

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

The Sewer Committee meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on Monday, March 1, 2021 via remote teleconference 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.; Taylor Munoz, Township Manager; and Krisann Wean, Administrative Assistant, were present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**HEARINGS:** None

**PRESENTATIONS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS**

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 sewer committee meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Sewer Resolution Update. No update.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS:** None

**APPEALS:** None

**REPORTS**

**COMMISSIONERS**

- E. Gnandt asked whether the Township has an estimate as to the cost of installing laterals to expand the sewer service area and whether grant funding is available to defray the cost. Also asked for an update on the Tobyhanna EQ Tank and who would take responsibility for its ownership and operation.

**SEWER CONSULTANT**

- Pump Station 5 jockey pump project – A response was received from DEP and the next step is for the Township to secure proposals for carrying out the work.
- Deferred Properties List – P. Briegel clarified that these are properties in the service area that do not have laterals. In response to questions from E. Gnandt, he stated the Township does have cost estimates for work to connect those properties and suggested the Township consider connecting the deferred properties as part of the planned larger scale service area expansion. E. Gnandt asked for

clarification as to whether connection of the deferred properties, which are part of the existing service area, should be considered separately from the service area expansion. J. Tresslar stated his hesitation about combining the two issues would be that connection of existing properties in the current service area would be significantly delayed by the required revisions to the Township's Act 537 Plan needed to expand the sewer service area. L. DeVito explained there is no prohibition of combining all projects at once and stated there may be an economy of scale for a contractor to take care of all projects at once. P. Briegel explained the Township should be prepared for some property owners that may refuse to connect. Further discussion held regarding connection of properties in the existing service area and whether that cost should be combined or kept separate from discussion of expanding the sewer service area. P. Briegel indicated connecting the deferred properties would result in a couple dozen additional EDUs served by the Township.

- Properties with no lateral – Discussed in the previous item.
- Delinquent accounts update – Township has reduced the number of delinquent accounts by 12 and the total outstanding balance owed by over \$7,000 over the last two months. Only a handful of connected users are not paying. The Township continues to bill users who can connect but have refused. E. Gndt asked what outstanding balance is left to recoup. P. Briegel will get the official number, but estimated approximately \$80,000, including two large users who comprise a significant portion of that number. R. Wielebinski asked how many properties are left that have a lateral but have not connected. It was indicated that 16 properties, mostly residential, are in that category. J. Lastowski asked whether there is clarification as to why these individuals have not connected. P. Briegel responded that he and Township staff have a meeting with BCRA next week where they will review BCRA reports to ensure the Township has the data needed to better identify delinquencies.
- Discussion regarding proposed expansion of sewer service area to several areas within the Township, including Bartonsville Avenue/MCTI; Old Mill Road for the old Community College building; Alger Avenue; Warner Road; Stadden Road; Sullivan Trail; and Camelback Road. Evaluating expansion from an environmental protection standpoint as well where areas are known to have failing on-lot systems. Expansion will ensure revenue continues to sustain the system and lower user fees while maintaining a well-run and responsible system. BCRA has also expressed interest in expanding public water to these areas. J. Tresslar stated the expansion has the added benefit of off-setting and diluting industrial flows with domestic flows. E. Gndt asked whether it would or could be a voluntary hookup for new service areas. L. DeVito stated if the Township expands the Act 537 service area, the mandatory connection ordinance applies but, if the line is paid for by the end user, it may not require adjoining landowners to connect. J. Tresslar believes it would take a year to amend the Act 537 plan, including plan development, DEP presentations and comments; DRBC review; and BCRA review. J. Lastowski asked for clarification that most of the expansion is in the Tannersville area and South, not northward on 611.

J. Belvin made motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, that the township engineer proceed with proposed revisions to the Act 537 Plan providing for an expanded service area as referenced in the maps presented. Under discussion, J. Tresslar suggested amending the motion to include pursuing a matching grant from DEP. All in favor. Motion passed as amended.

**ADMINISTRATION:** No update

**SEWER ENGINEER:** No update

#### **TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR**

- Discussion regarding Tobyhanna Equalization (EQ) Tank. L. DeVito reported that issues concerning location, ownership, maintenance and operation have been resolved. The EQ tank will be located next to the Tobyhanna pump station. Ownership and maintenance would remain with Kalahari unless and until another user is added to the system, at which time DEP would require

that Tobyhanna Township assume ownership. Kalahari has agreed to use the same operator as Tobyhanna, with caveat that when Tobyhanna Township's operator contract goes out for bid, Kalahari will be included so that everyone is treated fairly. L. DeVito had a conversation with Ralph Gundrum, Kalahari's legal counsel, who confirmed that if the townships agree on this approach, they will move forward with the entire project. The Township can now look to amend the existing agreement to remove reference to the pre-treatment facility and include EQ tank language. E. Gnandt asked who the Township goes to if the sewer bill is not paid. L. DeVito affirmed that Tobyhanna Township, as Pocono's customer, is ultimately responsible for anything that gets sent down Pocono's system. Pocono Township will continue to only deal with Tobyhanna.

- KSD Hospitality & Gateway Equities. Township will look to again update municipal liens on the property.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gnandt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

DRAFT