

Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Work Session Minutes

DATE: January 9, 2019
TIME: 5:00 pm
PLACE: Township Building
PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: Jerry Lastowski

ROLL CALL:

Harold Werkheiser - Absent
Richard Wielebinski – Present
Chad Kilby – Present
Jerrod Belvin – Present

Also, present Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor, Jon Tressler – Township Engineer, B&J; Mike Gable-engineer, B&J; Patrick Briegel – Pocono Township Sewer Consultant; Donna Asure – Township Manager; Township Supervisors from Tobyhanna Township as well as Tobyhanna Township Manager and Assistant Manager, Tobyhanna Township Engineer and Solicitor; and representative from Kalahari Resort and Borton Lawson, engineering firm representing Kalahari.

The work session was called to order at 5:00pm by President Lastowski with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no public comment.

The work session started off with a discussion of the purpose of coming together which was miscommunication or no communication and the impacts on the Pocono Township waste water treatment system.

Borton Lawson, engineering firm for Kalahari gave a presentation on current issues; how to address things going forward and a timeline.

Issues were listed as –

- Water demand and the peaks with BCRA
- Wastewater discharge and the sometimes exceeding of approved levels
- Ammonia Nitrate

The engineer discussed that Kalahari has recently hired them to look into the issues. There are a lot of things to consider and Kalahari is going to need time to reduce their usage. They believe looking at ways to reduce in one area may reduce in other areas of concern.

Borton Lawson discussed a possible road map to find solutions and a twenty-four (24) month time frame to get there. Some suggestions might be drilling wells or perhaps spray irrigation for the pool water.

Steve Pine – Development Director for Kalahari addressed the board. He discussed as things may have gotten to this point, that there is a 2013 agreement in place and there has been nothing done intentionally to violate that agreement. He admitted that there are possible violations to the agreement such as not informing the township officially of projects that were starting.

Mr. Pine discussed the fact that “somewhere along the way” Kalahari received a bill for additional EDU’s. Since Tobyhanna was not comfortable with selling Kalahari more EDU’s due to an internal agreement of how the 440,000 gallons per day from Pocono were to be distributed Pocono Manor is now willing to loan EDU’s to Kalahai.

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Tobyhanna's solicitor, Jonathan Reiss addressed the group about Solicitor DeVito's letter, communication issues and how to go forward. There was a suggestion of communication between the township managers going forward. He spoke to the Letter of Credit posted by Kalahari for the pre-treatment system and is hopeful that Pocono will grant an extension of the letter of credit and the demand for pre-treatment until a time where it is determined if that is truly necessary. It was suggested that there be a three year extension on the pre-treatment facility.

Over flows were address and stated that with the results of the study may be able to be addressed.

Mr. Reiss stated that Tobyhanna still wants "to memorialize additional capacity for future projects".

A monthly meeting to be held at Kalahari with representatives from Kalahari and both townships was discussed. The township managers were asked to circulate a set date and time for each month that would work for all.

A discussion on the rerate of the BCRA plant took place. How can the issues be defined and addressed so a rerate would make sense.

The new project at Kalahari was discussed, employee housing. Steve Pine addressed the board, talking to the J1 students that would use the housing and stating Kalahari just purchased 300 additional EDU's with no credit given for the ten months per year that they are under the 230,000 gallons per day. The different ways EDU's would be calculated for this type of use was then talked about.

There was discussion that Pocono Township wants all issues looked at during the Borton Lawson review not just ammonia. Pocono Township stated many times during the work session that Pocono must be kept in the loop as to what was going on at Kalahari.

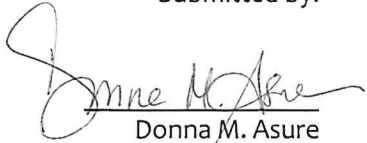
Kalahari representatives discussed the fact that Kalahari bought additional EDU's, up to their allotted 230,000 gallons per day. They had spikes in July and August and yet this is the first meeting being held to discuss the issue. Kalahari believes they are following the agreement upon MOU with Pocono Township.

Discussion took place on the engineers and consultants to meet to discuss all outstanding issues. The entire group should reconvene after that meeting to discuss next steps. Kalahari suggested changing the current agreement with Pocono should be a future discussion.

The second goal was that Kalahari needed to put into writing what they wanted changed in the agreement, why they needed this change and when would new deadlines be.

Having no further discussion and no public comment the work session adjourned at 6:15pm.

Submitted by:


Donna M. Asure
Pocono Township Manager