

# BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

## REGULAR MEETING

May 15, 2018

### ATTENDANCE:

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

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Warren Miller – SBWJA  
Kelly Gill – SBWJA  
Melinda Cain – SBWJA  
Brian Shura, P.E. – Stiffler McGraw  
See Attached Guest List

### CALL TO ORDER:

The May 15, 2018, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:38 P.M. by Tom Eby, Chairman.

### ROLL CALL:

Jerry May, Assistant Secretary, took Roll Call, recording three members present. Mr. Swales entered the meeting at 6:42 p.m. and Mr. Edkin was excused from the meeting. 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 April 17, 2018 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Lanich moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 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. May moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$598.32 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$4,559.45. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

**SBWJA REPORT:**

**Bio-solids Legal Fees Expense** – Mr. Miller reported that the legal fees expense associated with the bio-solids appeal incurred to date remains at \$99,992.48; however, our Authority received an invoice from Mette, Evans & Woodside in the mail today.

**Benner Township Supervisor's May 2018 Meeting** – Mr. Eby informed the Board that he attended the last Benner Township Supervisor's meeting on May 7, 2018 and was displeased with how he was treated at the conclusion of the meeting by one of the Supervisors. The Supervisor in question was very upset about the legal costs this Authority has expended in relation to the appeal to the Environmental Hearing Board for the land application of bio-solids to the Spicer Family Farm. Mr. Lanich stated that it is this Authority's job to protect the public water supply in the Commonwealth. This Authority is doing so by the only way available to us.

Mr. Eby provided the Board with a timeline of the events associated with the appeal process, which he would like to present to the Benner Township Supervisors at their next meeting. This would provide the Supervisors with a history of the facts surrounding the appeal. The Board agreed with Mr. Eby presenting the timeline at the Benner Township Supervisor's meeting, but also decided to extend an invitation to the Supervisors to attend a future Water Authority Board meeting to discuss their concerns. The Authority Board, SBWJA staff and Engineer will review the timeline and make any necessary changes prior to Mr. Eby's presentation to the Supervisors.

**Mr. Swales entered the meeting at 6:42 p.m.**

**Grove Park Generator** – Mr. Miller provided the Board with an update on the status of the installation of the generator at the Grove Park Water system. The SBWJA staff will be pouring the concrete pad as soon as time/weather permits. Mr. Miller recommended the purchase or rental of a 500 gallon LP tank due to a 250 gallon providing continued service for approximately 24 hours. The Authority will be contracting with Strouse Electric to complete the wiring for the unit. Mr. Miller informed the Board that a rollback will need rented to haul the generator to the site due to the size/weight of the unit.

**Amendment to PA Small Water & Sewer System Grant No. C000065079** – Mr. Miller informed the Board that a grant balance of approximately \$2,660 remains for the Grove Park Generator/Transfer Switch project. During the first round of grant funding we were informed that labor costs associated with the installation of the generator were deemed ineligible for reimbursement; however, we have learned that installation by an electrical contractor is eligible. The Commonwealth Financing Authority has provided a First Amendment to Grant #C000065079 which includes the use of grant funds to include installation costs. **Mr. Lanich moved, seconded by Mr. Swales to approve the First Amendment to Grant No. C000065079 with the Commonwealth Financing Authority which revises the use of grant funds to include installation costs.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**Feasibility Study** – Mr. Miller informed the Board that he spoke with the State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA) to inquire about the nitrates/nitrites levels in their Alexander Well Field located near the University Park Airport. The levels have remained in the 3 to 5 mg/l range. Mr. Miller also contacted a local well driller to obtain an estimate for drilling a 600 feet deep well with casing off the surface to 250 feet which was quoted at \$30,000. The cost of steel casing is widely variable and would need revisited at the time of well development.

Mr. Shura asked if anyone has talked to a Hydrogeologist about drilling a deeper well in the area and Mr. Miller stated no; however, he would suggest contacting Dr. Parizek for his opinion. Mr. Shura asked if Dr. Parizek would be helping with the development of the well and Mr. Miller stated that due to Dr. Parizek's busy schedule he likely wouldn't be able to meet this Authority's timeline for the work.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Campbell was absent from the meeting.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

**Feasibility Study** – Mr. Shura asked if the Board wanted him to start the process with potentially looking for drilling a new well. Mr. Lanich asked what all is involved with making the application. Mr. Shura stated that this area is tributary to the Susquehanna River; therefore, there are two components to the process—obtaining approval through the PA DEP and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). First the Authority would need to identify the water source. Mr. Lanich asked if a permit would need to be obtained before starting with the drilling. Mr. Shura stated the Authority would need to get a preliminary hydro report and a drilling plan approved by the PA DEP, which would be completed by a hydrogeologist. Some pump testing would be done, but before the yield and source sampling can be done, the Authority would need to make application for the pump test through the PA DEP and SRBC. From the time the application is submitted until the time that the well could actually be drilled could take a minimum of 6-9 months. Mr. Miller asked if this Authority would have to go through the SRBC since we will be withdrawing less than 100,000 GPD. Mr. Shura was unsure, but said he would look into that further. Due to the size of the system, Mr. Miller indicated he doesn't believe this Authority will have to deal with the SRBC.

Mr. Shura offered to put together a summary of what the process will be, confirm what the SRBC's involvement would be and bring that information back to a future meeting. Mr. Swales asked for an estimate as well. Mr. Shura stated he can contact a hydrogeologist to obtain a quote from them for the well development. Mr. Shura indicated he will not be in attendance at the next Water Authority meeting due to training, but will have his summary for the July meeting if acceptable to the Board. The Board agreed to have Mr. Shura present the summary at the July 2018 meeting.

**GUESTS:** There were no Guests present for the meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There was no Correspondence presented for discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Wellhead Protection (WHP) Zones** – Mr. Swales indicated he will contact the Chairman of the Benner Township Planning Commission to discuss the draft zoning ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Website Design** – In the past the Board discussed development of a website for the Benner Township Water Authority. The SBWJA has an employee on staff, Melinda Cain, who has developed websites in the past and has offered to complete the work. The Board authorized the development of the website and discussed items to be included within the website with Ms. Cain.

**2017 Audit** – Mrs. Gill provided an overview of the draft 2017 audit and asked if there were any questions. Mrs. Gill informed the Board that due to Mr. Edkin's scheduled absence from the meeting, she provided him with a draft copy last week for his review and comment. Mr. Edkin provided some questions which were addressed through email. Mr. Edkin gave his approval for moving forward with the approval of the 2017 audit. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the draft 2017 audit as presented.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

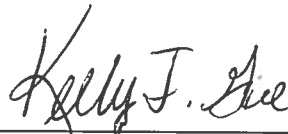
- Mr. Eby to contact Benner Township about placing an article in the Township's newsletter.
- Mr. Swales to contact Benner Township Planning Commission Chairman about draft zoning ordinance as it relates to the Authority's wellhead protection zones.
- Mr. Shura to prepare a cost summary for the development of a new water source.
- Ms. Cain to develop a website.
- Authority Board to review timeline of events and submit comments to Mr. Eby over next couple of weeks.

**Next regular scheduled meeting is June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Benner Township Municipal Building.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Lanich moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 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 06/20/2018

**BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY  
1224 BUFFALO RUN ROAD  
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823  
(814) 355-4778**

**REGULAR MEETING  
May 15, 2018**

**GUEST LIST**

1. None present
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