

# **SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**November 10, 2014**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS:**

<b>Spring</b>	Gregg Heny Ted Onufrak Jason Scott Dondi Smeltzer
<b>Benner</b>	Dan Hoffman William Hughes Timothy Miller
<b>Walker</b>	Dennis McDowell Joseph Swanderski

**GUESTS:** None Present

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** N. Warren Miller

**CONSULTING SOLICITOR:** Robert Mix, Esq.

**EMPLOYEES:** Kelly Gill

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The November 10, 2014, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Timothy Miller, Chairman. Mr. T. Miller thanked everyone for attending and stated that the meeting would be recorded for transcription.

### **ROLL CALL:**

William Hughes, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording nine members present. Mr. T. Miller, Chairman, noted that with a quorum present, the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was permitted to conduct business under the laws of Pennsylvania.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. T. Miller, Chairman, led the Board members and Employees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. T. Miller asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the October 27, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Hughes referenced the approval of the agreements for Yeagle's Mini-Storage and asked if the Authority has an approved print for the sewer main relocation. Mr. W. Miller indicated that Nittany Engineering has provided the necessary construction prints, which have also been approved by our Authority. **Mr. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Heny to approve the Minutes of the October 27, 2014 Regular Meeting as presented. 9 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Bellefonte Borough** – The Authority received an email from Bellefonte Borough Authority's (BBA) Engineer, Robert Decker, enclosing cost estimates of almost \$5.2 million and a schedule of the BBA's capital projects for the 2015-2016 calendar year.

Mr. Decker indicated the BBA has amended their evaluation of the options for replacement of the RBCs and has decided to move forward with BIOMAG technology mainly due to the increased organic and solids loading which at times exceeds the BBA's permit limits. In his email, Mr. Decker also suggested the BBA believes the higher loading is primarily due to the water conservation at SCI Rockview.

Mr. W. Miller explained our Authority's approval of the BBA's pretreatment program that allows them to complete analytical testing of our customers to determine if a surcharge should be assessed for higher strength solids. The BBA has not assessed a Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) or Total Suspended Solids (TSS) surcharge for SCI Rockview since 2010, other than the fees to complete the testing (ie. wages, mileage, lab work); therefore, Mr. W. Miller doesn't believe this to be caused by SCI Rockview.

Mr. Swanderski asked if BBA's annual Chapter 94 report indicates the Plant is projected to be organically overloaded within the next five years. Mrs. Gill provided Mr. Swanderski with the 2013 BBA Chapter 94 report for his review during the meeting. Mr. Swanderski reviewed the report and indicated the BBA Treatment Plant does not appear to be organically overloaded, nor do they project an overload within the next five years. Mr. W. Miller informed Mr. Swanderski of BBA's acceptance of sludge at the plant by outside vendors and his concerns associated with the process. Mr. Swanderski asked why BBA would be taking outside sludge when they are having issues with their organics. It may be acceptable if the BBA had a separate receiving station for this septage to help balance the plant, but this does not appear to be the case.

Discussion was then held about the BBA receiving compensation for acceptance of the sludge, but not reducing the overall operation and maintenance (O&M) costs of the plant with the income. Mr. W. Miller also pointed out when the BBA collects a surcharge from SBWJA customers these fees are not calculated into the treatment bill and the BBA absorbs this income. Our Authority does not feel the BBA should be collecting the outside septage and then wanting our Authority to pay its proportionate share of the upgrades to the plant for an organic overload. The Board suggested Mr. W. Miller draft a letter to Bellefonte Borough with these concerns pointing out that their annual Chapter 94 Report does not project an overload through 2018. Mr. W. Miller will have the draft ready for review at the next board meeting on November 24, 2014.

**Bellefonte Borough 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2014 Billing** – We received the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2014 treatment plant billings from the Borough on October 14, 2014; however, there were some items within the billing that required further documentation. Mrs. Gill noted that we were being invoiced for some legal fees which seemed to relate to the Water Authority and there were invoices pertaining to the RBCs that were included within the O&M billing instead of the capital billing as discussed previously. These concerns were relayed to Lori Walker of Bellefonte Borough and a revised bill wasn't received until November 6, 2014. Mrs. Gill informed the Board that the revised bill no longer included the legal fees and the RBC billing rate was changed to Capital; however, the Borough is now invoicing our Authority the O&M rate for the Entex pilot study from 2013 that our Authority already paid at the capital rate.

Mr. W. Miller indicated the Borough originally completed a pilot study with the intention of using the Entex media treatment as another option for replacement of the RBCs, but since have decided to move forward with the BIOMAG technology. As a result, their auditor has indicated the Entex project can no longer be considered a capital project; therefore, they are now invoicing us the difference between the 42% paid of the bill and the actual O&M rate for that specific billing quarter. These 2013 costs amount to an increase of approximately \$2,600. Mr. W. Miller stated that he doesn't necessarily agree with how this is being handled by the Borough since the bills were already paid, but he does understand why the Entex would now be considered an O&M Cost based on accounting practices.

#### **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

Approval of Requisitions:

**Revenue Fund Requisition 2012-44** –T. Miller asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition #2012-44.

**Mr. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve Revenue Requisition 2012-44 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$283,240.29. 9 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

**GUESTS:** There were no Guests present for the meeting.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Mammoth Restoration** - The deadline for Mammoth to have the proper cover restored to the forcemain that serves SCI Rockview/SCI Benner expired on 10/15/2014. Our Authority personnel excavated the forcemain and determined some areas only had 1.5 inches of cover. Other areas that were untouched had about 36 inches of cover. Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that our Authority personnel completed the necessary work and have invoiced Mammoth accordingly. The day after the work was completed, we were contacted by a local contractor who was intending to bid on completing the job.

**Gregg Township Sewer Authority** – Our Authority assisted the Gregg Township Sewer Authority (GTSA) last week by cleaning their equalization tank, which enabled their contractor to complete the sandblasting of their sequencing batch reactor. The GTSA have expressed an interest in contracting with our Authority to complete routine maintenance work.

**The Mews at Burnham Farms** – We have received notification that the pump station will be delivered on 11/12/2014 for the Mews at Burnham Farms. This will be a submersible pump station with 3HP pumps and will add 45 duplexes to the Authority's system.

**2015 F350 Service Truck** – Mr. W. Miller has ordered the additional service truck that was included within the 2014 budget.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Mix had nothing to report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Mr. T. Miller recessed the Board for an Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. The meeting reconvened at 8:58 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Muni-Link Billing Software** – Mrs. Gill informed the Board that Muni-Link has addressed the concerns she had with making our current billing practices function with their software. The Authority staff is scheduled for training on 11/18/2014 and will be using the new software in mid-December. Mr. Onufrak suggested offering our billing services to the GTSA.

**Graystone Court** – Mr. Heny inquired about the status of the maintenance bond for Graystone Court. Mrs. Gill indicated the certified check provided by Jeff Long was deposited on 11/10/2014 into an 18 month CD at Northwest Savings, since a bond was not provided by Robert Poole.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2015 Tentative Budget** – Mr. Onufrak referenced the 2015 Tentative Budget that was provided and indicated the yellow highlighted areas represent some modifications that were made after the Board packet was provided last week. At the recommendation of the finance committee several income accounts were created to reflect any income received by outside sources through Contracted Services. These would include services to the Benner Township Water Authority, Gregg Township Sewer Authority, Centre County Government and vector truck rental to numerous agencies.

As previously discussed, the Board was also provided with a list of capital improvements and donations to organizations for the 2015 budget year. The Board discussed in great depth the donations to non-profit organizations and decided against incorporating this line item into the budget. The proposed capital improvements were discussed for 2015 which include the purchase of a new Vector truck (less trade-in),

Bellefonte Borough capital improvements and landscaping at our pump stations. Mr. W. Miller indicated if there are any monies remaining at the end of the year, he may consider purchasing a new T-Tag Dump Truck since our 2005 model is starting to show wear.

The Facilities Committee will be holding a work session at 6:15 p.m. on 11/24/2014 at the Authority office to discuss the 2015 capital improvements.

With no further questions regarding the 2015 Tentative Budget, **Mr. Swanderski moved, seconded by Mr. Smeltzer to approve the 2015 Tentative Budget as presented.** 9 ayes, 0 nays. **The motion carried.**


**Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority Christmas Party** – Mr. T. Miller asked if anyone was interested in the Authority holding a Christmas party for the Board members and Employees. The party would be held prior to the scheduled Board Meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> and would be catered. Mr. McDowell asked if the Board would like to extend the invitation to the Township Supervisors and the Board agreed. The Authority staff will make arrangements for the Christmas party as directed by the Board.


**Employee Gift Certificates** - Mr. T. Miller indicated that in past years the Authority has provided the employees with gift certificates at a local grocery store for the Christmas Holiday. **Mr. Hoffman moved, seconded by Mr. McDowell to purchase gift certificates for each of the Authority's employees from a local grocery store as with previous years.** 9 ayes, 0 nays. **The motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Smeltzer moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m.** 9 ayes, 0 nays. **The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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William Hughes, Secretary

  
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Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Spring Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Walker Township \_\_\_\_\_