

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

February 13, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:	Spring	Joseph Galbraith Richard Kuzemchak Rodney Maney Christie McMurtrie
	Benner	William Hughes Willis Houser, Jr.
	Walker	Dennis Brown Dennis McDowell

GUESTS: None present

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Andy Johnson, P.E.

CONSULTING SOLICITOR: Robert Mix, Esq.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton, Tasha Dutton & Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The February 13, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Dennis McDowell, Chairman. Mr. McDowell thanked everyone for attending and stated that the meeting would be recorded for transcription purposes.

ROLL CALL:

Rodney Maney, Assistant Secretary, took Roll Call, recording eight members present. Mr. Houser attended the meeting via phone. Mr. Book was excused from the meeting. Mr. McDowell, Chairman, noted that with a quorum present, the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was permitted to conduct business under the laws of Pennsylvania.

PLEGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. McDowell, 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 January 23, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the Minutes of the January 23, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Walker Township - We received a letter from Sue Wagner, Walker Township Secretary, indicating the Board of Supervisors made a motion at their February 1, 2023 meeting to appoint Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority as their agent to update their current Act 537 Plan. Mr. Miller indicated the next step will involve familiarizing Gwin Dobson & Foreman with the area and obtaining a quote from them to update the current Act 537 Plan for Walker Township.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-67 – Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-67 in the amount of \$102,212.78. Mr. Galbraith asked what the decorative blocks from Centre Concrete Company were used for. Mr. Miller stated that they were used to square up the stone storage area around the back shop. **Mr. McMurtrie moved, seconded by Mr. Kuzemchak to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-67 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$102,212.78.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

GUESTS: There were no Guests present for the meeting.

SYSTEM OVERVIEW REPORT:

Will Barton, Maintenance Crew Leader, provided an overview of the work completed on the sanitary sewer system for the month of January 2023.

In-Home Inspections - There were 14 in-home inspections completed in the month of January.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed 6 sewer lateral inspections. The office staff received six (6) new sewer permit applications in the amount of 6.00 EDUs and issued the permits.

System Maintenance – A pump controller was replaced and a new pressure reducing valve was installed on the water service line at Pump Station #5 (Mingoville). There were three (3) grinder pump alarms, which resulted in two (2) of the pumps being replaced and one (1) requiring a start capacitor.

We continue getting vehicle warning indicator lights on our video truck. The Mercedes garage believes the problem may be associated with a noisy bearing in the generator for the video camera. Mr. Barton stated the generator was removed and sent to the manufacture in Texas for an evaluation. There were repairs made to the generator and it should be reinstalled soon.

Our staff installed a new electric motor and pressure switch to the air compressor in the back shop.

We had Keystone Engineering replace all of the SCADA RTU batteries throughout the system. The batteries are replaced every five (5) years and is a part of our preventive maintenance schedule.

The maintenance staff installed new shelves in our back shop and completed drawdown testing at all of our pump stations.

Mr. Barton indicated the generator startup took place at Pump Station #18 (Nittany Glen) and is nearing completion.

Benner Township Water Authority – We collected samples for analytical testing. There were two (2) site visits in Hampton Hills which consisted of one (1) for low water pressure and one (1) for a water filter issue inside the home which resulted in a problem with their water softener. Our staff completed the annual materials inventory and prepared for PA DEP's site visit. Mr. Barton also indicated the chemical feed systems were rebuilt at the well houses. There was one (1) PA One Call located in January.

Sewer Extensions – The contractors corrected a gasket issue at Logan Greene Phase 1A, Section 4. We reviewed and redlined the construction drawings for the Bellefonte Warehouse. Our staff continued project inspections at Harvest Meadows and Village of Nittany Glen Phase 6.

Video Truck – We performed 94 feet of video work in a storm water pipe for the Bellefonte Area High School to evaluate the line near a sinkhole in their parking lot. Our staff also videoed 535 feet of sewer line at Rockview Prison at their request to assess a few issues they were experiencing.

Vactor Truck – We jetted a storm pipe on Upper Greens Valley Road for Spring Township. Our staff also jetted lines at Rockview and all of our meter pits. We jetted a total of 4,532 feet of sewer line for the month of January.

Inter Municipal Work – We jetted a storm pipe on Upper Greens Valley Road for Spring Township and assisted with Howard Borough's pumps losing prime.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There was one (1) callout for the month of January. Our personnel responded to an emergency PA One Call locate in Walker Township due to a water leak. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 50 PA One Calls being located in January.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Meeting with PA DEP/HDR/Benner Township PFAS Investigation – Mr. Miller informed the Board that he was invited to a meeting with PA DEP and their consulting engineer, HDR, to discuss the PFAS/PFOS water/soil contamination investigation around the University Park Airport and how they can help the surrounding residents obtain safe drinking water. One of the remediation avenues they are considering is extending public water from Fox Hill Road to Walnut Grove Estates. Mr. Miller was asked to attend the meeting on behalf of Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) due to the Authority being considered as a provider for public water to Walnut Grove Estates.

Mr. Miller was also asked to attend the meeting as Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority's representative to discuss the future sewer extension to the Shiloh Road area and the possibility of public water being extended at the same time to alleviate additional costs associated with restoration.

A feasibility study is being established and should be completed by the end of April. The study will assist in determining the most efficient and affordable way to have public water extended to the residents in need due to PFAS/PFOS contamination to their private wells. This study will evaluate several surrounding public water providers which include BTWA, State College Borough Water Authority and College Township Water Authority. It was noted that the public water extension would take place in Benner Township; therefore, BTWA would be the primary provider or they could authorize another entity to provide these services.

Mr. Miller stated there were discussions held regarding the homeowner's being legally obligated to depict on their deeds that a remediation filtration system has been installed at their property if they choose to use one.

Mr. Hughes asked how the area could be served. Mr. Miller stated that State College Borough Water Authority could extend their water mainline off of Fox Hill Road, which would likely be a 4" line without fire protection due to the low demand of water in that area.

Mr. Galbraith asked how much separation is required for water and sewer mainlines. Mr. Miller stated that it would be 10' horizontal and 18" vertical. Mr. Galbraith thought that SBWJA may be able to save money if the water and sewer utilized the same ditch.

SBWJA Office/Front Parking Lot - The Authority has received a quote for replacing pavement to the front parking lot which will be required when repairs are made to the wall this year. Mr. Miller stated that he had budgeted \$30,000 for these repairs and this amount may only cover the cost of pavement; therefore, he will be overbudget. The Board will be informed of an approximate cost of the project closer to construction time.

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

ENGINEER' S REPORT:

Annual Chapter 94 Report – Mr. Johnson presented the Board with the annual Chapter 94 Report for 2022 and referenced some key points. In 2022, the peak three-month hydraulic loading to the system was 793,367 gpd, which did not include Rockview. The Authority's ratio of peak three-month flow to annual average flow for 2022 was 1.09, which is an indication of a tight system with very little inflow and/or infiltration.

The number of EDUs billed by the Authority increased from 7,111 in 2021 to 7,224 in 2022. In 2022, 140.56 EDUs were added to the SBWJA collection system. In 2023, the Authority is projecting the addition of 58.00 EDUs through developer and/or individual connections to the system.

In 2022, over 14,418 linear feet (2.73 miles) of gravity sewer was inspected and recorded and 18,014 linear feet (3.41 miles) was jetted and cleaned. It was also noted that 5,614 linear feet (1.06 miles) of newly constructed sewer line was mandreled and pressure tested.

In 2022, the Authority completed an in-home sewer inspection of 271 properties and approximately 9.96% of the inspections resulted in problems that were identified and corrected.

Mr. Johnson reviewed Table 5 within the Chapter 94 Report, which outlined the average and peak flows not including Rockview. The annual average not including Rockview was 725,017. The annual average including Rockview was 1,283,817 with a 3-month average peak of 1,387,453 and a 3-month peak average to average daily flow (ADF) ratio of 1.08.

In 2022, the Authority's maintenance department re-lined and epoxy coated the wet wells at Pump Station #10 (Valley View) and Pump Station #11 (Jenny Gap). During this work, the force main plumbing, grinder pumps and pump station controls were replaced.

In April 2019, the Benner Township Supervisors and Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority authorized completion of an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Special Study for evaluating the efficiency of providing public sewer in southern Benner Township along Shiloh Road, Rock Road, Big Hollow Road and Walnut Grove Development. The Act 537 Plan Special Study was submitted to PA DEP in 2020 and was approved by PA DEP in the spring of 2021. In 2021 and 2022, Benner Township and the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority were defending this plan against litigation efforts filed by one of the homeowners affected by the project. On November 18, 2022, the PA Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) adjudicated the suit filed against the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority, Benner Township and the PA Department of Environmental Protection by the affected homeowner. The allegations presented to the EHB were dismissed. The Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority plans to obtain permits for the construction of this project in 2023 and intends to commence construction early in the 2024 construction season.

Mr. Johnson reviewed Chart 1 which outlined the 2022 historical and projected flows for Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority. The graph indicated a downward trend over the past five (5) years; however, there was a bump in the average peak flows in January due to Rockview having a significant problem with leaks.

Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of the Annual Chapter 94 Report for 2022. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the Annual Chapter 94 Report for the 2022 calendar year as presented and to authorize Mr. W. Miller to execute the signature page of the report.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project – Mr. Johnson stated the staff at Gwin Dobson & Foreman (GD&F) continues to work on the final design of the Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension and the permitting is nearing completion. Mr. Johnson indicated that GD&F has provided the PA Game Commission with a cost estimate which will assist in financial planning of public sewer being extended to their new facility on Shiloh Road. A preliminary layout of the sewer installation was also established through light detection and ranging (lidar) to determine if the property could be served by gravity or if a pressurized system would be required. The topography of the land has indicated the PA Game Commission will require a pump station and pressurized lines. Mr. Johnson stated that GD&F is not able to proceed with the remainder of the permitting until they know if the PA Game Commission will be included in the project. Mr. Miller will inform the PA Game Commission's engineer, Mr. Kiefer, that an executed agreement to extend public sewer must be in our office within the next two (2) weeks if they wish to be included in the Authority's project.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thank You – Mr. McDowell shared a thank you card the Authority received from Linda Hoffman.

NEW BUSINESS:

Logan Greene Phase 1A, Section 3 (23.00 EDUs) – Mr. Miller indicated Logan Greene Phase 1A, Section 3 in the amount of 23.00 EDUs has met all of our requirements and is ready for approval. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the Agreement of Dedication for Logan Greene Phase 1A, Section 3 in the amount of 23.00 EDUs.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

QUESTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: There were no questions asked of the Executive Director.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel & Community Relations Committee: Mr. Galbraith stated there was nothing for discussion.

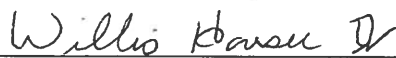
Facilities Committee: Mr. Houser had nothing to report.

Financial Committee: Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

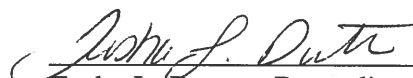
ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Willis Houser, Jr. Secretary



Tasha L. Dutton, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____