

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

November 19, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Edkin
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 November 19, 2019, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Andy Swales, Vice-Chairman.

ROLL CALL:

Tim Edkin, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording four members present. Mr. Eby was excused from the meeting. Mr. Swales, Vice-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 October 15, 2019 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Minutes of the October 15, 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. Swales 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. Edkin to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$5,817.32 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$5,800.77.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

SBWJA REPORT:

PA Small System Grant Program – The application for the small water system grant through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is due by December 13, 2019 and the Authority Board will need to approve a resolution later in the meeting. Mr. Miller reminded the Board this grant will be for a VFD (variable frequency drive) at the Opequon well, radio telemetry for both systems and a new booster pump package for the Grove Park well. The non-refundable application fee is \$100.00.

Hampton Hills Generator Installation – The maintenance crew continues to work on the building addition to house the generator for the Hampton Hills well house. The louvered vents were delivered yesterday and will be installed this week. Once the project is complete we will provide an updated Uninterrupted System Service Plan (USSP) to the PA DEP as required.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

New Source Development –Following the last meeting the Board was provided with a copy of the synopsis which was included within this evening's board packet. On October 29, 2019 Mr. Shura forwarded the summary to Rob Cooper of Pennsylvania State University and is currently waiting for a response.

GUESTS:

John Elnitski – Mr. Elnitski attended the meeting to make the Board aware of a potential project at the Bellefonte Airport. There are approximately 40 acres that may be considered for an RV campground and would need public water. The proposed campground may include tiny homes, cabins built out of storage containers and aircraft parking for those wishing to fly in. Due to the close proximity of the Pennsylvania State University this would be more of a recreational platform for functions at the University. Mr. Elnitski indicated he became aware of the Authority's search for a new water source and offered the Airport property as an option with it being located between the Authority's existing water systems.

Mr. Miller stated this would involve crossing private property to connect to the Hampton/Opequon system, which would be the closest/shortest route. The elevations may require pumping and pressurizing the system. The elevation of the Hampton Hills tank may not be adequate for pressure. Mr. Swales inquired about a timeframe for the proposed project. Mr. Elnitski stated he has an investor that would like to move forward, but they are also considering a solar energy field; however, this would require additional acreage from surrounding properties. The investor has suggested 150 RV sites per 10 acres of ground. The investor was proposing a project in Ferguson Township but there were zoning issues; however, the Benner Township zoning allows something like this.

Mr. Miller expressed concern with the height restriction of a tank due to FAA regulations, as he had been told was experienced with the installation of the Grove Park tank. Mr. Elnitski stated he wasn't aware of any issues surrounding the Grove Park tank height, but the tank could be installed closer to Buffalo Run Road on the edge of the Airport property.

The Board asked Mr. Elnitski to keep them updated as the proposed project progresses. Mr. Elnitski indicated two engineering firms have been hired to design the project and further contact will be made once the design is finalized.

David Wise – Mr. Wise indicated that at the last Benner Township Supervisor's meeting Mr. Eby reported a public statement would be forthcoming about the Environmental Hearing Board's (EHB) final ruling on the biosolids case. Mr. Swales indicated this is the first the Water Authority has met since the ruling was issued and the Board will be going into Executive Session later in the meeting to discuss the litigation prior to issuing a public statement.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no Correspondence presented for discussion.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 Tentative Budget – The 2020 Tentative Budget was prepared by Mr. Miller and Mrs. Gill. Mrs. Gill indicated the water revenue is based on 261 connections and includes the addition of one (1) new connection. Mrs. Gill stated that due to the limited amount of Authority customers and minimal potential for growth, the only capital improvement planned for 2020 is New Source Development. Mrs. Gill indicated \$60,000 was budgeted for the New Source Development as part of the Capital Improvements for 2020 and we anticipate using \$36,140 from System Reserves (#52502) to balance the budget. If the new source development moves forward in 2020, the budget can be modified to include financing of the project.

Mr. Swales asked if there were any questions pertaining to the tentative budget. Mr. Edkin referenced the earned interest and how it has tripled. Mrs. Gill stated when budgeting interest income we usually go low just because interest rates are not set in stone. **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. Lanich to approve the 2020 Tentative Budget as presented.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

Resolution #2019-01 (PA Small System Grant) – **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to approve Resolution #2019-01 citing the Benner Township Water Authority's request for a PA Small Water and Sewer Program grant of \$100,941.75 as presented and made a part of these official Meeting Minutes.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

ACTION ITEMS: No Action Items

1. Key Points of BTWA 11/19/2019 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
 - a. The BTWA finalized synopsis that was provided to PSU for a potential new water source on their property along Seibert Road.
 - b. The BTWA is applying for a small water system grant for a VFD at the Opequon well, radio telemetry for both systems and a new booster pump package for the Grove Park well.

Next regular scheduled meeting is December 17th at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mr. Swales recessed the Board for an Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. to discuss litigation. The meeting reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

EHB Ruling on Appeal – We received notification that the EHB has completed their final ruling of the Authority's appeal of Bellefonte Borough's permit to land apply biosolids to the Spicer Family Farm in Benner Township. **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to prepare a statement for public release and to the Benner Township Supervisors regarding the results of our appeal to the Environmental Hearing Board.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. May to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 12/18/19

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

REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2019

GUEST LIST

1. David Wize
2. John Elchick
3. T. F. Washington
4. Tim Robinson
5. John Koster
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____

**BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION #2019- 01
PA SMALL WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM GRANT 2019**

Be it RESOLVED, that the Benner Township Water Authority of Centre County hereby request a PA Small Water and Sewer Program grant of \$ 100,941.75 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the purchase of electrical components which will allow our system to operate more efficiently. This includes the replacement of the failing high service pumps to properly pressurize the water system, the purchase/installation of radio telemetry to immediately transmit alarms to proper officials and the installation of a variable frequency drive (VFD) to convert single phase incoming power to 3-phase while boosting the incoming voltage from 240-volt to 480-volt. In addition this VFD will reduce starting and stopping pressures to soften the effects of hydraulic surges.

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Thomas N. Eby, Chairman and Timothy R. Edkin, Secretary as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the Benner Township Water Authority and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Timothy R. Edkin, duly qualified Secretary of the Benner Township Water Authority, Centre County, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Benner Township Water Authority at a regular meeting held November 19, 2019 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Benner Township Water Authority and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of the Benner Township Water Authority, this 19th day of November 20 19.

Benner Township Water Authority
Name of Applicant

Centre
County

Timothy R. Edkin
Timothy R. Edkin, Secretary