

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

August 14, 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 SOLICITOR: Robert Mix, Esq.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton, Tasha Dutton & Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The August 14, 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 July 24, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the Minutes of the July 24, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission - We received a letter from Kyle Schlittler, Habitat Manager, of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) regarding the installation of fish habitat enhancement structures as part of the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project. This will improve 2,700' along Spring Creek to help mitigate streambank erosion and sediment deposits in this section of the high-quality stream . The PFBC is requesting Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority contribute \$80,000 towards estimated costs to include the purchase 1,720 tons of R5 size stone and 260 Tons of R7 size stone. Mr. Schlittler also indicated the PFBC will be partnering with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) to apply for grant funding for the remaining \$80,000, which will consist of \$35,000 for additional materials (logs, rebar, geo-textile fabric, etc.) and \$45,000 for contractor costs. The PFBC staff will provide technical assistance and construction oversight during the proposed Fish Habitat Enhancement project.

Mr. Miller indicated the PFBC is interested in utilizing the Authority's right-of-ways, during construction, to gain access to this portion of Spring Creek so they may complete improvements to the stream.

Mr. Miller stated that the PFBC is also working to obtain Countywide Action Plan (CAP) grants to assist with the cost of the habitat improvements. The CAP grant is possible due to the Authority paying 50% of PFBC's total project of \$160,000. SBWJA would be responsible for materials in the amount of \$80,000 and the PFBC would utilize grant monies for the remaining \$80,000 in labor and equipment rentals.

The Authority will be required to pay mitigation permitting fees for the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project due to construction taking place within the Chapter 105 wetlands. The mitigation and riparian buffer fees associated with this project will cost roughly \$80,000 and would be paid to PA DEP. Mr. Miller stated the Authority could assist in the PFBC's Fish Habitat Enhancement project in lieu of permitting fees being paid to PA DEP; therefore, the funds being contributed would stay in our home area.

Mr. Miller asked the Board if they would be interested in assisting with the PFBC's project. There were several Board members that stated they were in favor of keeping the money local and assisting with PFBC's project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-79– Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-79 in the amount of \$453,114.60. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-79. Mr. Galbraith asked if there were any issues with Bellefonte Borough's bill. Mrs. Gill stated that there were no issues. Mr. McDowell then asked what the majority of Bellefonte Borough's Capital Improvements bill was for. Mrs. Gill indicated the Borough still continues with their control upgrades and had purchased a new Ford F-250 truck and a scissor lift. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-79 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$453,114.60. 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 July 2023.

In-Home Inspections - There were 26 in-home inspections completed in the month of July.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed 19 sewer lateral inspections. The office staff received 7 new sewer permit applications in the amount of 7.00 EDUs and issued the permits.

System Maintenance:

B & B Sealcoating completed seal coating work at Pump Station #5 (Mingoville) and Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge). The maintenance department finished work to the PLC system at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge).

The well has been drilled/connected at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) and we were disconnected from Walker Township Water Association on August 8, 2023.

The Vactor truck was delivered to A & H Equipment in Harrisburg to have warranty work completed. Mr. Barton stated holes developed on the water tanks of the Vactor truck; therefore, they were replaced with new tanks at no cost.

A new sewer tap was installed for the Greater Buffalo Run United Methodist Church at Trinity Court in Benner Township.

The maintenance department started introducing sodium hypochlorite to Pump Station #8 (Zion Stover) due to hydrogen sulfide gas being noticed in the system. It was noted that sodium hypochlorite may be required at Pump Station #9 (Penn Eagle) as well due to Logan Greene's additional flows.

Our staff completed preventative maintenance to the pumps at Grange Fair. We installed new aluminum post wraps to our porch and completed work to the retaining wall.

There was routine maintenance completed on the suction lift pumps and we finished changing the oils in our submersible pumps.

A site visit was completed at 855 Valley View Road due to a sewer backup. The backup was due to an internal plumbing issue. We also assisted with questions regarding the placement of cleanouts to a new addition at 3111 Benner Pike.

Video Truck – The Authority staff completed 872 feet of video work at Logan Greene Phase 1A Section 2 and 767 feet at Deerhaven Phase 2B due to maintenance bonds expiring. We recorded a total of 1,639 feet of sewer mainline for the month of July.

Sewer Extensions –Our staff started project inspections at Logan Greene Phase 1B. Mr. Barton stated that construction is projected to begin early next week at Deerhaven Phase 3B and Village of Nittany Glen Phase 7.

Benner Township Water Authority – We obtained a follow-up meter reading at 121 Peru Circle due to high usage. Mr. Barton indicated the increased usage was due to a running toilet. There were routine samples collected at Hampton Hills and Grove Park for bacteria and Nitrates/Nitrites testing. Our staff also collected two (2) additional bacteria samples to verify the boil water advisory could be lifted for the Grove Park water system customers. The maintenance department flushed the fire hydrant at the Benner Elementary School to maintain water quality in the mainline due to low usage. A final water reading was obtained on Meadow Flower Circle and we completed four (4) Service Line Inventory Surveys. We also responded to three (3) PA One Calls in July.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were six (6) call outs for the month of July. It was noted that three (3) of the call outs were marking emergency PA One Calls and one (1) was to investigate the low water pressure issue at Grove Park. We had a generator fail alarm at Pump Station #8 (Zion Stover) and a grinder alarm at 1071 W. Water Street. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 102 PA One Calls being located in July.

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

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

ENGINEER’S REPORT: Mr. Johnson was excused from the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Shiloh Road Sewer Extension/Extension to PA Game Commission Property – It was noted that our legislators donated a parcel of property, that was formerly owned by Rockview, to Penn State University (PSU) on the west side of I-99. A conservation easement was placed on this parcel of property, which is now creating issues for public sewer being extended to PA Game Commission (PAGC) property. The PAGC has met with DCNR, Clear Water Conservancy and PSU to obtain a right-of-way for public sewer. Mr. Miller indicated issues with a conservation easement may take longer to resolve because it will need to be modified by the legislation.

Mr. Miller asked the Board if they would like to continue with the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension without the PAGC or if they would like to wait for them to obtain their easement so they may piggyback their sewer extension work with the Authority.

The PAGC is reluctant to proceed with the required archaeological work that needs to be completed until they know they can secure a right-of-way. Mr. Miller stated the PAGC owns property around the PSU parcel on Shiloh Road, which could allow them to have public sewer extended to them without infringing on the conservation easement. The alternative route would add an additional 1,000 feet to their sewer extension project.

Mr. Miller also mentioned that a project like this before COVID-19 would take approximately nine (9) months to complete and could now take up to 18 months due to the availability of materials. Mr. Galbraith asked if the Authority could place the engineers on hold without any issues. Mr. Miller stated there would not be a problem and reminded the Board that permits pertaining to the project would be good for five (5) years once obtained. The Board stated they have no issues putting the project on hold and waiting for the PAGC to obtain a right-of-way.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sewer Extension Agreement Deerhaven Phase, 3B (14 EDUs) - Mr. Miller indicated the developer for Deerhaven, Phase 3B is ready to proceed with a mainline sewer extension. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the Sewer Extension Agreement for Deerhaven, Phase 3B in the amount of 14 EDUs.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

QUESTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: There were no questions asked of the Executive Director.

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. McMurtrie to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 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 _____