

**Jewett City Department of Public Utilities
Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners was held in the office of the DPU on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 4:30 pm.

Chairman Demicco called the meeting to order with Comm. Comfort present and Comm. Throwe by telephone. Also, in attendance was First Selectwoman Dana Bennett and Michael LaLima, GWPCA, along with Kenneth Sullivan, Director of Utilities and the secretary in the DPU office. The roll call was taken.

AGENDA #2 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 2022:

Director Sullivan stated that he would like a word corrected in Agenda #8 Sewer Update in the fourth paragraph changing 'lee' to 'lead'.

After agreeing to the amendment, Comm. Comfort made the motion to approve the February 9, 2022, regular meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

AGENDA #3 READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:

Director Sullivan explained that enclosed for the Commissioners information were:

- * A copy of the quarterly dividend check received from Virtus Investment Partners.

AGENDA #4 SEWER UPDATE:

Director Sullivan stated that the Wastewater Treatment Plant was plagued with continuous repairs and that chemical levels were well below permit levels. He also mentioned that the most recent financial reports were again showing the bottom line is in the red. Director Sullivan stated that with that said and the many anticipated future repairs he would be proposing a user fee rate increase for July 1, 2022 billing. After some discussion, he stated that he didn't have firm amounts yet but thought it may be a 4-7.75% increase.

All agreed to Skip Agenda #5 while waiting for Mario Tristany to arrive.

AGENDA #6 DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON NEW POLICY:

Director Sullivan explained that the reason for a new sewer policy entitled 'Force Main Tie-In' was to not have Jewett City DPU accept responsibility of problems that may exist if a customer would be allowed to tie into a force main. He explained that if a customer were allowed and the check valve on the residential side failed in the open position, the residence would get sewage pumped into their respective residence and the JCDPU does not want to accept that existing liability and this policy would not allow a tie-in to a sewer force main. After some discussion, Chairman Demicco made the motion to accept and adopt the new Sewer System Division policy entitled 'Force Main Tie-In' as of March 9, 2022. The motion was seconded with all in favor.





AGENDA #7 DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON SOLAR INCENTIVES POLICY:

Director Sullivan explained that each year he reviews the policy for solar incentives and stated there has been a decline in solar incentives. After some discussion, Chairman Demicco made the motion to accept the policy entitled 'Solar Incentives' as amended. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

AGENDA #8 DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS POLICY:

Director Sullivan explained that it was noticed that the enclosed policy had not been updated with our Rate 19 Green Energy which we have offered for many years. He stated that the old and new policy were both enclosed for the Commissioner's review. Chairman Demicco made the motion to accept the 'Terms and Conditions of Service Rules and Regulations' as amended. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

AGENDA #9 REPORTS OF OTHER COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman Demicco stated that he attended some CMEEC meetings including the Regular Board meeting and the Borough of Jewett City monthly Board Meeting.

Comm. Throwe stated he had attended the CMEEC Board Meeting.

AGENDA #10 OTHER BUSINESS:

Director Sullivan informed the Commissioners that on the electric division side he was seeing everyday expenses were rising along with the generation side of our power bill increasing. He stated that he had heard other utilities had increased their rates. He stated that he would try to mitigate but an electric rate increase is anticipated sometime in the future.

Chairman Demicco asked about the progress at Pleasant View Estates. Director Sullivan informed them that a Community Building was ready for wire to be pulled and it was scheduled for the end of the next week. He also stated that two more buildings were under construction.

Director Sullivan mentioned that the Jewett City Little League Field bulb work was in progress with T&T Electric working on the project.

AGENDA #11 ADDRESS PUBLIC CONCERNS:

There were none for this meeting.

All agreed to return to Agenda #5.

AGENDA #5 DISCUSS SEWER EXPANSION IN GRISWOLD:

Director Sullivan informed First Selectwoman Bennett that the last he had known about this project was when the bonding was being held.

Mr. Lalima also informed the First Selectwoman Bennett that he believed it was May 2019 that he last heard about this project.

First Selectwoman Bennett stated that this project was on the back burner for quite awhile. She stated that Fuss & O'Neal has started working on it and developed plans for the sewer line placement and overall construction project.

Mr. Lalima told her that he has reviewed the plans and they must be to Jewett City DPU standards.

First Selectwoman Bennett noted that Superintendent Terri Pellitier, at the WWTP, had been communicated with as to where to place the pipes which would go up Route 201 to Hopeville before the Route 395 highway bridge.

Mario Tristany, Town Planner, came into the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Mr. Tristany informed the Board that the goal for both lengths of pipe is to get more development into Griswold.

Mr. Tristany reviewed the plans for Route 164 from Roberts Street down to Barber Road. He stated that the pipes are planned to not be in the highway and will be gravity fed until a proposed pump station. He also stated that Route 164 is being considered for commercial development including the Heritage River Property. There was some discussion regarding the funding for the buildings and that they would be for mixed use. Mr. Lalima stated that with a force main showing on the plans, there would be a need for flow.

Mr. Tristany reviewed the proposed sewer line on East Main Street needing an upgrade out from the pump station with the possibility of private lines wanting to tie-in to them. He mentioned that the sewer pipe may go to Miller Farm to Polinski's through the woods.

After much discussion, Director Sullivan and First Selectwoman Bennett agreed to get together with Fuss & O'Neal for their explanations and thoughts on the project including their objectives and allowing residents to tie-in to the line. They reviewed the dates and agreed on March 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Demicco made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 pm. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra L. Bingell
Secretary to the Board