

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

March 28, 2022

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:	Spring	Richard Kuzemchak Rodney Maney Christie McMurtrie
	Benner	Brian Book Dan Hoffman Willis Houser, Jr.
	Walker	Joseph Swanderski

GUESTS: None present

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton and Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The March 28, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Joseph Swanderski, Secretary. Mr. Swanderski thanked everyone for attending and stated that the meeting would be recorded for transcription purposes.

ROLL CALL:

Joseph Swanderski, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording seven members present. Mr. Galbraith and Mr. McDowell were excused from the meeting. Mr. Swanderski, Secretary, 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. Swanderski, Secretary, led the Board members and Employees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Swanderski asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the March 14, 2022 meeting minutes as recently revised and presented. **Mr. McMurtrie moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to approve the Minutes of the March 14, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Timothy Miller/947 Valley View Road – We received a letter from Timothy Miller of 947 Valley View Road, Bellefonte commending the SBWJA board and employees for the restoration of the two pump stations in Valley View. Mr. Miller also expressed his appreciation of Mr. Warren Miller's leadership and visions for the community's collection system.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Mr. McMurtrie reviewed the financial reports for the period ending 02/28/2022. Mr. Swanderski asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman 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 2020-47– Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-47 in the amount of \$46,574.97. Mr. Swanderski asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-47. **Mr. Swanderski moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-47 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$46,574.97. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

GUESTS: There were no Guests present for the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Maintenance Laborer – Mr. Miller informed the Board that our most recently added employee that was here for approximately seven months quit without providing any notice. Discussion was held about the requirements of the position.

The position has been listed on our Authority's website and Mrs. Gill is currently looking into advertising options. Mr. Miller reported that he contacted CPI to see if they had any students in their wastewater operator program, but they currently have no enrollees in this field of study. He also made contact with Delaware Valley and Edinboro State University who have wastewater operator programs to pass along our contact information for any prospective employees.

Bellefonte Borough/UAJA Agreement – Mr. Miller informed the Board that he recently had a discussion with the Bellefonte Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent who indicated Bellefonte Borough is currently in negotiations with UAJA for UAJA to take their sludge. Mr. Book stated that he believes there are some other municipalities that are looking to take their sludge to UAJA as well.

Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension:

Proposed Pump Stations (Submersible vs. Suction Lift Pumps) – Mr. Miller informed the Board that a more cost-effective option for suction lift pumps at the Shiloh Road pump stations is available if the Board was interested in hearing more information. He indicated the Authority's maintenance staff prefers suction lift pumps for safety and maintenance reasons.

There is another option that Gorman Rupp offers which Mr. Miller stated he previously never considered because he didn't really like the idea, but has reconsidered since cost is a concern. Gorman Rupp has a pre-fabricated suction lift pump station with a fiberglass enclosure. Mr. Swanderski indicated he had one of those at his previous employer. Mr. Miller stated they are significantly less expensive than a block building. A concrete pad would need installed and then Gorman Rupp comes in and sets the pre-fabricated, pre-plumbed, pre-wired structure. Mr. Miller stated that an estimate for a pre-fabricated suction lift pump station with a fiberglass enclosure is \$750,000 per station for a total of \$1.5 million for both pump stations. This would be approximately \$500,000 - \$600,000 more than the two (2) submersible pump stations previously discussed. The estimated cost for two (2) suction lift pump stations with a masonry building is approximately \$1.2 - \$1.4 million more than the two (2) submersible pump stations. Mr. Miller provided the Board with a photo of a pre-fabricated suction lift pump station with a fiberglass enclosure. Mr. Houser asked if this structure accommodates chlorine and Mr. Miller stated no, we would still have to drill a well and build a chlorine room. Mr. Swanderski asked what the dimensions were. Mr. Miller stated they offer an 8' x 12' and 16' x 10' structure. Mr. Swanderski asked how high the structure was and Mr. Miller believes they are 8' high. After seeing the photo, Mr. Swanderski stated these structures

are different than what he was talking about earlier. Mr. Miller stated these fiberglass structures come pre-plumbed/pre-wired and are approximately \$240,000 - \$270,000 per unit. The larger building is the more expensive one, which is \$270,000.

Mr. Book stated this is a big deal, a million-dollar decision to make. Mr. Book asked why we are passing around photos now as opposed to seeing it in a written report. Mr. Miller stated he didn't write a report. Mr. Book stated he wasn't necessarily referring to Mr. Miller about the written report, but thought the engineer would've provided something. He then asked, "Doesn't a million-dollar decision rise to the level of having something in writing to look at?" Mr. Miller stated he could print out the data from Gorman Rupp and he has notes from Mr. Johnson with pricing. Mr. Book stated he would've thought this information would've been included with the board packets that were received last week so the Board could prepare for the meeting.

Mr. Miller stated he received this information on Friday, after the board packets were distributed to the Authority Board members. Mike Gillespie of Envirep contacted Mr. Miller following the PA Rural Water Association's annual conference and asked if the Authority wanted to consider the pre-fabricated suction lift pump station with a fiberglass enclosure and Mr. Miller stated absolutely. Mr. Miller stated this just happened. Mr. Book stated he's not trying to make a decision tonight. If the Board wants to consider this, he would feel much better having the numbers in front of him. He would prefer to look at them prior to the meeting and it could be discussed after the Board has had the opportunity to review everything. Mr. Miller offered to print the data from Gorman Rupp and Mr. Johnson's pricing and provide it to everyone to take home with them tonight.

Mr. Swanderski stated he understands where Mr. Book is coming from and if the Board wants to consider this, he would suggest Mr. Johnson and Mr. Miller work together to come up with the following in writing:

1. Original Submersible Pump Station – Outline all costs to include chlorine, a generator and a well.
2. Suction Lift Pump Station with Masonry Building – Outline all costs to include chlorine, a generator and a well.
3. Suction Lift Pump Station with Pre-Fabricated Fiberglass Structure – Outline all costs to include chlorine, a generator and a well.

Mr. Miller stated he believes he has all the information being requested, but it is not in a written report.

Mr. Kuzemchak asked if we wait until the next meeting will that be a major issue. Mr. Miller stated no, he understands Mr. Johnson is wanting to proceed with permitting, but it can wait until the next meeting. Mr. Kuzemchak stated if there is a better option, he thinks it's worth looking into. Mr. Hoffman concurred and stated he believes all three options should be presented at the next meeting with all costs.

Mr. Book stated the reason he voted for the submersible pump station and against the suction lift pump station was because he didn't have any of the information and Mr. Miller was asking for a vote that evening to spend approximately \$1.2 million when there was nothing in writing identifying what the Authority was purchasing for \$1.2 million. Mr. Book wants to see details. Mr. Miller reminded the Board that these are not firm numbers, they are only estimates. By the time we are ready to bid the project, this could change completely. Mr. Swanderski asked how it would be handled if a decision is made, we apply for permits and the prices change drastically. Would we be able to change to submersible pump stations? Mr. Miller stated he believes that would require a modification to the permit.

Mr. Swanderski stated there is one other thing he would like added to the report. He would like the total estimated cost of the project added and also include how much of cash reserves we are proposing to use to fund the project. Also, to include the source of the remaining funding.

Mr. Swanderski asked if any of these fiberglass structures are in the area that the Board could go look at one. Through discussions with Mr. Johnson, Mr. Miller believes there are some in the Altoona area.

Several of the Board members indicated they would like more detailed information so they can make an informed decision. Mr. Book stated that consideration should be given for a crane as well, in order to pull the submersible pumps. Whether it's for installing an on-site crane, renting a crane, or upgrading our trucks to accommodate a crane. Mr. Miller stated he believes we would prefer to have a crane on site with a trolley system. Mr. Book stated this needs to be included as well.

Mr. Miller will work with Mr. Johnson to prepare a report which will be sent electronically to all Board members. Mr. Swanderski asked that an email be sent to Mr. Galbraith and Mr. McDowell explaining what occurred at the meeting and the report that will be forthcoming. Mrs. Gill agreed to email Mr. Galbraith and Mr. McDowell. Discussion was held about possibly having a work session prior to the next meeting to review the information as a group. The goal is to have the report electronically sent to all Board members later this week.

OLD BUSINESS:

SBWJA New Facility – Mr. Swanderski asked if our current parcel of land is out of the question with possibly erecting a new facility. Mr. Miller stated it's really small, we only have 2.50 acres. We are not permitted to cover any more ground per Spring Township. The impervious surface is completely fulfilled here. Our only option would be to build up, which we would have to tear down to get to that point.

Mr. Book asked if there is any new information pertaining to the Witherite property. Mr. Houser indicated he hasn't heard anything further from Larry Walker, KBB. Last Mr. Houser knew, the local business was in negotiations with the Witherite family in determining how much ground they were looking at purchasing. Mr. Houser stated he continues to look for commercial property; however, there is limited commercial property available for us to remain centrally located within our service area.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

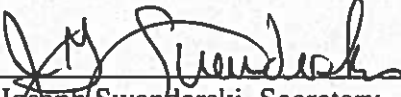
Facilities Committee: Mr. Houser had nothing to report.

Financial Committee: Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

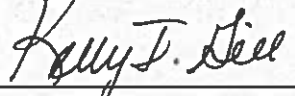
ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Swanderski, Secretary



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____