

# Pocono Township Board of Commissioners Work Session Minutes

**DATE:** August 8, 2018  
**TIME:** 4:00 pm  
**PLACE:** Township Building  
**PRESIDING COMMISSIONER:** Jerry Lastowski  
**ROLL CALL:**

Harold Werkheiser - Absent  
Richard Wielebinski – Present  
Robert DeYoung – Absent  
Jerrod Belvin – Present

Also, present Leo DeVito, Township Solicitor, Jon Tressler – Township Engineer, B&J; Mike Gable-engineer, B&J; Patrick Briegel – Pocono Township Sewer Consultant; Donna Asure – Township Manager; Dave Horton-Manager, BCRA; John Provoznik-Solicitor, BCRA and various members of the BCRA Board.

The work session was called to order at 4:03pm by President Lastowski.

There was no public comment.

The work session started off with a discussion on the BCRA water system.

Topics discussed were –

- The amount of water per day into the distribution system range from 2.6 to a peak of 3.3Mgd
- The water is under extremely high pressure which needs urgent attention
- There is an immediate need to provide additional capacity
- There is a need to decrease pressure
- There is a need to increase resiliency
- The amount of corrosion in Pocono line. Line is 15 years old but significant issues could arise due to this in next 15 years

BCRA informed those in attendance of the \$10 million-dollar loan they just borrowed for 3 projects–

- Tannersville Pump Station and Tanks
  - ✓ Safety concerns
  - ✓ Elongated corrosion
  - ✓ Additional capacity
  - ✓ Approximately three years to complete
- Bartonsville Pump Station resiliency
  - ✓ Start 2<sup>nd</sup> main
  - ✓ Back up line to Sanofi
  - ✓ Looking for grants
- Pocono Tank #2
  - ✓ Install another tank of same size – 1.7 million gallons

PJJWA and DF Project Update –

- Completed bulk water agreement
- Secured easements
- Need to complete the temporary construction easement (which Pocono Township approved at Monday August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting)

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- Permitting, bid documents and bidding completed winter of 2018/2019
- Construction in spring of 2019
- Asset purchase agreement with PJJWA ongoing
- May need township assistance with permitting and road openings
- BCRA has spent over \$150,000 towards the acquisition of PJJWA and they are fully committed
- Would like acquisition done by end of year
- PJJWA has to spend money for BCRA to acquire the system so the cash that was in the bank is being used to upgrade the system

### Future Service Area

BCRA presented a proposed future service area to the township. With the township's mandatory connection ordinance stating that you are required to hook up if the line is 200 feet from a building will only affect one commercial business in the new area.

BCRA asked the township to consider the request of a new service area.

The work session next discussed the waste water collection system.

BCRA stated they appreciated the cooperation during the Pocono project and being kept informed by our experts.

BCRA stated that they had an inspection by DEP who was perplexed that a valve station owned by Pocono Township was on BCRA property. Their concern is how would an emergency be handled. It was suggested that a small committee be formed to formulate a plan that will address DEP's concerns.

The acquisition of the Pocono waste water system by BCRA was the next topic.

Why would BCRA want to acquire Pocono's system

- In the past there had been "asks" that once in place and operating BCRA would take over the system
- Regional Operation is a positive way to run a regional authority
- Most efficient way to own, operate
- BCRA has the resources, costs can be distributed over a larger area

What would be the path to get there?

- Agree there is merit to explore this option
- Agree to cooperatively gather information – to assist in building a budget
  - ✓ Future reserves
  - ✓ Operation and maintenance issues
- This would result in a proposal to rate payers

The township could consider entering into a management agreement for six months or a year to understand how ownership by BCRA would work.

The question was asked as to what would happen to Pocono Township's rate payers. Discussion followed but it was unclear exactly the impact until the analysis was completed.

Debt, operation and maintenance and reserve will all determine user rates.

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There is a possibility of separate rate districts.

The Boards then discussed a request by Tobyhanna Township for additional sewer capacity above the in place MOU with Tobyhanna.

A rerate of the plant was considered starting about two years ago. Due to a rise in organic loading, the I&I from all three systems and the ammonia concentration this past winter which resulted in a violation, the potential rerate narrowed and the benefit of the paper rerate has diminished.

There is a possibility of a full rerate for the plant but this would involve major engineering costs and a commitment for capital expenditures

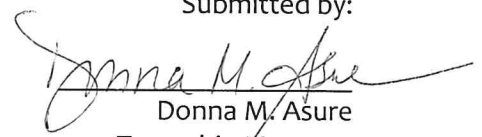
The discussion of the difficulties involved in opening the docket associated with the plant was discussed as well as the environment for approval of any type of expansion.

BCRA informed Pocono Township that they must be at the table as part of any discussion with Tobyhanna per all agreements in place. The solicitors discussed this and will look at documents and sort this out.

There was no public comment.

The work session ended at 5:50pm.

Submitted by:

  
Donna M. Asure  
Township Manager