

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

January 11, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

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

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 January 11, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mr. McDowell, Chairman. This meeting was conducted through a video conferencing service, Zoom, due to the COVID-19 epidemic in our area. 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. Henry 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Mr. McDowell appointed Robert A. Mix, Temporary Chairman, to conduct the election of officers for 2021. Mr. Mix opened the nominations. **Mr. Swanderski moved, seconded by Mr. Book to retain the same officers from the previous year. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried. Attached is a list of Officers for 2021 that is made a part of these official Minutes.**

Mr. Mix turned the meeting over to Mr. McDowell, Chairman.

Retaining Professional Services for 2021 – Mr. Hoffman moved, seconded by Mr. Dashner to retain Solicitor – Lee, Green & Reiter, Consulting Engineer – Gwin Dobson & Foreman and Accountant – Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP for 2021. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. McDowell asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the December 14, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Houser moved, seconded by Mr. Swanderski to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 1 abstention. The motion carried.** Mr. Hoffman abstained due to being absent from the December 14, 2020 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Penn Terra Engineering, Inc. - We received a letter from Mark Crompton of Penn Terra Engineering, Inc. requesting a letter of intent to provide sewer service for the Benner Pike Shopping Center located at the intersection of Benner Pike and Paradise Road in Benner Township. The total number of EDUs required for this project is 13.44 EDUs. Mr. Crompton was provided with a letter of intent for 13.44 EDUs for the Benner Pike Shopping Center on January 8, 2021. Once there is a definite plan to proceed with the project, the Authority will require an official request in writing for capacity.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-19 – Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition #2020-19. Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-19 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$104,744.17. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

SYSTEM OVERVIEW REPORT:

Will Barton, Maintenance Crew Leader, provided an overview of the work completed on the sanitary sewer system for the month of December 2020.

In-Home Inspections - There were 21 in-home inspections completed in the month of December. Mr. Barton stated one (1) property had an HVAC condensate line connected to the sanitary sewer and the trap was broken underground. There were also roots located in the 6" X 4" reducer at 113 Elm Street, which required excavation for repair.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed two (2) sewer lateral inspections in December. There was one (1) in The Village of Nittany Glen and one (1) at 157 Jefferson Circle in Forest Heights. The office staff received four (4) new sewer permit applications in the amount of 4.00 EDUs and issued the permits.

System Maintenance – The maintenance staff cleaned and read the meter pits throughout the system. All of our small engines were serviced by our employees. The video truck camera and one (1) of our portable push cameras were sent out for repairs. We cleaned, prepped and painted the crane for the new service truck that is expected to arrive in February.

We replaced a 6" cleanout cap that was broken by a snow plow at 121 Rosewood Cove. A block heater was installed at Pump Station #8 (Zion Stover) and pump #2 was pulled at Pump Station #1 (Springfield).

The Authority sold an old generator through Municibid and we assisted in loading the generator to the buyer's trailer. A sewer tap at 117 Lincoln Lane was repaired prior to connecting the new home due to the sewer tap previously being installed at reverse grade. Our staff completed two (2) routine grit separator inspections and one (1) grease trap inspection. There were four (4) manholes throughout the system that were repaired.

Mr. Barton met with the homeowners of 160 Bel Air Hills Road to discuss the placement of a new garage and our facilities. We attempted to remove a watch from the sewer lateral at 231 S. Harrison Road; however, we were unsuccessful locating it. Mr. Barton also met with the owner of 532 Spring Creek Road to discuss our sewer specifications as they are adding an in-law suite to their property.

The batteries in the generator at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) were replaced and we started our yearly pump station cleaning throughout the system.

Our staff replaced approximately 75' of 8" sewer mainline near Walker Meadows due to a sag that was noted during video inspections. Mr. Miller stated the sewer mainline is located in the field behind Shaffer Electric. The flow from Walker Meadows development drains into this pipe and is then conveyed to the Nittany Creek drainage basin. Mr. Miller stated the 8" pipe sank approximately 1', which allows solids to settle in the line and may cause sewer backups. Mr. Miller also indicated this sag was discovered several years ago and was cleaned routinely to prevent issues. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Barton and the maintenance crew for doing such a good job correcting this sag.

Benner Township Water Authority – The water meters were read at Grove Park, Hampton Hills and Opequon. We performed our quarterly blowoffs at all three (3) systems. The normal daily testing and monthly bacteria samples were performed for the water system. Our personnel also rebuilt the chlorine pumps and repaired a curb box on Bergamot Way. Mr. Barton stated that a water leak was located and repaired in the Hampton Hills/Opequon water system over Christmas break. There was a total of two (2) PA One Calls being located in December.

Video Truck – Our personnel completed 1,368 feet of video inspection work for the month of December.

Vactor Truck – We jetted 1,368 feet of sewer main line for the month of December.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were no callouts for the month of December. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 34 PA One Calls being located in December.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Sewer/Building Permitting – In the past our Authority has asked that the Townships not issue a building permit to an applicant unless the sewer permit has been executed by our Authority and is included with the applicant's submission to the Township when applying for a building permit. The Authority has been approached by developers in the past requesting we not interrupt their process of obtaining building permits from the Townships.

Mr. Miller stated that Berks Homes is currently requesting our Authority provide them with a letter which will allow them to obtain building permits from Benner Township for The Village of Nittany Glen, Phase IV without having the required sewer permits executed by our Authority. It was noted that Phase IV of The Village of Nittany Glen is currently being developed. Mr. Miller stated the sewer mainlines have been installed; however, not all of the testing has been completed. The Developer will also be required to install a suction lift pump station for this phase and will be required to provide the Authority with all of the close out documents. According to the General Manager from Berks Homes, Devon Warner, he stated they would like to construct the pump station and surrounding homes simultaneously due to the availability of building materials and keeping their construction crews employed.

There have been multiple developers inform us that it is common practice for the Centre Region, as well as other sewer systems, to allow developers to begin construction of new homes before the sewer is completed and approved; therefore, the developers ask why we do not allow this practice. Mr. Miller feels that we would be at minimal risk to approve Berks Homes' request because we administer the use of our system through the issuance of sewer permits; therefore, the Townships would be more at risk to issue a building permit without a sewer permit.

Mrs. Gill explained the process of closing out newly constructed developments and expressed concern with the impact that granting this request would have on our administrative procedures which could lead to a sewer permit being issued before the facilities are dedicated to our Authority.

The Board members discussed this matter and decided that the Authority will continue to operate under our current rules and regulations; therefore, the Authority will not grant Berks Homes request to provide them with a letter allowing them to obtain a building permit without issuing a sewer permit. Mr. Miller will inform Berks Homes of the Board's decision.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Johnson stated that the Act 537 Plan Special Study will be complete upon approval of Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority's Resolution #2021-01 this evening. Mr. Miller will deliver the revised Act 537 Plan Special Study to PA DEP on 1/12/2021.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #2021-01 (Act 537 Plan Special Study – Shiloh Road) – Mr. Miller stated that SBWJA is required to adopt a resolution which certifies Benner Township readopted a resolution approving the Benner Township Supervisors Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Special Study for the Proposed Sewer Extension – Shiloh Road (537 Plan Special Study). This resolution will accompany the revised submission to PA DEP for review. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Dashner to approve Resolution #2021-01 which certifies Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority is adopting Benner Township Supervisors' Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Special Study for Proposed Sewer Extension – Shiloh Road as attached and made a part of these official meeting Minutes. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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


Facilities Committee: The Facilities Committee will meet with Spring Township to discuss real estate on 1/12/2021.

Financial Committee: Mr. Heny was absent from the meeting. Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Dashner moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Swanderski, Secretary



Tasha L. Dutton, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____

Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority

2021 OFFICERS & MEMBERS

OFFICERS:

Dennis McDowell –Chairman
Joseph Galbraith – Vice Chairman
Joseph Swanderski –Secretary
Dan Hoffman – Assistant Secretary
Gregg Heny – Treasurer
Christie McMurtrie - Assistant Treasurer

MEMBERS:

Brian Book
Toby Dashner
Willis Houser, Jr.

**SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION # 2021 - 01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY ADOPTING
THE BENNER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS ACT 537 SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN
SPECIAL STUDY FOR PROPOSED SEWER EXTENSION – SHILOH ROAD**

WHEREAS, the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority (Authority) is a Pennsylvania municipal authority created and existing under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Act of 1945, as amended, (Act), which provides public sewer service to industrial, commercial and residential customers in its incorporating municipalities of Spring, Benner and Walker Townships, Centre County Pennsylvania.

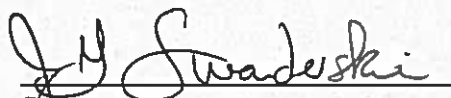
WHEREAS, Benner Township adopted the Benner Township Supervisors Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Special Study for Proposed Sewer Extension – Shiloh Road (537 Plan Special Study) at its regular meeting held on January 4, 2021.

WHEREAS, the Authority has reviewed the 537 Plan Special Study and believes that the proposed sewer extension is appropriate, will promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Benner Township and is in the best interests of the Authority and the residents of Benner Township.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority that the Benner Township Supervisors Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Special Study for Proposed Sewer Extension – Shiloh Road is hereby approved and adopted.

The undersigned Secretary of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority, hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Authority at a regular meeting held on January 11, 2021 and that proper public notice of said meeting was duly given by posting and publication in accordance with the Sunshine Act, the Act of Oct. 15, 1998, P.L. 729, No. 93, § 1, General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as amended, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended and remains in full force and effect.

Witness the signature of the undersigned and the seal of the Authority this 11th day of January, 2021


Secretary
Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority

[SEAL]