

Pocono Township Board of Commissioners
Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2023

The Sewer Committee meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on Monday, August 7, 2023 and was opened by Chairman Richard Wielebinski at 6:02 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; Jon Tresslar, Twp. Engineer; Patrick Briegel, Public Works Director; Taylor Munoz, Township Manager; and Jennifer Gambino, Administrative Assistant.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

HEARINGS – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Belvin, to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023 sewer committee meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Sewer Resolution Update – No update.

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS – None

APPEALS – None

REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

- General update was given regarding the status of current projects.

Working on a pilot project to hopefully move away from the use of Bioxide with the Township. Investigating options with the increase in cost of Bioxide and corrosion issues.

Meeting tomorrow with bidders on the manhole reconstruction project.

Replacing the diffusers in Pump Station 5 as part of general maintenance.

- Request from Hawthorne Resort for public sewer.

Applicant's representative gave an overview of their project located in Paradise Township. Stated 81 acres of the property are located in Pocono Township. Proposing an onsite drip irrigation system and onsite water, but investigating the possibility of public sewer and water. Looking for 44,300 gallons of sewer per day. The total project buildout would be 219 EDUs. Project is phased, with different EDU needs associated with each phase. Asked Township's perspective on willingness to provide sewer capacity.

P. Briegel stated that BCRA is completing a water study that will have updated numbers as to the remaining water capacity for serving the Pocono Township corridor. Discussion regarding the existing collection system in proximity to the project site and both water and sewer needs.

COMMISSIONERS – None

ADMINISTRATION – None

SEWER ENGINEER

- Sanofi Sanitary Sewer Easement

Sanofi has finally come to an agreement with PennDOT regarding where the legal ROW should go. The Township will need to vacate its easement within the PennDOT ROW and in return Pocono will receive an HOP to allow the Township to access and work on the Township's line. R. Wielebinski asked if PennDOT could be asked to cover the Township's cost for line relocation if asked in the future to move its line. Sanofi has shown where the Township would abandon its easement in exchange for the easement being located on a different area adjacent. Next step is for L. DeVito to prepare paperwork to abandon an easement and establish a new easement area. J. Tresslar clarified that the pipe currently in the ROW does not have an easement. The Board confirmed the Township is okay with the design as proposed and they will move forward.

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by K. Meeker, for the Township to abandon a limited portion of the easement it has over lands owned by Sanofi, conditioned upon and contemporaneously with the grant of a PennDOT HOP for that portion of the easement the Township is abandoning. All in favor. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

- Update regarding cash collateral agreement with Kalahari for EQ tank installation. Requested applicant's engineer confirm/substantiate cost estimates provided.
- General Legal Update.

Email received Friday from one of the attorneys for Kalahari who stated Kalahari will pay the original cost estimate for the EQ tank installation. L. DeVito reiterated the Township's concern regarding getting an updated cost estimate from Kalahari's engineer, as the last numbers provided were from 2021.

DEP is looking to schedule a meeting with Tobyhanna, Pocono and Kalahari to discuss issues that have arisen with the Tobyhanna Act 537 Plan. E. Gndt asked for clarification regarding what issues are being discussed. P. Briegel stated DEP is concerned about the delays with the Act 537. E. Gndt asked why Pocono Township sewer customers are covering the cost for review of the Act 537 amendment for issues the Township has not caused. E. Gndt asked whether a commissioner could sit in on the meeting with the DEP.

- General Legal Update. Litigation with Kalahari is ongoing.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by J. Lastowski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.