

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

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**September 14, 2015**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS:**

<b>Spring</b>	Joseph Galbraith Gregg Heny Dondi Smeltzer
<b>Benner</b>	Dan Hoffman William Hughes Timothy Miller
<b>Walker</b>	Dennis McDowell Ted Onufrak

**GUESTS:** Shirley Gryczuk

**CONSULTING ENGINEERS:** Brian Book, P.E.; Jim Balliet

**CONSULTING SOLICITOR:** Robert Mix, Esquire

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** N. Warren Miller

**EMPLOYEES:** Kelly Gill

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The September 14, 2015, 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. Scott 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 August 24, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Hoffman moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the Minutes of the August 24, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Keller Engineers** – We received a letter from Theodora Kreitz of Keller Engineers requesting sewer capacity of 29 EDUs for the Oaks Lutheran Retirement Community. The Oaks is proposing construction of 10 duplex cottages, 8 single cottages and a community center building. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Heny to approve sewer capacity of 29 EDUs for the Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries (The Oaks at Pleasant Gap) expansion project, contingent upon Bellefonte Borough's approval for the treatment.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**Walsh/Granite Joint Venture** – We received notification from Scott Benjamin indicating that Walsh/Granite Joint Venture or its subcontractors may need access to PS#4 (Pleasant View) as a result of a bridge replacement project in the area. Mr. W. Miller indicated there is a small stream that runs between Pump Station #4 and the dress shop (Formalities) in the Pleasant View area. The old concrete bridge over the stream, by Log Cabin Motors, will be replaced. Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that we only have a Right-of-Way for the pump station and he anticipates the contractor will likely only park equipment near our pump station.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

Approval of Requisitions:

**Revenue Fund Requisition 2012-62** – Mr. Onufrak presented the Board with Revenue Requisition 2012-62. **Mr. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve Revenue Requisition 2012-62 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$50,775.17.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**GUESTS:**

**Shirley Gryczuk** – Mr. T. Miller asked Ms. Gryczuk if she would like to address the Board and she stated no, she was simply attending the meeting to learn more about the community she resides in. Mr. T. Miller thanked Ms. Gryczuk for attending the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Mammoth Sewer Line Relocation Agreement** – Mr. W. Miller indicated that within the last couple of years, Mammoth obtained a sewer permit to construct a new facility in Benner Commerce Park, adjacent to Silcotek. He reminded the Board that Mammoth previously scraped the topsoil from their lot, which exposed our Rockview forcemain in some areas. Our Authority required them to provide adequate cover over our forcemain, which Mammoth ended up paying our Authority to complete the work.

After requesting a refund of their tapping fee in 2014, Mammoth has decided to move forward with the project; however, the layout of their building has changed. The Authority's Rockview forcemain will still need relocated since it will fall beneath their proposed building; however, the previously submitted relocation plans and easement will not change.

Mammoth has provided a Sewer Line Relocation Agreement which identifies all of our Authority's requirements pertaining to the relocation of the facilities. They previously obtained a license agreement from the Commonwealth for the portion of forcemain that will be relocated just outside of their property, on lands owned by the Commonwealth.

Mr. Hughes asked if a plan has been submitted and Mr. W. Miller stated yes. Mr. Hughes indicated he would like to review the plans, if possible. Mr. W. Miller will forward an electronic version to Mr. Hughes.

Mr. W. Miller suggested the Authority approve and sign the Sewer Relocation Agreement because the contractor is planning on starting later this week.

**Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. Heny to approve the Sewer Line Relocation Agreement for Mammoth Real Estate within Lot 6 of Benner Commerce Park as presented. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

**Hiring of John Buskirk** – Mr. W. Miller informed the Board that John Buskirk was hired as a maintenance laborer with our Authority effective September 8, 2015. Mr. Buskirk previously worked at Huntingdon Borough as the chief operator of their wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Buskirk has a wastewater operator license and also a commercial driver's license.

**Bellefonte Borough Authority (BBA) Pretreatment Amendments** – Mr. W. Miller indicated the BBA has provided our Authority with a revised appendix A which details the fees associated with BOD and TSS surcharges. Mrs. Gill stated that Benner Township has approved the pretreatment amendments; however, Spring and Walker Townships have not and may be waiting for us to approve them first.

Mr. W. Miller indicated the EPA dictates the pretreatment levels, but the BBA does set their own rates for excessive strength surcharges. Mr. Balliet asked if the rates seemed reasonable. Mr. W. Miller provided the rates to Mr. Balliet and at that time the Board realized there appeared to be yet another error in the BBA's sliding scale that was provided to this Authority. The level for TSS from 951 to 1,150 mg/L was listed as the same rate as the 751 to 950 mg/L, which was unlikely correct. The Board discussed approving the amendments contingent upon the scale being corrected, but then decided it was best to ensure the proper scale was being approved. Mr. W. Miller will contact the BBA to inquire about the possible error in the sliding scale.

**Attendance at the BBA 09/01/2015 Meeting** – Mr. W. Miller indicated that he and several Board members attended the BBA meeting on 09/01/2015 to present them with a letter requesting they complete a feasibility study prior to expending any further community monies. The BBA made it clear that they do not intend to cooperate with our Authority's request and we are simply a customer, with no say.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Mr. T. Miller recessed the Board for an Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. The meeting reconvened at 8:32 p.m.

**Bellefonte Borough Authority Upgrades:**

**Impact on SBWJA Rates** – Mr. T. Miller indicated that he ran some figures to determine the impact the upgrades to the BBA Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) would have on our Authority customers. He reviewed the figures with the Board and indicated that our Authority may need to incorporate at least \$10.00 per year/per EDU rate increase, if the BBA moves forward with the proposed upgrades at an estimated cost of \$6 million.

Mr. T. Miller also stated that we are unsure of the effect the upgrades will have on the BBA WWTP's operational and maintenance (O&M) costs. The O&M costs our Authority pays to the BBA have gradually increased over the past few years and Mr. T. Miller indicated he doesn't necessarily believe it is due to our Authority's growth. Mr. T. Miller stated that he believes a rate increase is justified and should be explained to our customers.

**SBWJA Response to BBA Proposed Upgrades – Mr. Onufrak moved, seconded by Mr. McDowell to direct our Authority solicitor, Robert Mix, to prepare a letter to the Bellefonte Borough Authority again asking them to consider completing a feasibility study by an independent engineering firm. If the Bellefonte Borough Authority refuses our request, this Authority will initiate arbitration. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.** Mr. Heny suggested incorporating language into the letter to the BBA that requires a due date for the response to avoid any further delays. The Board agreed with Mr. Heny's suggestion.

**Mr. Book and Mr. Balliet left the meeting at 8:49 p.m.**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Employee Personnel Handbook – Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to table any discussions on the Employee Personnel Handbook until the next meeting. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel & Community Relations Committee:** Mr. Hoffman indicated the review of the Employee Personnel Handbook will continue at the next Authority meeting on September 28, 2015.

**Facilities Committee:** Mr. Hughes will get together with Mr. W. Miller to review the Mammoth Sewer Line Relocation construction drawing.

**Finance Committee:**

**Shiloh Road** – Mr. Onufrak informed the Board that at the last Centre Region Council of Government’s (COG) meeting there was debate about the rezoning of the Shiloh Road corridor located in College Township. The University Area Joint Authority (UAJA) wants the property to be zoned industrial and College Township wants to make the property residential. UAJA is proposing a \$6,000 per EDU tapping fee on that acreage to assist with odor control measures.

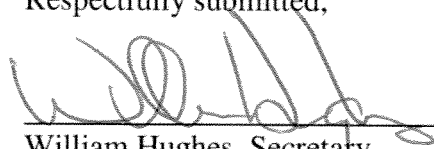
The COG is contesting UAJA’s reasoning for the increased tapping fees stating this farmland is not the cause of the odor issues and should not be held accountable by having to pay a higher tapping fee.

Mr. Onufrak indicated that with a \$6,000 per EDU tapping fee to UAJA, Dr. Clair may reconsider requesting sewer service to UAJA’s plant.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. Heny to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



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William Hughes, Secretary



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Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Spring Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Walker Township \_\_\_\_\_

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