

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2020**

The Sewer Committee meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on Monday, August 3, 2020 at the Pocono Township Municipal Building (112 Township Drive, Tannersville, PA) and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Jerrod Belvin, present; Ellen Gnandt, present; Gerald J. Lastowski, present; Keith Meeker, present; Rich Wielebinski, present.

IN ATTENDANCE: Leo DeVito, Twp. Solicitor, Broughal & DeVito; Jon Tresslar, Twp. Engineer, Boucher & James, Inc.; Patrick Briegel, Sewer Consultant; Taylor Munoz, Township Manager and Dee Ackerman, Administrative Assistant were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Aaron Sisler, engineer with Borton-Lawson, stated Core5 Industrial Partners is interested in acquiring sewer service to a proposed warehouse development on Warner Road. He stated there are two options to explore for connecting to public sewer, including routing along Warner Road to S.R. 715. The other option is to route under I-80, but that entails greater regulatory hurdles. R. Wielebinski asked whether alternative plans are being considered if no public sewer service is available. A. Sisler stated Core5 would have to provide an on-lot system, which would be harder to market to potential clients. J. Lastowski stated he is not opposed but would like the developer to sit down and discuss further with P. Briegel after further study. E. Gnandt asked whether the pipe will run down the road or require access to neighboring properties. A. Sisler stated they need to look at the cost-effectiveness of various options and whether easements would be needed. L. DeVito stated the Board would need to consider whether mandatory connection would be required for adjacent properties if the sewer line were extended to Core5. A. Sisler said they will be going through the land development process and will continue to provide further details as more concrete plans are developed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gnandt, to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2020 sewer committee meeting. Roll call vote: Jerrod Belvin, yes; Ellen Gnandt, yes; Gerald J. Lastowski, yes; Keith Meeker, yes; Rich Wielebinski, yes. Motion carried.

- Sewer Resolution Update. P. Briegel stated the Sewer Resolution discussion started last meeting should pair with the updates Kalahari is requesting to the Resolution. L. DeVito said he has spoken with Ralph Gundrum regarding Kalahari's requested changes to the Sewer Resolution and indicated the Township would receive correspondence shortly on the pretreatment/EQ tank. Draft correspondence is circulating and should be received by the Township next week. P. Briegel said he hopes to have more info next month as to what is being requested by Kalahari.

NEW BUSINESS

- E. Gnandt asked for an update on deferred properties. P. Briegel stated that, out of 66 properties with deferred connections, the Township has now whittled that number down to seven outstanding properties. Many have connected, others still remain deferred due to the 300-foot

rule. Some of those seven properties have picked up applications and are in the process of connecting.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS: None

APPEALS: None

REPORTS

COMMISSIONERS: None

SEWER CONSULTANT:

- The Pump Station 5 jockey pump project continues to experience delays due to DEP still not having resumed operations in the regional office due to COVID. M. Gable has been exchanging emails to get further information.
- Deferred Properties List. Two new connections have occurred since the last Sewer Committee meeting – both were properties with no lateral that were part of the deferred list. Would like to include as part of the 2021 budget discussion whether the Township would like to extend laterals to properties unable to connect before now. The revenue generated by the additional EDUs from those properties will not outweigh the cost to connect those properties but will have to consider the overall revenue picture, including tapping fees.
- Discussion regarding creation of a policy to address delinquent ratepayers. Discussions are ongoing with BCRA regarding pursuing delinquent ratepayers.

ADMINISTRATION: None

SEWER ENGINEER: No update

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR:

- Discussion regarding liability clause in contracts. Board of Commissioners will have to determine whether there is an appetite to take on nominal risk in contract language in order to save cost.
- L. DeVito continues to work on agreement language for DCNR to transfer ownership of the sewer line between their Swiftwater property and the S.R. 611 right-of-way. DCNR has indicated they will turn the line over to the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Ralph Gundrum, legal counsel for Kalahari, apologized if he missed the interconnection between Kalahari's requested updates and the updates to the Sewer Resolution. P. Briegel stated if the Commissioners are going to consider amendments, it would be best to do all amendments together. L. DeVito said it will help move the issue forward more quickly if the Township shared language of the draft Sewer Resolution with Kalahari and stated it would be appropriate to have Tobyhanna make the request for the Sewer Resolution as the Township's customer.

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. Roll call vote: J. Belvin, yes; E. Gmandt, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; K. Meeker, yes; R. Wielebinski, yes. Motion carried.