715 and 611. J. Belvin commented on the Golden Slipper Road pending closure short notice by PennDOT.

Public Works – Patrick Briegel

- Pat expressed his admiration for the DPW crew and appreciation for the work they continue to do for the township.
- Sewer Business Update – the HMI system was moved without incident. Sewer and water service for the new building should be wrapped up shortly.
- The park guys are doing a great job. The splash pad opened over the weekend without issue. They will be working on the infields within the next couple of days.

Township Events Report-Jennifer Gambino

- Touch a truck event will take place Saturday, June 8th rain or shine.
- June 12th will be the first concert in the park for the season.
- We have new banners along Route 611 due to the harsh winter conditions of last year.
- R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by M. Velardi, to waive Pavilion Fee's for Pocono Mountain East Odyssey of the Mind. All in favor. Motion carried.

Township Engineer Report- Jon Tresslar

- Sewer Business Update covered earlier.
- Learn Road safety enhancement project and roundabout survey work. – no new updates
- TASA Project – on going.
- TLC walking bridge – looking at alternatives.
- Lower Scotrun Ave, Cranberry Bog and Stadden Road bridges were all listed on the bridge report received in and are being inspected further.
- Sylvan Cascade Report – The township has been sharing costs with Paradise Township for years and it appeared that the road would crisscross the township municipal line, based on liquid fuels mapping at the time. P. Briegel found some monumentation for the township line that appeared to suggest that Pocono did not have as much roadway as previously thought. The map line in the liquid fuels map looks to be incorrect and the Monroe County GIS map correct.

Township Solicitor Report-Leo V. DeVito

- Sewer Business Update - Looking to have a joint meeting with P. Briegel and M. Gable for a more comprehensive report on the Kalahari situation.
- General legal update – Zoning hearing last week upheld the ruling regarding the trailers at Brooklyn Firework. L. DeVito thanked S. McGlynn and his zoning team for their input defending the case.
- Archer Lane – No update
- Learn Road Easement Process – ongoing conversations with property owners to move forward with the round-about.
- TASA Sidewalk Update – Easements – ongoing conversations with PennDOT to move forward.

- L. DeVito complemented the entire team on the new township facility. R. Wielebinski thanked Mr. DeVito on his support over the last 10 years.

- **Public Comment**

Charles Keppler (Resident) - invited everyone to visit his Facebook page. He commented on the approval of the Trap Enterprises Event Center Stormwater waiver being approved without discussion.

Mitch Bartholomew (Resident) – commented on the Paint for the truck that was discussed earlier and thanked the board for their approval.

Karen Doleiden (Resident) – asked P. Briegel for a sign (SLOW CORNER) paint prior to the curve on Stadden before the hidden driveways prior to the closure on Golden Slipper. She thanked the board for passing this evening's Ordinance. P. Briegel had asked Jon Tresslar to look into PennDOT regulations of the painting of the curve.

Kyle Hazelton (Resident) – asked the status of an Ordinance for chickens. J. Belvin explained the workshops that the Planning Commission has been having and the joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners on June 23rd at 5 p.m. The public is welcome to attend and see the pending changes within the rewrite.

- **Adjournment – R. Wielebinski 2nd M. Velardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting 8:07 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.**