

**Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2022**

The Sewer Committee meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on Monday, August 1, 2022 and was opened by Vice Chairman Jerrod Belvin at 6:18 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 July 5, 2022 sewer committee meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Sewer Resolution Update – No update.

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS – None

APPEALS

Achyut “Eddie” Dalsania, KSD Hospitality (1802 SR 611) – Requesting reduction of outstanding sewer fees. **(Possible Action Item)**

Owner of the Casino Motel stated he would like to clear up the outstanding balance on the property that was hooked up to sewer in 2016. He indicated his EDUs are higher than what he feels he needs. P. Briegel stated there is a process to request an EDU reduction. J. Lastowski asked why he has not paid any sewer fees since he connected. J. Belvin asked why he did not respond to prior notices of liens assessed. R. Wielebinski suggested the owner pay the bill in full and he is more than welcome to have the BCRA install a meter to measure his water usage. Further discussion regarding outstanding balance, interest and late fees. Discussion regarding establishment of a payment plan.

REPORTS

SEWER CONSULTANT

- Pump Station 5 Jockey Pump Project. Project is substantially complete and landscaping, grading and walkway complete.

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve Change Order #3 in the amount of \$3,415.00 to Blue World Construction for excavation, installation and restoration work associated with adding thrust restraint to the existing 20-inch ductile iron pipe adjacent to the pump station wet well. P.

Briegel stated that thrust blocking is a mechanism to protect a pipe from separating when faced with system pressure. This was never installed by the original system contractor. Stated this additional work not known until earth was removed. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Deferred Lateral Connections Project. Township had to wait on PennDOT before boring under SR 611 and providing lateral connections/cleanouts. Changes were made following PennDOT design. Further discussion was held regarding design and properties served.

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to approve Change Order #3 for Kobalt Construction for boring and installation of sewer laterals under SR 611, subject to engineering review. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Discussion regarding capacity evaluation for sewer collection system flowing to Pump Station #5. P. Briegel stated a capacity evaluation process is necessary to ensure collection system can accommodate proposed flows from new service areas. Township engineer was told by DEP that they will be requesting this capacity analysis.

J. Lastowski expressed concern about other parties willingness to share in the cost of the capacity analysis. Discussion regarding whether the benefitting parties could be asked or required to share in cost. E. Gmandt asked if the funds could be escrowed before proceeding with the work. Further discussion regarding the analysis required and responsibility.

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to authorize township engineer to perform a capacity evaluation for the sewer collection system flowing to Pump Station 5, with the requirement that the developments or development activity necessitating the evaluation be required to pay for their portion of the study being conducted. E. Gmandt asked if it should be specified an escrow is necessary. All in favor. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS – None

ADMINISTRATION – None

SEWER ENGINEER

- Sanofi Sanitary Sewer Easement – No update.
- Act 537 Plan – No update.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

- Discussion regarding Tobyhanna Equalization (EQ) Tank and Tobyhanna excess sewer usage. L. DeVito stated he will be meeting on Thursday 8/4 with attorneys representing Tobyhanna Township, Kalahari and Pocono Manor Investors (PMI). Pocono Township received a formal letter from Tobyhanna Township requesting additional sewer capacity to service the area, broken down by PMI and Kalahari portions of the increase. Anticipate that the Board will have to respond to the request, as Tobyhanna will have to address the capacity request in their Act 537 Plan.

J. Belvin expressed reluctance to speak on the request until after other outstanding sewer items of concern to Pocono Township are addressed. L. DeVito stated the biggest item for discussion is that BCRA is limited in their ability to provide water to service projects. E. Gmandt stated she agrees with J. Belvin and that outstanding items need to be addressed before entertaining a capacity request. J. Lastowski expressed concerns about remaining water capacity. Further discussion regarding Tobyhanna's Act 537 planning.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT

J. Belvin made a motion, seconded by E. Gndt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.