

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

February 28, 2022

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:	Spring	Toby Dashner Richard Kuzemchak Christie McMurtrie
	Benner	Brian Book Dan Hoffman Willis Houser, Jr.
	Walker	Dennis McDowell Joseph Swanderski

GUESTS: Krista and Ronald White

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton and Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The February 28, 2022, 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:

Joseph Swanderski, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording eight members present. Mr. Galbraith 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. McDowell, Chairman, led the Board members, Employees and Guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. McDowell asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the February 14, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Dashner moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no Correspondence presented for discussion.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Mr. McMurtrie reviewed the financial reports for the period ending 01/31/2022. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Swanderski 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 2020-45– Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-45 in the amount of \$57,133.23. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-45. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-45 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$57,133.23. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Semi-Annual 2020 Bond Interest & Principal Payment – Mr. McMurtrie indicated the Authority's semi-annual 2020 bond interest payment in the amount of \$110,193.13 was presented for approval at the meeting. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the bond payment. **Mr. Swanderski moved, seconded by Mr. McDowell to approve the semi-annual 2020 bond interest payment in the amount of \$110,193.13. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

GUESTS:

Ronald & Krista White/595 Zion Back Road – Ronald and Krista White of 595 Zion Back Road were in attendance at the meeting to discuss the bill they received from our Authority in the amount of \$505.00 for repairs made to their private grinder pump on Saturday, January 22, 2022. They are requesting a reduction in the amount they are being charged. Mrs. White asked if each of the Authority Board members had an opportunity to see a copy of the letter that she submitted regarding receipt of the invoice in the amount of \$505.00 and Mr. McDowell stated yes, it was presented at the last board meeting. Mrs. White stated that they are not objecting to any work that was done in the past.

Mrs. White provided an overview of what led to the requirement to connect their home to the public sewer and the need for the installation of a grinder pump that was not provided by our Authority. From the beginning, the Whites acknowledged that they were aware that the grinder pump and any repairs would be their responsibility due to it being considered a privately owned grinder pump. They didn't necessarily agree with the situation, but understood what their responsibility would be. Mr. White indicated that he instructed his contractor to install the control panel lower than the suggested elevation and that he accepts responsibility for the location of the control panel. Mrs. White stated they originally wanted to mount the control panel in the garage, but were informed by our Authority that it wouldn't meet our specifications.

Mr. White stated that he doesn't agree with the statement being made that it's been a moisture issue, which led to the contactor needing replaced with each occurrence. He's worked with NEMA water tight boxes and they are supposed to be water tight. Mr. White stated that maybe it's a defect in the NEMA water tight box that he purchased from the supplier through SBWJA and now that they know they can move the control panel inside the garage, since it's privately owned, they have decided to do so.

Mrs. White indicated every year they have been receiving a bill around \$300.00 for repairs to their grinder pump. Mr. White stated when he called on January 22, 2022 for the grinder pump alarm, he was never informed that it would be charged as a callout resulting in additional labor being charged or he would have looked into other options or waited to have the work completed on Monday. Mr. White stated he looked on our Authority's website to see if the callout rates were disclosed, but he couldn't locate any information pertaining to the fees charged. He then asked if that was listed anywhere on the Authority's website and Mr. Miller stated no. Mrs. White continued by stating that they were informed by our maintenance department that it would be three hours before they could arrive due to being out of town. Mrs. White asked how is this fair to charge an emergency (callout) rate when it took three hours to get there. She always thought that a requirement of being on call required the employee to remain within close proximity. Mrs. White stated that within the last four years they have incurred additional charges of \$1,400 for the extra repairs to their privately owned grinder pump and indicated that doesn't seem like a utility friendly affordable rate.

Mr. Swanderski asked if this was the first time our personnel were called out on a weekend and the Whites stated they were unsure. Mr. Book stated he had a breakdown of the invoice in question which was \$150.00 for parts, \$330.00 for labor and \$25.00 for an administrative fee. The Whites indicated they were objecting to the charge being assessed for the labor. Mr. White reiterated that if they knew it was going to cost that much they would have waited and stated that our website doesn't seem to have anything identifying those rates.

Mrs. Gill stated that a fee schedule is located on the Authority's website that identifies our regular hourly rates. Any time that work is completed after normal operating hours those rates are calculated at time and a half. The regular hourly rate at that time was \$55.00/hr. and the overtime rate was \$82.50/hr. The fee schedule does not indicate that our Authority pays its employees four hours for a weekend/holiday callout or two hours for a callout during the week. Mrs. Gill continued by stating that our Authority does not have a set employee "on call" that is paid for being on call. All callouts are directed to our Maintenance Crew Leader, Mr. Barton, who will dispatch an employee to handle the call out based on who is available.

Mr. Book stated the question is whether or not this Authority Board wants to do anything to reduce the labor cost assessed to the property owner. Mr. Dashner asked why this Authority should absorb the expense of paying our personnel to complete work on a private grinder system? He understands that the Whites weren't necessarily notified of the callout pay, but stated this is a recurring problem and he doesn't understand why the Whites don't think condensation is causing the issue—especially with the location of the control panel being so close to the ground. Mr. White stated that he doesn't believe that much condensation is being created and Mrs. White said their second opinion agrees with their assessment.

Mr. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Book to reduce the labor portion of the invoice to Ronald & Krista White for the callout on 01/22/2022 to reflect two hours at the overtime rate (\$165.00 total) and update the Authority's website to clearly identify the weekday/weekend/holiday callout fees that may apply. 5 ayes, 3 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried. Mr. Dashner, Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Swanderski voted against the motion. Mr. and Mrs. White thanked the Board for their time and reduction in billing.

Mr. and Mrs. White left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension:

Environmental Hearing Board – Mr. Miller informed the Board that earlier today we were informed that Mr. Stocker has filed a motion to reopen discovery and extend the case management deadlines in relation to PFAS sampling/testing in the area of the proposed project.

Proposed Pump Stations (Submersible vs. Suction Lift Pumps) – Mr. Miller indicated a discussion should be held regarding whether or not the Authority wants to design the project with submersible pumps or suction lift pumps as discussed during the last several meetings. Mr. McDowell stated the estimated cost to upgrade to suction lift pumps with a chlorine facility that was provided by our engineer at the last meeting would be an overall project increase of \$1.5 million. Mr. McDowell stated he doesn't like the additional costs, but believes the suction lift pumps to be safer for our employees while completing maintenance of the facility. Mr. Swanderski asked where this money would come from. Mr. Miller stated the Shiloh Road Project would be funded with a portion of cash reserves and additional financing would be necessary. Mr. Swanderski then asked what position that puts us in with purchasing land and building a new facility or if we are requested by the Townships to extend sewer to an area. Mr. Swanderski asked where the funding would come from. Mr. McDowell stated he's only aware of the Hublersburg/Snydertown area in Walker Township needing public sewer and confirmed that additional financing would need obtained. Discussion was held about the Authority's cash reserves and projections of new development.

Mr. Book inquired about how the Authority staff will pull the submersible pumps and wanted to know if a crane would be installed. Mr. Miller stated at this point he's unsure of whether or not a crane will be installed on site or a truck mounted crane will be used. Mr. Miller indicated he is not fond of having a crane sitting out in the weather and having to rely on that cable that's been exposed to the elements. Mr. Miller stated it would likely involve purchasing a larger crane and having it mounted to one of the Authority's utility trucks. Mr. Book stated when the design is being completed there are additional facilities within that submersible pump station that can accommodate the lifting out of the larger pumps. Mr. Book stated his biggest problem with this is that he feels as though we are comparing apples to oranges. We know what a Gorman Rupp suction lift pump station looks like because we currently have several, but he's not certain that we know what a large, submersible pump station would look like in this venue. Mr. Book stated we probably should have known that this was coming up long before it did. Mr. Miller indicated there was a lot of static from this project and we didn't get into final design until now because of all the time spent handling the extra meetings and litigation.

Mr. Kuzemchak asked if we know how much money is needed for the future building expansion. Mr. Book stated that is unknown at this time, but the committee may have had a rough guess of around \$1 - \$1.5 million. Mr. Houser stated a lot of that depends on the cost of the parcel of land and whether or not public utilities are available. There are too many unknown variables at this time to determine the cost.

Mr. Hoffman moved, seconded by Mr. McDowell to install suction lift pumps at the two pump stations associated with the Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension project. 4 ayes, 4 nays, 1 absent. The motion did not pass.

OLD BUSINESS:

Updated Signature Card – The updated signature card for the First National Bank account was executed by the designated officers.

NEW BUSINESS:

2021 Chapter 94 Report – A copy of the 2021 Chapter 94 Report was provided to each Board member at the meeting. The report will be reviewed/discussed by the Authority's engineer at the next meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

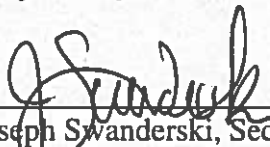
Facilities Committee: Mr. Houser had nothing to report.

Financial Committee: Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffman moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Swanderski, Secretary



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____