

TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 18, 2024

The March 2024 Regular Business Meeting of the Tobyhanna Township Board of Supervisors was held on March 18, 2024, at the Tobyhanna Township Government Center Building located at 105 Government Center Way, Pocono Pines, PA 18350.

Present are Supervisors John Kerrick, Rachel Schickling, Joseph Colyer, Edward Tutrone and Ted Wolski. Also present are Manager Robert Bartal, and Assistant Manager Crystal Butler. Solicitor, Harry Coleman, Esquire appeared virtually.

1. John Kerrick calls the meeting to order at 6:00PM; a quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. Announcements: .
4. Solicitors Report: Harry Coleman states that there is no report tonight. Mr. Coleman states that he will be sending a detailed report early next week.
5. Manager's Report:
 - a. Penn Strategies Report: Robert Bartal states that we have not heard anything about the RACP Grant, and we are hoping for the full amount of \$622,989.00. Mr. Bartal states that a good portion will be used for various upgrades at the Township Building, Emergency Services Building and Blakeslee Fire House.
 - b. Zoning and Septic Reports: Robert Bartal reviews the February 2023 and February 2024 zoning and septic reports.
 - c. PMWLL Request for Use of Blanche Price Park Baseball Fields: Robert Bartal states that we received a request from Pocono Mountain West Little League to use the fields here and Keiper Park. Mr. Bartal states that we have received their insurance information, Mr. Coleman reviewed it, and everything is in order. Mr. Bartal states John Braun is the new president and opening day is April 27, 2024. Rachel Schickling makes a motion to approve Pocono Mountain West Little League, Ted Wolski seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
6. Committee Reports:
 - a. PMRPC: No one here.
 - b. PMREMS: No one here.
 - c. TTBF: John Kerrick states that they want to set up a committee of Bob Bartal, Rachel Schickling, and Pete Huf to obtain all the information that has been requested from both fire companies and report back next month.
 - d. PSVFC: No one here.
 - e. NID: Crystal Butler states that they had their reorganizational meeting and have gone through the annual assessment report with Municap. Ms. Butler states that they are

considering a special meeting before the last meeting of the year to discuss time frames regarding the findings in this report.

- f. PM COG: Crystal Butler states she attended the meeting last month and there is another meeting scheduled next week. Ms. Butler states that there was a discussion regarding the proposed repairs to I-80 by Delaware Water Gap.
- g. MCATO: Crystal Butler states that they have not had a meeting.
- h. Library: John Ryan introduces himself as the new trustee for Clymer Library and gives an update.
- i. DPW/Vehicle Report: James Rafferty states that they have started their spring clean-up. Mr. Rafferty states they are getting the water started next week. The ESB garage area is heated and running. Mr. Rafferty states there were no vehicle problems this month.

7. Discussion Items:

- a. Discuss Appointment of Assistant Treasurer: Robert Bartal states that they would like to appoint Crystal Butler as the Assistant Treasurer. Joseph Colyer makes a motion to appoint Crystal Butler as the Assistant Treasurer, Edward Tutrone seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

8. Action Items:

- a. Consider Resolution No. 2024-006 – Placing a CAP on Short-Term Rentals:

Micheal Camino, 1553 Clover Road, asks what the facts are being used to justify a CAP.

Cindy Knecht asks what they are going to do if someone applies for a permit and sits on the permit just for resale value. Ms. Knecht also asks what they are going to do about an LLC selling the business and their short-term rental permit.

Mark Shay, co-founder of Poconos Vacation Rental Owners, states that they oppose a CAP and request the Supervisors to vote no to any CAP. Mr. Shay submitted petitions from short-term rental owners.

Tom Cochrane states that he is against limiting short-term rentals.

Marty Nichol, co-founder of Poconos Vacation Rental Owners and a property manager, states that he doesn't believe a CAP would benefit Tobyhanna Township. Mr. Nichol states that they should allow the permit to go with the property when this house is sold.

Vicki Mebus states that she is against short-term rentals and feels a CAP is a good idea.

Wendy Ney-Manley, 222 Spilt Rock, asks how many short-term rental permits have been issued to date and how many are about to be issues. Ms. Ney-Manley asks why 10% and if they could reconsider this CAP.

Jeff Iqbal states that instead of a 10% CAP make it more stringent and regulate having better guests.

Ted Wolski states that he doesn't know where the 10% CAP came from and would this be exclusionary. Harry Coleman states that it would not be. Mr. Wolski asks if the CAP would reignite another lawsuit.

Edward Tutrone also asks where the 10% came from as he was not a board member at the time of the Ordinance. Mr. Tutrone states that the CAP isn't going to solve it and feels we need to have a more stringent enforcement process.

Tammy Livesey, resident of Tobyhanna Township, asks if the short-term rental owners are constituents of the Township.

Joseph Colyer makes a motion to put a 12% CAP that gives us a balancing number that allows 200 with the 95 that are there, it gives them that cushion back, Rachel Schickling seconds.

Ted Wolski states there has been no economic study, and he does not know why that number and is that the right number.

Sonja Molinari, local realtor, stated that the 10% CAP should not be an arbitrary number.

Ted Wolski asks Harry Coleman if there is any conflict with his vote. Mr. Coleman advises that there is no conflict of interest in voting on this issue.

Vote: Edward Tutrone – no; Ted Wolski – no; Joseph Colyer – yes; Rachel Schickling – yes; John Kerrick - yes; motion carries.

- b. Consider Police Commission Appointment: Rachel Schickling makes a motion to appoint Joseph Colyer and Robert Bartal, John Kerrick seconds. Ted Wolski states that he would prefer to give sitting supervisors first rights. Edward Tutrone states he sent an email to the Board back in January. Mr. Tutrone also states that he was not appointed to anything during the reorg meeting. He also states that Mr. Colyer's letter came 3-4 days ago, and that Mr. Colyer has a towing contract. Joseph Colyer states that he was waiting for an ethical response and has been advised that there is no conflict. Mr. Tutrone asks why when he requested it first was, he was not considered for it. Mr. Tutrone asks if there is something personal. Vote: Edward Tutrone – no; Ted Wolski – no; Joseph Colyer – yes; Rachel Schickling – yes; John Kerrick - yes; motion carries.
- c. Consider Authorization of 2024 Paving Bid: Robert Bartal states that we need Board approval to authorize the 2024 paving bid. Edward Tutrone makes a motion to advertise, Joseph Colyer seconds. Heidi Pickard asks for the roads to be paved. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- d. Consider Authorization to Release the Small Water and Sewer Grant: Crystal Butler discusses the Grant. Ms. Butler states that the Grant is getting ready to expire and cannot be extended. Joseph Colyer makes a motion to return the Small Water and Sewer Grant, Rachel Schickling seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- e. Consider Resolution No. 2024-007 Re: Recognition of Arrowhead Lake Community Association as a Civic and Service Organization for Purposes of a Small Games of Chance License: Edward Tutrone makes the motion, Ted Wolski seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- f. Consider Approval of 2024 Revitalization Phase of TTPRP – Blanche Price Park and Keiper Park Playground Equipment Plan: Crystal Butler gives presentation. Edward Tutrone makes a motion to approve the 2024 Revitalization Phase of TTPRP, Rachel Schickling seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
 - g. Consider Waiver of \$2,300.00 for Tobyhanna Township Right-of-Way – I-380 Project: Rachel Schickling makes a motion to approve, Edward Tutrone seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
 - h. Consider Authorization to Advertise for Emergency Gas Tank Repair: Rachel Schickling makes a motion to advertise, Joseph Colyer seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
9. Consider March 18, 2024, Bill Pack: \$955,256.45: Rachel Schickling makes a motion to approve the bill pack in the amount of \$955,256.45, Joseph Colyer seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
10. Board of Supervisors Report/Comment:
- Rachel Schickling asks Heidi Pickard if people email her, will she respond to their email. Ms. Pickard stated that she will respond to an email.
11. Public Comment:
- Kelly Hixon wants to remind the Board that the Blakeslee intersection should still be considered for improvement.
- Bob Christenson, Locust Lake Village, thanks the Board, Harry Coleman and staff for all their help with the holding tanks.
12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:09PM.

Minutes recorded by Bethanne Eisler


Bethanne Eisler, Township Secretary