

# **SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**February 23, 2026**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

<b>AUTHORITY MEMBERS:</b>	<b>Spring</b>	Joseph Galbraith Rodney Maney Christie McMurtrie
	<b>Benner</b>	Brian Book Willis Houser, Jr William Hughes
	<b>Walker</b>	Dennis Brown Dennis McDowell

**GUESTS:** See Attached Guest List

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Will L. Barton

**EMPLOYEES:** Kelly Gill

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The February 23, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 4:00 P.M. by Joseph Galbraith, 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 eight members present. Mr. McKee was excused from the meeting. Mr. Galbraith, 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, Chairman, led the Board members, Guests 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 February 9, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Keystone Construction & Earthwork, LLC** – We received a letter from Matthew J. Rhodes, Keystone Construction & Earthwork, LLC, notifying the Authority they have cancelled the construction contract for the Benner Pike/Amberleigh Lane Gravity Sewer Extension project with both Joint Developers (SAI21, LLC and RNW Carwash, LLC) and all remaining work on the project as a result of contract breaches. Mr. Barton informed the Board that the physical on-site work is mostly complete and we are currently waiting for the developer to provide us with the required Agreement of Dedication and maintenance bond. Discussion was held about the existing businesses that were being served by a pressurized line and will ultimately be connected to the newly constructed gravity line.

**Gregory A. Shufran Professional Land Surveyor** – We received a letter from Gregory A. Shufran requesting a letter of intent to provide sewer service to Rodney and Rhonda Beard's proposed subdivision at 1044 Zion Back Road in Walker Township. Mr. Shufran also requested confirmation of an additional tap being available at the property. ***Mr. Shufran was provided with a letter of intent for 1.00 EDU for the proposed Beard subdivision at 1044 Zion Back Road on February 17, 2026. The letter also indicated a sewer tap is not present at this location; therefore, a tap will need to be installed.***

**Three Angels, LP** – We received a letter from Stacey Ingram, owner, requesting the Board grant her the Reduced User Fee for her property located at 349 Deer Creek Lane. Mrs. Ingram indicated the property is vacant and is uninhabitable. Mr. Barton informed the Board that he visited the property last week and indicated the electric service to the property is off; therefore, the well and grinder pump cannot be used. This would make the property located at 349 Deer Creek Lane eligible for the Authority's Reduced User Rate as outlined in our rules and regulations. Discussion was held and the Authority Board agreed that any future requests for the Authority's Reduced User Rate and Personal Hardship User Fee do not require formal approval by the Authority Board since it is policy.

**Keystone Water Resources Center** – We received a letter from Robert Vierck and Robert Carline, Keystone Water Resources Center, requesting a financial contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the 2026 Spring Creek Water Resources Monitoring Project.

**Baker Tilly US, LLP** – We received an Engagement letter from Baker Tilly US, LLP for the completion of the 2025 audited financial statements for Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority.

**Baker Tilly US, LLP** – We received an Engagement letter from Baker Tilly US, LLP for the completion of the 2025 audited financial statements for the former Benner Township Water Authority.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr. McMurtrie reviewed the financial reports for the sewer and water funds for the period ending 01/31/2026. 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.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

#### **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

Approval of Payments:

**Sewer Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-138** – Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Sewer Revenue Requisition #2020-138 in the amount of \$86,320.67. Mr. Galbraith asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Sewer Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-138. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve Sewer Revenue Requisition 2020-138 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$86,320.67.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**Bills by Vendor – Water Fund-** Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve Bills by Vendor for the Water Fund in the amount of \$3,731.47 as presented. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**Semi-Annual 2020 Bond Interest Payment** – Mr. McMurtrie indicated the Authority's semi-annual 2020 bond interest payment in the amount of \$94,593.13 was presented for approval at the meeting. Mr. Galbraith asked if there were any questions regarding the bond payment. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the semi-annual 2020 bond interest payment in the amount of \$94,593.13.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

#### **GUESTS:**

**Jon Eaton, Bellefonte Borough Authority (BBA)** – Mr. Eaton stopped by the meeting to reiterate BBA's commitment to continuing an open dialogue between the two Authorities.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project:**

**Flowage Easement Agreements** – Mr. Barton has contacted the affected property owners and provided them with the flowage easement agreements prepared by our solicitor. One of the property owners signed the document earlier today. Mr. Barton will follow up with the remaining property owners in two weeks to discuss the status of their pending signatures.

**PSU Right-of-Way Agreements** - Mr. Barton indicated that he has been working with our solicitor to address some concerns with the PSU right-of-way agreements. Modifications to the agreements were completed by the solicitor and emailed to Mr. Barton this afternoon; however, Mr. Barton has not had an opportunity to review the changes. Once those are finalized internally, Mr. Levandoski will communicate the changes directly with PSU.

**20-Year Projection (Pro Forma)** – Mr. Barton informed the Board that Mrs. Gill, Mr. Book and himself have been working to finalize the 20-year projection (pro forma) associated with the financing of the project, which must be certified by our consulting engineer. Mrs. Gill is currently making those modifications to the document, which will likely be presented for discussion at the next board meeting.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Sewer Extension Agreement – Autumn Ridge (148 EDUs)** – Mr. Barton informed the Board that a pre-construction meeting was held with the developer and Glenn O. Hawbaker (GOH) to discuss phase 1 of the project. GOH is expecting to start within the next 30 days. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the Sewer Extension Agreement for Autumn Ridge (148 EDUs) as presented.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA) Agreement** – Mr. Barton indicated the Benner Township Water Authority had an agreement with the SCBWA that roughly defined their (SCBWA's) service area, which was the block between Rock Road, Fox Hill Road, Buffalo Run Road (SR 550) and Fillmore Road. The two Authorities never followed the agreement that was in place and Mr. Barton suggested our Authority may want to have that addressed through the form of a new agreement that we could approach the SCBWA with. Mr. Barton also discussed a pending SCBWA water extension to serve PSU's Test Track, which should be addressed in the agreement. Discussion was held about property surrounding the Test Track and whether or not the potential for development existed. Mr. Barton will look into this further to see if there are any deed restrictions to the property surrounding the Test Track which is mostly owned by PSU.

**Late Penalty Charge** – Discussion was held about staff’s time spent on collection of past due accounts and the need for increasing the late penalty to offset the amount of time spent on this task. Mr. Barton stated this process is costing our Authority approximately \$30 per late account and the Authority Board indicated it would like to set the penalty to somewhere around that amount. Mr. Barton recommended the Board consider adding a \$20.00 base fee, per account, on top of the existing 10% penalty currently being charged and the Board concurred with his recommendation. Through discussions with the Authority’s solicitor this will need added to the rate resolution and approved at a future meeting.

**Sewer Dye Test (Deed Transfer) Fee** – Mr. Barton indicated that the Board previously approved an addition to the rate resolution to reflect a \$250.00 charge for a sewer dye test (deed transfer fee) effective January 1, 2026. This fee was assessed to offset the amount of time spent on this task by maintenance staff as well as administrative staff. Mr. Barton stated we recently experienced a situation where an apartment complex was being transferred and the inspection of the privately owned infrastructure involved the use of three (3) maintenance personnel for an entire day. The \$250.00 charge for the inspection did not offset the Authority’s cost for the service; therefore, Mr. Barton recommended the Authority modify its rate resolution to reflect a Sewer Dye Test (Deed Transfer) Fee is \$250.00 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU). The Board agreed with Mr. Barton’s recommendation; therefore, the rate resolution will be modified and approved at a future meeting.

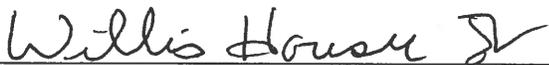
**QUESTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** There were no questions asked of the Executive Director.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Mr. Galbraith recessed the Board for an Executive Session at 4:31 p.m. to discuss real estate and legal. The meeting reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

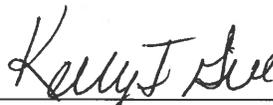
**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. McDowell moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Willis Houser, Jr. Secretary



Kelly J. Giff, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Spring Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Walker Township \_\_\_\_\_

**SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY**  
**170 IRISH HOLLOW ROAD**  
**BELLEFONTE, PA 16823**  
**(814) 355-4778**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 23, 2026**

**GUEST LIST**

1. Jan Eaton Bellefonte Authority
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