

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:

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

GUESTS: None present

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 March 11, 2024, 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. Galbraith attended the meeting via phone. 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 and Employees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. McDowell asked if Mr. Book was satisfied with the modification made to the minutes. Mrs. Gill indicated she emailed Mr. Book and he approved the changes. Mr. McDowell asked the Board if there were any additional questions and/or changes to the February 26, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. McMurtrie moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to approve the Minutes of the February 26, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Penn Terra Engineering, Inc. - We received a letter from C. Anthony Fruchtl, Penn Terra Engineering, Inc., requesting a letter of intent to provide sewer service for the proposed Deerhaven Subdivision, Phase 4. *Mr. Fruchtl was provided with a letter of intent for 27.00 EDUs for the proposed subdivision in Walker Township on March 4, 2024.*

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-92– Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-92 in the amount of \$118,036.03. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-92. **Mr. Maney moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-92 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$118,036.03.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 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 February 2024.

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

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed 9 sewer lateral inspections. The office staff received 14 new sewer permit applications in the amount of 20.88 EDUs and issued the permits.

System Maintenance:

The maintenance department repaired two (2) 6" X 4" transitions and one (1) tap at the mainline. Mr. Barton indicated all three (3) repairs involved root intrusion. The chlorine gas regulators at all pump stations using chlorine gas were rebuilt.

Our staff installed a new solenoid valve on the chlorine feed system at Pump Station #6 (Rockview) and pulled approximately seven (7) pumps throughout the system.

We attended several meetings this month. The contractor for the new McDonalds building, on the Benner Pike, requested a meeting to discuss the sewer lateral specifications and the requirements for a grease trap. Mr. Barton also had a site visit with the Developer for the new Cascade project in Airport Park. Our staff reviewed and red-lined construction drawings for the project and was informed construction may commence later this year or early next year depending on permitting.

A meeting was held with Keystone Engineering to discuss how they plan to link the new SCADAPack 474 at Pump Station #4 (Pleasant View) to our current SCADA program.

Vector Truck – We completed 15,590 feet of routine jetting and vacuum work for everything that flows to the Jacksonville Road Meter Pit and 11,657 feet of pipe for the Blanchard Street, Irish Hollow and E. College Avenue areas. Our staff also jetted 4,359 feet of problem lines throughout our system and vacuumed all wet wells for a total of 31,606 feet for the month of February.

Video Truck – The Authority staff recorded a total of 27,247 feet of sewer mainline in February. This work was associated with the routine cleaning of the sewer mainlines.

Sewer Extensions – Our staff reviewed and approved record drawings for Harvest Meadows Phase I, Sections 3 & 4. We also reviewed and red-lined construction drawings for the Cascade project.

Benner Township Water Authority – Our staff collected samples for bacteria testing at both systems and replaced the well pump at Opequon. The meters were read at Hampton Hills, Opequon Hills and Grove Park and we continued work on their grant projects. Mr. Barton completed five (5) Service Line Inventory Surveys. We responded to one (1) PA One Call in February.

Inter Municipal Work – We assisted in removing a piece of concrete from Bellefonte Borough's sewer mainline.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were four (4) call outs for the month of February. We assisted with sewer back-ups at 307 E. College Avenue and 150 Marsh Street. A pump #1 failure was noted at Pump Station #18 (Village of Nittany Glen) and we marked an emergency PA One Call on Hecla Road. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 102 PA One Calls being located in February.

2024 Ford F-350 Service Truck – The 2024 Ford F-350 Service Truck was delivered on 3/1/2024 and most of the upfitting is completed. Mr. Barton stated that we are waiting for one (1) tool box, which is on backorder.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Gravity Line to Zion Back Road Area (Pump Station – Deerhaven/Zion Manor) – Mr. Miller attended Walker Township Supervisor's meeting on 3/6/2024 to discuss our Authority extending sewer mainline across their property to eliminate the installation of two (2) new pump stations. There were several proposed plans reviewed during the meeting and Ms. Zimmerman and Ms. Kunes from Walker Township's Parks and Recreation Board indicated they preferred Mr. Songer's original plan from 2008 because most of the sewer mainline is removed from the park area. Mr. Miller reminded the Board of 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. Songer recently contacted Mr. Miller regarding Zion Manor and indicated he will be resubmitting the planning for this development as he would like to begin construction in 2025. It was noted that the previously approved planning of Zion Manor must be resubmitted for approval because it has exceeded five (5) years since it was first approved. Mr. Songer proposed to construct the sewer mainline in Zion Manor along with the piece of mainline that extends through Walker Township's park and once the project is complete the Authority would reimburse Mr. Songer for the portion of sewer mainline that was installed on Walker Township's property; however, Mr. Mix indicated this would not be legal.

The most probable option for our Authority to extend sewer mainline would be bidding the project and having an Act 57 Study completed for reimbursement. Mr. Miller indicated he will need to have a meeting with Mr. Poole and Mr. Songer regarding their future developments.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

CPI Apprenticeship Program – Mr. Mix indicated he was informed of the Authority's decision to approve the CPI apprenticeship program and if we can enter into a reimbursement agreement with the apprentice. Mr. Mix stated that he believes an agreement can be executed; however, he would like to review this matter before he gives the Board a final decision. Mr. McDowell asked Mr. Mix to explain what he means by reimbursement. Mr. Mix stated the apprentice would be required to sign an agreement and/or contract with SBWJA acknowledging that if he/she terminates employment with SBWJA within one-year from the date of completion of the apprenticeship, he/she will reimburse the SBWJA for the full cost of the tuition paid to CPI.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Annual Chapter 94 Report – Mr. Johnson presented the Board with the annual Chapter 94 Report for 2023 and referenced some key points. In 2023, the peak three-month hydraulic loading to the system was 737,493 gpd, which did not include Rockview. The Authority's ratio of peak three-month flow to annual average flow for 2023 was 1.03, which is an indication of a tight system with very little inflow and/or infiltration.

The number of EDUs billed by the Authority increased from 7,224 in 2022 to 7,392 in 2023. In 2023, 136.16 EDUs were added to the SBWJA collection system. In 2024, the Authority is projecting the addition of 87.20 EDUs through developer and/or individual connections to the system.

In 2023, over 58,308 linear feet (11.04 miles) of gravity sewer was inspected and recorded and 58,786 linear feet (11.13 miles) was jetted and cleaned. It was also noted that 10,061 linear feet (1.91 miles) of newly constructed sewer line was mandreled and pressure tested.

In 2023, the Authority completed an in-home sewer inspection of 329 properties and approximately 7.6% of the inspections resulted in problems that were identified and corrected.

Mr. Johnson reviewed Table 5 within the Chapter 94 Report, which outlined the average and peak flows not including Rockview. The annual average not including Rockview was 715,425. The annual average including Rockview was 1,276,304 with a 3-month average peak of 1,320,752 and a 3-month peak average to average daily flow (ADF) ratio of 1.03.

In 2023, the Authority's maintenance department re-lined and epoxy coated the wet wells at Pump Station #1A (Springfield) and Pump Station #12 (University Park Airport).

In April 2019, the Benner Township Supervisors and Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority authorized completion of an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Special Study for evaluating the efficiency of providing public sewer in southern Benner Township along Shiloh Road, Rock Road, Big Hollow Road and Walnut Grove Development. The Act 537 Plan Special Study was approved by PA DEP in the spring of 2021. In 2021 and 2022, Benner Township and the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority were defending this plan against litigation efforts filed by one of the homeowners affected by the project. On November 18, 2022, the PA Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) adjudicated the suit filed against the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority, Benner Township and the PA Department of Environmental Protection by the affected homeowner. The allegations presented to the EHB were dismissed. The Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority plans to obtain permits for the construction of this project in 2024 and intends to commence construction early in the 2025 construction season.

Mr. Johnson reviewed Chart 1 which outlined the 2023 historical and projected flows for Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority. The flow projections for 2024 to 2028 are based on 150 new EDUs connected per year from sewer extensions and the five-year average flow per EDU (102.0 GPD) was utilized to project the average flow. The previous five-year average flow to average peak 3-month flow ratio (1.08) was utilized to project the three- month peak.

Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of the Annual Chapter 94 Report for 2023. **Mr. Maney moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the Annual Chapter 94 Report for the 2023 calendar year as presented and to authorize Mr. Miller to execute the signature page of the report.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project – The PA Game Commission's sewage facilities planning module for a minor Act 537 Plan update revision has been advertised in the Centre Daily Times and the 30-day public comment period has opened. Mr. Johnson stated Gwin Dobson & Foreman is continuing to prepare the permits regarding SBWJA's project for submission.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no Old Business presented for discussion.

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

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. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 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 _____