
SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

February 10, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:

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

GUESTS: Min Xian – Spotlight PA

CONSULTING SOLICITORS: David Gaines, Esq. & Michael Levandoski, Esq.

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Steven Gibson, P.E.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton, Tasha Dutton & Kelly Gill

CALL TO ORDER:

The February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 4:00 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, Professional Services, Guest 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 January 27, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the Minutes of the January 27, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Kathy Evey/Right-to Know Request – We received a Right-to-Know Request from Kathy Evey of 604 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte on January 28, 2025. Mrs. Evey requested an audio recording of Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority's January 27, 2025 Board meeting. *The requested information was provided to Mrs. Evey on January 31, 2025.*

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-113– Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-113 in the amount of \$52,127.17. Mr. McDowell asked if there were questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-113. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Maney to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-113 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$52,127.17.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

GUESTS:

Min Xian – Spotlight PA – Ms. Xian from Spotlight PA stated she has attended the meeting to obtain additional information regarding Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority's decision to terminate their contract with Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) at the January 13, 2025 meeting. Ms. Xian asked the Board their reasons for terminating the contract and why BTWA was only given 30 days' notice. Mr. McDowell replied by saying there have been ongoing issues with the activities of the BTWA Board members and that it has been going on for some time. Ms. Xian asked Mr. McDowell to elaborate. Mr. Gaines stated he has recently been appointed as SBWJA's solicitor and this is his first meeting; therefore, he asked Ms. Xian if he could speak to her after the meeting and provide her with any information she may need. Ms. Xian stated that would

be fine. Mr. Galbraith took a moment to inform Ms. Xian that SBWJA did provide a 30-day notice but has agreed to extend the duration of the contract to 90-days. Mrs. Gill also stated that several of the BTWA's Board members attended the Authority's January 27, 2025 meeting and their concerns were discussed at that time and will be documented in our January 27, 2025 minutes that will be available on our website tomorrow. Ms. Xian thanked everyone for their help.

SYSTEM OVERVIEW REPORT:

Will Barton, Maintenance Crew Leader, provided an overview of the work completed on the sanitary sewer system for the month of January 2025.

In-Home Inspections - There were 40 in-home inspections completed in the month of January.

Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections - Our maintenance department completed 11 sewer lateral inspections. The office staff received 20 new sewer permit applications in the amount of 21.00 EDUs and issued the permits.

System Maintenance:

The maintenance department serviced all of our generators at the pump stations along with the tow behind generator and tow behind pump. We completed draw downs and continued cleaning the pump stations, which is completed annually. The annual inventory was completed and we rebuilt all of the chlorine gas feed systems.

Video Truck – We recorded 11,227 feet of sewer mainline in the areas of Jacksonville Road and backlot of Zion.

Vector Truck – We cleaned 8,230 feet of Sewer mainline in the backlot areas of Zion. The maintenance department also inspected 26 manholes during the cleaning process.

Sewer Extensions – Our staff reviewed and redlined construction drawings for the gravity line that will serve the Candlewood Hotel and Benner Pike Carwash. The construction drawings for Harvest Meadows, Phase 2 in Benner Township were also reviewed and redlined.

Inter Municipal Work – The Authority used the tow behind jetter to clean grit from floor drain lines at Walker Township's garage and utilized the push camera to inspect the lines.

Benner Township Water Authority – We collected samples for bacteria testing at both systems and repaired a water leak in Grove Park. A new main meter was installed at the Hampton Hills well house and the annual inventory was completed. There were (2) PA One Calls located in January.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were six (6) call outs for the month of January. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 67 PA One Calls being located in January.

Logan Greene Phase 2 – Mr. Barton added the maintenance department has started project inspections at Logan Greene Phase 2.

Walker Township – Mr. McDowell stated the employees and Supervisors at Walker Township expressed their thanks for SBWJA assisting with cleaning their floor drain lines in their garage.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Right-of-Way Compensation – Mr. Miller reminded everyone of the discussion that was held at the January 27, 2025 meeting regarding the mass email Christine Line distributed to Walnut Grove residents indicating the easement compensation the Authority offered was on the low side and suggested they ask for more compensation. It was noted that Mr. Miller has not been in contact with many of the residents since the last meeting and was wondering how much leeway he has to negotiate easement compensation with the residents that have not executed their easement agreement. The original easement compensation was set at \$0.10 per square foot for permanent and \$0.05 per square foot for temporary. Mr. Miller stated that he will be sending the residents a second notice that will give a due date for completion. Mr. McDowell stated that he would like to see the compensation stay the same except for the properties that will house the pump stations and for properties that will have multiple sections of their property affected by the installation of mainline. Mr. Gaines asked Mr. Miller what his timeline would be for obtaining the executed easements. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to have the easements executed within the next 30 days. It was noted the Authority can not obtain the building permits for the pump stations until the right-of-ways are secured for those pump stations. The Board discussed the recommendation to consider instituting a special district tap fee or special rate district for the residents of the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project due to the delays and additional costs associated with some of the residents. Mr. McDowell would like a second letter be sent to the remaining residents that have not executed their easements, which will give them a due date of mid-March.

Zion Back Road Sewer Line Extension Proposal – Mr. Miller attended Walker Township Supervisors’ meeting on February 5, 2025 to discuss the Zion Back Road Sewer Line Extension. The Supervisors have agreed to sign the right-of-way for the Zion Back Road Sewer Line Extension that will extend through the future park. Mr. Miller indicated a right-of-way easement agreement between SBWJA and Walker Township Supervisors was previously approved on November 4, 2009; therefore, he will attend Walker Township Supervisors meeting in March to verify the Supervisors are still in approval of the old agreement.

SCI Rockview – Today Governor Shapiro announced that he plans to close two (2) State Correctional Institutes with his 2025 – 2026 Budget and one (1) of them is planned to be SCI Rockview. Mr. Miller spoke with a representative from Rockview and they indicated the Forestry Camp would remain in tact and operational along with their water treatment plant and softening facility. Mr. Miller stated the upgrades to the Forestry Pump Station will continue and should be completed later this year or early next year.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Introduction to SBWJA Board – David Gaines from Miller, Kistler & Campbell took a moment to introduce himself and Michael Levandoski to the Board. Mr. Gaines stated they have a lot of experience and have been in touch with Mr. Mix regarding current legal matters. Mr. Miller stated that Richard Campbell from Miller, Kistler & Campbell was the solicitor for Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority at the time of inception back in 1979 and continued service through 2001; therefore, there is a lot of history with the law firm.

ENGINEER’ S REPORT:

Zion Back Road Sewer Line Extension Proposal – Gwin Dobson & Foreman (GD&F) has finished final revisions to the plans for the Zion Back Road Sewer Line Extension. Mr. Gibson stated GD&F will make final revisions to the easement plots and then they will be presented to Walker Township for execution.

Chapter 94 Report – Mrs. Gill has provided GD&F with required information for the Chapter 94 Report. Mr. Gibson anticipates the report will be completed the end of this month.

Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project Permitting – GD&F are working through PA DEP's comments for the Chapter 105 joint permits and NPDES storm water permits. Mr. Gibson indicated PA DEP is being very cautious with their comments due to the public's concerns with PFAS. Mr. Gibson stated one of the main items they are currently working through are PA DEP's buffer requirements. The buffer requirements are being discussed with the PA Game Commission in hopes they may be able to assist the Authority with complying with PA DEP's requirements. It was noted the Army Corps of Engineers were to meet with GD&F and Mr. Miller on February 11, 2025 to discuss the joint permitting; however, they cancelled due to weather and will reschedule.

OLD BUSINESS:

PMAA Board Member Training – Mrs. Dutton asked if anyone would be interested in attending PMAA's annual Board Member training in Camp Hill on March 27, 2025. Mr. McDowell asked if any of the employees would be interested in attending the training. Mr. Miller stated this type of training would not be beneficial for an employee and that multiple employees are already scheduled for training that day which provides continuing education credits for their professional license requirements.

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.

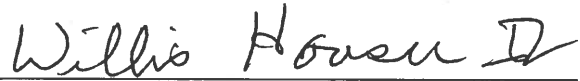
Facilities Committee: Mr. Houser had nothing to report.

Financial Committee: Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 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 _____