

TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 14, 2025

The January 2025 Work Session of the Tobyhanna Township Board of Supervisors was held on January 14, 2025, 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 and Edward Tutrone. Also present are Solicitor, Harry Coleman, Esquire, Manager Robert Bartal, and Assistant Manager Crystal Butler. Supervisor Ted Wolski is not present.

1. John Kerrick calls the meeting to order at 9:00 AM; a quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. Announcements: John Kerrick announces that an executive session was held on January 6, 2025, from 3:55PM to 4:10PM for real estate matters.
4. Action Items:
 - a. Consider Appointment of a Supervisor to the Economic Development Authority: Rachel Schickling makes a motion to appoint John Kerrick, Joseph Colyer seconds. Vote: Joe Colyer, Rachel Schickling, Edward Tutrone – yes; John Kerrick abstains; motion carries.
 - b. Consider Authorization to Advertise for Economic Development Authority Reorganization Meeting: Joseph Colyer makes the motion, Rachel Schickling seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
 - c. Consider Approval of Payment in the amount of \$18,500 (estimate) to Pennoni Engineering for minor modification to NPDES Permit for Basin 1: Rachel Schickling makes the motion, Joseph Colyer seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
5. Discussion Items:
 - a. Discuss Fire Ordinance: John Kerrick states that the yellow edits were approved and Edward Tutrone wanted to comment on the proposed blue edits. Edward Tutrone states that he would like to comment on the yellow edits.

Edward Tutrone states that he has concerns with Section 9-10: Election of Officers. A discussion was held. It was agreed that under (b) remove sentence reading “All line officers are required to hold, at a minimum, a Certificate of Firefighter II (NFPA 1001).”

Mr. Tutrone states that under Section 9-9: Annual Financial Reporting; Fire Company Reporting, Appropriations & Disbursements (c) fire relief funds, that should be on a call volume basis. Patrick Best, solicitor for Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Company, states that they would like to continue with 50/50 for now for their budgeting purposes as they need to know what they are receiving. A discussion was held.

Mr. Tutrone discusses his concerns regarding the blue edits. Mr. Tutrone states that under Section 9-2: Definitions, he feels that the definition of Fire Board should be removed and will discuss further. Mr. Tutrone states under Section 9-7(b) it should read

“None of the fire apparatus or capital equipment owned by Tobyhanna Township.” A discussion was held.

Mr. Tutrone discusses concerns with Section 9-10(a), “The Fire Chief must maintain the qualifications and fire education and training of all members. Mr. Tutrone states that these should be with the Township. A discussion was held.

Mr. Tutrone states that he is good with Section 9-11 up to (c). Mr. Tutrone discusses his concerns with the Fire Board being appointed by the Township. John Kerrick states that it would not be, the Fire Board would be 2 from the Township; 2 from the fire company and those 4 would pick 1. Mr. Kerrick states that was done to keep the Supervisors out of it. A discussion was held.

Mr. Kerrick states we are going to adjourn and have another work session. Mr. Tutrone states that the work session needs to be scheduled for 6:00PM so the public can attend.

- b. Discuss Fire Coverage Map: {Item Taken Out of Order}. Edward Tutrone states he has several questions. Mr. Tutrone asks why Station 33 is being dispatched to every call in the Township, even Blakeslee when Station 42 Mutual Aid is closer. A discussion was held. Pete Huf states that at the last Supervisor’s meeting there was an action item that was voted on 3-2 and approved for the run schedule changes and then upheld by the Township with the 911 Center. Mr. Huf states that he has been involved with the government for 35 years and this is not how it works. Mr. Huf states that in all the years he ran fire departments they never debated with the civilian side of the actual operation. A discussion was held.

Edward Tutrone states that the Board received an email from a resident, Kelly Hixon, who could not be here today. Mr. Tutrone reads the email.

Jim Smyth, Blakeslee, asks for an explanation of the map. A discussion was held.

Shannon Bennet, Blakeslee Corners, asks why the Blakeslee Sub-Station is not being utilized.

John Kerrick states that at this point it is up to the 2 gentlemen who spoke here, and the Board has already voted on it. Mr. Kerrick states that it is up telling the County to put it in place. Mr. Kerrick states it is a road map and there is no guarantee about any of it and they are still working through it.

Rich Dagget, Pocono Pines, states that when he first moved here his insurance company wanted a letter from the Fire Chief as to response time, equipment and manpower in order to get a insurance rate and it was going to be a favorable class. Mr. Dagget states that now we are in an unprotected class. Joseph Colyer states that it didn’t change. A discussion was held.

- 6. Board of Supervisors Report/Comment: None.

7. Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:52 AM.

Minutes recorded by Bethanne Eisler


Bethanne Eisler, Township Secretary