

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

July 10, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:	Spring	Joseph Galbraith Rodney Maney Christie McMurtrie
	Benner	Willis Houser, Jr. William Hughes
	Walker	Dennis Brown Dennis McDowell

GUESTS: None present

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 July 10, 2023, 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:

Willis Houser, Jr., Secretary, took Roll Call, recording seven members present. Mr. Book and Mr. Kuzemchak were 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.

PLEGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. McDowell, Chairman, led the Board members and Employees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. McDowell asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the June 26, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Maney to approve the Minutes of the June 26, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no Correspondence presented for discussion.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-77– Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-77 in the amount of \$63,356.30. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-77. **Mr. Houser moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-77 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$63,356.30. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

GUESTS: There were no Guests present for the meeting.

SYSTEM OVERVIEW REPORT:

Will Barton, Maintenance Crew Leader, provided an overview of the work completed on the sanitary sewer system for the month of June 2023.

In-Home Inspections - There were 47 in-home inspections completed in the month of June.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed 16 sewer lateral inspections. The office staff received 12 new sewer permit applications in the amount of 12.16 EDUs and issued the permits.

System Maintenance:

The maintenance department exercised all the valves, performed drawdowns and cleaned the floats and level sensors at all of the pump stations.

A concrete patch was poured on a portion of the floor in the back shop due to a service water line repair that took place and the footers for the retaining wall were also poured.

Our staff completed a video inspection of an abandoned sewer lateral located on a vacant lot between Roberts Oxygen and HealthSouth. The video work was completed to verify sewer service was available to the property due to the parcel being listed for sale. We also videoed the sewer lateral at 873 Spring Creek Road to check for I & I due to the property being vacant.

The buildings and driveways were pressure washed at Pump Station #5 (Mingoville) and Pump Station # 7 (Zion Ridge) to prepare for seal coating. Mr. Barton indicated the seal coating was completed at Pump Station #5 (Mingoville) but it was not completed at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) due to Hull's Drilling being at the pump station to drill the well. B & B Sealcoating plans to return to Pump Station #7(Zion Ridge) in the near future to complete the job.

Our staff picked up approximately six (6) manhole castings and lids from the Harvest Meadows relocation project and they will be stored at the shop as stock items.

Mr. Barton stated the pump drawdowns at Beaver Farm Apartments have been getting significantly lower over the years and they are now at 50% capacity. After some troubleshooting it was noted that there were worn impellers and lower end pump issues. It was noted that replacement parts were ordered and will be installed once they arrive.

We excavated and capped off 6" sewer laterals at 502 & 512 Valentine Street due to the Centre County Government having the homes demolished. There were two (2) manholes on Rolling Ridge Drive that were raised due to Benner Township's paving project.

There were repairs made to the roof at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge). A new sewer tap was installed at 112 Harvey Street in Pleasant Gap. The maintenance department installed a new uninterruptible power supply (UPS) at the Zion Road Meter Pit and the SCADA radio at Pump Station #14 (Litke) was reprogrammed.

A pre-construction meeting was held with Glenn O. Hawbaker's to discuss the sewer mainline installation at Logan Greene Phase 1B. Mr. Barton indicated the project started construction today and is going well.

As a result of our PA One Call we submitted, Walker Township Water Association attempted to locate the water service line to Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge); however, they were unsuccessful. Mr. Barton stated that we hydro excavated to assist in determining the location of the service line. The service line location was required due to the well being drilled for our pump station.

The maintenance department cut down trees at Pump Station #1 (Springfield) and Pump Station #14 (Litke). We completed pump maintenance at several of our suction lift pump stations and continued working on our retaining wall at the office. The remaining blocks have been poured for the retaining wall; therefore, the project should be finished in approximately two (2) weeks.

Video Truck – The Authority staff completed routine video work of sewer mainline at Centre Hall Mountain and Forge Road. We recorded a total of 4,186 feet of sewer mainline for the month of June.

Vector Truck –The maintenance department cleaned 3,131 feet of sewer mainline at Centre Hall Mountain and we jetted 300 feet of sewer mainline for Port Matilda Borough. Our Authority jetted a total of 3,431 feet for the month of June.

Sewer Extensions –We reviewed and redlined construction drawings for the Village of Nittany Glen Phase 7. The as-built drawings for Harvest Meadows Partial Section 3 & 4 were also reviewed and redlined.

Benner Township Water Authority – We obtained a follow-up meter reading at 403 Meadow Flower Circle. We collected bacteria samples from both water systems and exercised our quarterly blowoffs. The calibration curves were verified on the colorimeters and the water meters were read at Peru. The maintenance department flushed the fire hydrants at the Benner Township Elementary School to maintain water quality in the mainline due to low usage. We sanded and painted the door jambs at the Hampton Hills well house and replaced rusted out brackets that secure the water lines there. Our staff obtained three (3) final water readings and completed 52 Service Line Inventory Surveys. We also responded to seven (7) PA One Calls in June.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There was one (1) callout to replace the grinder pump at the Spring Township building for the month of June. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 104 PA One Calls being located in June.

Reconditioned PLC at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) – A representative from Gorman-Rupp met with our staff to troubleshoot an internal battery issue with the PLC (programmable logic controller) at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge). The internal battery is not serviceable by the end user due to it being soldered onto the circuit board. Mr. Barton believes this is the only issue with the PLC; therefore, it will be sent to Radwell International, LLC for repairs. The estimated cost to repair the PLC is \$2,434.85 versus purchasing a new PLC for \$8,000.00. It was noted that we should be capable of reprogramming the reconditioned PLC inhouse due to the programs we have saved to SD cards. The PLC should be installed the end of this week.

Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) Well Drilling - The well was drilled at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) last week and we should have plenty of water. Mr. Barton indicated the well is 120 feet deep and the static water level is around 30 feet. Hull's Drilling indicated the well should produce approximately 30 gallons per minute. It was noted that our pump station currently requires 5 gallons per minute; therefore, the new well should provide an adequate supply of water. Mr. Hull plans to return the end of this week to install the constant pressure system and the piping into the pump station. Our Authority should be disconnecting from Walker Township Water Association's water system in a few weeks.

Village of Nittany Glen Pump Station – Mr. McDowell asked if the Developer completed all repairs to the Village of Nittany Glen Pump Station. Mr. Barton indicated all outstanding items were taken care of. Mrs. Gill stated that the Developer has not dedicated the pump station to our Authority. The Developer has not provided a Bond or Agreement of Dedication.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Miller had nothing more to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. Mix had nothing to report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project:

PA Game Commission (PAGC) – Mr. Johnson indicated DCNR has not provided the PAGC with written approval to construct a sewer line within the conservation easement that is in place within the Penn State Property. Heberling Associates will begin the Phase I Archaeological Survey once the PAGC obtains written approval from DCNR.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gravity Line to Zion Back Road Area (Pump Station – Deerhaven/Zion Manor) – Mr. Miller spoke with an engineer, Tom Songer, from the Centre Region in State College regarding Zion Manor (Centre County Uniform Parcel Identifier No. 14-6A/44), which is located on the Zion Back Road in Walker Township. Mr. Songer currently owns the Zion Manor development and questioned the possibility of eliminating the two (2) pump stations that are planned for the future development of Deerhaven and Zion Manor. Mr. Miller asked Gwin Dobson and Foreman to create a print that depicted Deerhaven and Zion Manor over a Google Earth picture of the Zion Back Road area to assist in explaining gravity sewer line being installed by SBWJA to eliminate the construction of two (2) new pump stations. Mr. Miller explained the proposed plans for Zion Manor were to extend a public sewer mainline from the Zion Back Road manhole through the lands of Walker Township to Zion Manor; however, Walker Township declined a right-of-way being executed for a developer. In 2009, Walker Township was willing to grant a right-of-way to the SBWJA to extend public sewer but not Mr. Songer.

Mr. Miller explained that gravity sewer is cheaper and requires less maintenance than pump stations. If the Authority would decide to extend the sewer mainline through Walker Township's property, it would cost approximately \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00 and this money could be recovered with a Special District Tap Fee that would be calculated through an Act 57 Study.

Mr. McDowell asked if Mr. Songer was serious about developing Zion Manor at this time. Mr. Songer had indicated to Mr. Miller that he had prospective buyers to develop Zion Manor.

If the Board is interested in extending sewer mainline, the Authority will need to contact Tom Songer and Robert Poole to discuss their requirements to extend sewer mainline from their developments to our mainline. Mr. Miller stressed that the Authority would only provide the transmission line from the development to our system and that we would not install sewer mainline within the developments. Mr. Miller stated that the Authority would also need to speak with Walker Township regarding this extension and their future plans for sewer service to their parcel of land.

Mr. McDowell asked Mr. Johnson how much he thinks it would cost to maintain a pump station for one (1) year. Mr. Johnson stated it may cost \$10,000.00 to maintain a pump station for one (1) year. Mr. McDowell believes it would be a good idea to eliminate the two (2) pump stations and for SBWJA to install a transmission line to the developments. Mr. Houser recommended an agreement be executed with Mr. Songer and Mr. Poole ensuring the Authority they will be developing. Mr. Miller stated that he does not believe they would sign an agreement like that. Mr. McDowell asked if we should include these areas in Walker Township's Act 537 Plan Update. Mr. Miller stated that we could add these areas to the plan. Mr. McDowell recommends that we look into this extension further. Mr. Miller will speak with Walker Township and the developers.

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

QUESTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Shady Lane Subdivision – Mr. McDowell asked if there were any updates on the Shady Lane Subdivision located off East College Avenue (SR64) in Walker Township. Mr. Miller stated that we have not received any updates on this 45-duplex subdivision, which will require two (2) entrances onto SR64.

Bellefonte Warehouse – Mr. McDowell asked if anyone had contacted the Authority regarding the Bellefonte Warehouse. Mr. Miller stated that the contractors will begin lowering our sewer mainline because they want to keep the floor elevation to the warehouse as low as they can to avoid fill.

WaWa's convenience store/McDonalds - Mr. McDowell then questioned the progress of WaWa's and McDonalds on the Benner Pike. Mr. Houser states that he is a member of Benner Township's Planning Commission and he has not seen anything for the projects.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Facilities Committee: Mr. Houser had nothing to report.

Financial Committee: Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

**Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.
7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Willis Houser Jr., Secretary


Tasha L. Dutton, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____