

SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

April 28, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS:	Spring	Joseph Galbraith Rodney Maney Douglas McKee Christie McMurtrie
	Benner	Brian Book Willis Houser, Jr.
	Walker	Dennis Brown Dennis McDowell

GUESTS: None present

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: N. Warren Miller

EMPLOYEES: Will Barton, Kelly Gill & Melissa White

CALL TO ORDER:

The April 28, 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. Hughes 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. McDowell, Chairman, led the Board members & 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 April 14, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mease Associates, Inc./Intent to Serve Request for Cowan Subdivision – We received a request for an Intent to Serve letter for the Cowan Subdivision along SR 550 at the end of Memory Lane. This is a one lot subdivision for a single-family residence. Mr. Miller indicated the subdivided lot does have an existing sewer easement; therefore, sewer is accessible through the existing right of way. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the Intent to Serve letter for the Cowan Subdivision as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

Kathy Evey/Assistance with Benner Township's Potable Water Issues – A letter was sent directly to the Authority's Chairman from Kathy Evey, Benner Township Supervisor, pertaining to SBWJA's termination of the long-standing agreement with BTWA. Mrs. Evey mentions several items to consider before the BTWA could be dissolved and all assets transferred to SBWJA.

Lashelle Kuhlman/Request Reduced User Fee for 727-729 Willowbank Street – We received an email from Lashelle Kuhlman, Ira Wright's daughter, requesting the SBWJA Board approve a reduced user fee for 727-729 Willowbank Street. Mr. Wright passed away on 03/18/2025 and the property is vacant. Bellefonte Borough confirmed the water is terminated to the property. Mr. Miller indicated Ira was a dear friend of the Authority's staff and he will be greatly missed. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the Reduced User Fee for 727-729 Willowbank Street as requested.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Mr. McMurtrie reviewed the financial reports for the period ending 03/31/2025. Mr. McDowell 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.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Approval of Requisitions:

Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-118 – Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-118 in the amount of \$79,360.74. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-118. Mr. Book inquired about the Forestry Pump Station invoice and asked if we had a contract with Gwin Dobson & Foreman. Mr. Miller informed him that we do. Discussion was then held about the amount of the contract and overall price of the project. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-118 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$79,360.74.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

GUESTS: There were no Guests present for the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Vactor Truck Repairs – Mr. Miller informed the Board that a couple of weeks ago the vacuum part of the Vactor truck quit functioning. SBWJA staff changed a couple of switches and electronic solenoids but the issue wasn't corrected. As a result, the Vactor truck was taken to A&H Equipment of Harrisburg for further evaluation. A&H Equipment determined the transfer case and drive shaft needed replaced at an estimated cost of \$32,000. Discussion was held about the original purchase price of the 2015 Vactor truck and trade in value. Mr. Miller indicated a new Vactor truck would be proposed as part of the Authority's 2027 budget. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve the repairs to the Vactor Truck at an estimated cost of \$32,000.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION -Mr. McDowell recessed the Board for an Executive Session at 4:18 p.m. to discuss Real Estate. The meeting reconvened at 4:31 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Overview of Services Provided to Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) – 1st Qtr. 2025 – The Authority Board was provided with a detailed description of the maintenance labor (hours) provided and equipment used/billed to the BTWA for the 1st quarter of 2025. The Board asked some questions of the staff about the 2025 budget and inquired about where things stood year to date. They also inquired about what future capital projects the BTWA is preparing for and Mr. Miller stated they plan for the installation of a Nitrate Removal System at the Grove Park well. Benner Township has purchased the equipment with their ARPA grant monies and the equipment is ready for installation. Mr. Miller explained that the BTWA Board recently negotiated a settlement with two property owners in Grove Park for an easement for the discharge of the nitrate removal system which will be conveyed to the public

OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

sewer system. The BTWA Board members are requesting the nitrate removal system to be installed as soon as possible; however, Mr. Miller expressed concern with the operations of the system due to the contract termination with this Authority. Mr. Miller indicated that currently he is the only water operator at SBWJA that holds a subclass 9 which is required for operating such a system. Mr. Miller noted that BTWA's Grove Park water system is currently in compliance with the PA DEP; however, once the nitrate removal system is installed and the operation's permit is granted the BTWA may have no one to operate the system.

Easement Agreement – Walker Township (Zion Back Road) – Mr. Miller stated he provided Walker Township's solicitor, John Miller, with the modifications to the easement agreement as requested. This pertains to crop damages and states SBWJA must repair any damages to the land and pay for any destroyed crops if damaged due to maintenance work. **Mr. McKee moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve the Easement Agreement with Walker Township for the Zion Back Road Sewer Extension project.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.** Mr. Miller will present the signed easement agreement to the Walker Township Supervisors at their May 7, 2025 meeting.

Benner Township Water Authority – The Board discussed having a work session with the Benner Township Supervisors to address the terminated contract with the BTWA and Benner Township Supervisors request for SBWJA to operate the water system as their own. The Board asked Mr. Miller to contact Sharon Royer, Benner Township Secretary, to have her ask each of the three Township Supervisors if they could meet on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 4:00PM at the SBWJA office for a work session. Due to the non-contact disclosure agreement that Kathy Evey signed with this Authority in 2000, the Board agreed to waive the non-contact disclosure for that particular work session. The Board also asked Mr. Miller to prepare an agenda for the work session.

NEW BUSINESS:

Assignment of Easement – S&A Homes/Deerhaven (Zimmerman Property) - Mr. Miller informed the Board that S&A Homes obtained an easement from Zimmerman/Mulfinger for connection to SBWJA's sewer main to serve Phase I of Deerhaven in 2007. During a conversation with Mr. Mix, before his retirement, we became aware that the easement should be assigned to our Authority from S&A Homes since our Authority now owns the sewer infrastructure. An Assignment of Easement was prepared by Mr. Mix and has recently been executed by Mr. Poole (S&A Homes) for approval at tonight's meeting. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. McKee to approve the Assignment of Easement from S&A Homes as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 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.

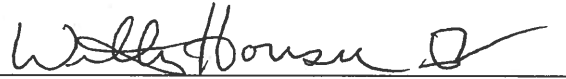
Facilities Committee: Mr. Houser had nothing to report.

Financial Committee: Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

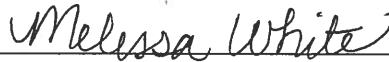
ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Willis Houser, Jr., Secretary



Melissa White, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township _____
Spring Township _____
Walker Township _____