

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

May 10, 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: Larry Walker

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 May 10, 2021, 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 seven members present. Mr. Heny was excused from the meeting and Mr. Book entered the meeting at 7:17 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.

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 April 26, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Galbraith indicated he would like a correction made to the minutes. Mr. Galbraith stated the Board did not hold a second Executive Session, that it was simply a discussion between Board members. Mr. McDowell confirmed that no business was conducted. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to approve the Minutes of the April 26, 2021 Regular Meeting as amended. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Penn Terra Engineering, Inc. - We received an email from C. Anthony Fruchtl of Penn Terra Engineering, Inc. requesting a letter of intent to provide sewer service for the Steeplechase Townhomes, Phase II in Spring Township. The total number of EDUs required for this subdivision is 42 EDUs. Mr. Fruchtl was provided with a letter of intent for 42 EDUs for the Steeplechase Townhomes, Phase II on April 30, 2021.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-27 – Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition #2020-27. Mr. Swanderski questioned the payment to Baker Tilly US, LLP in the amount of \$3,000.00. Mrs. Gill stated Baker Tilly US, LLP is our accountant and they started preparing our 2020 audit on April 19, 2021; therefore, this is for a portion of the work that has been completed to date. Mr. Swanderski asked if there was a cap on completing the audit. Mrs. Gill indicated the audit typically costs approximately \$11,000.00 to \$12,000.00; however, it may be more this year due to a management discussion and analysis being performed. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Swanderski to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-27 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$387,209.16. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

GUESTS:

Larry Walker – Mr. Walker is a local realtor from Kissinger, Bigatel & Brower that has been approached by our Facilities Committee Chairman, Mr. Book, to provide any terms of service, along with any fees he would require to assist in the Authority's search for a new facility/location. Mr. Walker indicated he had attended the meeting to allow the Board to put a face with a name and to answer any questions the Board may have regarding his qualifications. Mr. Book provided the Board with a Facilities Committee report which highlighted the pertinent details regarding the realtor's retainers and commissions for locating a new facility. Mr. Swanderski stated that Mr. Walker had listed his commission as "nothing specified" and was wondering if Mr. Walker could

explain that to the Board. Mr. Walker indicated the seller typically pays the commission with a real estate transaction; therefore, the Authority would not be responsible for paying him a commission. Mr. Walker also noted that if a parcel of land is located and it is not listed on the market that the Authority may be required to pay the commission; however, he would try to negotiate commission with the seller to alleviate the cost for the Authority. The Board thanked Mr. Walker for attending the meeting.

Mr. Walker exited the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

SYSTEM OVERVIEW REPORT:

Will Barton, Maintenance Crew Leader, provided an overview of the work completed on the sanitary sewer system for the month of April 2021.

In-Home Inspections - There were 31 in-home inspections completed in the month of April. Mr. Barton stated there were four (4) violations noted and all have been corrected.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed seven (7) sewer lateral inspections throughout the system in April. We also completed the final inspections within the Sunrise Mobile Home Park along the Benner Pike. The office staff received six (6) new sewer permit applications in the amount of 9.93 EDUs.

System Maintenance – The equalization basin at Rockview was cleaned and the clearances were set on all pumps. We also had an electric motor burn up at Rockview; therefore, a new motor was installed.

We assisted four (4) homeowners with sewer backups and cut in a sewer tap on our force main, on Deer Creek Lane, for a newly constructed home. Our personnel also completed restoration work to several areas throughout the system that had been disturbed over the winter due to sewer repairs.

There were cleanouts and curb stops located throughout the system in preparation for GPS work that will be completed in the future. We completed a sewer mainline repair on Bilger Avenue and Buds Alley.

There was a mobile home fire at 1117 Buffalo Run Road on 4/25/2021, which resulted in a total loss and the homeowner asked to have the sewer disconnected. Mr. Barton met with the property owner to discuss his options.

Benner Township Water Authority –The monthly analytical testing was performed and we obtained a final water reading for a closing. We completed restoration work at 364 Meadow Flower Circle due to a water leak that occurred last fall. A new relay and timer was installed at the Hampton Hills well house due to the chemical feed pumps only working intermittently.

Our staff investigated high water usage at 240 Millgate Road; however, there were no issues noted. There were 10 PA One Calls located in April.

Video Truck – Our personnel completed 11,060 feet of video inspection work in the Pleasant Gap area for the month of April.

Vactor Truck – We jetted 14,685 feet of sewer main line and approximately 3,225 feet of that was cleaning our meter pits. Our personnel also used the Vac truck to assist in a plugged manure line at the Brooks Farm.

Sewer Extensions – Our staff completed two (2) days of project inspections at the Village of Nittany Glen. We also reviewed, redlined and approved construction drawings for several developments throughout the system

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were two (2) callouts for the month of April. We had one (1) callout for a seal fail at Pump Station #17 (The Mews), which required parts being ordered and installed. The second callout was due to a power glitch at Pump Station #6 (Rockview), which required the pumps being reset. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 106 PA One Calls being located in April.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Act 537 Plan Special Study – The Authority was informed that Gene Stocker filed a complaint in the Centre County Court of Common Pleas on May 4, 2021 against Benner Township Board of Supervisors regarding Sunshine Law violations. It was noted that Mr. Stocker feels Benner Township violated the Sunshine Law Act throughout the process of developing the Act 537 Plan Special Study. Mr. Miller informed the Board of several Right-to-Know Requests we received on 5/7/2021 from Mr. Stocker's attorney Christine Line. The information will be gathered and forwarded to Ms. Line.

Mr. Book entered the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Bellefonte Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Mr. Mix informed the Board that G.M. McCrossin has sued Bellefonte Borough Authority and Nittany Engineering & Associates, LLC/Century Engineering for damages in the amount of \$463,201.15. G.M. McCrossin is stating that Nittany Engineering provided incomplete and deficient project specifications for the bidding process of the Bellefonte Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades. Mr. Miller reminded everyone that our Authority will be responsible for a proportionate share of the legal fees for Bellefonte Borough Authority as well as a proportionate share of any judgement against the Borough Authority.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Act 537 Plan Special Study – Mr. Johnson indicated Gwin Dobson and Foreman may need to assist Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority and Benner Township with the legal matters pertaining to the Act 537 Plan Special Study and he just wanted to mention this may result in additional billings. Mr. Miller asked if a new project number could be created for any work related to the legal matters and that they be billed separately. Mr. Johnson stated this will not be a problem and all time will be tracked separately.

OLD BUSINESS:

Shiloh Road Project Final Design – Discussion was held at the April 26, 2021 meeting regarding the final design of the Shiloh Road area sewer extension and at that time the board postponed making a decision until tonight's meeting. It was noted that waiting to proceed with the project may result in costing the Authority more money; therefore, the Board members decided to proceed with the final design. **Mr. Swanderski moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to grant Gwin Dobson and Foreman permission to proceed with the final design of the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Sewer Extension Agreement Deerhaven Phase 2B (17 EDUs) – Mr. Miller indicated the developer for Deerhaven Phase 2B in Walker Township is ready to proceed with a mainline sewer extension. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to approve the Sewer Extension Agreement for Deerhaven Phase 2B in the amount of 17 EDUs. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel & Community Relations Committee: Mr. Hoffman informed the Board that we received approximately 15 employment applications for the maintenance laborer position. Mr. Swanderski asked if there were any qualified candidates. Mr. Miller stated the applicants had no experience.

Facilities Committee: The Facilities Committee sent correspondence to four (4) real estate companies requesting their terms of service, along with any fees they would desire in order to be engaged as the Authority's realtor. It was noted the proposals did not reach our office until today and there is still one (1) proposal missing. Mr. Book stated he had received an information packet from John Curtin, Linn Realty and Kissinger, Bigatel & Brower. The pertinent details regarding retainers and commission were discussed briefly. Mr. Book indicated the committee does not have a recommendation at this time because they did not have adequate time to review and discuss the proposals. Mr. Book recommended the Facilities Committee review the information and then present their recommendations to the Board at the May 24, 2021 meeting. The remaining Board members thought this would be the best option.

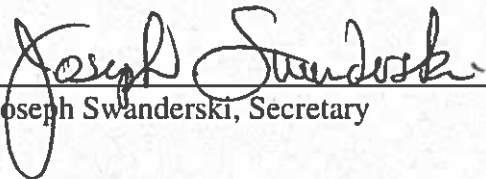
Financial Committee: Mr. Heny was absent from the meeting. Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – Mr. Book indicated he had attended Benner Township Supervisors meeting this evening and had requested we be considered for receiving a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 monies. Mr. McDowell stated that he and Mr. Swanderski attended the Walker Township Supervisors meeting on May 5, 2021 and also requested grant monies. Mr. Galbraith spoke with the Spring Township's Manager, Michael Danneker, and attended the Supervisor's meeting on May 3, 2021 regarding funding as well.

ADJOURNMENT:

**Mr. Hoffman moved, seconded by Mr. Dashner to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 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 _____