

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

June 18, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Eby
Steve Lanich
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 June 18, 2019, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Tom Eby, Chairman.

ROLL CALL:

Jerry May, Assistant Secretary, took Roll Call, recording four members present. 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 May 21, 2019 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2019 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. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$438.33 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$7,149.60.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 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 \$117,228.58.

Source Water Protection Plan - Last week Mark Stephens, PA DEP, stopped by the office and delivered the final and approved Source Water Protection (SWP) Plan for the Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park wells, which includes the fracture trace analysis completed by Dr. Parizek. The SWP Plan has been added to the Authority's website. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Swales to approve the SWP Plan for the Hampton, Opequon and Grove Park wells as presented.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

Generator – Mr. Miller indicated that upon further discussion with the maintenance staff they have determined a building addition to house the generator would be more beneficial than purchasing a shed and the materials would cost an estimated \$4,000. Friedman Electric completed their site visit last month and we are currently waiting for the switch gear quote. Mr. Miller stated he estimates the switch gear to cost around \$5,000-\$7,000. Mr. Miller reminded the Board that the generator would only run the Hampton well.

New Customer (Edward Drive) – Mr. Miller informed the Board that the Authority will be adding a new customer along the backside of Edward Drive on the portion of the line that is not currently charged. With the addition of this customer the entire loop will now be charged, but due to the minimal water consumption this Authority will need to flush the lines more often to maintain water quality in this line.

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

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA: Mr. Eby indicated that due to Mr. Henry's attendance at the meeting to discuss the new source development he would like to address the remaining items on the agenda and then allow for the Guests and Engineer's Report at the end of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

McCamley Hydrogeology – We received an email and map from Rick Henry of McCamley Hydrogeology outlining the location/results of the nitrate testing of the private wells in connection with development of a new water source.

2018 Annual Water Quality Report (BTWA) – The annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) was completed and will be distributed to each of the water system customers by June 30, 2019. There were no testing or reporting violations for the 2018 calendar year.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

2018 Audit – The 2018 audited financial statements were provided to the Authority Board for review. 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 2018 audit. **Mr. Lanich moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to approve the 2018 audit as presented.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Shura indicated he didn't have anything to discuss until Mr. Henry's discussion occurs.

GUESTS:

Tim Robinson – Mr. Robinson indicated he is the Benner Township representative on the Spring Creek Watershed Commission and was in attendance to listen/learn.

Rick Henry, McCamley Hydrogeology – Mr. Henry discussed the series of analytical testing conducted of the private wells in the surrounding area over the last several months and the results. One area that stood out geologically as outlined in Mr. Henry's email, was the cross-cutting fault that is well mapped in the Raymond's Lane/Bellefonte Airport areas where there were some relatively low nitrate levels.

Mr. Henry indicated that if cost was not an issue for selecting a potential site for well development, the southern area of the Corl farm would be the most ideal location for drilling a well due to the nature of the bedrock that lies beneath that property at the southerly end. The southern portion of the Corl farm is underlain by the Gatesburg Formation which is known for soft water, high volumes and low nitrate levels because of it being so porous. The deep structure is protected with all of the unconfined sediments and thick layer that isn't impacted by the things that can go wrong at the surface. It's a highly sought out aquifer in the region due to the protection, quality and quantity of water it provides. In order to consider this for the potential site of the new source the Authority must be willing to invest in some drilling methods that aren't conventional in most of the valley. This would involve starting with a larger diameter hole, larger casing, and then installing a smaller casing inside of that. Construction costs for drilling a well in this aquifer would be significantly higher, but the payoff is well worth it.

Mr. Henry stated that if the Authority is looking for a short term solution to replace the Grove Park well then drilling a test well in Raymond's Lane on the fault line would be an option. The sampling of the private wells in the Raymond's Lane area shows satisfactory water, but a test well could indicate yield; however, nitrate levels consistent with the Grove Park well may be found. This won't be known until a test well is drilled. If the Authority wants to expand well into the future, the Gatesburg formation would be the better way to go.

Mr. Shura asked about the potential for expansion in that area of the Township. Mr. Eby indicated new zoning could possibly open up potential development in the area. Most new connections would be between SR 550 and Seibert Road, but without a mandatory water connection ordinance in place this Authority is in a difficult situation. Mr. Shura stated Stiffler McGraw could provide a rough cost of the impact on the Authority's current customers for both options. Mr. Shura stated with using google earth they could come up with a rough sketch. Mr. Swales stated he understands the importance of the Gatesburg formation, but it's a matter of balancing the cost with our current rate payers.

Mr. Henry mentioned one thing to consider is well head protection with multiple property owners versus one single property owner. Mr. Henry stated it may be advantageous to start an open dialogue with the property owners to see if they are receptive to the idea. It was then suggested that maybe the Flynn/Szyller properties may be considered due to the southern portion of their land being located within the Gatesburg formation and being closer to the Grove Park well.

The Board asked Mr. Miller to contact the property owners within the Gatesburg formation about the possibility of drilling a well on their property. Once Mr. Miller has more information on a possible location for the source then he will contact Mr. Shura so some estimates could be generated.

ACTION ITEMS:

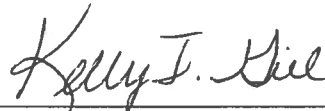
1. Mr. Miller to contact property owners along Seibert Road within Gatesburg formation to start an open dialogue regarding a potential site for a new water source.
2. Key Points of BTWA 06/18/19 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
 - a. The Source Water Protection (SWP) Plan has been approved by the PA DEP and is available for review on our website.
 - b. The 2018 audit has been approved.
 - c. The BTWA will be contacting property owners along Seibert Road to discuss potential sites for a new water source.

Next regular scheduled meeting is July 16th at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Swales to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 08/21/2019

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

**REGULAR MEETING
June 18, 2019**

GUEST LIST

1. RSwan
2. Tim Robmsou
3. John Kates
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