

TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2025

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The April 2025 Special Meeting of the Tobyhanna Township Board of Supervisors was held on April 10, 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 Manager Robert Bartal, Assistant Manager Crystal Butler and Solicitor Owen Coleman, Esquire. Supervisor Ted Wolski and Solicitor, Harry Coleman, Esquire attended virtually.

1. John Kerrick calls the meeting to order at 5:45PM; a quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. Announcements: John Kerrick announced there was an executive session held on March 17, 2025, from 8:30PM to 8:45PM for personnel matters and Rachel Schickling was not present. John Kerrick announced there was an executive session held on April 3, 2025, from 5:45PM to 6:30PM to discuss current litigation. Mr. Kerrick announced that he was not present, Ted Wolski was virtual, and Joseph Colyer, Rachel Schickling, Edward Tutrone, Robert Bartal, Crystal Butler and Harry Coleman were present in person.
4. Action Items:
  - a. Consider Resolution No. 2025-012 – Designating Tobyhanna Township Volunteer Fire Department – Station 41 as a Recognized Fire Company in Tobyhanna Township: John Kerrick asks if there is a motion. Joseph Colyer makes the motion, Ted Wolski seconds.

Edward Tutrone states that the reason for the special meeting is due to the lack of coverage, especially on the Western side of Tobyhanna Township from Route 423 through to Blakeslee. Mr. Tutrone states that there have been missed calls and there was a recent accident with major entrapment that had a delayed response time. Mr. Tutrone states that the Board has a discussion to do fact-finding and back in November with representatives from the Township and Tobyhanna Township Volunteer Fire Company to see about getting boots on the ground to help. He states that a proposal was submitted to the Township on December 9, 2024, and after the last accident, discussions came in hot and heavy to see if Tobyhanna Township Volunteer Fire Company would still honor that proposal and that is why we are here tonight. A discussion was held.

Tyler Rispoli – Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Company states that he has no comments.

Tia Fitz – Tobyhanna Township Bureau of Fire states that their membership has questions. Ms. Fitz states that they were not informed of the logistics other than the sharing of space. She asks how this is proposed to work. Rachel Schickling states that there have not been any logistics discussed that she is aware of and states that this should be a discussion meeting only and tabled until these questions are answered between the three fire companies. Edward Tutrone states that this was discussed at the fact-finding

meeting and the way he understood it, Station 41 & Station 44 will be on dual dispatch as primary and both companies will utilize the trucks, equipment and building and will respond to all calls. Mr. Tutrone states that Gary Hoffman from the 911 Control Center has concerns as to who will be in charge and the way Mr. Tutrone sees it, both companies are dispatched and have a unified command of officer's working together. There will be no fighting, they will be there for the public. Mr. Tutrone states that right now there is a deficiency that needs to be addressed, and this is the way to go about it. A discussion was held.

Tia Fritz states that one of their big concerns is that this plan is being put in place to force Station 44 out of service and asks if there are any guarantees from the Board of Supervisors to protect their status. Joseph Colyer states that volunteerism is down, and we have a problem when people do not show up. He states that no one is blaming 44 or trying to push out 44. He states that this has nothing to do with forcing anyone out. A discussion was held.

Rachel Schickling states that the hashing out of the logistics needs to happen between the three fire companies and she would like to hear from 33 and 44 on how this is going to work before they jump the gun. John Kerrick states the Board is not opposed to more help but is interested in logistics and would like to hear from the fire companies on how this is going to work. A discussion was held.

Robert Bartal states that he spoke with Mr. Coleman regarding the issues he foresees with the lease for the building; the lease for the trucks and equipment; workmen's compensation and vehicle insurance. Mr. Bartal states the vehicle is easy, Travelers just needed a list of the drivers, date of birth and their operators license number. He states that Mr. Coleman and himself discussed whether they would have to renegotiate the leases, and he felt that they would, and they will have that discussion when Mr. Coleman is done with his trial. Mr. Bartal states that when Pocono Summit got the workmen's compensation policy for cover Pocono Summit and Bureau of Fire, they were advised that the rate was based on population, and he sees no reasons why they could not bring in a third company under that umbrella. A discussion was held.

Gary Hoffman, Director of Communications of Monroe County 911 Center, states that they need to know who is in charge as they cannot have a controversy on the radio in the middle of a fire or emergency and states that someone has to be the chief and right now there are potentially 2 or 3 chiefs. Mr. Hoffman asks what the configuration looks like if the Resolution is passed and put in place. A discussion was held.

Troy Counterman, Tobyhanna Township Volunteer Fire Company states that he wants to put everything to bed, and they have maintained from day one that they are here for the community. He states that they are going to move forward with the Township to make it better.

Dave Keiper states that he was born and raised here, and this has been going long enough. He states that there are plenty of people who are willing and want to serve the Township and it is about time this ended.

Richard Daggett, Pocono Pines, states that it is disturbing to see the situation that has happened. He states that the time to act is now so that the residents of the Township know that they are safe.

Nicole Grous states that she supports the Resolution.

Joseph Colyer states that this is not anything against 44, he is proud of 44 for what they have done in the situation they were put in, but we don't have many options for volunteers to show up.

Kathleen Batt states that it would be awesome if every fire department announced when you could volunteer.

Diane Lake asks how they announce when you are requesting volunteers and when the meetings are. A discussion was held.

David Wick asks what the rationality was of putting a functioning fire company out of business. Joseph Colyer states that we were not here to discuss that, we are here to move forward.

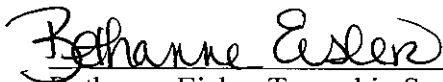
Julie Honey asks if there is Federal money involved in this and that is in the hands of the Township. Edward Tutrone states there is no Federal money, and the fire departments can apply for Federal grants.

Vote: John Kerrick, Joseph Colyer, Rachel Schickling, Ted Wolski – yes. Edward Tutrone abstains only because he is a member of 41. Motion carries.

5. Discussion Items: None.
6. Board of Supervisors Report/Comment: None.
7. Public Comment: None.
8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:42PM

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Minutes recorded by Bethanne Eisler



Bethanne Eisler, Township Secretary