

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

December 17, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Eby
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 December 17, 2019, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Tom Eby, Chairman.

ROLL CALL:

Tim Edkin, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording five members present. 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 November 19, 2019 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2019 Regular Meeting as presented. 5 ayes, 0 nays. 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. Edkin to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$2,187.67 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$9,048.09. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

SBWJA REPORT:

Hampton Hills Generator Installation – The Hampton Hills generator project continues to move forward. The generator is operable, but we are waiting for the automatic controls to be installed in the transfer switch and are currently obtaining quotes for the installation of the propane tanks. The generator has the ability to run on propane or gasoline. Mr. Miller commended the SBWJA maintenance staff on their mechanical abilities and workmanship, which saves both Authorities a remarkable amount of money due to not having to outsource the work.

Public Statement on EHB Ruling on Appeal – The public release was provided to the Benner Township Supervisors for their December 2, 2019 meeting and Mr. Eby attended the meeting to address any questions and/or concerns. The Board discussed the Bellefonte Borough Council minutes from their November 18, 2019 meeting where a brief description of the appeal was referenced. It is unfortunate that the description of the course of events reflected in the Bellefonte Borough Council November 18, 2019 meeting minutes is highly inaccurate when discussing the mediation hearing.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

New Source Development –Mr. Shura informed the Board that he looked into some cost estimates for running a transmission line from the potential well site to the Grove Park water tank. The distance was laid out on google earth and costs were prepared based on using 4" ductile iron and 4" HDPE. The estimated construction cost for the 4" ductile iron would be \$571,000 plus a 10% contingency, which doesn't include soft costs such as engineering. The estimated costs for 4" HDPE is approximately \$100,000 less than the ductile iron due to possibly boring and less pavement restoration costs. Mr. Shura indicated these are rough costs for just the pipe.

Mr. Shura stated he could look into other options including an on-site treatment facility and tank, but didn't want to go that route this early in the planning stage. Mr. Miller stated he believes the BTWA would contact the homeowners along Seibert Road (across from the Pennsylvania State University property) to determine if they would be interested in public water before making any decisions. If there is interest then the line would need increased to 8" to allow for fire protection as well as water treatment facilities at the well site.

Once the Authority receives a response from the Pennsylvania State University regarding the possibility of developing a well on their property, additional discussion will be held.

GUESTS:

John Kostas – Mr. Kostas informed the Authority Board that Bellefonte Borough Authority has already began land applying bio-solids to the Spicer Family Farm. Mr. Kostas asked if the Authority considered conducting testing of the nearby private wells to determine a baseline for monitoring purposes. Mr. Miller stated we would have to determine what to test for. Mr. Kostas suggested the nine metals and PCBs.

Mr. Eby indicated the Authority's Source Water Protection Plan obligates us to complete an inventory of potential sources of contamination. Mr. Shura stated it would probably be best to develop a monitoring plan. Tim Robinson suggested the Authority may be able to work with the PA Rural Water Association and/or the Clearwater Conservancy with completing this testing. Mr. Miller stated he could contact nearby owners and obtain their thoughts on the testing of their wells. Mr. Eby suggested the Authority Board come up with some monitoring/testing suggestions for discussion at a future meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no Correspondence presented for discussion.

OLD 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 may need modified to include financing of the project. Mr. Eby asked if there were any questions pertaining to the tentative budget. Mr. Lanich asked why the Annual Service Fees (#71502) increased significantly. Mrs. Gill stated that the PA DEP amended existing permit fees and instituted annual service fees to help fill the funding gap which took effect January 1, 2019. Some of these fees will aid in hiring additional staffing. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Lanich to approve the 2020 Tentative Budget as presented. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority (SBWJA) Employee Appreciation – Mr. Eby stated that the Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) really appreciates the services provided by the SBWJA and acknowledged the outstanding work performed by its staff. Mr. Eby suggested the Authority Board consider authorizing payment for the purchase of lunch for the SBWJA employees prior to the end of 2019 to show appreciation for these services. A couple of Board members asked if this was permitted, legally. Mr. Miller stated yes this is allowed. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Eby and the Board for the suggestion, but indicated it is not necessary. The SBWJA employees are very appreciative of the BTWA Board recognition.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. BTWA Board to provide monitoring/testing suggestions for the private wells surrounding the Spicer Family Farm as a result of bio-solids application.
2. Key Points of BTWA 12/17/2019 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
 - a. The BTWA approved its 2020 Budget.

Next regular scheduled meeting is January 21st at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. May to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Giff, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 02/19/2020

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

**REGULAR MEETING
December 17, 2019**

GUEST LIST

1. Tim ROBINSON
2. John Kostas
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