



PRESS RELEASE

April 6, 2005

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Pinelands Municipal Council Elects Officers ***Woodbine Mayor Pikolycky to continue leading mayors' group***

BUENA VISTA, NJ – Woodbine Borough Mayor William Pikolycky was elected to a third term as Chairman of the Pinelands Municipal Council at its meeting held in Buena Vista Township on April 5th. Pikolycky's has held the Chairman's post since 2003.

Also elected to serve on the Council's Executive Committee were:

- Buena Vista Township Mayor Chuck Chiarello, who will serve a third term as vice chairman;
- Winslow Township Zoning Officer and Director of Public Works Edward McGlinchey, who will serve his 2nd term as Secretary;
- Bass River Township Mayor T. Richard Bethea, who will serve his 9th term as Treasurer; and
- former Mullica Township Mayor Robert Hagaman, who will serve his 6^h term as member at large.

Mr. Hagaman has been serving as a member of the Pinelands Commission since December 2002 and Mayor Chiarello served six years as Municipal Council Chairman between 1996 and 2002.

The new Executive Committee was sworn in by Assemblyman Dr. Jeff Van Drew (1st legislative District - Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland). Assemblyman Van Drew represents 22 municipalities, including seven in the State-designated Pinelands Area

The Council meeting was attended by some 75 people, including mayors and representatives of 24 Pinelands municipalities. This is one of the largest turnouts ever for a Municipal Council meeting. At the request of the Council, the Pinelands Commission gave a presentation on the model joint stormwater management ordinance that is being developed for towns that are obligated to meet both NJDEP and Pinelands stormwater requirements.

“Under Mayor Pikolycky’s steadfast leadership, local government has a strong voice in the implementation of the Pinelands protection program,” said Pinelands Commission Executive Director John C. Stokes. “The Municipal Council has partnered with the Pinelands Commission on a number of projects that will improve both the protection of the Pinelands environment as well as the capabilities of Pinelands municipalities to efficiently plan for and manage growth.”

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The Pinelands Municipal Council has provided key guidance for several major initiatives, including:

- The Alternate Design Wastewater Treatment System Pilot Program, which will improve the protection of groundwater resources from residential septic system pollution;
- The Pinelands Excellence Program which is providing expert consultation to Pinelands Regional Growth Area communities to help them better plan for sustainable growth;
- The Pinelands Model Stormwater Ordinance Project, which will help Pinelands municipalities meet both NJDEP and Pinelands Stormwater management standards; and
- The Pinelands Rural Economic Development Program, which has helped identify Pinelands-compatible economic development opportunities for rural towns.

“I am honored to represent the 53 Pinelands municipalities,” said Pikolycky. “I will continue to help local leaders enhance the quality of life in their communities in ways that are consistent with both local and Pinelands objectives. The Municipal Council has accomplished much, and I look forward to tackling new challenges.”

The Pinelands Municipal Council, created under the Pinelands Protection Act of 1979, is comprised of Mayors or their designees of the 53 municipalities in the Pinelands Area. The Council is empowered to review any changes to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, and advises the Pinelands Commission on any matters the Council deems advisable.

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(Left to right) Edward McGlinchey, Robert Hagaman, Richard Bethea, Chuck Chiarello, and William Pikolycky are sworn in by Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew.