

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2020**

The Sewer Committee meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on Monday, October 5, 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; and Taylor Munoz, Township Manager were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 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 there is no update at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: None

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS: None

APPEALS: None

REPORTS

COMMISSIONERS:

- E. Gnandt asked for an update on the Township's delinquent sewer collections. P. Briegel stated conversations have been had with BCRA regarding delinquent collection policies. Stated that a payment plan agreement was created for a user without the financial resources to tap into the sewer. Will have full delinquent list available for next meeting with separate categories.

SEWER CONSULTANT:

- Valve Station 2 Sleeve Inspection and Replacement. Township completed the replacement. The pinch valve that was replaced was in better condition than expected, according to the manufacturer. The project took longer than expected. The valve manufacturer and engineers will look at different means of replacing the valves in the future.
- The Pump Station 5 jockey pump project continues to experience delays due to DEP permitting. Moving forward with the permitting process.
- Deferred Properties List. The Township has been successful in getting most accounts connected and the deferred properties list has been whittled down to three or four properties. R. Wielebinski asked about status of connecting the axe throwing business in Swiftwater to the system. It was explained that the Township can go to the business owner for connection once the conveyance agreement is

fully executed with DCNR, which will provide sewer access across through the neighboring property's lateral.

- Deferred properties with no lateral. Will submit a dollar figure for consideration as part of 2021 budget discussion to construct laterals to get additional properties connected. Some properties are more costly to connect than the EDU fees the Township would receive in return. The Board will need to make a policy decision as to which properties should be connected. R. Wielebinski recommended the Board look at each property individually as to whether they should be connected, but the Township must look at the issues system-wide.

ADMINISTRATION: No update

SEWER ENGINEER: No update

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR:

- Discussion regarding Kalahari pre-treatment facility. P. Briegel stated that Kalahari's engineer has been authorized to proceed with design of an equalization (EQ) tank. The last storm did not show significant I&I issues. R. Wielebinski asked when Kalahari would have design finished. P. Briegel stated he will work to get update from Kalahari engineer and attempt to establish timelines. Re-stated that Kalahari to make substantial progress on issues including design, project timelines and engineering prior to November 30. If these issues are not addressed, Township will proceed with drawing down on Kalahari's existing letter of credit for construction of a pretreatment facility.
- L. DeVito stated the Township will work to update the municipal liens for KSD Hospitality and Gateway Equities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Ralph Gundrum, Kalahari Legal Counsel – Stated if anyone from the Township has any problems getting communication from Kalahari's engineer, to please let him know. Stated he thought there was a moratorium on certain Township work or communication related to Kalahari's project. J. Lastowski asked for clarification. T. Munoz stated there were discussions between Township professionals as to how to address Kalahari's August letter and the Township's continued message has been that Kalahari must address the construction of an EQ tank and continued I&I issues. In the response back to Kalahari, it was specified that no further professional resources would be expended by the Township on proposed changes to the Sewer Agreements – changes to which were proposed by Kalahari – until substantial progress was made in addressing the two primary areas of the Township's concern. Stated there was nothing included in the communication that limited Kalahari and the Township from communicating on the EQ tank, rather, that the Township would not entertain changes to the Agreements until the priorities were met. Prior to the Township's response to Kalahari's August letter, the Township had reached out to Kalahari's engineer repeatedly and was told each time that he had not been authorized to begin any work on an EQ tank. The Township's response, after speaking with Tobyhanna Township and the BCRA, was to state that no further professional services are authorized on the Sewer Agreements until the other issues are addressed. It was reiterated that the November 30 deadline is drawing close. P. Briegel asked whether R. Gundrum could share any prospective timelines. R. Gundrum stated he would check and get a schedule back to the Township.

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gnandt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. Roll call vote: J. Belvin, yes; E. Gnandt, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; K. Meeker, yes; R. Wielebinski, yes. All in favor. Motion carried.