

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

August 12, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:

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

GUESTS: None present

CONSULTING SOLICITOR: Robert Mix, Esq.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS: Steven Gibson, P.E.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton, Tasha Dutton & Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The August 12, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 6:58 P.M. by Joseph Galbraith, Vice-Chairman. Mr. Galbraith 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. McDowell were excused from the meeting. Mr. Galbraith, Vice-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. Galbraith, Vice-Chairman, led the Board members and Employees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Galbraith asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the July 22, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Houser moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the Minutes of the July 22, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) - We received a letter from Curtis Barrick, PE, indicating the Chapter 102 NPDES permit application package that was submitted for the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension project has been reviewed for completeness. PA DEP has determined the application contains sufficient detail to enable the PA DEP to begin the technical review process.

Centre County Conservation District – We received a letter from James R. Coslo, Jr., indicating the Chapter 102 NPDES permit application package that was submitted for the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension project has been reviewed for completeness. The District will now proceed with the technical review of the application.

American Transparency – We received an email from Janis Farese requesting an electronic copy of any and all Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority employee's full names and gross annual wages for 2023. The principal purpose of this request is to make this information more accessible to the public and to access and disseminate information regarding the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. An executed Right-to-Know Law Request Form was submitted with the email. *Mrs. Gill provided the requested information to American Transparency on 07/29/2024.*

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-102– Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-102 in the amount of \$95,820.72. Mr. Galbraith asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-102. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Maney to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-102 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$95,820.72.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

GUESTS: There were no Guests present.

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 2024.

In-Home Inspections - There were 37 in-home inspections completed in the month of July.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed 17 sewer lateral inspections and 2 partial sewer lateral inspections due to grinder pump installations. The office staff received 9 new sewer permit applications in the amount of 9.00 EDUs and issued the permits.

System Maintenance:

The new cutter kits were installed at Pump Station #2 (Jacksonville Road) and Pump Station #3 (Musser Lane). Pump #2 was rebuilt at Pump Station #1A (Springfield) due to a seal fail. A new actuator and contactor were installed to repair the louvers of the exhaust fan at Pump Station #16 (Benner Commerce).

The maintenance staff installed a new pressure transmitter at Pump Station #6 (Rockview), which reads the levels of the wet well. We also replaced an exhaust fan motor at Pump Station #3 (Musser Lane).

We received our original PLC that was being repaired by Radwell and then a few days later we received our new PLC that was being programmed by Envirep. Mr. Barton stated the new PLC from Envirep was installed at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridgecrest) and worked for a few weeks but has now indicated a problem. The issue is with the variable frequency drive (VFD) and PLC, which operates pump #2. The Authority has contacted Gorman Rupp's tech support and is waiting for a response. Gorman Rupp will likely investigate the problem on August 26, 2024.

The employees finished changing the oils in our submersible pumps, which is completed on a yearly basis. We also completed our quarterly routine maintenance on all of our suction lift pumps.

Pump Station #18 (Village of Nittany Glen) has been upgraded with the new wear plates and speed changes to eliminate the issue with flushable wipes clogging pumps. Mr. Barton indicated the upgrades are working well and we have not had a clog in several weeks.

Vactor Truck – We completed 14,925 feet of routine jetting and vacuum work in Springfield, Nittany Terrace and Weis Plaza.

Video Truck – We completed 14,925 feet of routine video work in Springfield, Nittany Terrace and Weis Plaza. The Authority staff also recorded 430 feet of storm pipe in State College for Ameron Construction.

Inter Municipal Work – The Authority jetted three (3) storm pipes for Spring Township and two (2) storm pipes for Benner Township.

Sewer Extensions – We reviewed, redlined and approved construction drawings for Shady Lane Estates Phase 1 project in Walker Township. The contractor for Shady Lane has contacted Mr. Barton indicating construction will begin in the next week or two (2); therefore, mainline inspections will be required. The as-builts were also reviewed and redlined for the Elizabeth Dale Townhomes on Blanchard Street.

Benner Township Water Authority – The water meters were read in Peru. There were routine samples collected at Hampton Hills and Grove Park for bacteria, Nitrates/Nitrites, TTHM/HAA5 and PFAS testing. Our staff installed new high service pumps and VFDs at Grove Park. Mr. Barton met with Keystone Engineering to discuss the SCADA installation at Hampton Hills and Grove Park.

The maintenance department flushed the water mainlines near the Benner Township Elementary School, Edward Drive and Benner Township Building to maintain water quality due to low usage. We completed six (6) Service Line Inventory Surveys and responded to four (4) PA One Calls in July.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were six (6) call outs for the month of July. We responded to one (1) emergency PA One Call and a pump fail at Pump Station #6 (Rockview). There were several power issues and pump fails at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridgecrest). Mr. Barton reported a total of 167 PA One Calls being located in July.

New Maintenance Laborers – Mr. Barton stated that a new employee started employment today and there will be an additional employee beginning on August 26, 2024.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Miller requested an Executive Session be held to discuss real estate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mr. Galbraith recessed the Board for an Executive Session at 7:09 p.m. to discuss real estate. The meeting reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

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

ENGINEER' S REPORT:

Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project – Mr. Gibson indicated Gwin, Dobson & Foreman received copies of the completeness letters for the 102 and 105 permit applications and that PA DEP has not provided them with comments at this time. Mr. Gibson expects comments will be made the end of this summer or beginning of fall. Mr. Miller, Mrs. Gill and Mr. Gibson met with Mr. Ceglar on August 9, 2024 to discuss information that was gathered for the proposed fair compensation for sewer easements and temporary construction easements for the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rockview Forestry Pump Station #6A Upgrades – Mr. Miller indicated there were multiple discussions held in the past regarding Rockview's need for upgrades to their Forestry Pump Station. Mr. Miller stated there have been challenges with making repairs to the pump station due to the availability of parts/materials to make repairs due to the age of the pump station. The Board was reminded that Mr. Johnson had submitted a proposal, in May of 2023, to design a new wastewater pump station for the Forestry Pump Station, which our Authority did not pursue. Mr. Miller suggested the Board consider granting Gwin, Dobson & Foreman the approval to proceed with a proposal for the upgrades due to the reoccurring issues with the pump station. The upgrades could be made and the costs would be submitted to Rockview as a percentage of our O & M costs for that quarter. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to grant Gwin, Dobson & Foreman Engineers the approval to proceed with the proposal to upgrade Rockview Forestry Pump Station #6A. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

Gravity Line to Zion Back Road Area (Deerhaven/Zion Manor) – Mr. Miller attended Walker Township’s meeting on August 7, 2024 and at that meeting the supervisors approved our request to access their park to extend public sewer. Gwin, Dobson & Foreman had provided the Authority with a proposal to design and construct the new sewer mainline; however, the Developers have now indicated they will take over the financial responsibility to construct the sewer line. Mr. Miller would like Gwin, Dobson & Foreman to prepare a new proposal to design and complete survey work this sewer mainline extension. **Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. McKee to grant Gwin, Dobson & Foreman the approval to survey and design the gravity sewer mainline that will be extended across Walker Township’s Park.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Boot Allowance – All permanent full-time employees are eligible for a yearly boot allowance, based on annual fiscal year, of up to \$150.00 per year. Mr. Miller suggested the Board consider increasing the boot allowance to \$200.00 per year. **Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mr. McKee to increase the boot allowance to \$200.00 for all permanent full-time employees per year.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

Sewer Extension Agreement – Shady Lane Estates, Phase 1 (40 EDUs) – Mr. Miller indicated the Developer for Shady Lane Estates Phase 1 is ready to proceed with a mainline sewer extension. **Mr. McMurtrie moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the Sewer Extension Agreement for Shady Lane Estates Phase 1 (40 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. Hughes moved seconded by Mr. Galbraith to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 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 _____