

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

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**March 22, 2021**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

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

**GUESTS:** None present

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** N. Warren Miller

**EMPLOYEES:** Will Barton, Tasha Dutton and Kelly Gill

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The March 22, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Dennis McDowell, Chairman. This meeting was conducted through a video conferencing service, Zoom, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in our area. Mr. McDowell thanked everyone for attending and stated that the meeting would be recorded for transcription purposes.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Swanderski, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording seven members present. Mr. Heny was excused from the meeting and Mr. Galbraith entered the meeting at 7:22 p.m. 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.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. McDowell asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the March 8, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Houser moved, seconded by Mr. Dashner to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers, Inc./Right-to-Know Request** – We received an email with two (2) Right-to-Know Request Forms from Doreen Strouse of Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers, Inc. on March 16, 2021. Ms. Strouse requested screen shots of the sewer system area from Pump Station #6 (Rockview) to where the force main connects to the sewer main on the Benner Pike. The second request was for a copy of the Service Agreement (Annual Operation & Maintenance Cost) between the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority and the State Correctional Institution at Rockview.

Mr. Dashner asked if Uni-Tec was completing work for SCI Rockview, which triggered this request. Mr. Miller stated no and informed the Board that he believes this request was associated with the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension project since Uni-Tec was consulting Gene Stocker during public meetings pertaining to the Act 537 Plan Special Study. During those public meetings it was suggested that our Authority convey sewage from Shiloh Road along Benner Pike to our existing facilities, which hasn't been considered for several reasons, most importantly the significant additional cost.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr. McMurtrie reviewed the financial reports for the period ending 02/28/2021. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Dashner to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

**Approval of Requisitions:**

**Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-24** – Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-24 in the amount of \$91,817.23. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-24. Mr. Book noted the payment to Gwin, Dobson & Foreman (GD&F) for professional services rendered for the final design phase of the Shiloh Road project and inquired about where things stood with the contracted amount and the work that has been completed for the Act 537 Plan Special Study. Mr. Miller stated \$120,000 was the contracted amount for the final design and to date the Authority has paid \$36,958. With the extra work associated with the Act 537 Plan Special Study, Mr. Miller stated that he anticipates a conversation with GD&F regarding this.

Mr. Houser referenced the payment to CW Sales Corporation for the duplex pump control panels for Pump Stations #10 and #11 wanted to know if that price included more than just control panels. Mr. Miller stated this included the NEMA 4X stainless steel floor mounted enclosure for operating 230-volt, single phase pumps. Mr. Houser stated this seemed priced high in comparison to the SJE Rhombus that is available through USA Blue Book for a control panel with floats. Mr. Miller stated he wasn't familiar with what Mr. Houser was looking at, but he doesn't believe the quality through USA Blue Book would be comparable to the panels we received through CW Sales.

Mr. Barton stated that the control panels we received through CW Sales includes everything, but the telemetry (SCADA) and uninterrupted power supply. These panels also have the transfer switch with an electric receptacle for our tow behind generator and includes the apparatus that makes the unit explosion proof. Mr. Miller stated he would look into what Mr. Houser was referencing within USA Blue Book. Mr. Miller reminded the Board that discussion was held about the upgrades to Pump Station #10 last summer and the work was approved at that time. The control panel for Pump Station #10 was special ordered at that time, but due to COVID-19 there were delays with production. Since Pump Station #11 upgrades were budgeted for 2021 that control panel was also special ordered and both were received last week. Mr. McDowell stated he saw the controls panels last week and they are quality constructed units. Mr. Houser wants to make sure it's the best price for the job and indicated when he saw the total price it raised a flag and he thought it should be looked into. Discussion was then held about approving the requisition with the control panels included. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Swanderski to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-24 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$91,817.23. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.** Mr. Miller confirmed that he will look into the control panel Mr. Houser referenced from USA Blue Book and will compare it to the control panels we ordered through CW Sales.

**GUESTS:** There were no Guests present for the meeting.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) Blower** – Mr. Miller stated the purchase of a blower for Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) was included within the 2021 budget. When the upgrades were completed at the pump station several years ago a new (larger) wet well was installed. The wet well is 22' deep and 14' x 16' rectangular in size. We typically only use 8'-9' of the wet well and are experiencing an issue with suspended solids and accumulation that does not get pushed down into the pump intakes. We also noticed a sizeable grease ring at the top of the wet well which requires us to clean/maintain the wet well twice per year. The proposal is to install an aeration system within the wet well, similar to what is used at Pump Station #6 (Rockview). Envirep believes we will then be able to move the suspended solids to the intake area. Mr. Miller stated this would involve installing a 3-phase blower with a vent through the outside wall. Mr. Houser asked how loud the blower would be due to the close proximity of the homes. Mr. Miller stated he wasn't sure but he would look into that further. Mr. Miller just wanted to make everyone aware that we were proceeding with the work.

**Mr. Galbraith entered the meeting at 7:22 p.m.**

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**New SBWJA Facility** – An agreement of sale was drafted by Mr. Mix for the purchase of the property and provided to the Authority Board for their review and/or approval at the meeting. Mr. Galbraith asked Mr. Miller if #6 (Reservation of Easement and Right-of-Way) was for an easement that would need provided to the seller for access to their existing home at 294 Jacksonville Road and Mr. Miller stated that is correct. The seller's attorney would prepare the easement agreement and provide a deed description for incorporation into the agreement.

Mr. Houser indicated he sent an email around earlier today about another potential tract of land nearby that was 51.62 acres and wanted to know if anyone was interested in looking at the property. Mr. Houser visited the site and believes it would be more marketable because it's flatter and the sewer infrastructure could easily be conveyed to the nearby Jacksonville Road Pump Station. Mr. Houser stated there were two access points to this property from Jacksonville Road. One along Scott Lane and the other going into our pump station. Mr. Houser stated the cost per acre is more than the other property, but less overall since it's less total acreage. Mr. Houser thinks it's worth looking into.

Mr. McDowell stated he was familiar with that property as well, but indicated it's located to the rear of some existing homes and he believes the other property that the agreement of sale was drafted for was the better option.

Mr. Miller stated the Authority was approached by the Sheckler family, who owns the property, several years ago about subdividing the 51.62 acres into five (5) 10+ acre lots. They were proposing providing public sewer to three of the five lots. The back two lots would be served by on-lot sewage disposal. Mr. Miller stated he checked the Centre County GIS mapping after receiving Mr. Houser's email and stated the subdivision was never recorded.

Mr. Galbraith asked if the Authority was in that big of a hurry that we couldn't provide time for the facilities committee to look at the Sheckler property as well. Mr. McDowell stated that would be fine and wanted to know what everyone else thought. Mr. Dashner stated he was fine with looking at the Sheckler property, but also stated he definitely liked the agreement of sale provided by Mr. Mix for the other property. Several Board members stated they didn't believe waiting another couple of weeks to make a decision would be an issue. The Facilities Committee then scheduled a site visit (walk-through) of the Sheckler property on 03/23/2021 at 3:15 p.m. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting.

**Knoebels Family Picnic** – Mrs. Gill informed the Board that once this Authority cancelled its 2020 annual family picnic at Knoebel's Amusement Resort our automatic rebooking (hold) for that specific pavilion and weekend in 2021 was revoked. To ensure we were able to be placed on the schedule for 2021, Mrs. Gill contacted Knoebel's at the end of last year and made a reservation for 08/07/2021.

Before proceeding with making any further plans for the picnic, Mrs. Gill wanted to verify that the Board still wants to have a 2021 picnic for the employees. Mr. Houser stated he supports having the picnic. Mr. Book stated if the employees still enjoy the picnic, he fully supports funding it for the employees. Mr. Galbraith stated that attendance was lacking at the last picnic. Mrs. Gill stated that a couple of the employees that typically attend had other events scheduled for that particular day and that she anticipates their return at future picnics. Mr. Galbraith then suggested surveying the employees to see who was interested in attending before committing to the picnic. Mrs. Gill stated that a face covering mandate may have an effect on whether or not an employee wants to attend. Several other Board members indicated their support of having the picnic if the employees are interested in attending. Mrs. Gill stated she will check with the employees and let the Board know the outcome.

**SBWJA Meetings** – The Authority Board discussed holding future meetings in-person due to the decrease in COVID cases locally and indicated effective with the 04/12/2021 scheduled meeting, the meetings will be held in-person. If any Board member is interested in attending a meeting through video conferencing, we can accommodate that as well. Mr. Miller stated the Authority office will be re-opening to the public on 04/05/2021.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**Facilities Committee:** Mr. Book stated a walk-through of the Sheckler property is scheduled for 03/23/2021 at 3:15 p.m.

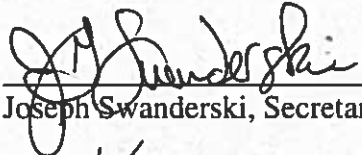
**Financial Committee:** Mr. Heny was absent from the meeting. Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

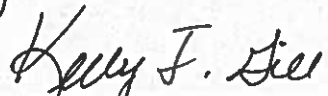


**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Dashner to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Joseph Swanderski, Secretary

  
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Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

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