

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

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**August 8, 2016**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

<b>AUTHORITY MEMBERS:</b>	<b>Spring</b>	Joseph Galbraith Gregg Heny Chris McMurtrie Dondi Smeltzer
	<b>Benner</b>	Dan Hoffman Timothy Miller
	<b>Walker</b>	Ted Onufrak

**GUESTS:** None present

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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** N. Warren Miller

**EMPLOYEES:** Kelly Gill

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The August 8, 2016, 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:**

Dondi Smeltzer, Assistant Secretary, took Roll Call, recording seven members present. Mr. Hughes and Mr. McDowell were absent. 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 July 25, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the Minutes of the July 25, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Adam & Stacey Norfolk** – We received a letter from Adam & Stacey Norfolk in response to our letter dated July 11, 2016 regarding a continuing root obstruction issue experienced with their private grinder tank at 122 Harnish Lane, Bellefonte as well as a damaged grinder tank lid. Mr. and Mrs. Norfolk feel the issue has been resolved to the best of their ability since the tank lid was replaced and Robinson Septic's service technician removed the roots.

Mr. W. Miller informed the Board the gasket that seals the pipe in the grinder tank has failed and there has been an ongoing root issue for some time. The grinder tank was excavated once within the last few years, but unfortunately it was not properly repaired, so the roots continue to grow into the lateral and tank.

Mr. W. Miller will send a letter to the Norfolks indicating the repairs to the tank lid were sufficient to avoid an infiltration and inflow surcharge from being assessed; however, our Authority strongly recommends excavation of this grinder tank to avoid additional blockages in their sewer lateral.

**Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission (NVJPC)** – We received a letter from Paul Kurtz, Chairman of the NVJPC, regarding sewer service to the Shiloh Road area of Benner Township. The NVJPC was presented with two options for sewer service to the Shiloh Road area at their July 21, 2016 meeting by Benner Township Supervisor David Wise, Dr. Gerald Clair and John Sepp of Penn Terra Engineering.

Mr. W. Miller indicated he doesn't believe the NVJPC was presented with adequate information when the determination was made to suggest our Authority relinquish this area to the University Area Joint Authority (UAJA). The Centre Region Council of Government's (COG) Act 537 Plan indicates the UAJA's Benner Pike Pump Station that currently serves existing customers along Shiloh Road and Benner Pike in College Township is projected to overload and will require rehabilitation/upgrading for the proposed development along the Shiloh Road corridor within Benner Township. These expenses are not being considered.

This area would be best served by our Authority with conveyance to the UAJA's plant for treatment based on an inter-municipal agreement for payment based on flow, similar to the agreement our Authority has with Bellefonte Borough.

Mr. Galbraith recommended a letter be sent to the UAJA to determine if there is any interest in an inter-municipal agreement with our Authority for the treatment of the flow to the Shiloh Road area within Benner Township. Mr. W. Miller indicated that he recalls seeing written confirmation by the Centre Regional Planning Agency authorizing the UAJA to work with our Authority to develop an agreement on how to provide public sewer service to the portion of the Rogers and Clair properties within Benner Township.

The Board agreed to send a letter to the UAJA indicating our Authority is willing to open discussions regarding the treatment of the sewage in the Shiloh Road area and would like to obtain a cost for treatment based on flow, even though an actual plan has yet to be presented to our Authority. The Board also agreed to send a letter to the NVJPC outlining the circumstances with sewer service to this area.

### **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

Approval of Requisitions:

**Revenue Fund Requisition 2012-83** – Mr. T. Miller asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition #2012-83. **Mr. Heny moved, seconded by Mr. Smeltzer to approve Revenue Requisition 2012-83 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$51,079.13.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.** Mr. Smeltzer referenced the payment for two reflective road signs being rather expensive and suggested obtaining quotes for future signage.

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

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

**Knoebels Picnic** – The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual family picnic at Knoebel's Amusement Resort was held on Saturday, August 6, 2016. Mr. W. Miller reported that it was a success and everyone who attended seemed to have a good time, even with the large crowd at the park that day. Mr. W. Miller thanked the Board on behalf of the employees for this event.

**Pump Station #7 Upgrades** – The Pre-Construction conference was held on July 27, 2016 and HRI will be surveying within the next week with construction commencing in the next few weeks.

**189/191 Thomas Lane, Pleasant Gap** - During a previous meeting, Mr. W. Miller informed the Board of the prior owner of 189/191 Thomas Lane, Pleasant Gap falsifying the sewer permit application in 2009 indicating a Single Family Dwelling (Bi-Level home) was being constructed; however, a duplex was constructed. At Mr. Mix's recommendation, a letter and invoice will be sent to the current owner of 189/191 Thomas Lane, Pleasant Gap for the additional 1.00 EDU (equivalent dwelling unit) in the amount of \$2,500.00 that was not collected in 2009.

**Bellefonte Borough:**

**Industrial Pretreatment Program**– On July 29, 2016 our Authority received an email from Robert Cook, Bellefonte Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent, indicating the Borough Authority is in the process of updating its Industrial Pretreatment Program and therefore is requesting a listing of our Authority's non-residential customers. Mrs. Gill provided this information to Mr. Cook on August 1, 2016 and received a thank you for the quick response. Mr. W. Miller indicated the Borough Authority uses this information to assess surcharges to industrial/commercial users for excessive BOD/TSS.

**Quarterly Billings** – Mrs. Gill indicated that she received the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2015 Final Billing and the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2016 treatment plant billings on August 1, 2016. Mrs. Gill emailed Lori Walker on August 2, 2016 with a list of questions for clarification of the billings and has yet to receive a response.

**Axemann Road Connection** – Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that earlier this year a potential customer, who purchased land bordering SR 144 (Axemann Road) near Forge Road, contacted our Authority about connecting to the sewer along SR144. Connection of this property to the sanitary sewer will require a Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) from PennDOT since the sewer mainline, within the cartway, will need excavated to install a sewer tap to the property line. Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that PennDOT requires the HOP to be in the name of our Authority, but the property owner is responsible to hire an engineer to obtain the HOP. The property owner is also responsible for having their contractor excavate the sewer mainline for our Authority personnel to make the tap to the property line, at the homeowner's expense.

The property owner contacted our Authority office within the last couple of weeks wanting to proceed with the connection and was once again informed the HOP needed obtained by PennDOT before any construction can be completed within the State Highway. The property owner then attempted to complete the paperwork electronically with PennDOT, without the assistance of an Engineer and using our Authority's name, but didn't follow protocol and the permit was being rejected. Mr. W. Miller informed the property owner that Gwin, Dobson & Foreman (GD&F) would be able to assist them with completion of the paperwork, but would invoice them accordingly for the work completed. The HOP was approved through our Authority's emergency permit last week; however, PennDOT has now indicated the property owner's contractor, is not certified to work within the State Highway; therefore, the work cannot proceed. With the SR144 restoration scheduled for early September, PennDOT has also indicated the sewer tap to this property must be completed prior to the resurfacing of the road.

Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that late last week he was contacted by the homebuilder requesting our Authority complete the excavation work within SR144 and bill the property owner for the work to avoid any further delays. Mr. W. Miller indicated our rules and regulations do not permit for this type of work and he would have to discuss the matter further with the Board.

Mr. Mix recommended our Authority follow its regulations, which do not permit for this type of work and the Board agreed with Mr. Mix's legal opinion.

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

**ENGINEER' S REPORT:** Mr. Johnson was absent from the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no Old Business presented for discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Stonehenge Subdivision Phase 6** – The Authority is in receipt of an Easement Agreement and Sewer Extension Agreement for the Stonehenge Subdivision Phase 6 that will need signed at the meeting. Mrs. Gill indicated the developer, William First, has provided the Authority with an easement agreement for sewer facilities to be constructed outside of the public right-of-way.

**Septage Management Plan** – Mr. Onufrak indicated he recently became aware of some individual property owners within the Centre Region that are experiencing financial hardship with the pumping of their septic tanks as required by the Septage Management Plan and asked if we received any feedback about a similar issue within Spring and Benner Townships. Mr. W. Miller indicated he was not aware of any financial hardships with the cost of complying with the Township's Septage Management Plan. Mr. Onufrak suggested our Authority could generate income by offering payment options for the pumping of the tanks over a three year period with quarterly payments. Mr. Smeltzer indicated he believes this is a Township issue and not a concern of our Authority. Mr. W. Miller will contact the Townships to inquire about any financial hardships encountered by its residents.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel & Community Relations Committee** – Mr. Hoffman had nothing to report.

**Facilities Committee:** Mr. Hughes was absent.

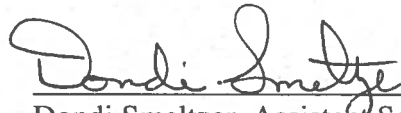
**Financial Committee:**

**Retirement Meeting** – Mr. Onufrak indicated an email was distributed to the Finance Committee members regarding the review of the retirement proposal submitted by Fulton Financial Advisors. Mr. Heny stated he doesn't recall seeing the email and will look into it further when he returns home.

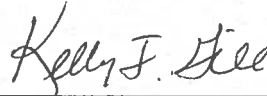
**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Smeltzer to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Dondi Smeltzer, Assistant Secretary



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Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township  
Spring Township 7/8/23/2016  
Walker Township \_\_\_\_\_