

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

January 11, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:	Spring	Joseph Galbraith Gregg Heny Chris McMurtrie Dondi Smeltzer
	Benner	Dan Hoffman William Hughes Timothy Miller
	Walker	Dennis McDowell

GUEST: Shirley Gryczuk & Ellen Hartle

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Andy Johnson, P.E.

CONSULTING SOLICITOR: Robert Mix, Esq.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Tasha Dutton & Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The January 11, 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:

William Hughes, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording eight members present. Mr. Onufrak was 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, Employees and Guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOMING OF NEW BOARD MEMBER: Mr. T. Miller welcomed Chris McMurtrie to the Board as he was recently appointed by the Spring Township Supervisors. It was noted that Mr. McMurtrie previously served on the Board from March 2007 to June 2009.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Mr. T. Miller appointed Robert A. Mix, Temporary Chairman, to conduct the election of officers for 2016. Mr. Mix opened the nominations. **Mr. Hoffman moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to retain the same officers from the previous year.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried. Attached is a list of Officers for 2016 that is made a part of these official Minutes.**

Retaining Professional Services for 2016 – Mr. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to retain Solicitor – Lee, Green & Reiter. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.** Mr. T. Miller thanked Mr. Mix for his exceptional legal services.

Retaining Professional Services for 2016 – Mr. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to retain Consulting Engineer – Gwin Dobson & Foreman. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.** Mr. T. Miller also thanked Mr. Johnson for his exceptional engineering services.

Retaining Professional Services for 2016- Mr. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to retain Accountant – Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP (formerly known as Parente Beard). 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. Galbraith to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Spring Township Water Authority – We received a letter from Doug Weikel, Chairman of Spring Township Water Authority (STWA) Board, indicating they will be conducting a draw down test on the Cerro Test Well #1 located off of Mulbarger Lane and are requesting permission to discharge the pumped water into a sewer manhole along Gregory Lane or Pine Ridge Circle. The STWA is also requesting the charges be based upon our Authority's actual cost and not our current rate structure. Mr. W. Miller stated that we currently pay Bellefonte an average cost of \$2.30 per 1,000 gallons to treat our flows; however, this amount would vary quarterly due to expenses and proportionate flows. The Authority's current rate schedule for our customers reflects a charge of \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons. The flows for this project would be metered closely and may average 700,000 to 750,000 gallons per day. Mr. W. Miller expressed no concerns regarding this request. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to accept the flows from STWA at cost per 1,000 gallons including any labor associated with the process and contingent upon Bellefonte Borough's approval of accepting the flows.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

PA Department of Transportation – We received a letter from Brian G. Thompson, Director of the PA Department of Transportation, informing our Authority they have approved the cost sharing of the total cost of relocating and/or adjusting our sewer service in connection with the SR 144 resurfacing project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2012-69 – Mr. T. Miller asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition #2012-69. **Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. Smeltzer to approve Revenue Requisition 2012-69 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$107,038.82.** Mr. Heny asked how many meters were being purchased from Susquehanna Fire Equipment, which Mr. W. Miller replied three (3). Mr. Heny also questioned where the five (5) Gorman-Rupp Pumps from Envirep were being installed. Mr. W. Miller indicated that these pumps will be installed at the Rockview Pump Station. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

GUESTS:

Ellen Hartle/3052 Benner Pike - Ellen Hartle approached the Board stating that she was not pleased with the progress of public sewer being installed at her rental property located at 3052 Benner Pike. Mrs. Hartle stated that she is experiencing financial hardship because she has been unable to rent the property since February of 2015 due to a failing on-lot septic system. Mr. W. Miller stated that the Authority has obtained the grinder tanks for the project and the survey work and right-of-ways has been completed. It was noted that the Authority has been in contact with four (4) of the five (5) property owners regarding the project and have discussed the location of the new grinder tanks;

however, there is still one (1) home owner that has not contacted Mr. W. Miller, which is causing a delay in the installation process. Mr. W. Miller has tried to contact the last home owner multiple times with no success; therefore, he has sent a letter to the property owner giving him a final offer asking him to contact our office. The letter will inform the property owner that he will not be eligible for the connection loan that will be offered to the customers and he will not receive a free grinder tank if he fails to contact our office immediately. Mr. Mix stated that the Authority could proceed with eminent domain; however, this process would be very time consuming. Mrs. Hartle stated that she would contact Mr. W. Miller in two (2) weeks to check the status of the project. Mr. W. Miller also stated he has been told by other property owners that this extension will cause them a significant financial burden and their current on-lot systems were recently pumped which was required by the township. They are not experiencing any septic issues.

Shirley Gryczuk – Mrs. Gryczuk had nothing to bring to the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

SR 144 Resurfacing Project - Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that he has estimated the total cost of raising manholes in the SR 144 resurfacing project to be \$39,595.00. The Authority has received a letter from PA Department of Transportation indicating they have approved the 50/50 cost share for relocating and/or adjusting our sewer service within the SR 144 resurfacing project.

PS# 7 Upgrades – A flood plan realignment took place state wide in 2009 and now P.S. #7 is within the 100 year flood plan; therefore, Walker Township is unable to grant us a building permit without SBWJA attending a Zoning Hearing Board Meeting. Mr. W. Miller asked that Walker Township try to accommodate SBWJA as soon as possible to avoid further delays. The SBWJA Board members will be informed of the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting date as it becomes available.

Cleveland Brothers Addition – Cleveland Brothers of 175 Progress Drive, Bellefonte is proposing an addition to their existing facility in Benner Commerce Park which will require a revision to our existing sewer easement.

Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that this facility failed its' in-home inspection due to HVAC condensate lines draining into the floor drains that are being discharged into the sanitary sewer system; therefore, they have been paying an I & I surcharge since 2014. It was noted that this addition will eliminate this flow being introduced into our sewer system and would eliminate their I & I surcharge.

Mr. W. Miller indicated that the current right-of-way extends to the building and the revised right-of-way would stop at the last manhole that serves the facility. **Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. Galbraith to approve the revised easement with Cleveland Brothers as summarized by Mr. W. Miller. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Vector Truck – The Vector truck was sent to Hunter Peterbilt today to have the engine brake installed and is estimated to cost the Authority \$6,600.00. Mr. W. Miller indicated that the original cost to have this brake installed would have been \$3,500.00.

SBWJA Board Reappointment - Mr. T. Miller congratulated Mr. McDowell on his reappointment to the Board. Mr. McDowell has been an SBWJA Board member since 1991.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Benner Pike Sewer Extension – Mr. Johnson stated he has been finalizing the easements associated with the Benner Pike Sewer Extension.

PS#7 Upgrades – Mr. Johnson stated that they are still waiting for permits from PADEP for the PS#7 upgrades.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bellefonte Borough Authority – Mr. T. Miller informed the Board that he had an informal meeting with Joe Beigle of the Bellefonte Borough Authority on 1/5/2016. Mr. Beigle explained the Biomag process and why it was a good decision for Bellefonte. Mr. T. Miller indicated that his objective of this meeting was to establish better communications and relationships between our organizations so we may better serve our community by working together. Mr. T. Miller stated that he had suggested a committee be formed by both entities to discuss topics of mutual interests.

Office Employee – Mr. Hoffman inquired about the vacant office position and what the plans would be to assist the current office staff. The office staff has discussed this matter and feels that a full-time office employee would not be necessary due to the efficiency of the new billing software. Mrs. Gill stated that a part-time employee working two (2) to three (3) days a week should be adequate. Mr. W. Miller also mentioned that a new maintenance laborer will be hired soon to replace the one we lost.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no New Business presented for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel & Community Relations Committee – Mr. Hoffman stated that Mr. T. Miller had discussed changes to retirement for the employees; therefore, Mr. Hoffman has started researching the employee’s benefits to prepare for next year’s budget. Mr. Hoffman also informed the Board that the PA Bulletin indicated zero (0) for the 2016 cost of living rate.


Facilities Committee: Mr. Hughes had nothing to report.

Finance Committee: Mr. Heny had nothing to report.

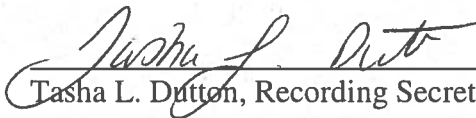
ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Heny to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



William Hughes, Secretary



Tasha L. Dutton, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____

Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority

2016 OFFICERS & MEMBERS

OFFICERS:

Timothy Miller –Chairman
Dennis McDowell – Vice Chairman
William Hughes –Secretary
Dondi Smeltzer – Assistant Secretary
Ted Onufrak – Treasurer
Gregg Heny - Assistant Treasurer

MEMBERS:

Dan Hoffman
Joseph Galbraith
Christie McMurtrie