

**COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 22, 2021**

The work session was called to order by Vice-Chairman Anthony Lamantia at 6:00pm via the Zoom Virtual Media App.

Board Members present:

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

Board Members absent:

William Weimer

Staff present:

Patrick Armstrong, Township Solicitor, Erin Masker, Township Secretary, Meredith Thompson, Business Manager and Darren Dixon, Controller

Staff absent:

None

1. Discussion on Township Sewer Rates

Solicitor Armstrong provided the Board with a draft resolution based on the conversations at the last meeting regarding the possible increase to the sewer rates for residents that are on the township sewer system. Ms. Kelly stated that she is opposed to the increase for three reasons. (1) the greatest burden is on the residents stating that most residents that are on the sewer are retired and living on a fixed income, stating that \$18.00 a month can be a hardship on them, (2) rates are based on the operating expenses, she stated that this system was never intended to be self-sustaining from the day that the rates were set, it was always agreed that the general fund would support the costs associated with the system (3) PA American goes through the PUC when they want to increase rates which allows for public comments, we have not even made our customers aware that we are considering this increase to allow their comments to be heard. Mr. Lamantia requested that a letter be sent to the customers making them aware of the Board's intentions and provide a time for public comments to be heard. Ms. Kelly provided rate increase notices from PA American for two other areas with both being increased to a rate that is less than our previously discussed increase amount. She stated that we hired a professional firm to negotiate the sale of our plant and we haven't even discussed this intent to raise the rates with them. Mr. Lamantia stated that he would like all Supervisors present to discuss this matter further as he believes that Mr. Weimer also has comments on this item. The Board agreed to add this item to the May 19th work session agenda for further discussion and to send a letter to the residents on the sewer making them aware of this upcoming discussion on a proposed rate increase.

2. Discussion on Request for Support of the Pocono Mountain Public Library Referenda

Mr. Lamantia stated that he would like Mr. Weimer in attendance at the work session when this is discussed as he has comments on this item. It was agreed that this will be added to the May 19th work session for further consideration. Ms. Shincovich asked if anyone on the Board had any questions, being advised that they do not at this time. Solicitor Armstrong stated that the library would like to get this on the November ballot and asked Ms. Shincovich if the May 19th work session would interfere with this being advised by Ms. Shincovich that it will not as they will begin circulating the petitions in June. Solicitor Armstrong stated that he has not sent any letters to the Solicitor for the library as he is waiting to see if the Board is in favor of the referenda or not.

3. Other Business

Nothing was heard

4. Public Comment

M. Peterson stated that he appreciates the website and the meeting packets for transparency. He asked if on the codes report 30 sewer violations is in line with the past years and asked if any short term rental violations would also be included on this report if there were any. Mr. Lamantia asked that he provide his email address to Ms. Masker stated she will pass the questions on to the zoning department to be addressed.

Work Session ended at 6:18pm.