

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

March 14, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

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

GUESTS: Shirley Gryczuk

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Andy Johnson, P.E.

CONSULTING SOLICITOR: Robert Mix, Esq.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Tasha Dutton and Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The March 14, 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. Hoffman 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.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. T. Miller asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the February 22, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. McMurtrie moved, seconded by Mr. Heny to approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

133 Whitman Circle – We received an email from Michael Wenrick and Angela Osborn requesting the Authority grant them personal hardship for their property at 133 Whitman Circle, Pleasant Gap. Mr. Wenrick and Ms. Osborn's home was destroyed by fire on March 7, 2016. The SBWJA maintenance department completed a video inspection of the sewer lateral to confirm there were no issues. **Mr. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to grant Mr. Wenrick and Ms. Osborn personal hardship for their property at 133 Whitman Circle contingent on Spring Township Water Authority terminating water service to the property.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

PA Department of Transportation – We received the executed Reimbursement Agreement from Larry Ditty Jr. of PennDOT for the SR 144 resurfacing project. Mr. W. Miller indicated that he will be attending the preconstruction conference on March 21, 2016 regarding this project. The preconstruction conference will indicate a start date for the project. It was noted that the contractor for this project will be New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.

Thank You – The Authority received a thank you card from Brian Book expressing his thanks for our thoughts and prayers at the time of his surgery.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2012-73 – Mr. T. Miller asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition #2012-73. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Smeltzer to approve Revenue Requisition 2012-73 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$93,368.29.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

GUESTS:

Shirley Gryczuk – Mr. T. Miller asked Ms. Gryczuk if she wanted to address the Board. Ms. Gryczuk indicated she had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Commercial Insurance Values – Mr. W. Miller indicated as a result of the Authority's most recent Industrial Appraisal report, the total replacement property value has increased by \$478,141.00 resulting in an additional premium of \$1,120.00.

Springfield Pump Station #1 Pumps – The Springfield Pump Station #1 that was installed in the early to mid 1990's have been experiencing debris getting hung up in the volutes. This process is occurring due to the volutes and propellers being worn out. Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that Flygt pumps are currently used at this facility and that it takes approximately six (6) weeks to receive repair parts due to the pumps being produced in Sweden. The maintenance department and Mr. W. Miller have looked into a more feasible pump replacement. It was noted that Gorman Rupp now makes a submersible vortex pump which would be more effective at this pump station due to the reoccurring problem of disposable wipes being caught in the volutes of the pumps. This upgrade should cost approximately \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Mr. W. Miller stated that the cost may be less due to SBWJA employees installing the new pumps. This project is proposed for later this year pending the budget outcome.

Hiring of Employees – Mr. W. Miller indicated that the Authority has increased their staff. Deb Hoy started employment with the Authority on 3/7/2016 for the part-time position in the office. It was noted that Ms. Hoy previously worked for Walker Township Water Association for ten (10) years. Brad Witmer will start employment in the maintenance department on 3/28/2016. Mr. Witmer's previous employer was Hazel Plumbing and Heating.

116 Willow Bend Drive – Mr. W. Miller indicated that he had sent a response letter to the PA Attorney General's Office regarding the consumer complaint from the homeowner of 116 Willow Bend Drive. The property owner contacted our office last week asking if the Authority would be taking on the responsibility of having the sewer lateral corrected and at that time Mr. W. Miller indicated the Authority would not be doing so. Mr. W. Miller reiterated in detail how the grease cannot be introduced into the sewer lateral and how to properly wipe out the pans prior to washing them in the sink. The property owner was asked to contact our office this week to schedule a date and time to have the sewer lateral videoed to check the condition of the sewer lateral. The homeowner asked how they should disclose the sewer lateral issues to the buyers if the property was sold. Mr. W. Miller stated that they could disclose the sag issue and stress the importance of not introducing grease into the drain system.

Centre County Planning Meeting – Mr. W. Miller indicated that he will be attending the Centre County Planning Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on 3/15/2016 to express SBWJA's concerns with Bellefonte Borough's proposed sewer treatment plant upgrades. It was noted that Nittany Engineering & Associates did not attend the Spring Township Planning Commission meeting on 2/22/2016 to present Bellefonte Borough Authority's Special Study for the proposed upgrades to their Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Bellefonte Borough 4th Quarter 2015 Billing – Mr. W. Miller indicated that the Authority has been asking Bellefonte Borough for clarification with the 4th quarter 2015 bill. The first discrepancy was a \$10,000.00 bill from AECOM Technical Services. We believe this firm was hired to assist Bellefonte Borough and determine why they are not saving any electricity with JCI's \$1.4 million energy efficiency upgrade. Mr. W. Miller expressed to Mr. Mix how SBWJA should not be liable for Bellefonte's legal battle with their contractor.

The second issue with Bellefonte's bill would be the engineering fees for the Act 537 special study that they are invoicing us at the O&M rate which our proportionate share is 73% this quarter. Mrs. Gill emailed Lori Walker asking why this is being billed at the O&M rate instead of a Capital Improvement. Ms. Walker indicated to Mrs. Gill that DEP required this study. Mr. W. Miller stated that this is a new process and DEP required the Borough to complete the study because they are proposing to completely change their treatment plant process, which requires the study and would be considered a Capital Improvement. Mrs. Gill informed the Board that she also emailed Ralph Stewart regarding Ms. Walker's interpretation and that Mr. Stewart to date has not responded to this matter.

Mrs. Gill informed the Board that the Commonwealth needed the 4th quarter bill by 3/11/2016 and our auditors would be coming the following week; therefore, we needed these items to be finalized before we can close out our 2015 finances. At the Commonwealth's request, their 4th quarter 2015 invoice was generated based on the Borough bill received to avoid further delays. SBWJA will incorporate any adjustments to the Borough's 4th quarter 2015 bill into the Commonwealth's 1st quarter 2016 billing. Mrs. Gill expressed her frustrations with the untimeliness of the Borough's 4th quarter 2015 billing and the affects it has on our Authority and the Commonwealth.

Biosolids – Mr. Hughes asked what was taking place with the biosolids land application at the Spicer Farm in Benner Township. Mr. W. Miller indicated that DEP has approved Bellefonte Borough's application permit to land apply biosolids on the Spicer Farm near Grove Printing. It was noted that Bellefonte land applies 100% of the biosolids generated at the plant and that this would be the fifth farm that is involved with this process. The treatment plant operator, Bob Cook, informed Mr. W. Miller that grit is the only item hauled away to the landfill. The residents surrounding the Spicer Farm have many concerns with their wells being contaminated by the biosolids that are applied to the farm fields; however, DEP has implemented a 300 foot buffer around all private water sources in the land application process. Mark Stephens from DEP had indicated during a Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) meeting that he is not too concerned with the land

application process due to the regulations that are enforced. Mr. W. Miller also indicated that Andrew Swales, Geologist, from the BTWA did not feel the water sources would be affected by the land application process. The BTWA will submit comments to DEP regarding this matter.

Mr. Onufrak suggested an alternative way to stop the land application would be for BTWA to pay for the biosolids to be hauled to a landfill for disposal instead of being land applied if they are worried about potential contamination.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Bellefonte Borough – Mr. Mix indicated that he will meet with Mr. W. Miller to discuss several issues regarding Bellefonte Borough.

ENGINEER' S REPORT:

Annual Chapter 94 Report – Mr. Johnson presented the Board with the annual Chapter 94 Report for 2015 and referenced some key points. In 2015, the peak three-month hydraulic loading to the system was 795,675 gpd, which did not include Rockview. The Authority's ratio of peak three-month flow to annual average flow for 2015 was 1.04, which is an indication of a tight system.

The number of EDUs billed by the Authority increased from 6,589 in 2014 to 6,685 in 2015. In 2016, the Authority is projecting the addition of 93 EDUs through developer and/or individual connections to the system.

In 2015, over 227,679 linear feet (43.12 miles) of gravity sewer was inspected and recorded and 190,000 linear feet (35.98 miles) was cleaned.

In 2015, the Authority completed an in-home sewer inspection of 232 properties and approximately 12% of the inspections resulted in problems that were identified and corrected.

Mr. Johnson reviewed Table 5 within the Chapter 94 Report, which included the average and peak flows not including Rockview. The annual average not including Rockview was 767,216. The annual average including Rockview was 1,385,831 with a 3-month average peak of 1,480,726 and a 3-month average to average daily flow (ADF) ratio of 1.07.

Mr. T. Miller commended Mr. Johnson and the SBWJA staff on their preparation and explanation of the Chapter 94 Report. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the Annual Chapter 94 Report for the 2015 calendar year as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Benner Pike Sewer Extension – Mr. Smeltzer asked when the Benner Pike Sewer Extension will begin. Mr. W. Miller indicated that the Authority is still waiting for three

(3) right-of-ways to be executed. Once the right-of-ways are in place the construction can begin.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Meeting – Mr. Onufrak indicated that our State Representative, Kerry Benninghoff, will be conducting a town meeting at the Walker Township Building on March 28, 2016 from 6:30 P.M. to 8 P.M. Mr. Onufrak stated that this would be a perfect opportunity to ask Mr. Benninghoff why he is not obtaining grant money for Bellefonte Borough's Treatment Plant upgrades. It was also noted that SBWJA could make it public that we are not the reason for Bellefonte Borough's increased sewer rates. Mr. Galbraith suggested that Mr. Onufrak and Mr. W. Miller attend the town meeting prior to the Authority's Regular Meeting on March 28, 2016.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel & Community Relations Committee – Mr. Hoffman was absent from the meeting.

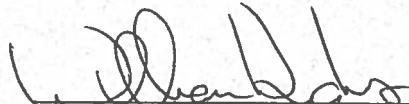
Facilities Committee: Mr. Hughes had nothing to report.

Financial Committee: Mr. Onufrak had nothing to report.

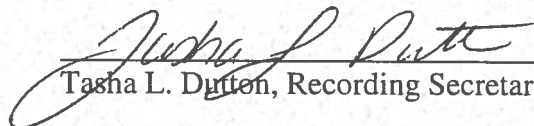
ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. Heny to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 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 _____