

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

November 13, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:

Spring	Joseph Galbraith Rodney Maney Douglas McKee Christie McMurtrie
Benner	Willis Houser, Jr. William Hughes
Walker	Dennis Brown Dennis McDowell

GUESTS: Mackenzie Bruns & Olivia Games

CONSULTING SOLICITOR: Robert Mix, Esq.

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Andrew Johnson, P.E.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton, Tasha Dutton & Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The November 13, 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 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.

PLEGE 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 October 23, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Maney to approve the Minutes of the October 23, 2023 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 2020-85– Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-85 in the amount of \$113,546.23. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-85. **Mr. Maney moved, seconded by Mr. McDowell to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-85 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$113,546.23.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

GUESTS:

Mackenzie Bruns & Olivia Games – Mackenzie Bruns and Olivia Games are representatives from Documenters and are attending the meeting to take notes regarding current events in the area and will then share them with citizens who are unable to attend public meetings. Mr. McDowell asked if they had anything to present to the Board. Ms. Bruns and Ms. Games had nothing to address to the Board at this time.

SYSTEM OVERVIEW REPORT:

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

In-Home Inspections - There were 25 in-home inspections completed in the month of October.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed 15 sewer lateral inspections. The office staff received 5 new sewer permit applications in the amount of 5.00 EDUs and issued the permits.

System Maintenance:

We replaced two (2) electrical disconnects and repaired two (2) rotating assemblies at Pump Station #6 (Rockview). The self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) wall case was replaced at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridgecrest).

Our maintenance department completed basecoat paving at the SBWJA office parking lot and then Eby Paving applied the topcoat. The lines have been repainted in the parking lot and a new handicapped parking sign will be installed once it arrives.

The water pump was removed from the generator at Pump Station #3 (Musser Lane) and sent to Commercial Water Pump in Houston, Texas for repair. This particular water pump is no longer available for purchase; therefore, it had to be sent away to be rebuilt. Mr. Barton indicated the water pump has been reinstalled and is working properly.

The tow behind generator was run at all submersible pump stations that have a generator hook-up. This routine maintenance is completed twice a year to verify everything is working properly.

Our backflow preventers installed on our public water service laterals were tested at Pump Station #9 (Penn Eagle), Pump Station #15 (Sunnyside), Pump Station #16 (Benner Commerce) and Pump Station #17 (The Mews) and no issues were noted.

We borrowed the tar buggy from Spring Township to seal cracks around asphalt patches throughout the system.

The wet well rehabilitation work has been completed at Pump Station #3 (Musser Lane) and Pump Station #2 (Jacksonville Road). This work consisted of concrete being poured on the bottoms of the wet wells, rusty hardware being replaced and epoxy lining the wet wells.

Video Truck – Our staff completed video work of the new sewer mainlines installed at Logan Greene 1B and the Village of Nittany Glen. The Authority staff recorded a total of 3,145 feet of sewer mainline.

Vector Truck –The maintenance department vacuumed all of our wet wells including Beaver Farm Apartments. We also completed routine jetting and vacuum work for the Centre County Correctional Facility in the amount of 1,474 feet.

Sewer Extensions – We continued project inspections at Deerhaven Phase 3B, Logan Greene Phase 1B and the Village of Nittany Glen Phase 7. The Authority had a total of 101.75 hours billed out in October for project inspections. Our staff reviewed and redlined construction drawings for Shady Lane Estates. Mr. Barton indicated Shady Lane Estates will be located between Walker Meadows and the old Cemetery Lane in Walker Township.

Benner Township Water Authority – Our staff obtained bacteria samples at both systems. We also obtained Nitrate and Nitrite samples at Grove Park and Crestview. The thermal units were replaced on the fire pump contactor at Grove Park and a leaking chemical feed pump was rebuilt at the Hampton Hills wellhouse. There was a site visit at 120 Millgate Road due to low water pressure. The home's water softener was not operating properly, which caused the low water pressure.

Mr. Barton completed six (6) Service Line Inventory Surveys and we responded to four (4) PA One Calls in October.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There was one (1) call out for the month of October. We received a grinder pump alarm at 127 Bergamot Way, which resulted in a faulty float tree that was replaced. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 97 PA One Calls being located in October.

Ford F-350 Service Truck – Mr. Barton stated that a Ford F-350 was ordered at Lake Ford on January 5, 2023; however, he was recently informed we would not be receiving this vehicle in 2023. The representative at Lake Ford stated we were not selected to receive a truck this year and they would place a new order now with an anticipated delivery in 2024. Mr. Barton indicated the service truck was included within the 2024 budget.

2023 Capital Improvements – Mr. Barton stated that most items listed as Capital Improvements for 2023 have been completed. The buildings at Pump Station #2 (Jacksonville) and Pump Station #3 (Musser Lane) were not painted as planned due to experimental painting that was completed at Pump Station #8 (Zion Stover). Mr. Barton stated that he will verify the paint will hold up at Pump Station #8 (Zion Stover) in the spring before the other pump stations are painted.

Mr. Barton stated the Authority had planned on purchasing a tar buggy in 2023, but decided against it due to the cost and the limited amount of time it would be utilized. The quotes for a new tar buggy were approximately \$75,000.

Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) – The programmable logic controller (PLC) at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) was removed and shipped to Radwell for warranty repairs on 11/03/2023. A representative from Radwell and Gorman Rupp discussed the issues with the PLC and determined there is internal damage to the PLC and a new PLC is required. The new PLC will cost approximately \$9,000 and the programming may cost up to an additional \$3,000. Mr. Barton stated the purchase and installation of a new PLC should not exceed \$12,000. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Maney to approve the purchase of a new PLC in the amount of \$9,000 and programming costs that may be associated with the installation of the PLC which is estimated at an additional \$3,000 for Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge).** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

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 – Gwin, Dobson & Foreman is progressing with the survey work for the realignment of PAGC’s sewer line. Once PSU approves the alignment, the next step would involve moving forward with having the Phase I Archaeological Survey completed by Heberling Associates. Mr. McDowell asked Mr. Johnson for an estimated date for this project to go out for bid. Mr. Johnson stated the permitting could be completed in April of 2024 and PA DEP would have approximately 180 days to comment; therefore, he would guess this project could possibly go out for bid next year at this time with construction starting early 2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021- Mr. McDowell stated that he spoke out of turn at our October 9, 2023 meeting regarding the amount of American Rescue Plan money the Walker Township Supervisor’s will be granting SBWJA. Mr. McDowell indicated Walker Township will be granting SBWJA \$40,000 not the \$45,000 that he previously mentioned.

Walker Township Act 537 Plan Update – Mr. Miller, Mr. McDowell and Mr. Brown attended Walker Township Supervisor’s meeting on November 1, 2023 to discuss the Act 537 Plan Update. Mr. Miller indicated he had a discussion with Walker Township’s SEO, Stan Wallace, regarding the operations and conditions of the current sewer systems in Hublersburg and Snyderstown as well as on-lot systems throughout the Township and that Mr. Wallace was comfortable with them. It was noted that a restaurant in Hublersburg is currently having septic issues, but the owners of the restaurant have purchased additional property and will be making modifications to their system.

Walker Township’s current concerns are with the eight (8) homes located to the front of Walker Meadows that are served by on-lot systems. Mr. Miller stated the installation of public sewer to the eight (8) homes will be a challenge due to the privacy fences, sheds, swimming pools and the best solution may be low pressure sewer with pumps. Mr. Galbraith asked if any of the eight (8) homes were having issues and Mr. Miller indicated they are not having issues.

The Act 537 Plan Update was discussed at the November 1, 2023 meeting and the Walker Township Supervisors have decided to pause the Act 537 Plan Update. The Supervisors are comfortable with the current conditions of the on-lot septic systems but are not in favor of the septage management plan that would be included in the Act 537 Plan Update.

Gravity Line to Zion Back Road Area (Pump Station – Deerhaven/Zion Manor) – Mr. Miller spoke to the Walker Township Supervisors regarding the possibility of SBWJA installing gravity sewer line through the Township’s property to eliminate the construction of two (2) new pump stations that would serve future development. The Supervisors have asked Mr. Miller to stake out the areas that would be affected by the installation of public sewer so they may discuss this matter. There is currently standing corn located in the fields affected by the proposed project; therefore, Mr. Miller will stake out the area as soon as the corn is harvested.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 Tentative Budget - Mr. McDowell referenced the 2024 Tentative Budget that was provided for the Board’s review and asked if there were any questions.

#66001 (Health-Life-Dental Insurance) – Mr. Miller stated that Mr. McDowell had questioned him earlier today about line item #66001 (Health-Life-Dental Insurance) being \$4,000 less than 2023 budgeted amount. Mr. Miller indicated he had extra coverage built into 2023’s budget, which he planned for again in 2024. This extra budgeted amount would be used to cover new hires that our Authority is searching for.

#85203 (Bond Issuance) – Mr. Miller informed the Board that the Bond principal payment significantly increases in 2024; however, he reminded the Board that the income from Rockview will also increase as a result of the Bond payments increasing.

Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the 2024 Tentative Budget in the amount of \$4,308,400.00 as presented. 8 ayes, 0 nay, 1 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. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Willis Houser Jr., Secretary



Tasha L. Dutton, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____