

PLEDGE 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 February 28, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Swanderski stated he had asked where the funding would come from for the Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension and that Mr. Miller stated the 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 and he had thought that Mr. Miller answered where the funds would come from; however, the minutes did not indicate. Mrs. Gill stated she will listen to the recording from the February 28, 2022 meeting and it will be reflected in the minutes.

Mr. Swanderski then questioned the motion that did not pass for the installation of suction lift pumps at the two pump stations associated with the Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension Project. Mr. Swanderski stated the minutes indicated a 4 to 4 vote and he wanted to know why Mr. Galbraith's vote didn't count. Mrs. Gill stated she spoke to Mr. Mix regarding this motion due to Mr. Galbraith's absence from the February 28, 2022 meeting and how SBWJA Bylaws, PA Sunshine Law and PA Municipal Authorities Act interprets votes for Board members that are not present at a meeting. The SBWJA Bylaws indicate that Mr. Galbraith could have submitted a vote in writing up to 10 days after the Board meeting. Mr. Mix stated the PA Sunshine Law would require Mr. Galbraith participate in the meeting by telephone or video provided that the Mr. Galbraith is able to hear the comments of and speak to all those present at the meeting and that all parties could communicate with each other, then his vote would count. Mr. Mix stated that PA Sunshine law supersedes SBWJA Bylaws; therefore, Mr. Galbraith's vote did not count. Mr. Miller indicated the office staff will review and update the SBWJA Bylaws with Mr. Mix to coordinate with the PA Sunshine Law. The changes will be presented to the Board for approval. **Mr. Houser moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the Minutes of the February 28, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Steve Blake/719 W. Water Street – We received an email from Steve Blake of 719 W. Water Street indicating the water was terminated to the property on July 27, 2021 due to a water break. Mr. Blake estimated the water was restored at the mainline in the winter; however, a water meter has not been installed at the property as there are still renovations being made to the property. Mr. Blake is requesting a refund in the amount of \$96.60, for the estimated sewer rentals from July 27, 2021 to November 30, 2021. It was noted that

Mr. Blake is also requesting a waiver for sewer rentals from December 1, 2021 up to the date the water is restored to the property.

SBWJA personnel contacted Bellefonte Borough to verify the water was terminated to the property. Bellefonte Borough's maintenance department indicated the water was restored in October of 2021 due to heating purposes and that a water meter has not been installed to date.

Mr. Miller spoke to Mr. Blake on March 11, 2022 and he decided against attending the meeting to plead his case; therefore, Mr. Miller reviewed the events that took place at the property. It was noted that Mr. Blake is now requesting he be charged a reduced user fee of \$35.00 for one (1) quarter versus the normal \$70.00 fee due to his water being terminated at the property. The Board discussed the matter and granted a \$35.00 credit for Mr. Blake. Mr. Miller will inform Mr. Blake of the Board's decision.

Lang Engineering & Environmental Services - We received an email from Carly Davis, P.E., requesting a letter of intent to provide sewer service for a new warehouse located within the Benner Commerce Park in Benner Township. The new warehouse will be for 176.52 EDUs. *Ms. Davis was provided with a letter of intent for 176.52 EDUs for the proposed project within the Benner Commerce Park on March 4, 2022.*

The proposed project is for a 1 million square foot building, which will house 1,100 employees in two (2) shifts. Mr. Miller indicated there may be some sewer mainline relocated to accommodate the new building, which the developer would be financially responsible for. The work would take place four (4) or five (5) manholes upstream from Pump Station #16 (Benner Commerce). Ms. Davis will provide the Authority with construction drawings for review and approval.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-46 – Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-46 in the amount of \$72,693.86. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition #2020-46. **Mr. Swanderski moved, seconded by Mr. Kuzemchak to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-46 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$72,693.86. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent. The motion carried.**

GUESTS: There were no Guests present for the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

SBWJA Flows – Mr. Miller and Ms. Cain constructed a spread sheet that revealed the history of SBWJA flows from 2000 to 2021. Mr. Miller stated that our daily flows over the last 21 years have increased by 22% and that our number of EDUs that we serve increased by 60%. Mr. Miller contributes the low flows to the very tight system we maintain in addition to low flow fixtures which are now required by building codes.

SYSTEM OVERVIEW REPORT:

Will Barton, Maintenance Crew Leader, provided an overview of the work completed on the sanitary sewer system for the month of February 2022.

In-Home Inspections - There were 19 in-home inspections completed in the month of February. Mr. Barton stated there were three (3) violations identified during the in-home inspection process. Mr. Barton indicated two (2) of the three (3) issues have been repaired.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed 12 sewer lateral inspections. The office staff received 8 new sewer permit applications in the amount of 8.00 EDUs for the month of February.

System Maintenance – We responded to three (3) sewer back-ups and two (2) of them were grinder issues. There were repairs made to the generator at Pump Station #5 (Mingoville) and a few valves were replaced at Pump Station #14 (Litke). Our staff noticed problems with the elapsed time meter at Pump Station #11 (Jenny Gap) which was due to faulty meters. The meters were replaced and did not cost the Authority additional money due to the parts still being under warranty.

There were repairs made on two (2) of our push cameras and to the Vactor truck. The 2020 Ford F-350 truck was prepared for a PA State Inspection and the 2015 Ford F-350 truck had an oil leak that was repaired by Centre Diesel Solutions.

Our staff completed annual maintenance to all of our small engine equipment. We made adjustments to manhole Z-115, which is located at the “Y” in Zion, for PennDOT’s project. A frost-free hydrant was replaced at Pump Station #1A (Springfield).

The maintenance staff made repairs to a 6" X 4" reducer at 953 Seibert Road due to root intrusion. We also met with a representative, Bob Harbold, from Envirep to discuss modifications to the aeration system at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge).

We tested our chlorine alarms, continued our annual pump maintenance and cleaning of all the buildings. Mr. Barton stated that two (2) of our employees completed flagger training and we had one (1) employee pass his CDL driver's test and is now licensed.

Video Truck - Our personnel completed 3,058 feet of video inspection work for the month of February. Mr. Barton stated that 1,552 feet of that video work was completed at Stonehenge Phase 7 due the maintenance bond expiring. There was also 876 feet of routine video inspection at Stonehenge. The remaining work was completed at Central PA Institute of Science and Technology (CPI) to assist with their future planning of a medical building.

Vactor Truck - We jetted 1,506 feet of sewer main line for the month of February. Mr. Barton stated 876 feet of sewer main was jetted in the Stonehenge development and 630 feet at CPI.

Sewer Extensions – We reviewed and approved the as-builts for Steeplechase Townhomes II. Our staff began and finished sewer mainline inspections at the Benner Pike Shopping Center. Mr. Barton also reported reviewing the construction drawings for the new medical building at CPI. We also continue sewer mainline inspections at Logan Greene.

Benner Township Water Authority – We collected water samples for analytical testing and obtained quarterly meter readings at all three (3) systems. A chlorine pump was repaired at the Grove Park well house. Our staff used the backhoe to cleanup stone and mud at the second test well site. The Authority personnel also met with the homeowner of 130 Millgate Road to assist in finding the source of their low water pressure, which was due to an issue with their water softener.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There was one (1) callout for the month of February. The maintenance staff found there was no power to the grinder pump control panel at 136 Railroad Street due to a tripped breaker. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 48 PA One Calls being located in February.

Pump Station #5 (Mingoville) Generator – Mr. Swanderski asked if it was routine work that was completed to the generator at Pump Station #5 (Mingoville). Mr. Barton stated the radiator on the generator was leaking. The radiator was removed and taken to Cross Radiator in Milesburg for repair.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Environmental Hearing Board –

Mr. Mix indicated that Mr. Stocker has asked for a continuance of six (6) months to do some additional discovery on the PFAS in the University Park Airport area; however, the Environmental Hearing Board denied this. The Environmental Hearing Board is planning to schedule the hearing in June. Mr. Mix indicated the hearing may last for three (3) days.

Mr. Mix also stated that he filed a Motion to Compel Discovery on Mr. Stocker which will hopefully get us more specific answers to the sections and subsections of various constitutional, statutory or regulatory provisions, ordinances, rules and regulations that Mr. Stocker claims were violated by the PA DEP approval of our Shiloh Road Special Study and how they were violated.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Annual Chapter 94 Report – Mr. Johnson presented the Board with the annual Chapter 94 Report for 2021 and referenced some key points. In 2021, the peak three-month hydraulic loading to the system was 750,832 gpd, which did not include Rockview. The Authority's ratio of peak three-month flow to annual average flow for 2021 was 1.06, 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 7,065 in 2020 to 7,111 in 2021. In 2021, 91.93 EDUs were added to the SBWJA collection system. In 2022, the Authority is projecting the addition of 54.50 EDUs through developer and/or individual connections to the system. Mr. Miller stated there is no good way to predict the future projections of the Authority; therefore, we were conservative with the number of potential EDUs for 2022.

In 2021, over 42,045 linear feet (7.96 miles) of gravity sewer was inspected and recorded and 43,026 linear feet (8.15 miles) was jetted and cleaned. It was also noted that 9,109 linear feet (1.73 miles) of newly constructed sewer line was mandreled and pressure tested.

In 2021, the Authority completed an in-home sewer inspection of 304 properties and approximately 7.6% 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 707,820. The annual average including Rockview was 1,241,309 with a 3-month average peak of 1,323,483 and a 3-month peak average to average daily flow (ADF) ratio of 1.07.

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. Currently, Benner Township and the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority are defending this plan against litigation efforts filed by one of the homeowners affected by this project. The Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority is continuing forward with the final design and plans to proceed with the project at the conclusion of these legal matters.

In 2021, Pump Station No. 18 (a Gorman Rupp suction lift station) was added to the system which serves three phases of the Village of Nittany Glen Development.

Mr. Swanderski asked for verification on the number of pump stations we have on our system. Mr. Miller and Mr. Johnson indicated there are now 19 pump stations due to our newest addition in the Village of Nittany Glen. Mr. Swanderski questioned the number of manholes and footages of pipe not being updated from last year. It was noted that the Authority is currently developing geographic information and hopes to eventually have an accurate account of this information.

Mr. Swanderski then questioned the calculations that were made on the number of EDUs that we serve. Mrs. Gill explained the total difference in EDUs served in comparison to EDUs added takes into account EDU changes of existing customers.

Mr. Swanderski indicated that when you compare the 2021 Chapter 94 Report to the 2020 Chapter 94 Report in terms of the maintenance aspect it appears as though we did a lot less maintenance on the sewer lines. Mr. Miller asked if Mr. Swanderski was looking at the video and jetting footages and Mr. Swanderski stated yes. Mr. Miller stated the Authority maintenance department did less video and jetting work in 2021 than the previous year due to the lack of time and personnel to complete the work. Mr. Miller further explained by indicating routine video and jetting work is the first thing that gets eliminated when the maintenance staff has other work to complete. Mr. Miller reminded the Board that our staff rebuilt two (2) pump stations last year, which saved the Authority customers over \$100,000 per pump station as opposed to bidding this work. The pump station upgrades consumed a lot of the maintenance department's time in 2021.

Mr. McDowell asked if there were any additional questions regarding the presentation of the Annual Chapter 94 Report for 2021. **Mr. Houser moved, seconded by Mr. Maney to approve the Annual Chapter 94 Report for the 2021 calendar year as presented and to authorize Mr. W. Miller to execute the signature page of the report. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent. The motion carried.**

Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension – A discussion was held at the February 28, 2022 Board meeting to determine if the Authority would like to approve the design of submersible pumps or suction lift pumps for the Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension. It was noted that the motion to install suction lift pumps at the two pump stations associated with this project did not pass due to a 4 to 4 vote.

Mr. McDowell asked Mr. Johnson to provide a breakdown of what would be included with the quote for a suction lift pump station. Mr. Johnson stated that he re-evaluated the estimates for a suction lift pump station and he believes it would be \$1 million per pump station. The estimate for a suction lift pump station would include additional site work, construction of a building big enough to house all equipment, heating and ventilation for the building, installation of a wet well, electrical costs, generator, chlorine equipment, leak detection equipment, safety equipment, drilling of a well, pumps and pump controls.

Mr. Johnson stated that in 2019 a submersible pump station without a chlorine system was estimated at \$350,000; therefore, he re-evaluated the costs and it is now being estimated at \$400,000 per pump station. Mr. Johnson stated that it is very difficult to pin point the costs associated with this project due to these difficult times.

Mr. Houser questioned the length of the force main that is being proposed for this project and asked if there would be a need for chlorine being introduced into the system to avoid hydrogen sulfide issues. Mr. Johnson indicated he did look into the cost of a chlorine feed system and that it would cost approximately \$125,000 for the equipment, a building to house the chlorine equipment and to drill a well. It was noted that a submersible pump station with a chlorine system would cost \$525,000 per pump station.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will need to determine what type of pumps will be installed so he may proceed with obtaining permits for the project.

Mr. Kuzemchak asked if additional funding would be needed for this project and asked where we would obtain it. Mr. Miller stated that we would need to seek additional funding because the Authority does not have enough money in our cash reserves. Mr. Miller indicated we will need to look into interest rates from a private bank, for a loan, or possibly float a municipal bond.

It was noted that the Board had agreed to the submersible pump stations for the project; however, they would need to make a final decision on adding a chlorine system to the pump stations. Mr. McDowell asked Mr. Johnson what his opinion would be for the installation of a chlorine system. Mr. Miller stated that you almost have to install chlorine or you're going to do damage to our existing system. Mr. Swanderski asked what the price of the project would be with the submersible pumps. Mr. Johnson stated that the chlorine system would add an additional \$250,000 to an approximate \$4 million project. The Board members agreed it would be a good idea to install the chlorine system to prevent damage to our system; therefore, the chlorine system will be added to the submersible pump stations.

Mr. McDowell asked when the Authority can anticipate the project being ready for bid. Mr. Miller reminded the Board that we will need to wait for the outcome of the Environmental Hearing Board. It was noted the project may be ready for bid in January of 2023, if everything goes well with the hearing. If the Environmental Hearing Review Board votes in our favor, Mr. Johnson stated that he could possibly submit permits in July. Mr. Johnson stated that he does not believe PA DEP will review permits until the Environmental Board makes a decision. Mr. Miller advised against submitting permits to PA DEP until the Environmental Hearing Board is complete and the 30-day appeal has expired as the Environmental Hearing Board decision may be appealed to the Commonwealth Court for review.

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

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

QUESTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

PA Rural Water Conference – Mr. Swanderski asked if anyone would be attending the PA Rural Water Conference next week. Mr. Miller indicated Mr. Barton and Mr. Royer will be attending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel & Community Relations Committee: Mr. Hoffman was absent.

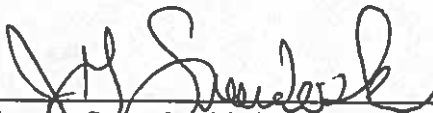
Facilities Committee: Mr. Houser had nothing to report.

Financial Committee: Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

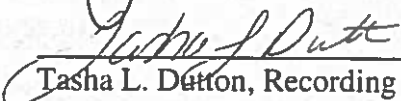
ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. McMurtrie moved, seconded by Mr. Swanderski to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Swanderski, Secretary



Tasha L. Datton, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____