

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

November 22, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:	Spring	Toby Dashner Joseph Galbraith Richard Kuzemchak Christie McMurtrie
	Benner	Brian Book Dan Hoffman Willis Houser, Jr.
	Walker	Dennis McDowell Joseph Swanderski

GUESTS: John Kostas

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton and Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The November 22, 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 nine members present. 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 November 8, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Dashner to approve the Minutes of the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. 9 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no Correspondence presented for discussion.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Mr. McMurtrie reviewed the financial reports for the period ending 10/31/2021. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. McDowell to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. 9 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-40 – Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-40 in the amount of \$392,244.26. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-40. Mr. Galbraith referenced the payment to Port's Sports Emporium for materials to repair the chainsaw and asked if this was for a regular chainsaw. Mr. Miller stated the specialty chainsaw is a small trimming saw that was used when the trees were trimmed along the fencerow between our property and the ballfield. The chainsaw belongs to one of the Authority's employees and unfortunately it was knocked out of the employee's hand while he was in the bucket trimming the trees. Mr. Miller indicated it is a very expensive chainsaw. Mr. Galbraith stated that was his reasoning for asking because if it was a regular chainsaw, he believes we could have purchased a new one for the price of the repair costs.

Mr. McDowell asked if there were any further questions. Mr. Book referenced the Keystone Engineering invoice in the amount of \$5,800.18 and asked if most of that was for the equipment. Mr. Miller stated that is correct, 90% of the bill was for the purchase of the three (3) SCADA Packs. With no further questions, **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Dashner to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-40 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$392,244.26. 9 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

GUESTS:

John Kostas – Mr. Kostas wanted to make the Authority Board aware of the PA DEP's Environmental Quality Board recently voting to move forward with a proposed rulemaking to establish a maximum contaminant level (MCL) in drinking water for PFOA (14 ppt) and PFOS (18 ppt). Mr. Kostas stated the only reason for bringing this up during the meeting is due to the likelihood of similar requirements being placed on sewage treatment as well. Mr. Kostas has been told that once this is done for drinking water, sewage treatment will likely follow. The Bellefonte Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant may eventually be required to remove PFOA and PFOS from the influent at their plant which would have a financial impact on this Authority.

Mr. Kostas stated it has been confirmed that State of the Art's contaminated well water is being discharged to the public sanitary sewer and he is concerned about the biosolids being land applied to farms in Benner Township nearby the original source of contamination. According to Mr. Kostas, the PA DEP has also established a MCL for soil samples. Mr. McDowell thanked Mr. Kostas for providing this information to the Authority Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Industrial Appraisal – Mr. Miller stated every seven (7) years our Authority has an on-site appraisal completed of all of our facilities (equipment, buildings, land, etc.) by Industrial Appraisal Company of Pittsburgh. In years 1 – 6, they complete a remote assessment based on mark-ups and inflation, which costs our Authority \$380.00 per year. The last on-site appraisal was completed in 2014 and the Authority is due to have one completed in 2021, but Mr. Miller asked them to wait until early 2022 to complete the on-site appraisal once Pump Station #18 (Village of Nittany Glen (VNG)) is complete with the generator and dedicated to our Authority.

This appraisal is provided to our insurance agent each year and is used to determine the amount of coverage needed. Mr. Miller would like to request a motion to complete the work in 2022 at a cost of \$7,920.00. Mr. Swanderski asked if they go around to each facility and Mr. Miller stated yes. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to authorize Industrial Appraisal Company to complete an on-site appraisal (evaluation) in the amount of \$7,920.00 in 2022 once Pump Station #18 (VNG) is complete. 9 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) Blower – Mr. Miller informed the Board that the blower at Pump Station #7 is now up and running properly. Gorman Rupp and Envirep recently were on-site to finalize the new set up which included the programming through the station's control computer. Mr. Barton recently noted septic material forming in the wet well due to it not migrating properly down the floor slope. We are hopeful this new blower system will aerate the wet well enough to keep the solids flowing towards the pump's intakes and then be pumped to the treatment plant. Mr. Miller provided a brief overview of the upgrades to Pump Station #7.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) – Within the last month the Authority received information about the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) that will commence in 2022. LIHWAP will provide grant monies for eligible low-income households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent the disconnection of drinking water or wastewater services. The grant monies will be paid directly to the facility provider. Mr. Miller indicated Mrs. Dutton has completed the required paperwork to enroll the Authority as a participating vendor to be able to receive these grant monies.

Centre County Grange Fair (Pump Station Rebuild) – Mr. Book inquired about the status of the pump station rebuild for the Centre County Grange Fair. Mr. Miller stated our insurance will allow us to complete the work, but he hasn't followed up with Mr. Maney since we were initially approached to complete the work.

Shiloh Road Area Sewer Extension – Mr. McDowell informed the Authority Board of a recent email from Attorney Mix which outlined a request for production of documents and interrogatories in relation to Mr. Stocker's appeal of the Act 537 Plan Special Study. The Authority is required to provide these documents within 30 days of the filing, which occurred on November 16th and 17th. Mr. Miller stated our Authority basically has to provide every document, including emails, relating to the project. The Authority staff is currently working on compiling this information. Additional discussion was held regarding tracking all time and other fees associated with the appeal and possibly creating a special rate district for the Shiloh Road project customers to recover funds expended for the appeal process.

Reduced User Fee – Mr. Galbraith referenced the letter in the board packet that was sent to University Park Plaza Corporation indicating they have been granted the reduced user fee for their properties on Axemann Road and asked if there were any plans to rebuild on the property. Mr. Miller stated they weren't certain, but as long as they continue to pay the reduced user fee for the property, they will not have to pay a tapping fee when they are ready to reconnect to the sanitary sewer. Mr. Miller explained that if a customer caps their sewer line and does not pay the reduced user fee, our Authority would require the owner to pay a tapping fee to reconnect to the sanitary sewer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution #2021-02 Sewer Rate Resolution – During the last several meetings discussions were held about increasing sewer rentals by \$5.00 per quarter per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) effective with the first quarter of 2022. Mr. Miller stated that he based the 2022 budget, that was tentatively approved at the last meeting, on a \$5.00 per quarter per EDU increase. Mr. Miller reminded the Board that the Rate Study provided by Rettew Associates projected the Authority have a rate of \$95.00 per quarter per EDU by the year 2038. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the Sewer Rate Resolution. **Mr. Houser moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve Resolution #2021-02 – Sewer Rate Resolution as presented and made a part of these official meeting Minutes. 9 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

#50712 - Contracted Services – BTWA – Mr. McDowell stated that in 2022 the Authority Board would like the bills issued to the Benner Township Water Authority to be summarized periodically and provided to the Board. Mrs. Gill asked for clarification on what all should be included on the summary. Mr. McDowell stated labor hours and dollar amounts. Mr. McDowell also would like equipment hours and dollar amounts as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Facilities Committee:

SBWJA New Facility –Mr. Book contacted Larry Walker, KBB, about the Elsie Witherite Estate properties and provided an update during the meeting. They have subdivided two (2) acres from the tract along E. College Avenue that is zoned commercial and are in the process of selling it. Mr. Walker is meeting with them on 11/24/2021 and is looking for direction on how much land this Authority would like and how much it's willing to spend. Mr. Book stated he passed an email around looking for direction on the amount of acreage we were looking for and the general consensus of the emails was 10 acres. Mr. Book would like to have a discussion now about the Witherite property. Mr. Book stated the tract along Witherite Road is also an option and wanted to know if we would consider that as well.

Mr. Swanderski stated he thought we were looking for somewhere between five (5) and ten (10) acres and it would depend upon the price difference between a five (5) or ten (10) acre tract. Mr. Swanderski stated he doesn't believe we really know what we are willing to pay at this time because there are too many variables. Mr. Houser stated he believes the price per acre that our Authority is willing to pay would depend upon whether or not there is public water and/or sewer available to the property in question. The Board provided Mr. Book with an idea of what it's willing to pay per acre so he can convey that amount to Mr. Walker for his meeting later this week.

Financial Committee: Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

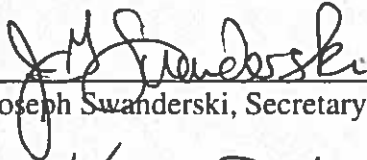
Personnel & Community Relations Committee:

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mr. McDowell recessed the Board for an Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss personnel. Mr. McDowell asked the employees and guests to leave the meeting for the evening. The meeting reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Swanderski to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. 9 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Swanderski, Secretary



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION #2021 - 02

A RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTIONS 201 AND 202.1 OF THE SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO RENTALS, RATES OR CHARGES FOR SEWER SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Spring -Benner-Walker Joint Authority ("Authority") is a Pennsylvania municipal authority organized and incorporated by Spring, Benner and Walker Townships, Centre County, Pennsylvania and existing under the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Act, the Act of June 19, 2001, P.L. 287, No.22, § 1, as amended (Act); and

WHEREAS, the Authority owns and operates a public sewer system serving its residential, commercial and industrial customers in Spring, Benner and Walker Townships; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the Authority is authorized to set and collect rates and charges from its customers for sewer service, a tapping fee from customers who desire to or are required to connect to its sewer system and other fees.

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that in order to provide for payment of the expenses of the Authority, to include the construction, improvement, repair, maintenance and operation of its sewer system, the rentals, rates and charges for sewer service as set forth in Sections 201 and 202.1 of the Authority's Rules and Regulations attached hereto as Exhibit "A" are reasonable and necessary and shall be set and collected from its residential, commercial and industrial customers.

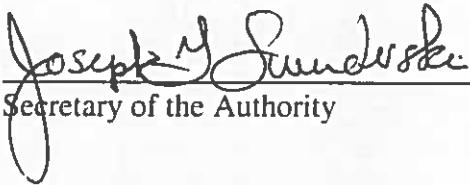
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Spring -Benner-Walker Joint Authority, in accordance with the authority conferred by the Act, hereby amends Sections 201 and 202.1 of its Rules and Regulations and adopts the rentals, rates and charges for sewer service as set forth on the schedule of rentals, rates, charges attached hereto as Exhibit "A," which shall be set and collected from its residential, commercial and industrial customers.

VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION:

FOR 9

AGAINST 0

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the within Resolution was adopted by the Board of the Spring -Benner-Walker Joint Authority at a regular meeting of the Authority held on Monday, November 22nd, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the offices of the Authority at 170 Irish Hollow Road, Bellefonte, Centre County, Pennsylvania, and that the vote on the Resolution was as reported above.


Secretary of the Authority

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION 2

SEWER RENTALS OR CHARGES

SECTION 201: Residential shall mean each private dwelling unit----\$300.00 per annum, payable at the rate of \$75.00 per quarterly billing period.

Each dwelling unit in a double house, a condominium, a townhouse, a duplex, in a row of connection houses or in an apartment building shall be billed as a separate entity. If two or more families use separate cooking and/or toilet facilities in an improved property, the sewer rental or charge payable hereunder shall be computed as though each such family was a separate user with a separate connection to a sewer.

SECTION 202.1: All owners of non-residential improved properties connected to the sewer system shall pay sewer rentals or charges at the rate of \$75.00 per quarter per annum per unit on the basis of Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU's) as set forth in the following schedule:

This amendment to the Sewer Rentals or Charges shall take effect and be applicable to all bills for services on and after January 1, 2022. As adopted by the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority on the 22nd day of November, 2021.

EXHIBIT "A"