

# BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

## REGULAR MEETING

March 15, 2016

### ATTENDANCE:

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

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Kelly Gill – SBWJA  
Renee Swancer  
Chris Underwood

### CALL TO ORDER:

The March 15, 2016, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:33 P.M. by Tom Eby, Chairman.

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The Minutes of the January 19, 2016 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Lanich to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Lanich reviewed the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Eby asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the Paid Checks or Bills by Vendor submitted for approval. **Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$3,384.88 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$2,291.93. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Mrs. Gill stated that the Budget versus Actual through the end of February 2016 doesn't appear favorable; however, this is mainly due to our Authority not receiving the 2015 water sales from the State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA) in a timely manner. Mrs. Gill indicated that under normal circumstances our Authority would receive the payment by the end of January each year; however, when the payment wasn't received by the second week of February, she reached out to her contact at the SCBWA who apologized for the delay and indicated the check would be sent February 25, 2016. Mrs. Gill then followed up with the SCBWA on March 1, 2016 when the payment hadn't arrived yet and was informed this was an oversight due to a change in job duties. The check finally arrived on March 4, 2016.

The Board asked if the agreement between SCBWA and our Authority specified a timeframe for submittal of the payment and Mrs. Gill stated no. Mrs. Gill stated that the billings are being handled differently than stated in the agreement. The agreement indicates that the SCBWA will invoice the Benner Township customers on the Benner Township Water Authority's letterhead with customers making their payments directly to our Authority. The SCBWA would then invoice our Authority based on the usage, but at a discounted rate. Mrs. Gill asked Mr. Eby if he had knowledge of any other agreements between the Authorities which modified the method of payment distribution and he stated no. The Board asked if Mr. Miller had a contact at the SCBWA that he could discuss the agreement with and also inquire about timeliness of the payment. Mrs. Gill indicated that on occasion Brian Heiser, who she believes is the Assistant Executive Director, will contact Mr. Miller about ongoing issues. The Board recommended Mr. Miller contact Mr. Heiser to inquire about the agreement and concerns of future billings.

### **SBWJA REPORT:**

**Audit Engagement Letter** – After the last meeting, Mrs. Gill contacted Rick Bair of Baker Tilly to discuss obtaining a fee schedule for our 2015 audit and to also provide Mr. Edkin's contact information for discussion relating to his concerns with the handling of Resolution of Disagreements. Mr. Bair contacted Mrs. Gill a few weeks ago and indicated Baker Tilly is unwilling to amend their Audit Engagement Letter, but they will be providing a fee schedule. Just last week, the Authority received a fee schedule which now reflects the audited financial statements will range between \$3,400 - \$3,700 for the year ending December 31, 2015.

Mrs. Gill indicated the audit is scheduled to start on March 22, 2016 in coordination with the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority's audit; therefore, the Audit Engagement Letter will need signed in order for the audit to commence. The Board executed the Audit Engagement Letter.

**Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)** – Last Fall we received notification from the PA DEP regarding the Revised Total Coliform Rule which will take effect April 1, 2016. The PA DEP has changed the requirements for taking chlorine and bacteria sampling around our systems. Effective April 1, 2016, we are required to take samples at different locations around the system, which may involve entering individual homes on occasion. Mr. Miller has contacted our PA DEP Sanitarian and received approval to add a finished water tap at the Opequon well house for use in obtaining the required samples. The other location for the Opequon/Hampton systems will be the Benner Elementary School. The water tap will be installed at the Opequon well house by SBWJA personnel in the next few weeks.

Mrs. Gill indicated that the testing locations for the Grove Park water system will be the hydrant at the entrance off of Seibert Road and an individual home will have to be used at the entrance off of SR 550. If Benner Township would decide to connect their new facility to the Grove Park water system, that would become the new sampling point.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Campbell was absent from the meeting. Mrs. Gill indicated that Mr. Miller contacted Dick Campbell's office informing him of the bio-solids application to the Spicer Farm in case his services would be needed in the near future.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Ms. Ryan was absent from the meeting. Mrs. Gill stated she was unsure as to why Ms. Ryan was absent from the meeting because she didn't indicate she would be absent. Mrs. Gill will contact Ms. Ryan.

**GUESTS:** Mr. Eby indicated the Bio-solids application will be discussed later in the meeting under Old Business and asked if either of the Guests wanted to address the Board with other matters. The Guests stated they were in attendance mainly due to the Bio-solids application.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Spicer Farm Bio-Solids** – Mrs. Gill stated that she included several emails and correspondence in the Board packets that were distributed since the January 2016 meeting from Renee Swancer and the Centre County Planning Office pertaining to the bio-solids application to the Spicer Farm.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Source Water Protection Plan** – In the days following the last meeting numerous emails were distributed pertaining to incorporating drainage areas and possibly a Zone 3 into the Source Water Protection Plan (SWP). Mrs. Gill indicated that Mr. Miller emailed Mark Stephens of the PA DEP inquiring about the process for having SSM Group delineate the Zone 3, but he hasn't received a response.

**Spicer Farm Bio-Solids Application:**

**Meeting with Senator Corman** – Mr. Eby indicated that Renee Swancer scheduled an appointment with Senator Corman for March 10, 2016 to discuss the Bellefonte Borough Authority's application for land applying Bio-solids at the Spicer Farm. Mr. Eby attended the meeting to provide the history of the Water Authority and also as a concerned water system owner.

Matt Wise of Senator Corman's office requested Doug Saylor's attendance due to his 30+ years of experience working for the PA DEP in the bio-solids division and also helped write the bio-solids regulations. Mr. Saylor indicated that the PA DEP has the ability to institute conditions on the permit such as the monitoring of groundwater at the permittee's expense.

Mrs. Swancer indicated that in October 2015 the Bellefonte Borough Authority sent notification to the affected property owners regarding the application for the Spicer Farm. On several occasions she attempted to reach Ralph Stewart of the Bellefonte Borough with questions pertaining to the application; however, Mr. Stewart failed to return her call. The Bellefonte Borough Authority then submitted the application to the PA DEP and the public comment period commenced on January 22, 2016 and ended on February 22, 2016. On February 26, 2016 the Centre County Planning Office submitted comments to the PA DEP on behalf of the Benner Township residents and also the Benner Township Water Authority; however, the PA DEP dismissed the comments indicating they were not received within the 30 day public comment period.

The Borough Authority's application was advertised in the PA Bulletin on March 12, 2016 and the only course of remediation at this point is to file an appeal with the PA DEP Environmental Hearing Board within the 30 day public comment period. Mr. Lanich indicated that filing appeal doesn't necessarily mean that we are objecting the application, but simply trying to obtain more information. **Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Lanich to generate an appeal letter to the PA DEP Environmental Hearing Board noting the Benner Township Water Authority is concerned with the Bellefonte Borough Authority's application to land apply Class B Bio-Solids at the Spicer Farm in Benner Township. The Benner Township Water Authority and its customers would like to request further information, additional groundwater monitoring and more input on the situation before finalizing the approval. A Source Water Protection Plan has been prepared by the PA DEP for our Authority's nearby Grove Park Well and we are in the process of making modifications before final approval can be made. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

The Board asked that Mr. Miller prepare the letter, email it to the Water Authority Board members for review and once finalized, the letter will be signed by the Board Chairman, Mr. Eby.

Mrs. Swancer thanked the Benner Township Water Authority Board for their assistance throughout this process.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no New Business presented for discussion.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

-Warren Miller to prepare Appeal letter to the PA DEP regarding the Spicer Farm bio-solids application which will be signed by Tom Eby.

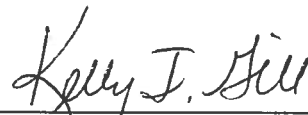
-Warren Miller to follow-up with Mark Stephens, PA DEP, regarding modifications to the Source Water Protection Plan including the addition of Zone 3.

**Next regular scheduled meeting is April 19<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Lanich to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 04/20/16