

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes
July 5, 2022**

The Sewer Committee meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 and was opened by Chairman Rich Wielebinski at 6:03 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 via Zoom.

IN ATTENDANCE: Leo DeVito, Twp. Solicitor; Jon Tresslar, Twp. Engineer, Boucher & James, Inc; and Taylor Munoz, Township Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

HEARINGS – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by E. Gnandt, to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2022 sewer committee meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Sewer Resolution Update – No update.

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS – None

APPEALS – None

REPORTS

SEWER CONSULTANT

- Pump Station 5 Jockey Pump Project. Project will be substantially complete by end of July. Procurement of materials continues to be an issue.
- Deferred Lateral Connections Project. Received PennDOT approval for boring under SR 611. Will review revised plan with contractor and hopeful for completion this month, subject to contractor availability.

COMMISSIONERS

- R. Wielebinski commended P. Briegel and J. Tresslar for their work in getting a prompt approval from DEP regarding the expanded Act 537 Plan.

ADMINISTRATION – None

SEWER ENGINEER

- Sanofi Sanitary Sewer Easement – No update.

- Act 537 Plan – Plan was approved by DEP the first time through with no comments. Next step to prioritize Township projects and begin design for the Part II permits to allow for construction of mains into expanded sewer area.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

- Liens were updated for delinquent sewer customers and include attorney fees.
- Discussion regarding Tobyhanna Equalization (EQ) Tank and Tobyhanna excess sewer usage. Documents were circulated related to the EQ tank financial security and are under review. Meeting was held with DEP regarding Tobyhanna Township excess sewer usage. P. Briegel stated that, while Tobyhanna was allocated 440,000 gallons of sewer capacity per their Act 537, the DEP considers EDUs as designated to specific sewer customers. Asked Tobyhanna to follow up with DEP to ensure they understand the attribution of EDUs within the Township. E. Gndt asked question regarding excess sewer usage. P. Briegel stated initial Act 537 sewer planning broke out a portion of EDUs for PMI and Kalahari. Even though Tobyhanna has not exceeded the 440,000 allocation, the Act 537 needs to be updated with DEP following Kalahari's employee housing to reflect a re-allocation of the overall 440,000 gallons. Further discussion regarding Tobyhanna's excess EDUs and the DEP meeting in Wilkes Barre.

E. Gndt asked if the tapping fees for the additional EDUs tied to the sewer usage overages could be put in escrow. R. Wielebinski asked if it is too early to begin pursuing an escrow if DEP is already moving on the process.

E. Gndt made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to request that Tobyhanna Township escrow tapping fees for the additional 9 EDUs in usage overage until such time as the additional EDUs can be purchased following Act 537 revisions. All in favor.

- Amendment to Intermunicipal Sewage Collection & Disposal Services Agreement. No update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ralph Gundrum, Kalahari Legal Counsel – Stated Kalahari is willing to meet with Pocono Township, if permitted, to discuss any issues. Stated that not all messaging is relayed to Kalahari. With respect to the 9 EDU issue, Kalahari put forth an analysis of the agreements and is of the opinion that usage is based on a one-year test. Stated he is not sure how the regulatory issues affect the request for additional EDUs. Stated Kalahari pays the usage overages.

J. Lastowski asked P. Breigel whether Pocono Township is near the 2 million capacity per day and asked whether the Township will be able to provide the capacity required by the current user base and future projects. P. Briegel will provide data to the Board. Further discussion regarding capacity of sewer main.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.