

Mayor
Robert Mullen

Solicitor
Atty. Matthew G. Boyd
Ufberg & Associates

Chief of Police
David Homschek

Secretary
Sandra Van Luvender

Treasurer
Jennifer Davitt

Engineer
PennEastern Engineers, LLC
Paul Pasonick

Borough of Avoca

950 Main St.
Avoca, Pa 18641
Secretary@AvocaBorough.com

Telephone
Secretary: 570-457-4947
Fax: 570-451-1750

Police Department: 570-457-4011

Street Department: 570-451-0625

Council
President
Holly Homschek

Vice President
Dennis O'Brien

Michael Fuller

Kyler Kovaleski

Jim Emlaw

Jonathan Gedrich

Bob Dommermuth

Gary Halagarda

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FOR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

October 25, 2024

Dear Community Members,

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, the Luzerne County Zoning Board convened a special hearing for Big Rocks LLC, owned by John Terrana of Wyoming, PA. The company sought a Special Exception to operate a construction and demolition solid waste transfer station, to construct an 11,975 sq. ft. facility, and to subdivide property to create a 5-acre parcel within the limits of Avoca Borough.

During this hearing, Big Rocks LLC presented its case, supported by testimonies from Stell Enterprises, engineers, and other experts. In opposition, Avoca Borough articulated its concerns, allowing community members to voice their apprehensions as well. In a decisive unanimous vote, the Luzerne County Zoning Board denied the application for Special Exception. This ruling effectively means that the proposed waste transfer station cannot be established on the site owned by Stell Enterprises.

This decision represents a significant victory for Avoca Borough, its residents, and neighboring communities, preserving their quality of life by averting the introduction of industrial traffic and associated environmental concerns. The Avoca Council members wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the following for their invaluable support and dedication over the past two months:

- Avoca's residents and the thousands of friends and family members across distant places for their unwavering support.
- The municipalities of Dupont, Duryea, and Hughestown, along with their leaders, for their public backing.
- The Pittston Township Board of Supervisors for their vocal support.
- The Board of Directors of the Pittston Area School District for their proclamation.
- The guidance and pro-bono assistance from The Mattioli Law Firm in Scranton.
- Individuals involved in organizing the Avoca town hall meeting in September and those who helped prepare for the zoning hearing this week.
- The Luzerne County Zoning Board for their patience and understanding throughout the process.
- Community members who spoke at both the town hall and zoning meetings, and those who actively shared our message through social media and petitions.
- Local media outlets, in print and online, who amplified our community's voice.

While the zoning board's decision is a positive outcome, it is important to note that attorneys for Big Rocks LLC and Stell Enterprises could appeal this ruling. We sincerely hope these entities will respect the decision made by the Luzerne County Zoning Board and the voices of our local leaders and residents. We encourage them to direct their time and resources toward supporting the greater good of our community rather than pursuing an appeal.

Respectfully,

Holly A. Homschek
President, Avoca Borough Council