

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2021**

The Sewer Committee meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on Monday, November 1, 2021 via remote teleconference and was opened by President Rich Wielebinski at 6:07 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Jerrod Belvin, present; Ellen Gndt, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2021 sewer committee meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS: None

APPEALS: None

REPORTS

SEWER CONSULTANT

- Both the Pump Station 5 jockey pump project and deferred laterals installation project are moving forward and preconstruction meetings are being scheduled.
- Delinquent accounts update – A formal proposal for late fees and interest charges was developed and distributed to the Board of Commissioners. Will look to include the fee schedule for formal Commissioner action at the next Sewer Committee meeting.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to amend the Sewer Resolution to include late fees for delinquent payers. All in favor. Motion carried.

- BCRA letter and meeting regarding I&I issues – Meeting was held among membership municipalities. I&I violations were noted in Stroud Township and Stroudsburg Borough. BCRA set out expectations for addressing I&I within a specified time period. R. Wielebinski asked if Pocono has an I&I issue. P. Briegel stated that Pocono does not have a systemic problem. E. Gndt asked if Pocono will be responsible for covering costs of I&I attributed to other member municipalities. J. Belvin asked how often Kalahari has put stormwater down Pocono's system. P. Briegel stated at least three documented instances.

COMMISSIONERS: No reports.

ADMINISTRATION: No report.

SEWER ENGINEER

- Update - Sanofi Sanitary Sewer Easement on hold while other items progress with PennDOT.
- Update - Act 537 Plan – A draft copy was distributed on Friday. DEP stated they will not review the Township’s draft before final submission, due to staffing issues, but they will review the Township’s advertisement for public notice and the resolution the Township must adopt for the Act 537 Plan. The draft will need to be made available for public comment. E. Gndt asked if this is expanding the area and asked whether hookups will be mandatory. Further discussion regarding whether property owners will be required to hook into the Township’s sewer system in the new service area. It was stated that amending the Township’s Act 537 does not in itself mandate sewer expansion in the proposed areas. Further clarification will be provided.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

- Discussion regarding Tobyhanna Equalization (EQ) Tank – EQ tank under engineering review. Further discussion held regarding overages for Kalahari. A letter has been sent to Tobyhanna Township indicating funds are required for overages due to excessive sewer use, which has received pushback. The crux of the issue is that Kalahari, as Tobyhanna’s customer, has 932 EDUs available. To cover the overages stemming from Kalahari’s usage would require Tobyhanna Township to purchase an additional 9 EDUs from Tobyhanna’s “bank” of 440,000 gallons. 92 additional EDUs were purchased recently for the purpose of Kalahari’s employee housing project. Kalahari stated they believe the 92 EDUs should be combined with their existing EDUs for the waterpark to cover the current overages. Pocono Township has stated the 92 EDUs were agreed to by all parties as the number necessary to serve employee housing. If the Township approves a portion of the 92 EDUs for Kalahari’s waterpark, the employee housing will not be able to connect to Pocono’s system. Kalahari is not connected or paying user fees on the 92 EDUs. Tobyhanna owes for the overage and the corresponding EDUs. L. DeVito sent a letter explaining the Township’s position to Tobyhanna’s solicitor, as they are our customer
- Amendment to Intermunicipal Sewage Collection & Disposal Services Agreement – The agreement is prepared, but specific numbers will be needed for security.

Public Comment

R. Gundrum, Kalahari Legal Counsel – Stated that not everything discussed tonight represents Kalahari’s position. Kalahari does not have an issue paying for the overages, which they have done historically. However, they disagree with the Township’s requirement that they purchase additional EDUs.

Adjournment

R. Wielebinsk made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.