

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

May 24, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

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

GUESTS: John Kostas

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton and Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The May 24, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Joseph Galbraith, Vice-Chairman. Mr. Galbraith 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. McDowell was excused from the meeting. Mr. Galbraith, Vice-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. Galbraith, Vice-Chairman, led the Board members, Employees and Guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Galbraith asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the May 10, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. McMurtrie moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to approve the Minutes of the May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

ELA Group, Inc. - We received a letter from Matthew R. Harlow of ELA Group, Inc. requesting a letter of intent to provide sewer service for the Fillmore Road Proposed Development (former Dunkelberger property) in Benner Township. The total number of EDUs requested for this project is 317 EDUs. Mr. Harlow was provided with a letter of intent for sewer service in the amount of 317 EDUs on May 18, 2021.

Mr. Heny inquired about the Authority's process with providing a letter of intent as compared to approving sewer capacity. Mr. Miller stated that in order for the developer to move forward with the planning of the project a letter of intent to provide service is required for the entire development. Once the developer is ready to move forward with constructing the sewer facilities, they will need to provide the official request for capacity which our Authority typically allows only 30 EDUs per phase.

Thank You – Mr. Galbraith read a thank you card forwarded by our employee, Samuel Royer, and his family for the sandwich ring given by the Authority for their mother's death.

Christine L. Line, Esq./Right-to-Know Request – We received a Right-to-Know Request Form from Christine L. Line, Esq. on May 7, 2021. Ms. Line requested any and all dates of meetings, conferences, and/or teleconferences with the Department of Environmental Protection in relation to the PA Act 537 Special Study for Benner Township from 2018 to present. Ms. Line was provided with the requested information on May 12, 2021.

Christine L. Line, Esq./Right-to-Know Request – We received a Right-to-Know Request Form from Christine L. Line, Esq. on May 7, 2021. Ms. Line requested any and all correspondence with the PA Department of Environmental Protection in relation to the PA Act 537 Special Study for Benner Township. Ms. Line was provided with the requested information on May 12, 2021.

Christine L. Line, Esq./Right-to-Know Request – We received a Right-to-Know Request Form from Christine L. Line, Esq. on May 7, 2021. Ms. Line requested any and all correspondence with the Bellefonte Wastewater Treatment Plant regarding the Benner Township Act 537 Special Study and its plan to increase sewage transmission to Bellefonte Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ms. Line was provided with the requested information on May 11, 2021.

Christine L. Line, Esq./Right-to-Know Request – We received a Right-to-Know Request Form from Christine L. Line, Esq. on May 7, 2021. Ms. Line requested any and all Environmental Impact studies performed or conducted in relation to the PA Act 537 Special Study for Benner Township. A response to Ms. Line’s request was provided on May 11, 2021.

Christine L. Line, Esq./Right-to-Know Request – We received a Right-to-Know Request Form from Christine L. Line, Esq. on May 7, 2021. Ms. Line requested any and all Traffic Impact studies performed or conducted in relation to the PA Act 537 Special Study for Benner Township. A response to Ms. Line’s request was provided on May 12, 2021.

Christine L. Line, Esq./Right-to-Know Request – We received a Right-to-Know Request Form from Christine L. Line, Esq. on May 7, 2021. Ms. Line requested any and all documents, invoices, receipts, and/or statements reflecting proof of payment to Gwin, Dobson, Foreman Engineers for the preparation and completion of the Benner Township Act 537 Special Study (including the November 2019 Version, January 2021 Version, and “Addendum No. 1” Version). Ms. Line was provided with the requested information on May 12, 2021.

Christine L. Line, Esq./Right-to-Know Request – We received a Right-to-Know Request Form from Christine L. Line, Esq. on May 7, 2021. Ms. Line requested any and all data substantiating the computation of projected hydraulic loading (Table 4.4 of the Benner Township Act 537 Special Study of January 2021) wherein the projected EDUs double from year 2023 at 76 EDUs to 150 EDUs in year 2024. Ms. Line was provided with the requested information on May 12, 2021.

Christine L. Line, Esq./Right-to-Know Request – We received a Right-to-Know Request Form from Christine L. Line, Esq. on May 7, 2021. Ms. Line requested any and all plans for commercial development proposed in Benner Township which became the subject of the Benner Township PA Act 537 Special Study, as referenced on Page 26 of the January 2021 Version of the Benner Township Act 537 Special Study. Ms. Line was provided with the requested information on May 11, 2021.

Christine L. Line, Esq./Right-to-Know Request – We received a Right-to-Know Request Form from Christine L. Line, Esq. on May 7, 2021. Ms. Line requested any and all invoices, bills, receipts and/or proof of expenditure for the completion of the Benner Township PA Act 537 Special Study (including November 2019 Version, January 2021 Version and “Addendum No. 1” Version). Ms. Line was provided with the requested information on May 12, 2021.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Heny reviewed the financial reports for the period ending 04/30/2021. Mr. Galbraith 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. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-28 – Mr. Heny presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-28 in the amount of \$78,277.88. Mr. Galbraith asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-28. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Swanderski to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-28 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$78,277.88. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

GUESTS:

John Kostas – Mr. Kostas referenced a memo that was distributed by the PA Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA) a few months ago pertaining to the PA DEP proposing revisions to its biosolids permits to include PFAS monitoring requirements. Mr. Kostas indicated several grab samples were obtained within the Commonwealth and two local testing locations indicated PFAS in the stream. One was located in Spring Creek at Fisherman's Paradise and the other was in Bald Eagle Creek in Milesburg. Mr. Kostas was inquiring about the impacts that could have on our Authority financially if Bellefonte Borough would be required to remove PFAS from their wastewater. Mr. Miller stated that our Authority would be responsible for 42% of the costs of any associated capital projects and then our proportionate share of any operation and maintenance costs relating to the removal of the PFAS.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Septage Management Plan (SMP) – Mr. Miller informed the Board that he was recently contacted by Randy Moyer, Benner Township Supervisor, about the possibility of our Authority taking over the SMP for Benner Township. Mr. Moyer indicated Benner Township is considering changing the plan administration. Mr. Miller stated that he also had a similar conversation with Larry Lingle, Benner Township Supervisor. Mr. Miller informed Mr. Moyer that he would discuss this request with the Authority Board to see if they would be interested in administering the SMP for Benner Township. This would be for the inspection and administration of the SMP. Mr. Book stated he recalls the SMP being part of the 2003 Benner Township Act 537 Plan and Mr. Miller agreed.

Mr. Miller stated that our Authority personnel spent a lot of time preparing a list of on-lot systems within Benner Township, which was ultimately turned over to the Township when they decided not to contract with our Authority for implementing their SMP program.

Mr. Galbraith asked how many man hours would be needed to complete the work for the Township and also expressed concern with our Authority currently lacking manpower. Mr. Galbraith then asked if we want to consider outsourcing our staff when we already have issues with completing our own work due to the lack of manpower.

Mr. Miller stated he hasn't revisited the SMP records for years, but this Board needs to determine if they want to promote the growth of this Authority. Mr. Galbraith stated this Authority continues to grow as new development occurs and he's concerned with staffing issues. He then stated we could think about it, but he would like to see more information first before making a decision. Mr. Book asked if Mr. Galbraith is suggesting staff come up with a proposal on how we would implement this and Mr. Galbraith stated yes, before any decisions are made.

Mr. Book asked if we have rates established that would support these types of activities. Mr. Miller stated our Authority developed a plan where the inspection, manhours and pumping costs were all inclusive of the rate we proposed; however, he hasn't looked at the file for several years and would need to revisit the file before providing detailed information. Mr. Miller stated that if the Authority would oversee Benner Township's SMP it would require the hiring of additional staff and purchase of additional equipment. The program would mainly be completed from April through October of each year. The Authority would need to have a Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) on staff to complete the inspection and/or needed work. Mr. Miller stated the first couple rounds of the SMP are more labor intensive due to fixing problems. After that it's usually maintenance, which is less time consuming.

Mr. Book asked if we should table this until Mr. Miller has the opportunity to review the file so that he can provide additional information and the Board agreed. Mr. Galbraith stated that it's not that we don't want the Authority to grow, we just need to ensure it makes financial sense. Mr. Heny asked if this was an official inquiry and Mr. Miller stated no, it was an informal inquiry. Mr. Miller stated he will look into the SMP file and present something to the Board at a future meeting.

Maintenance Laborer – Mr. Houser asked how the search was going for filling the vacancy in the maintenance department. Mr. Miller stated an individual was hired last week and is tentatively scheduled to start on June 7, 2021, contingent upon passing the required physical and drug/alcohol testing.

Act 537 Plan Special Study – Mr. Miller informed the Board that Gene Stocker has filed an appeal with the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) over the PA DEP's approval of the Act 537 Plan Special Study for the Proposed Sewer Extension – Shiloh Road. All discovery relating to the matter shall be completed within 180 days of the date of the pre-hearing order, November 17, 2021.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Facilities Committee:

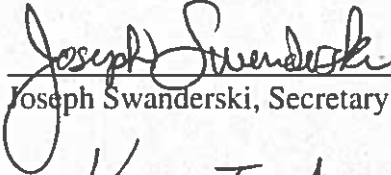
Real Estate Proposals – Immediately following the last Board meeting the Facilities Committee met to discuss the real estate proposals submitted. Mr. Book stated that this afternoon a proposal was received from Marc McMaster of RE/MAX Centre Realty as well. Mr. Book stated that it was the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to accept the proposal provided by Larry Walker of Kissinger, Bigatel & Brower Realtors. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to engage the services of Larry Walker, Kissinger, Bigatel & Brower Realtors, to assist the Authority with locating suitable property for the new SBWJA facility. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Financial Committee: Mr. Heny had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Swanderski, Secretary



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____