

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

March 28, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

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

GUESTS: None present

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Kelly Gill, Deb Hoy and Brad Witmer

CALL TO ORDER:

The March 28, 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 from the meeting. 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 March 14, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the Minutes of the March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Engineering Comments in Response to Bellefonte Borough Authority's Act 537 Special Study – Brian Book of Rettew and Jim Balliet of Gwin, Dobson & Foreman provided our Authority with comments pertaining to each of their review of the Bellefonte Borough Authority's Act 537 Special Study which was prepared by Nittany Engineering & Associates.

Bellefonte Borough 4th Quarter 2015 Billing – Mrs. Gill stated that she received an email response from Ralph Stewart indicating that he agreed with her interpretation of the engineering invoices relating to the Act 537 Special Study being invoiced to our Authority at the Capital rate of 42% instead of 73% as submitted by Lori Walker. Mr. Stewart also indicated that the invoice payable to AECOM Technical Services in the amount of \$10,000 was to evaluate the JCI project findings. The Bellefonte Borough Authority is disputing the JCI claims that projected savings are not being realized due to the SCI at Benner Township becoming operational.

The 4th Quarter 2015 Bellefonte Borough Treatment Plant billings were revised earlier today by Ms. Walker and resubmitted to our Authority late this afternoon. The original invoice was dated March 3, 2016 and due payable within 30 days. Any revised invoices from the Borough always reflect the original date and therefore this bill is due later this week. Mrs. Gill indicated she revised Requisition #2012-74 to include the payment to the Bellefonte Borough in the amount of \$456,545.25.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Heny reviewed the financial reports for the period ending 02/29/2016. Mr. T. Miller asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report or any comments by the Authority staff. **Mr. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2012-74 – Mr. Heny presented the Board with Revenue Requisition 2012-74. Mr. T. Miller asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition #2012-74. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to approve Revenue Requisition 2012-74 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$489,844.34.** 7 ayes, 1 nay, 1 absent. **The motion carried.** Mr. Heny indicated he did not approve the requisition because of his displeasure with the payment to Bellefonte Borough which included an invoice payable to AECOM Technical Services for the Borough to challenge a contract with JCI that our Authority didn't believe was appropriate in the first place.

GUESTS: There were no Guests present for the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES – Mr. W. Miller introduced the Authority's newest employees to the Authority Board. Mr. Brad Witmer began employment with our Authority today in the maintenance department. Mr. Witmer previously worked for Joseph C. Hazel Plumbing in Bellefonte and has experience with pipe fitting, grinder pumps and water/sewer lateral installations which Mr. W. Miller indicated will help Brad in this industry.

Ms. Debra Hoy began employment with our Authority approximately three weeks ago in the office as a part-time Office Assistant. Ms. Hoy retired from the Walker Township Water Association last year after ten years of service and was looking for part-time employment. Mr. W. Miller indicated that her experiences in the water industry are beneficial to our Authority.

Mr. T. Miller welcomed Ms. Hoy and Mr. Witmer and indicated the Authority is very pleased to have the opportunity to work with both of the new employees.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Bellefonte Borough Act 537 Special Study – Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that on March 24, 2016 a letter was sent to the Bellefonte Borough Authority (BBA) and to Rob Everett of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) detailing our Authority's concerns with the proposed project to the BBA's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The letter included the comments prepared by Brian Book of Rettew and Jim Balliet of Gwin, Dobson & Foreman Engineers.

Mr. Galbraith stated that he thought the letter was very well written and indicated that he believes the letter should have also been sent to the Bellefonte Borough Council since they just approved the financial backing of the funding for the project at a recent meeting. Mr. W. Miller stated that the study is still in the 60 day public comment period and the comments can also be sent to the Borough Council if our Authority Board would like. After a lengthy discussion the Board agreed to have the Board Chairman prepare a letter to attach to the comments which will be sent to each of the Bellefonte Borough Council and Bellefonte Borough Planning Commission members at their home addresses to ensure receipt of the comments.

Benner Pike Sewer Extension Project – Mr. W. Miller reported that our Authority has received all of the necessary right-of-ways for the Benner Pike Sewer Extension project with the exception of the lot surrounding the Penn State Federal Credit Union. The remaining easement is being reviewed by the landowner's attorney and Mr. W. Miller believes the project will be started within the next few weeks.

Pump Station #7 Upgrades – The Forest Heights Homeowner's Association has signed the right-of-way for the Pump Station #7 upgrades and the easement is ready for our signature at tonight's meeting. The planning module has been sent to Spring, Benner and Walker Townships, along with Bellefonte Borough for approval at their upcoming April meetings. The Centre County Planning Office has provided some technical deficiencies that Gwin, Dobson & Foreman will need to address.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Relationship between SBWJA and Bellefonte Borough – Mr. McDowell stated that when he first became a Board member over 25 years ago he was appalled by the Board members of this Authority and their ill feelings towards the Bellefonte Borough. He never understood why the Authority Board felt this strongly and the only legitimate reason he could think of was the large bills payable to the Bellefonte Borough. There have been bad feelings between our Authority and the Bellefonte Borough since our Authority's beginning.

Mr. McDowell indicated that our Authority's existing Board is very cohesive and willing to work with Bellefonte Borough and he cannot understand why the Borough feels as though our Authority is uncooperative and not willing to work together.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel & Community Relations Committee – Mr. Hoffman reported that the Federal Government released the average increase in wages for 2015 of 2%; therefore, he was pleased to report our Authority personnel exceeded that amount and it was nice our Authority Board was able to do that for the employees. Mr. Hoffman reported that the union raises were also right in line with non-union raises, which usually doesn't occur. Mr. W. Miller and Mrs. Gill expressed their appreciation for the wage increases granted by the Authority Board.

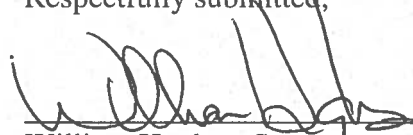
Facilities Committee: Mr. Hughes had nothing to report.

Financial Committee: Mr. Heny had nothing to report.

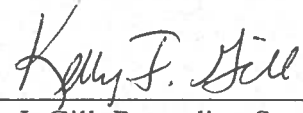
ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



William Hughes, Secretary



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____