

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

May 9, 2022

ATTENDANCE:

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

GUESTS: John Kostas

CONSULTING SOLICITOR: Robert Mix, Esq.

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Andy Johnson, P.E.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton, Tasha Dutton & Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The May 9, 2022, 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 eight members present. Mr. Book was excused from the meeting. 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.

Thank You: Mr. McDowell took a moment to read out loud the thank you card Linda Brown sent the Authority. Mrs. Brown was very appreciative of the memorial contribution that was made to the Faith United Methodist Church in honor of George Brown Jr.'s passing.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. McDowell asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the April 25, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Swanderski to approve the Minutes of the April 25, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no Correspondence presented for discussion.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-50 – Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-50 in the amount of \$69,543.90. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-50. **Mr. Maney moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-50 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$69,543.90. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

GUESTS:

John Kostas: Mr. Kostas indicated he had reviewed our sewer service area map prior to the meeting and was wondering if the PA Air National Guard had a pump station due to the elevation of their facility. Mr. Miller indicated the PA Air National Guard has three (3) pump stations for their facility. Mr. Kostas asked why they are not listed on the sewer service area map. Mr. Miller indicated the pump stations are privately owned and operated by the PA Air National Guard.

Mr. Kostas stated that he reads our meeting minutes regularly and was curious about the multiple discussions that were held regarding submersible or suction lift pumps being approved for the Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension. It was noted that submersible pumps with a chlorine system would be used for the project.

Mr. Kostas then mentioned a rate analysis that was discussed in past meeting minutes which indicated the sewer rates would reach \$90.00 per quarter in the future. Mr. Kostas asked if the inflation of the Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension would affect the resident's quarterly sewer rates.

Mr. Kostas asked if there were interests in the two (2) commercial properties that are currently for sale along Shiloh Road because he has not heard of any perspective buyers. Mr. Kostas then asked, if the project proceeds and the sewer mainline is installed and there is no development at the two (2) commercial lots, will the mainline require some type of maintenance due to no flow. Mr. McDowell stated there are currently active commercial properties on Shiloh Road that we would serve with the extension; therefore, flow would be introduced to the entire sewer mainline on Shiloh Road. Mr. Miller stated the Authority would not construct line that would not be used.

Mr. Kostas then asked if the Authority would proceed with the project if the Developer would back out due to the current economic slump. Mr. Kostas expressed his concerns with the cost of the project and the effect it could have on the Authority's existing customers if development doesn't occur in the Shiloh Road area. Mr. Maney stated that development is based on public sewer systems already being in place; therefore, without the public sewer system being in place, no further development can occur.

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 2022.

In-Home Inspections - There were 21 in-home inspections completed in the month of April.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed 17 sewer lateral inspections. The office staff received 14 new sewer permit applications in the amount of 14.00 EDUs for the month of April.

System Maintenance – The maintenance department cleaned the check valves at all the pump stations and completed some painting at the suction lift pump stations. Our staff completed an inventory of materials that will be required for raising the manholes for PennDOT's resurfacing project on SR 3001 & SR3004.

We completed prep work at Pump Station #1 (Springfield), Pump Station #9 (Penn Eagle) and Pump Station #10 (Valley View) prior to R.C. Bowman starting our paving projects. A sewer tap was installed at 205 Middle Street, Pleasant Gap. A starter was replaced on the 2013 Ford F-350 Truck.

We performed routine maintenance to our backhoe and service trucks. The maintenance department had multiple site visits in April and assisted with several grinder alarm issues.

Video Truck - Our personnel completed 466 feet of video inspection work for the month of April. There were approximately 400 feet of sewer mainline inspected in Deerhaven due to the maintenance bond expiring and the remaining video work was completed at the Central PA Institute of Science and Technology (CPI) to assist with their future planning of a medical building.

Vector Truck - We jetted 466 feet of pipe for the month of April. Mr. Barton stated we cleaned sewer mainlines in Deerhaven and the equalization tank at Rockview.

Sewer Extensions – We reviewed and redlined construction drawings for Harvest Meadows in Benner Township. Our staff continued project inspections at Logan Greene.

Benner Township Water Authority – Our staff completed annual cleaning at the well houses and completed restoration work at the test well sites. There was a total of five (5) PA One Calls being located in April.

Inter Municipal Work – We jetted two (2) storm pipes for Benner Township.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were two (2) callouts for the month of April. The maintenance staff responded to two (2) sewer backups. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 124 PA One Calls being located in April.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Backhoe – Mr. Miller stated the Authority purchases a new backhoe every three (3) years and the purchase was reflected in the 2022 Budget. The backhoe has been ordered and should arrive later this year.

SCADA Upgrades – The Authority's current Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system is not functioning properly. Our SCADA system monitors the pump stations and meter pits throughout the system and reports any alarms back to our maintenance staff. The Authority's first SCADA system would contact staff through voice messages. This method is obsolete and alarms are reported through text messaging to staff's mobile telephones. Mr. Miller stated there has recently been issues with the conversion of these alarms to text messaging; therefore, we need to have upgrades made to our current SCADA system.

The Authority's most viable upgrade at this point is to convert to a cellular system. Our SCADA computer would receive the radio signal and it would interface with the cellular modem, which would convert the information into a text that would be sent to our staff's mobile telephones. Keystone Engineering Group has proposed the materials and labor to upgrade our SCADA system not to exceed \$7,250.00. Mr. Miller stated that this upgrade was unforeseen and was not budgeted; however, it is necessary to monitor and maintain our system.

Mr. Swanderski asked who the cellular provider would be. Mr. Miller stated the Authority was given an option of ATT and T-Mobile. It was noted that our current mobile provider, Verizon Wireless, does not offer the service we require to run our SCADA system. Keystone's radio engineer recommended we use ATT due to Penn State University recently upgrading their system and it working well for them. Mr. Swanderski asked if there would be a monthly service fee associated with this service. Mr. Miller stated there would be a monthly fee of approximately \$35.00 to \$40.00. **Mr. Swanderski moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the SCADA upgrade in the amount not to exceed \$7,250.00. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. Mix requested an Executive Session to discuss litigation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mr. McDowell recessed the Board for an Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. to discuss litigation. The meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension/Proposed Pump Stations – The staff at Gwin Dobson and Foreman completed the preliminary Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H & H) evaluation to determine the flood elevation for Pump Station #1 of the Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension. It was noted that approximately 6 to 7 feet of fill will be required at Pump Station #1 to meet PA DEP's regulations. Gwin Dobson and Foreman will schedule a meeting with PA DEP to discuss the H & H evaluation to verify the calculations they made are correct.

Mr. Galbraith asked when Gwin Dobson and Foreman will have everything ready to proceed with the project. Mr. Johnson estimates submitting permits to PA DEP in July or August.

OLD BUSINESS:

PennDOT 50/50 Cost Sharing (SR 3001 & SR3004) – A discussion was held at the April 25, 2022 Board meeting to execute Resolution #2022-02, which will allow the Authority to be reimbursed 50% of the costs associated with raising manholes on SR 3001(Spring Creek Road) and SR3004 (Paradise Road) this summer. Mr. Galbraith stated that Mr. Book indicated PennDOT is currently offering to pay 100% of the cost for work like this to be completed and he feels we should try to be reimbursed 100% for this and future projects. Mr. Miller stated that PennDOT does not offer to pay 100% to have manholes elevated for their projects. It was noted that PennDOT will offer to have their contractor complete the work if the materials are provided by the municipality. Mr. McDowell asked if the contractors would work to our rules and regulations. Mr. Miller stated that we would need to inspect the work being completed to verify the work was to our specifications. Mr. Galbraith questioned this option due to the cost, time and man power involved with these types of projects. Mr. Miller reminded the Board that the quality of the contractor's work will not be equivalent to the work our staff performs and that poor workmanship will lead to I & I. Mrs. Dutton stated that she participated in the telephone conference with PennDOT to discuss the 50/50 cost share and it was very difficult to get PennDOT to agree to participate with the 50% reimbursement, with a current cap of \$40,000. Mr. Barton stated that if the Authority considers doing something like that, we may want to test drive that on a road that doesn't have many manholes in case we need to go back and make repairs. Mr. Miller stated we can go this way if the Board decides to allow any contractor that wins the PennDOT paving bid to complete work on our system. Mr. Maney, former PennDOT employee, provided different instances where projects that did not initially include SBWJA later had issues due to the work not being completed satisfactorily with PennDOT, which then required SBWJA staff to make the corrections. Mr. Galbraith asked when the resurfacing project will start. Mr. Miller stated the maintenance department started elevating manholes last week. Mr. Galbraith said we would be too late for this project but would like to try having PennDOT's contractor complete our work in the future.

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

QUESTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

American Legion, Pleasant Gap – Mr. Galbraith took a moment to thank Mr. Miller for his help at the American Legion in Pleasant Gap. Mr. Galbraith stated that an addition is being built at the Legion and that the Authority reviewed and approved the plans to build over top of the sewer lateral. Mr. Miller disagreed with Mr. Galbraith's statement and concluded that none of SBWJA's staff agrees with the contractor building the addition over the sewer lateral. Mr. Miller added the contractor initially contacted our Authority due to his concerns with building on top of the existing lateral. Mr. Miller stated that a letter will be sent to the American Legion indicating the Authority's opinion on the project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Facilities Committee:

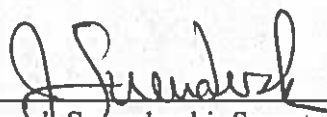
New SBWJA Facility - Mr. Houser received an email from Mr. Walker indicating there was a small amount of movement with the Witherite property. It was noted that a local business provided an offer to the Witherite's; however, he does not believe it will be accepted.

Financial Committee: Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

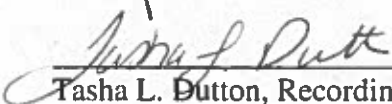
ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Houser moved, seconded by Mr. Swanderski to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 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 5/24/2022
Walker Township _____