

COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION NOTES
January 15, 2019

The work session was called to order by Chairman William Weimer at 6:00 pm in the meeting room of the Coolbaugh Township Municipal Office, 5520 Municipal Drive, Tobyhanna, PA.

Board Members present:

William Weimer, Anthony Lamantia, Lynn Kelly, Alma I. Ruiz-Smith and Clare Colgan

Board Members absent:

None

Staff present:

Patrick Armstrong, Township Solicitor and Erin Masker, Township Secretary, Maureen Mills, Business Manager/Controller, Meredith Thompson, Assistant Business Manager and Tomas Keane, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer

Staff absent:

None

Mr. Weimer announced that this work session is being recorded to aid in the preparation of the notes.

1. Mount Pocono Municipal Waste Authority – Wastewater Treatment Plant

In attendance from the Mount Pocono Municipal Waste Authority were Jonathan Klotz, Executive Director, Ed Overberger, ARRO Consultants, Mike Oser, MPMA Chairman, Ronald Emilie, MPMA Vice-Chair, Matt Hensel, MPMA Board Member and Michael Penn, MPMA Board Member/Mount Pocono Borough Mayor. Mr. Klotz stated that he and Mr. Overberger met with C. Colgan and M. Thompson to discuss the Coolbaugh Township wastewater treatment plant and stated that they believe that because we are neighboring communities, MPMA would be able to provide excellent customer service stating that when the residents call they will be answered by Mount Pocono staff and someone will be out right away to address their concerns.

- **Discussion:** Ms. Ruiz-Smith asked how the MPMA would fund the purchase with J. Klotz stating that they have not received any financial information or valuation to determine the cost for the purchase. Mr. Weimer stated that there are other companies looking to purchase the WWTP as well and asked why the Township should choose MPMA, being advised again of the close proximity, the interest in economic development and the excellent customer service that they would provide to the Coolbaugh Township residents that are serviced by the sewer, also stating that there is already an intermunicipal agreement in place which would save on some of the legal costs. J. Klotz stated that another advantage would be that the ACT 12 would not be required when working with another municipality on the sale. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that the municipality is not regulated by the PUC and stated that she has concerns about a rate hike for the residents with Mr. Klotz responding that the rates our residents are paying is in line with the Mount Pocono residents rates stating that they have only had two rate increases for their residents one in 2003 and one in 2011. E. Overberger stated that the ACT 12 could result in an immediate rate increase for customers stating that Aqua raised rates in Exeter Township by 275%. Mr. Weimer stated that there is potential for industrial users to need to be on the sewer based on potential development on the 611 corridor, asking if they would be prepared to make the modifications and improvements to the WWTP being advised that they would. Mr. Weimer stated that with a public utility the Coolbaugh Township Board of Supervisors would not have a say in the decisions, but stated with Mount Pocono being a private board whether they would be interested in making it a regional board with a seat for a Coolbaugh Township representative to be able to protect our residents as well. J. Klotz responded that would be a very viable option that could be discussed in the future. Discussion ensued regarding DEP violations at the Mount Pocono Sewer plant. M. Oser stated a public disclosure stating that a quorum of the Mount Pocono Municipal Waste Authority Board is in attendance at the meeting for informational purposes only and that no decisions were being made. Discussion ensued

about improvements that were made at the Mount Pocono Sewer Plant. Ms. Kelly asked if there was any vision to make anything more comprehensive being advised that they would like to centralize service. R. Emilie stated that the new board is looking to the future and growth with great professionalism. M. Hensel stated that it would be nice to work together on this instead of an outside agency.

2. Other Business

Ms. Ruiz-Smith asked Solicitor Armstrong about the oath of office for commission members with Solicitor Armstrong stating he will look into it.

3. Public Input

Nothing was heard.

Work Session ended at 6:53pm.