

POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SEWER MEETING MINUTES

June 4th, 2018 6:00 P.M.

The sewer meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on Tuesday, 06/04/2018 at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA, and was opened by President Gerald Lastowski at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Gerald Lastowski, present; Bob M. DeYoung, present; Harold Werkheiser, absent; Richard Wielebinski; present; and Jerrod Belvin, present.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Leo DeVito, Twp. Solicitor, Broughal & DeVito; Jon Tresslar and Michael Gable, Twp. Engineers, Boucher & James, Inc.; Patrick Briegel, Consultant; DonnaASURE, Township Manager; and Pamela Tripus, Township Secretary, were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ellen Gndt, Twp. resident, questioned New Business -Item 3 on the agenda and if the public would be able to comment. D.ASURE, Twp. Manager, explained it was to ask the Board's direction on the item. J. Lastowski noted they would allow public comment.

Ellen Gndt, Twp. resident, questioned the discussion of De Minimus policy under Reports. She spoke in favor of maintaining the De Minimus policy as is.

Ridgely Werkheiser, Twp. resident, spoke in support of the De Minimus policy. He suggested using flow meters.

Jennifer Wise-Werkheiser, Twp. resident, noted she had properties and clients that benefited from the De Minimus policy. She commented on Great Wolf's sewer agreement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sewer Committee meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular Board of Commissioner meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to approve the minutes of the 04/30/2018 Sewer Committee meeting. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; B. DeYoung, abstained; and J. Belvin, yes. Motion carried.

Vasillios Kotretsos request for reduction in EDU's - (312 & 308 Learn Road PIN: 12637201469938 Tax ID: 12/8/1/81-3) No Action taken.

J. Lastowski suspended the agenda to discuss amending Resolution 2013-10. D.ASURE, Twp. Manager, requested permission to form a committee to review the previous resolutions to recommend possible changes and/or updates to the Resolution. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS CONT:Sewer Recommendation Committee

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, to direct the Township Manager to form a committee to review policies and Resolutions that govern the Pocono Township sewer system and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for possible changes/updates. Until that time, all requests for changes in EDUs or tapping fees shall be held in abeyance. J. Lastowski opened the meeting to public comment. No comments were heard. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; and J. Belvin, yes. Motion carried.

J. Belvin asked who would make up the committee. D.ASURE suggested besides herself, Patrick Briegel, Sewer Consultant; Mike Gable, Boucher & James, Inc.; and two Commissioners.

Jimmy Schlier EDU Purchase cost - D.ASURE, Twp. Manager, explained J. Schlier did not buy EDUs at the time of the reduced tapping fees for his existing business but chose to wait until his dealership was completed.

Keystone Engineering Group - SCADA Maintenance Proposal (04/17/2018) - D.ASURE, Twp. Manager, noted it was not ready to act upon. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:Financial Transactions

Keystone Engineering Invoice - D.ASURE, Twp. Manager, noted part of this invoice was previously approved to inspect and document the wiring in the sewer system that was not accurate on the current plan. J. Tresslar, Twp. Engineer, noted the bulk was to cover the cost of repairing the wiring. Discussion followed.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve Keystone Engineering Invoice in the amount of \$24,682.11, as recommended by Patrick Briegel and Boucher & James in their letter dated 05/22/2018. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; and J. Belvin, yes. Motion carried.

Payment Application No. 8 - Milnes Company -

J. Lastowski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve Payment Application No. 8 to the Milnes Company in the amount of \$40,558.01 as recommended by Patrick Briegel and Boucher & James, Inc. in their letter dated 05/14/2018. Discussion followed on the balance remaining to be completed. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; and J. Belvin, yes. Motion carried.

APPEALS:

Gateway Equities - 218 Route 611 - Denial of reduction of EDUS - D.ASURE, Twp. Manager, noted they received their letter but the owner is not present at the meeting to discuss.

REPORTS:

Commissioner Richard Wielebinski

Authorization for PFM to calculate sewer rates -

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to have the Township Manager contact PFM and authorize them to calculate a sewer user fee rate equitable to all users which will eliminate the De Minimus user rates/policy.

R. Wielebinski explained that 64 users, both residential and businesses, are receiving De Minimus for the sewer services and noted no other central sewer system allows customers free service. J. Belvin noted other utilities have a base rate for users, whether they use the utility or not. Discussion followed on property owners who have not connected or refused to connect. L. DeVito, Twp. Solicitor, suggested PFM should look at all sewer rates, so all users are treated equally.

Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; and J. Belvin, yes. Motion carried.

Valve Station No. 1

L. DeVito, Twp. Solicitor, noted he received correspondence from Mike Gable, Twp. Engineer, stating he was told he would require a variance from Stroud Township's for the fencing. Additional information was sent to the Stroud Township's Solicitor and L. DeVito is waiting for a response.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ellen Gandt, Twp. resident, expressed her opinion against making changes to the De Minimus policy.

J. Lastowski noted he welcomed all information before any decision is made on the De Minimus policy.

Discussion followed.

Jennifer Wise-Werkheiser, Twp. resident, spoke concerning the difference between residents billed by EDUs and Great Wolf and Kalahari's flow rates.

Ellen Gandt, Twp. resident, questioned the rate PFM would charge.

Jennifer Wise-Werkheiser, Twp. resident, questioned if everyone would be required to meter their property.

Discussion followed. J. Lastowski noted without the information from PFM, the Board should wait for the study before discussing.

Ellen Gandt, Twp. resident, questioned if a hearing would be required to change the Ordinance. L. DeVito, Twp. Solicitor, noted it was a resolution which would not require a hearing.

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; B. DeYoung, yes; and J. Belvin, yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Pamela Tripus, Township Secretary