

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

September 18, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Eby
Jerry May
Andy Swales

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The September 18, 2018, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:45 P.M. by Tom Eby, Chairman.

ROLL CALL:

Jerry May, Assistant Secretary, took Roll Call, recording three members present. Mr. Edkin and Mr. Lanich were 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 July 17, 2018 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Minutes of the July 17, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. May 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. Swales to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$11,968.04 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$3,679.42. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

SBWJA REPORT:

Bio-solids Legal Fees Expense – The legal fees expense associated with the bio-solids appeal incurred to date remain at \$104,612.48; however, Dr. Parizek has recently indicated he will be sending an invoice for the work he has completed to date.

Grove Park Generator – The startup of the Grove Park generator was successful and the system is now fully protected during power outages.

Fracture Trace Study – Mr. Miller indicated he will be meeting with Dr. Parizek in the near future to begin the well monitoring that will be completed in connection with the fracture trace study for the Hampton Hills/Opequon wells.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

PA Small System Grant Program – Mr. Shura informed the Board that the grant funding recipients were released today, but this Authority was not on the list for approved projects. Mr. Shura stated that very few rural areas were represented during this round of grant funding.

GUESTS:

John Kostas – Mr. Kostas made the Authority Board aware of a forum held by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Horsham, Pennsylvania in late July regarding Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and their impact on local communities. Mr. Kostas indicated that he located a list of eleven sites in Pennsylvania that were contaminated by the PFAS's of which one is the former Fire Training Facility (Centre County) at Pennsylvania State University. Mr. Kostas stated he spent most of the day trying to obtain information on the nature of the contamination by visiting the local legislators; however, no one had any information on the contaminated site.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no Correspondence presented for discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water System Improvements Alternatives – Discussion was held regarding the Authority's options with improving water quality and long-term viability of the existing water supply in connection with the elevated nitrate levels in the Grove Park well and the lack of a backup raw water source for its water systems.

Mr. Swales and Mr. Shura both concluded that Alternative #3 (Interconnect with a nearby public water supply system) would not be cost effective due to the location of the closest public water supply, a minimum charge being assessed for the water and the issues surrounding keeping the water from becoming an area of high water age.

Mr. Swales stated that Alternative #4 (Treating the Grove Park Well raw water to remove nitrates) would be the most expensive option. Mr. Shura stated that if he were to remove an option from being considered it would be Alternative #4. With the quantity supplied and the minimal amount of customers the project would not be cost effective.

Mr. Eby expressed his concerns with the amount of rainfall over the past few months and the impact it may have on the upcoming nitrate testing of the Grove Park well. Mr. Swales stated that he doesn't believe the Authority will have an issue with the nitrates for some time and Mr. Shura concurred that the levels have remained stable. Mr. Miller stated that when the Authority assumed ownership of the Grove Park Water System in 2011, the nitrate levels were lower than they are now and he is wondering if the slight increase in nitrate levels may be indicative of a change in how the well is operating. Previously the well pump ran for about 1 -2 hours per day and we now use as much of the capacity of the well tank as we can. This results in the well pump running for about six hours every 4-5 days, which is more efficient by using less electricity and a decreased chance of pump issues when starting and/or stopping the pumps. Mr. Miller stated that with the well pump drawing 41-42 gpm for a much longer period of time, it could have an impact on the nitrate level and Mr. Swales agreed because of an increased capture zone. Mr. Miller stated that next Spring he would like to make changes to the operation of the well to see if a decreased nitrate level is achieved, but he does not recommend it be done over the winter months due to an increased chance for developing an ice ring in the tank when the elevation of water is unchanged.

Both Mr. Shura and Mr. Swales indicated that Alternative #1 (New source development) and Alternative #2 (Interconnect the two distribution systems) could work as a long term goal of this Authority with initially developing a new source then interconnecting the distribution systems to serve as a back-up source. Mr. Shura stated that if the Authority would decide to move forward with one or more of the alternatives provided, an evaluation would need completed and would include the potential impact to the Authority's current user rates while also considering funding scenarios.

Mr. Swales stated his recommendation is to proceed with Alternative #1 and then determine if Alternative #2 is needed, but he would like to wait until the Authority receives Dr. Parizek's fracture trace study for the Hampton/Opequon wells so the data can be used in finding a suitable water source. Mr. Shura reminded the Board that a Hydrogeologist will need hired to complete consulting services for the development of the well and a proposal was previously provided for McCamley Hydrogeology to complete the work. Mr. May stated that task #1 of McCamley Hydrogeology's proposal is to complete the fracture trace analysis of the well locations; therefore, he asked how this would be handled with Dr. Parizek completing that work.

Mr. Shura indicated the results of Dr. Parizek's fracture trace study would be used by any Hydrogeologist we decide to contract with. Mr. Shura also stated that the proposal from McCamley Hydrogeology did not include the drilling of a test well, which is not a part of their professional services.

Mr. Eby reminded the Board that the 2019 budget will be prepared within the next couple of months so if this is something being considered, we should probably plan accordingly. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to proceed with Alternative #1 as outlined in the Summary of Water System Improvements provided by Stiffler McGraw once the Fracture Trace Study is completed by Dr. Parizek for the Hampton/Opequon wells. This would consist of New Source Development and would evaluate alternatives 1a (Develop a new source to replace/back-up the Grove Park well due to the high nitrate level, 1b (Develop a back-up source for the Hampton Hills/Opequon Hills wells and 1c (Develop a new single source to back-up both systems). Alternative #1 also includes contracting the services of a Professional Hydrogeologist. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

Mr. Shura stated that he will contact McCamley Hydrogeology to make them aware of this Authority's decision. Mr. Shura stated Stiffler McGraw can work under the retainer agreement with this Authority; however, our Authority will need to contract directly with McCamley Hydrogeology for their professional services, which is how these projects are typically handled to avoid additional costs with the consulting engineer processing paperwork/billings. Mr. Shura asked if this was acceptable and Mr. Eby stated that was a decision to be agreed upon by Mr. Miller and Mrs. Gill since they will be processing payment for the billings. Mr. Miller stated that would be acceptable.

NEW BUSINESS:

Licensed Water Operator – Mr. Miller informed the Board that Mrs. Gill is now a licensed Water Operator in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Board congratulated Mrs. Gill on this achievement and asked if Mrs. Gill was given a raise for her increased responsibility and liability. Mr. Miller stated she did receive a raise.

Utility Right-of-Way Agreement with Benner Township – The Authority was provided with a Utility Right-of-Way Agreement with Benner Township for the water mainline extension across their property to serve their municipal building. **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Right-of-Way Agreement with Benner Township for the water mainline extension across their property to serve the Benner Township Municipal Building. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

The agreement will be forwarded to Benner Township to be recorded. Benner Township will also be responsible for recording the original Right-of-Way agreement with the Grove Park Homeowner's Association for the easement across their property to serve the Benner Township Municipal Building.

Agreement with Benner Township for Transferring of Water Mains - Due to this Authority being provided with the necessary easements for the water mainline extension serving the Benner Township Municipal building, the Authority is now able to execute the Agreement with Benner Township for Transferring Ownership of the Water Mains to the Benner Township Water Authority. **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Agreement Transferring Water Mains from Benner Township to the Benner Township Water Authority for the water mainline extension serving the Benner Township Municipal Building.** 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

ACTION ITEMS: None

Next regular scheduled meeting is October 16th at the Benner Township Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. May moved, seconded by Mr. Swales to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 10/18/2018

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

REGULAR MEETING
September 18, 2018

GUEST LIST

1. JOHN KOSTES GROVE PARK
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