

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

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**June 12, 2017**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

<b>AUTHORITY MEMBERS:</b>	<b>Spring</b>	Joseph Galbraith Gregg Heny Chris McMurtrie Dondi Smeltzer
	<b>Benner</b>	Dan Hoffman William Hughes
	<b>Walker</b>	Dennis McDowell Ted Onufrak

**GUESTS:** Terry Perryman – Spring Township Supervisor  
Frank Royer – Spring Township Supervisor  
David Burns & Matthew Burns – 509 Hughes Street

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** N. Warren Miller

**EMPLOYEES:** Will Barton, Tasha Dutton and Kelly Gill

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The June 12, 2017, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Dennis McDowell, Vice-Chairman. Mr. McDowell thanked everyone for attending and stated that the meeting would be recorded for transcription.

### **ROLL CALL:**

William Hughes, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording seven members present. Mr. T. Miller was absent and Mr. Onufrak entered the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Mr. McDowell, Vice-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. McDowell, Vice-Chairman, led the Board members and Employees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. McDowell asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the May 22, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to approve the Minutes of the May 22, 2017 Regular Meeting as presented.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

**Mr. Onufrak entered the meeting at 7:01 p.m.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**PA Department of General Services** – We received a letter from Joyce Conrad of the Pennsylvania Department of General Services, Bureau of Supplies & Surplus Division, informing us that it is time to update our application for purchases at the Federal Surplus in Harrisburg. The application must be updated every three years.

**Walker Township Fire Company** – We received a request for donation from the Walker Township Fire Company as part of their annual fund drive.

**Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners** – We received a notice from McKenzi Loid, Public Information Manager, indicating that construction for SR 144 (Pleasant View Boulevard) bridge is scheduled to commence the week of June 19<sup>th</sup> and is estimated to be completed by mid-November. Mr. W. Miller indicated the Authority recently relocated a sewer lateral at 710 Pleasant View Boulevard due to this work.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

Approval of Requisitions:

**Revenue Fund Requisition 2012-102** – Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition #2012-102. Mr. Smeltzer asked if the grinder pump from CW Sales in the amount of \$4,041.88 was purchased for the upgrades to Pump Station #1. Mr. W. Miller stated that this pump was purchased to provide sewer service for a property on Zion Back Road near the Deer Haven Development in Walker Township. It was noted that the property owner has already reimbursed the Authority for this grinder pump. **Mr. Smeltzer moved, seconded by Mr. Heny to approve Revenue Requisition 2012-102 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$95,729.72.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**GUESTS:**

**Will Barton** – Mr. McDowell introduced one of the Authority's newest employees to the Authority Board. Mr. Will Barton began employment with our Authority on May 8, 2017 in the maintenance department. Mr. Barton previously worked for Associated Realty Property Management in State College. The Board welcomed Mr. Barton.

**Frank Royer & Terry Perryman/Spring Township Water Authority** – Two of the Spring Township Supervisors, Frank Royer and Terry Perryman, attended the meeting on behalf of Spring Township's Manager, William MacMath. Mr. Royer stated they attended the meeting to discuss the status of Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority (SBWJA) continuing their services for maintaining the Spring Township Water Authority System. Mr. Perryman asked how long SBWJA would be willing to assist with the Spring Township Water Authority (STWA) operations. Mr. W. Miller indicated that SBWJA currently has a full schedule and it would be hard to assist with this request without hiring additional employees to accommodate the work load. It was noted that a long term agreement would need to be executed between SBWJA and STWA to ensure proper coverage of both systems.

Mr. W. Miller indicated he, with the help of the Spring Township Road Crew, corrected the reporting violations and corrected all deficiencies that the PA Department of Environmental Protection identified during a system inspection almost two years ago and were never corrected; however, he is not comfortable allowing STWA to continue to use him as their licensed water operator without a long term agreement being executed that would indemnify liability for the operators as well as SBWJA.

Mr. Royer indicated the Spring Township Road Maintenance and STWA utilize the same employees for both departments; therefore, paying SBWJA to manage the water system would not help with their lack of an employee in the maintenance department. Mr. W. Miller added the need for a certified operator to be present during many of the operation activities to insure regulatory compliance.

Mr. W. Miller asked Mr. Royer and Mr. Perryman why no representatives from the STWA were present at our meeting. They were not sure why and stated they were asked to attend our meeting. It was noted that SBWJA sent STWA a letter informing them that under the current arrangement SBWJA will only provide a PA licensed waterworks operator to monitor their system until June 15, 2017.

Mr. Perryman stated he is unsure why SBWJA is unwilling to sign a short term agreement to operate the water system. Mr. Hoffman stated we are willing to help; however, the SBWJA is not willing to waste time making the necessary legal documents and arrangements with insurance carriers simply to have the Township decide to end the agreement in a few months. It is of no benefit to the SBWJA.

Mr. Onufrak asked if we were to put an agreement together, how soon could the Supervisors sign the agreement. Mr. Perryman said the Supervisors can't sign an agreement with our Authority. Mr. Royer stated the Water Authority Board would have to sign the agreement with SBWJA.

Mr. Perryman stated that he was not sure of William MacMath's thoughts of executing an agreement between SBWJA and STWA. Mr. W. Miller informed Mr. Royer and Mr. Perryman that Mr. MacMath has not approached him regarding an agreement and had mentioned needing only a part-time employee to maintain the STWA system. Mr. W. Miller also expressed his concern with the absolute differences from his vision of how their water authority should be operated and how Mr. MacMath believes it should be operated. Mr. Perryman stated that he would need to speak with Mr. MacMath regarding this issue and thanked the Board for their time.

**Mr. Royer and Mr. Perryman exited the meeting at 7:20 p.m.**

**David & Matthew Burns/509 Hughes Street Sewer Extension** - The Board was approached by David and Matthew Burns of 509 Hughes Street requesting the status of SBWJA extending a 6" sewer mainline to their property due to their current on-lot septic system failing.

Mr. W. Miller stated that he spoke to Spring Township regarding the Burns current on-lot system and they stated that the lot size would prohibit an on-lot system under the current regulations being 1/3 of an acre, which is too small by today's standards of on-lot systems. It was noted that the current metal tank is in poor condition and that a new tank would be required. Mr. W. Miller also explained that even if the tank is replaced the drain field may not work properly; therefore, public sewer would be the only other alternative.

Matthew Burns stated that he currently resides at the property; however, he is in the process of selling. Mr. McDowell asked the approximate distance to extend the 6" mainline along with the cost associated with construction. Mr. W. Miller estimates the extension to cost around \$10,000.00 and would consist of approximately 150' of 6" mainline. The mainline would be installed along the berm of the road to keep pavement restoration to a minimum. Mr. W. Miller also indicated the mainline would also be extended to the vacant lot adjoining 509 Hughes Street for future use. The Authority would collect a \$2,500.00 tapping fee per connection for this extension.

The other option would be to have Mr. Burns complete the work on his own and execute an Act 57 reimbursement agreement with our Authority. Mr. Burns would then pay a tapping fee of \$1,750.00; however, if the property owner of the vacant lot would connect, they would be responsible to pay half of the construction costs back to Mr. Burns in addition to the tapping fee.

Mr. W. Miller reminded the Board that these connections will need to be tied into Bellefonte Borough's sewer line.

**Mr. Gailbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to extend public sewer to 509 Hughes Street and the adjoining vacant lot contingent on Bellefonte Borough's approval to connect directly to their mainline located within Hughes street. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Mr. W. Miller encouraged Mr. Burns to attend Bellefonte Borough's next meeting to request permission to allow SBWJA to extend public sewer to the property and for Bellefonte Borough to accept the flow.

**David Burns and Matthew Burns exited the meeting at 7:33 p.m.**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Melinda Cain** – Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that Melinda Cain started employment with us today. Ms. Cain is an upcoming graduate from South Hills Business School.

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Knoebels Picnic** – SBWJA will be holding our 13<sup>th</sup> annual family picnic at Knoebels Amusement Resort on Saturday, August 5, 2017. Mr. W. Miller reminded everyone to RSVP to the Authority office by June 26<sup>th</sup> so we can ensure we have enough food and tickets.

**PA Fish Commission Property (Robinson Lane)** – Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that he was contacted by the PA Fish Commission (PAFC) about reconnecting their bi-level home along Robinson Lane. This home was disconnected in May of 2014 due to it being scheduled to be sold at auction; however, this fell through. The PAFC currently has an interested party willing to purchase the property if the home is reconnected to the public sewer. The home will be reconnected to the public sewer through the PAFC's private infrastructure for 10 years by an agreement with the new owner and the PAFC and then it will be the responsibility of the buyer to connect to the public sewer without using PAFC's infrastructure.

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

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**Facilities Committee:** Mr. Hughes had nothing to report.

**Financial Committee:** Mr. Onufrak had nothing to report.

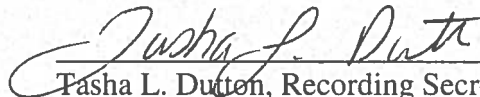
**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Smeltzer moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 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 \_\_\_\_\_