

JEWETT CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
MEETING MINUTES**

June 12, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners was held in the office of the DPU on Wednesday June 12, 2024, at 4:30 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Chairman Demicco with Commissioners James Derusha and Kenneth Comfort and Kenneth Sullivan, Director of Utilities, present. Also in attendance was Laurie Sorder, Acting Warden and Selectman Martin McKinney. Linda Reagan and Todd Sklodosky, recording. Also attending the meeting were David Kagan, and Jeff Leftkovich of Heritage River Development who brought with them Dave McKay from Boundaries. Upon conclusion of the Heritage River Development presentation Rocco Marciano of Heritage Benefit attended.

Commissioner Comfort made the motion to add an executive session that Comm. Derusha seconded. All in favor; **motion carried.**

AGENDA ITEM #2 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF MAY 8, 2024. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 23, 2024

Commissioner Comfort made the motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of the May 8, 2024 meeting as presented and the special meeting of May 23, 2024, as presented. Commissioner Derusha seconded. All in favor; **motion carried.**

AGENDA ITEM #3 READING OF COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications were reviewed. Director Sullivan made mention that the CIRMA increase will need the Board's approval.

AGENDA ITEM #4 REPORTS OF OTHER COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Demicco stated he attended the Borough's regular monthly meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM # 5 DAVID KAGAN OF HERITAGE RIVER DEVELOPMENT
PRESENTATION.**

Members of the Heritage River Development shared flow charts and stated that the project will be moving forward beginning this 2024 fall year. Dave McKay advised that the tie-ins will be needed by spring of 2025.

Director Sullivan explained the entities and Griswold's involvement and asked Mr. McKay for the approximate daily flow rate for Phase 1 of the project. Mr. McKay advised that that Phase 1 will consist of the following approximate flows:

- Child development center - 800 gallons per day.
- YMCA with a pool – 5980 gallons per day based upon the YMCA in Mystic, CT.
- Mixed use to include a possible restaurant – 16,400 gallons per day.
- Building C&D for a senior living and memory care facility (special mention that the Department of Public Housing (DPH) would have the standards for flows and that his approximate flow rate is based upon a similar project they did in Ohio – over 40,000 gallons per day).

Phase 2:

- 26000 square feet for 56 apartments. – No approximate flow.
- Multi and attached family dwellings. – No approximate flow.
- Common space – No approximate flow.
- Medical facility – No approximate flow.

Chairman Demicco stated this needs to go to the GWPCA so they can grant the flows prior to JCDPU for the buy-in and tie-ins. Chair. Demicco advised that the GWPCA meeting is the second Tuesday in July at 7PM.

The seven-year-old project was brought up with Director Sullivan advising it has long expired and to treat this project as new.

Director Sullivan asked Mr. Kagan regarding the timing of the project Phases. Mr. Kagan responded that Phase 1 alone will take much time beginning in the fall of 2024, and that Phase 2 is way out with no specific time frame or dates.

All Heritage River Development representatives commented on their funding. Warden Sorder asked for clarification which was provided.

Mr. Kagan began asking if there are multiple tie/buy-ins and the costs associated with them. Director Sullivan replied that it will be a onetime payment for the entire development at \$1.8 Million.

AGENDA ITEM #6 SEWER UPDATE.

Director Sullivan advised the Board that the plant was running normal; however, there is an issue with a mixer on top of the ditch we are presently using that needs to be switched over to a second mixer. In order to fix that first mixer, we have to switch ditches utilizing a second mixer associated with the new ditch that we will be using. That process can take 2-3 days. Once we switch ditches it gives us approximately 2 years to go back and fix the first mixer.

Funding for the plant was mentioned again and Director Sullivan made mention of his punch list for repairs to include a costly new UV System and reiterated from past meetings that the plant situation is not sustainable without funding. Director Sullivan also briefed the Board on his on-going funding meetings with various agencies but is leaning towards another CWF loan. Having a new loan would have to be built into the budget and would significantly increase debt with the current CWF loan not being paid off until Year 2025. All parties discussed grants with Director Sullivan advising that none have been found at this time.

Selectman Martin McKinney asked how much the next sewer increase will be. Director Sullivan stated it could be above 10% if we end up having to obtain a CWF loan.

Chair. Demicco asked how much in total repairs for the sewer plant. Director Sullivan advised that the current punch list of items is \$1.98 Million.

Chairman Demicco asked if we had the funds for all of the repairs and Director Sullivan stated that with a million dollar loan the answer is yes; however, as soon as the repairs are completed that would exhaust the loan funds and JCDPU would be left in the current financial status.

After much further discussions on upcoming meetings for funding, grants and loans Comm. Demicco stated that a special meeting will be held on Wednesday June 19, 2024, at 4:30PM for a final decision on how to proceed

AGENDA ITEM #7 ROCCO MARCIANO OF HERITAGE BENEFIT TO ATTEND.

Rocco Marciano arrived to the meeting at 5:38PM to discuss the pension plan. Mr. Marciano stated he needed one signature from Chairman Demicco that was given.

Director Sullivan showed three files to all. There was much discussion on pensions and plans to include a question from Chair. Demicco on what age is retirement 65 or 62? Director Sullivan and Mr. Marciano stated it is currently at 65 with twenty years of service required. Director Sullivan posed the question to Mr. Marciano if we can change the age to 62 without penalties. Mr. Marciano will check into it.

Mr. Marciano advised that we are at a high growth rate of 11%; however, after current and upcoming retirements we will need to increase the investments. Director Sullivan asked how much that would be and Mr. Marciano stated \$15K per month.

There were further discussions on the various pension providers, rates, etc., but the final decision is to keep the plan where it is at. Commissioner Comfort motioned to keep the pension plan in place seconded by Commissioner Derusha. All in favor; **motion carried.**


AGENDA ITEM #8 OTHER BUSINESS.

Director Sullivan advised that there is a 3% increase in CIRMA. Chair. Demicco made the motion to adopt the 3% increase seconded by Comm. Comfort. All in favor; **motion carried.**

Chairman Demicco motioned at 6:09PM to enter into and Executive session seconded by Commissioner Derusha. All in favor; **motion carried.**

Chairman Demicco moved the meeting back into regular session. Chairman Demicco motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:19PM seconded by Comm. Derusha. All in favor; **motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by,



Todd A. Sklodosky
Secretary to the Board