

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

October 28, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:

Spring	Joseph Galbraith Rodney Maney Douglas McKee Christie McMurtrie
Benner	Brian Book William Hughes
Walker	Dennis Brown

GUESTS: Aria Eichhof

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton, Tasha Dutton & Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The October 28, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 4:00 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:

Rodney Maney, Assistant Secretary, took Roll Call, recording six members present. Mr. Houser and Mr. McDowell were excused from the meeting. Mr. Book entered the meeting at 4:01 p.m. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Galbraith, Vice-Chairman, led the Board members, Employees, and Guest in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Galbraith asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the October 14, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the Minutes of the October 14, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented.** 6 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent. **The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

PA DEP - We received notification from Curtis Barrick, P.E. indicating our Water Obstruction and Encroachment permit application for the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension project has revealed technical deficiencies. The deficiencies were listed in the letter PA DEP issued on October 23, 2024. The information must be received by the PA DEP on or before December 22, 2024.

Mr. Book entered the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

William Potter/220 E. College Avenue – We received a letter from William Potter indicating his property located at 220 E. College Avenue was destroyed by fire on July 25, 2024. Mr. Potter is requesting the Authority grant the personal hardship policy for the property. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to grant William Potter the Personal Hardship User Fee Structure for up to six months for his property located at 220 E. College Avenue, Pleasant Gap.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

Robert Mix/Benner Township Mandatory Connection – A discussion was held at the October 14, 2024 Board meeting regarding a recently purchased property in Benner Township being required to connect to the public sewer system and the property owner stating this is not supported by law and was requesting confirmation that our Authority will no longer be enforcing the connection to public sewer. Mr. Mix was asked to review the current status of the Second-Class Township Code and Benner Township's Ordinance mandating connection to the Authority's sewer system. Mr. Mix sent an email stating his legal opinion is that if an improved property is adjoining or adjacent to the sewer system, it is required to connect to it regardless of whether it is located more than 150 feet from it.

Bruce Squier/121 Lee Street – We received a letter from Barbara Squier indicating her son's property located at 121 Lee Street, where she also resides, was destroyed by fire on October 12, 2024. Mrs. Squier is requesting the Authority grant her son the personal hardship policy for the property. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to grant Bruce Squier the Personal Hardship User Fee Structure for up to six months for his property located at 121 Lee Street, Bellefonte.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Mr. McMurtrie reviewed the financial reports for the period ending 09/30/2024. Mr. Galbraith asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-107- Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-107 in the amount of \$88,233.30. Mr. Galbraith asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-107. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-107 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$88,233.30.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

GUESTS: Aria Eichhof did not wish to address the Board.

SYSTEM OVERVIEW REPORT:

Will Barton, Maintenance Crew Leader, provided an overview of the work completed on the sanitary sewer system for the month of September 2024.

In-Home Inspections - There were 32 in-home inspections completed in the month of September.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - The maintenance department completed 10 sewer lateral inspections. The office staff received 17 new sewer permit applications in the amount of 17.00 EDUs and issued the permits.

System Maintenance – Gorman Rupp was on site at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridgecrest) on 09/04/2024 to repair the ongoing issues with the PLC/VFD. Mr. Barton indicated everything seems to be working properly and there have been no additional issues at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridgecrest). The potentiometer, which adjusts the generator output voltage at Pump Station #8 (Zion Stover) was replaced and the motor of the exhaust fan in the chlorine room at Pump Station #5 (Mingoville) was replaced.

The floats were cleaned at all of our submersible pump stations and we ran our tow behind generator at those pump stations as well. We repaired the chlorine feed system at Pump Station #16 (Benner Commerce) and we collected all of our fire extinguishers for inspection.

Vactor Truck – We completed 22,954 feet of routine jetting and vacuum work to our mainline in the Zion Road and Buffalo Run areas.

Video Truck – We completed 20,954 feet of routine video work in the Buffalo Run interceptor and Zion Road areas. The maintenance department also recorded 1,230 feet of mainline in Logan Greene Phase 1A, Section 4 and 1,858 feet of mainline in the Village of Nittany Glen Phase 6 due to the maintenance bonds expiring. The Authority staff recorded a total of 24,042 feet of mainline for the month of September.

Sewer Extensions – We continue project inspections at Shady Lane. Mr. Barton indicated all of the pipe was installed on September 28, 2024 and will now be ready for video and mandrel testing. The maintenance department spent a total of 154 hours inspecting Shady Lane in September.

Inter Municipal Work – The Authority videoed 512 feet of sewer mainline for Centre Hall Potter Sewer Authority. We also jetted and recorded 84 feet of sewer mainline for Mid-Centre County Authority.

Benner Township Water Authority – A water meter was replaced at 241 Millgate Road due to the meter no longer sending a signal to the touchpad and we obtained a final water reading at 382 Meadow Flower Circle. There was a site visit at 481 Millgate Road due to low water pressure, which was the result of a faulty water softener.

We performed our quarterly blow offs for both systems and collected bacteria samples. Mr. Miller finished up the remaining service line inventory surveys and we responded to six (6) PA One Calls in the month of September.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were three (3) call outs for the month of September. The well pump at Grove Park stopped working on 09/14/2024 and required a replacement pump being installed. There was a grinder pump alarm at 137 Bergamot Way and an emergency PA One Call at 1128 Blue Ball Road in Walker Township. Mr. Barton reported a total of 155 PA One Calls being located in September.

SCADA Updates – Mr. Barton informed the Board that Keystone Engineering has completed the upgrades to our meter pit sites and finished the programming of the pump stations.

Pump Station #17 (Mews) – Low flows were noted coming out of both pumps, after a new pump was installed, at Pump Station #17 (Mews). The maintenance department flushed our force-main backwards into the wet well and then vacuumed out the wet well, which increased the flows coming out of the pumps. Mr. Barton stated this indicates there may be solids settling out in the force main. A representative from CW Sales suggested installing new impellers to assist with the pumping process. It was noted that two (2) different types of impellers would need to be purchased due to the pumps not being the same at Pump Station #17 (Mews). The two (2) impellers are estimated at \$1,500.00. Mr. Miller and Mr. Barton will discuss the information CW Sales provided to the Authority.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Pump Station #8 (Zion Stover) - Mr. Miller informed the Board that the Chicago Flooded Suction Pumps that are currently operating at Pump Station #8 (Zion Stover) are very dated and replacement parts are limited. It was also noted that the need for a new generator is nearing; therefore, he would recommend upgrading the pump station in the near future. The upgrades to Pump Station #8 (Zion Stover) have been on hold due to the uncertainty of Graymont's plans for their property they are currently paying reservation of capacity for. Mr. Miller stated that he would have recommended a 2" suction lift Gorman Rupp pump be installed to accommodate the flows from Graymont, but since there has been no discussion on them connecting, he would recommend a submersible pump station upgrade. Mr. Book stated it may be financially beneficial for the Authority to apply for the Local Share Account Grant through the Department of Community & Economic Development for the future upgrades. Mr. Miller stated that the upgrade will be on hold due to the number of upcoming projects, but will keep the grants in mind. Mr. Book and Mr. Hughes also mentioned Kappe Associates have replacement parts available for the Chicago Flooded Suction Pumps.

Assignment of EDUs for Public Swimming Pools – The new Candlewood Hotel has recently purchased their sewer permit which raised a question on how the Authority should charge the property owner for a public swimming pool that will be in the hotel. The swimming pool will have a trench drain surrounding the pool and the backwash water from the pool will be discharged to the sanitary sewer. Mr. Miller contacted several sewer Authorities to verify how they charge for public swimming pools but was not very successful because most facilities also provide water to the public swimming pools and bill according to usage and not at a flat rate per EDU like our Authority does. The University Area Joint Authority's (UAJA) rate resolution indicates the property owner is charged 2.00 EDUs per filter connection for public swimming pools. Mr. Book recommended using UAJA's assessment due to them being a local facility that provides this service. Mr. Miller will provide the Board with a written description of how to assess a public swimming pool and once approved they will be added to Section 2 of our rules and regulations that pertains to our sewer rentals or charges.

Shiloh Road Project Financing/Financial Advisor – Mr. Miller and Mrs. Gill met with Christopher Gibbons of Concord Public Financial Advisors, Inc. regarding the possibility of having a financial advisor on staff for the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension project. Mr. Gibbons offered to provide the Authority with different scenarios on how much money to contribute and how much to borrow for the Shiloh Road project to assist with the financial planning for the next 30 years. Mr. Gibbons quoted a cost of approximately \$12,000.00 to \$19,000.00 for his services and that he would attend a meeting to discuss any questions the Board may have. It was noted that with today's environment, it may be a good idea to get updated financial information. Mr. Book recommended contacting PFM Financial Advisors, LLC as well. The Board agreed to meet with Mr. Gibbons at a future meeting.

2025 Rate Increase – Mr. Miller asked the Board to verify their plan to increase sewer rates to \$80.00 per EDU per quarter in 2025 due to budgeting purposes. The Board agreed the sewer rates will increase for 2025. The tentative budget for 2025 will be presented at the 1st meeting in November and then a sewer rate resolution will be presented for approval at the 2nd meeting in November.

OLD BUSINESS:

Overview of Services Provided to Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) - The Authority Board was provided with a detailed description of the maintenance labor (hours) provided and equipment used/billed to the Benner Township Water Authority for the 3rd quarter of 2024. Mr. Galbraith asked if there were any questions regarding the information provided.

Shiloh Road Project/Appraisal for Pump Station Properties – There will be three (3) pump stations constructed during the Shiloh Road project which will require permanent easements. It was noted there may be some resistance from one (1) of the property owners; therefore, Mr. Miller recommended having full appraisals completed on these properties that will house a pump station to avoid any future delays with construction. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Book to grant Mr. Miller the authority to hire a local real estate appraiser to complete full appraisals on the properties that will have pump stations constructed on them as part of the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension project.** 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

2025 Board Meeting Schedule - The Board reviewed the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule as presented. **Mr. McMurtrie moved, seconded by Mr. Maney to approve the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule as presented.** 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.

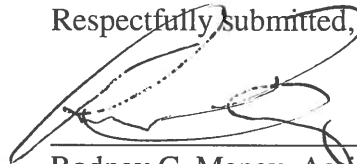
Facilities Committee: Mr. Houser was absent from the meeting.

Financial Committee: Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to adjourn the meeting at 4:57 p.m. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Rodney C. Maney, Assistant Secretary



Tasha L. Dutton, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____