

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

The Sewer Committee meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on Monday, February 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**

PFM Financial Advisors – Zach Williard & Ben Kapenstein. Presentation and discussion regarding potential refinancing of sewer debt.

PFM provided a presentation regarding the Township's existing sanitary sewer system debts and savings opportunities with a refinancing of outstanding debt. In 2018, the Township used about \$2 million of cash reserves to pay down debt on the system. Given the low interest rates currently, it may be advantageous to try refinancing again now. PFM would conduct a competitive RFP statewide and, now that the system is established, there may be interest from larger banks.

E. Gnandt asked what low interest rate is being assumed in PFM's estimations and requested a comparative graph to see what savings the Township has realized over time through past refinancing or where we are now versus where we would have been if past refinancing had not occurred. PFM used a conservative 2.1% interest rate for their savings calculations and the ultimate savings will depend on what rates are bid and received by the Township.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, to authorize PFM to prepare a bid package for the Township to receive bids from local and state banks to refinance sewer debts. All in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

- Sewer Resolution Update. No update.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS:** None

**APPEALS:** None

## **REPORTS**

### **COMMISSIONERS**

E. Gndt asked for an update regarding the sewer delinquency letters sent to delinquent customers.

### **SEWER CONSULTANT**

- Pump Station 5 jockey pump project – Township is working with DEP to address review comments.
- Deferred Properties List. Placeholder – No update.
- Properties with no lateral – No update.
- Delinquent accounts update – Township sent out the second round of letters to delinquent accounts and Township is working with BCRA to identify which accounts are still outstanding.

**ADMINISTRATION:** No update

**SEWER ENGINEER:** No update

### **TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR**

- Discussion regarding Tobyhanna Equalization (EQ) Tank.
- L. DeVito stated that the extension of the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment expires on February 28, 2021. Recommended that an extension be granted until May 31. Stated that the remaining issues are the location, ownership and operation of the EQ tank. Tobyhanna Township has agreed to allow the tank to be constructed adjacent to the existing pump station with some minor conditions attached. The issue of the EQ tank operation still remains. Kalahari has indicated they are okay with owning the tank until such time as additional users should come online and Tobyhanna has been very clear they do not want to operate the EQ tank. Pocono Township believes it is appropriate for Tobyhanna to serve as the operator, as it ties in with the operation of the pump station, but, at the least, the operator of the pump station should be the same as the EQ tank regardless of who pays for the operator's time. Pocono Township would like to set up a meeting between the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors for Tobyhanna to share concerns and discuss how to move past this final issue.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to extend the agreement between Tobyhanna Township and Pocono Township to May 31, 2021, extending the time for which the Township would draw on the existing Letter of Credit for a pretreatment facility. Under discussion, E. Gndt expressed her concerns regarding the existing LOC for a pretreatment facility versus the need for a LOC for an EQ tank. Roll call vote: J. Belvin, yes; E. Gndt, no; J. Lastowski, yes; K. Meeker, yes; R. Wielebinski, yes. Motion carried.

- KSD Hospitality & Gateway Equities. Municipal liens were updated for both properties. No update.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m into executive session for the purpose of discussing the potential acquisition of property. All in favor. Motion carried.