

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2021**

The Sewer Committee meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on Monday, August 2, 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 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.; Taylor Munoz, Township Manager; and Krisann MacDougall, Administrative Assistant.

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 August 2, 2021 sewer committee meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS: None

APPEALS: None

REPORTS

SEWER CONSULTANT

- Pump Station 5 jockey pump project – Project was let out to bid. Will have bids back by the meeting in October.
- Deferred Properties and properties with no lateral – The end of September is the deadline for having bidders compiled.
- Delinquent accounts update –
- At the last meeting, the Commissioners acted to file liens on certain delinquent customers with outstanding balances. P. Briegel further reviewed options for establishing a standard fee for late payments and discussed with BCRA. P. Briegel proposed a fee of 10% of the monthly invoice, which would accrue interest along with the unpaid balance if not paid. Fee would apply if not paid within 15 days of the due date. E. Gndt asked if this was considered “usury.” L. DeVito provided clarification. R. Wielebinski asked if a user does not pay the bill the first month and they do not pay the second month, whether it continues to be 10% of that month’s invoice. L. DeVito said, depending on how the user fees are set, the Township has to check what form the addition of the late fee would take and whether a resolution may be required. P. Briegel will send around to the Board for review.

- Discussion regarding expansion of sewer service area – Review is ongoing and cost estimates are being developed.
- Impact of recent storm events – During first big storm, a modem failed which is minor from an infrastructure standpoint. System experienced significantly higher flows and waiting on a formal report from BCRA. P. Briegel took action to pinpoint and limit inflow and infiltration (I&I) in the system. Sanofi was very cooperative to help time and reduce flows during the peak of the storm. Spoke to Kalahari and Tobyhanna. Had issues with Kalahari's I&I the first storm and it was improved the second storm. Discussed overall issues experienced by the BCRA with the I&I issues.

E. Gndt asked whether the Township would use PENNVEST for funding to expand the sewer infrastructure.

R. Wielebinski asked question regarding the Fisk properties and sewer hookup.

COMMISSIONERS: No reports

ADMINISTRATION: No report

SEWER ENGINEER

- Act 537 Plan update – Continuing to complete application. Have to complete water sampling and hoping to have a draft by the end of September. E. Gndt asked a question about mandatory hookups related to the Act 537 expansion.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR:

- L. DeVito's office is completing the filing of municipal liens on the delinquent payers. R. Wielebinski asked that a copy of the list be sent to the Commissioners.
- Discussion regarding Tobyhanna Equalization (EQ) Tank – A cost estimate was received about a week and a half ago for the cost of the EQ tank, increasing from 1.4 million to 2.2 million. This estimate would result in an increase in the letter of credit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ralph Gundrum, Kalahari Legal Counsel – Discussed Kalahari's I&I issues and indicated they will be taking additional steps to prevent stormwater from entering the sanitary system. J. Belvin indicated he is troubled that the I&I issue has not been addressed by Kalahari. P. Briegel indicated the Henri event was at least the third time there was a substantial I&I issue with Kalahari. The Township also did not receive any notification from Kalahari or Tobyhanna Township that an issue was occurring. No significant action has been taken to install permanent measures to date. R. Wielebinski indicated the Township can further respond once P. Briegel has received the report from BCRA outlining the issues with I&I. E. Gndt stated the Township has discussed and pushed for action on the EQ tank for a significant time. L. DeVito clarified that the Township's customer is Tobyhanna. J. Lastowski stated that, if the report from BCRA shows I&I is an issue for Tobyhanna, the Township should request a representative attend a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.