

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

June 21, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Eby
Tim Edkin
Steve Lanich
Jerry May
Andy Swales

OTHER ATTENDEES: Warren Miller – SBWJA
Kelly Gill – SBWJA
Shirley Gryczuk
Melinda Conrad

CALL TO ORDER:

The June 21, 2016, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Tom Eby, Chairman.

ROLL CALL:

Tim Edkin, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording five members present. Mr. Eby, Chairman, noted that with a quorum present, the Benner Township Water Authority was permitted to conduct business under the laws of Pennsylvania.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The Minutes of the May 17, 2016 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Lanich reviewed the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Lanich asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the Paid Checks or Bills by Vendor submitted for approval. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$466.12 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$7,517.73. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.** Mr. Eby noted the payment to Fairway Laboratories in the amount of \$2,190 for analytical testing and asked if this would be a quarterly cost. Mrs. Gill stated this invoice represented Synthetic Organic Chemical (SOC) testing for each of the water systems, which is completed on a triennial basis.

SBWJA REPORT:

Engineering Services Request for Proposal (RFP) – The following six Engineering firms submitted a proposal to our Authority:

Stiffler McGraw, Hollidaysburg, PA
Keller Engineers, Hollidaysburg, PA
Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers, State College, PA
Levine Engineers, Altoona, PA
Gwin Dobson & Foreman, Inc., Altoona, PA
The EADS Group, Altoona, PA

Mr. Miller suggested the Board take time to review each of the proposals and make a recommendation for the next meeting.

PLGIT Investments – Following the last meeting, Mr. Miller contacted PLGIT to inquire about whether or not they were FDIC insured and/or financially backed by Act 72. PLGIT provided a letter that indicates they are not FDIC insured or financially secured by Act 72. These concerns were then discussed with the Authority's auditor, Rick Bair, who indicated PLGIT's investments are very conservative; however, if they would fail, our Authority would lose all of its money.

The Board authorized Mr. Miller and Mrs. Gill to solicit banking proposals from local banks for review at a future meeting.

Emergency Response Plan (ERP) – Mr. Miller provided the Board with a draft of an Emergency Response Plan that was created for the Grove Park Water System during a recent training event with the PA DEP. Once the plan is finalized for the Grove Park Water System, the existing ERP for Opequon/Hampton Hills will be updated to be in a similar format. Mr. Edkin provided several areas of the ERP requiring modification which will be completed by Mr. Miller and presented at the next meeting.

Benner Township New Building – The Authority received a letter from the Benner Township Supervisors indicating the final plans for their new building is nearing completion and they are interested in connecting to the Grove Park Water System. Mr. Miller indicated the Township would connect through the Open Space in the western corner of the development, which is owned by the Homeowner's Association.

The Township could be served with a private service line or a mainline extension; however, the mainline extension would be a more sensible approach because it would allow for the installation of a fire hydrant which would provide fire service for the Township building.

The Board asked Mr. Miller about normal protocol with a new customer requesting service and who would be responsible for the costs associated with the extension. Mr. Miller stated that typically the new customer would be responsible for extending the mainline to their property and in this case to Route 550 along the edge of the property to allow for future connection of the neighboring property.

Mr. Eby indicated he would like to see a sketch of the proposed extension and suggested Mr. Miller begin ongoing discussions with Benner Township regarding the costs associated with the extension.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Bio-Solids Appeal – The Authority received notification from Randall Hurst that a mediation session is possibly being scheduled for late July, early August with the PA DEP Regional Office in Williamsport. Mr. Hurst is asking for the attendance of a Board member at the mediation. Mr. Eby, Mr. Edkin and Mr. Swales expressed interest in attending.

GUESTS:

Source Water Protection Plan – Shirley Gryczuk inquired about the status of the Source Water Protection Plan and Mr. Eby indicated it would be discussed later in the meeting under Old Business.

Base Line Testing of Wells - Melinda Conrad indicated she attended the last Benner Township Supervisor's meeting to request public notification to the Township residents regarding the testing of private wells potentially affected by the bio-solids application. The Benner Township website does not have any information pertaining to the bio-solids application and she would like to see more public notification, which would include a listing of potential contaminants to test for. Mrs. Conrad indicated she recently became aware the base line testing could cost upwards of \$300.00.

Mrs. Conrad stated the Benner Township Supervisors basically directed the responsibility of public awareness to Mr. Eby during their meeting stating it was a Water Authority issue. Mr. Eby suggested working with the Township to notify the public.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Bryant & Cantorna, P.C. – We received a letter from the Spicer Family Farms Attorney, James Bryant, acknowledging the potential liability should contamination of the water source occur as a result of the application of bio-solids to their farm.

Engle Kauffman, P.C. – We received a copy of a letter that Milesburg Borough Water Authority's solicitor, David Engle, sent to the Bellefonte Borough Authority in regard to the application of bio-solids within the Big Spring's Zone II Recharge area. Milesburg Borough Water Authority is requesting that Bellefonte Borough reconsider spreading bio-solids within their Big Spring Source Water Protection area.

Renee Swancer – We received an email from Renee Swancer asking the Authority to hold a public meeting to raise public awareness of the bio-solids application and testing of private wells.

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Awareness of Bio-Solids and Testing of Private Wells – Discussion was held regarding the request to hold a public meeting to raise public awareness in reference to the bio-solids application and testing of private wells within Benner Township. The Board agreed that the Water Authority could assist Benner Township with a joint meeting; however, notification to Benner Township's residents remains a responsibility of the Township.

Mr. Edkin recommended sending the Benner Township Supervisors a letter indicating it would be appropriate for them to send notification to well owners within the Township which includes a list of potential contaminants to test their well for. Mr. Swales indicated he doesn't believe our Authority should provide a list of contaminants to test for. Instead, he believes the homeowner should solicit a firm or independent laboratory to assist them with the testing. It should be made clear to the Supervisors that the water authority has a responsibility to its customers and the Supervisors are responsible for the entire Township. Mr. Eby will attend the next Benner Township Supervisor's meeting to further discuss public awareness to Benner Township's residents.

Source Water Protection Plan (SWP) –The Board discussed the next step with moving forward with the Source Water Protection Plan. Mr. Swales will finalize his comments and forward them to Mark Stephens, PA DEP, through email. The Board is hoping to have the SWP plan finalized no later than the August 2016 meeting. Once the SWP plan is finalized further discussion will be held with the Benner Township Supervisors. The Authority also expressed interest in providing Benner Township with a paragraph to be added to their Fall newsletter regarding the SWP plan.

Private Injunction Pertaining to Application of Bio-Solids – Mr. Miller informed the Board that he has been informed by a third party that the initial hearing for the private injunction was held and continues. Bellefonte Borough has agreed not to spread bio-solids on the Spicer Family Farm until the case is resolved so that they are able to maintain the strong positive relationships they currently share with neighboring municipalities.

NEW BUSINESS: The New Business was discussed earlier in the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Board members to review Engineering RFPs for next meeting
- Mrs. Gill to obtain banking services proposals
- Mr. Miller to contact Benner Elementary School to confirm former well was sealed
- Mr. Miller to contact Benner Township regarding connection to GP water system
- Mr. Swales to finalize comments on SWP plan and forward to Mark Stephens
- Mr. Miller to modify ERP
- Mr. Miller to contact Randall Hurst about mediation session
- Mr. Eby to attend next Benner Twp. meeting to discuss public awareness

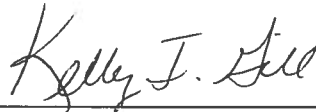
Next regular scheduled meeting is July 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Miller indicated he will be absent from the July meeting due to vacation plans.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Lanich to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 07/25/2016