

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

May 19, 2020

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Eby
Steve Lanich – via conference call
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 May 19, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:37 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 February 18, 2020 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. May moved, seconded by Mr. Swales to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Eby reviewed the Treasurer's Report as presented and indicated the accounts remain in good standing. Mr. Eby asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the Paid Checks or Bills by Vendor submitted for approval.

Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$12,841.30 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$4,075.69. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

SBWJA REPORT:

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) – Following the last meeting Mr. Miller contacted Mark Stephens of the PA DEP to inquire about the Commonwealth's interest in testing the Grove Park well for PFAS due to its proximity to the local site which tested above EPA's health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt). Mr. Stephens stated that he believes the Grove Park well does not fall within the radius set for testing; however, the PA DEP will contact us if they would want to complete the testing. Further discussion was held about possibly having the Grove Park well tested to determine a baseline level and the Board asked Mr. Miller to obtain a price for PFAS testing.

Grove Park Nitrate Levels – Mr. Miller provided the Board with the results of the nitrate level in the Grove Park well on April 3, 2020, which was 8.07 mg/l.

Grove Park Water System Leak – Over the past month the Grove Park water system's daily flows have increased slightly, which the Authority attributed to the stay at home order. The Authority personnel obtained water meter readings early to assist with identifying a possible leak and we determined a small leak of approximately 2-3 GPM existed. The maintenance staff listened to curb boxes and determined the leak was at a lateral crossing underneath the roadway. Two ¾" copper service lines were buried in limestone under the roadway. The copper service lines developed holes in them due to being improperly bedded with limestone. The leak was patched, but due to it being under the roadway a more permanent repair needs made.

Mr. Miller indicated he is considering renting a pneumatic hole hog to tunnel underneath the roadway to avoid excavation which is more expensive due to pavement restoration. The entire copper service lines will need replaced. Discussion was held about directional drilling vs. renting a hole hog and the costs associated with both. Mr. Miller explained that this could become an issue at other crossings as well.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

New Source Development – Mr. Shura stated that he hasn't received any further response from the Pennsylvania State University regarding the Benner Township Water Authority's water exploration efforts on PSU property along Barns Lane.

GUESTS:

Bellefonte Airport Property (RV Park) – John Elnitski and his engineer, Gregory Schrock of L.R. Kimball were present to discuss a proposed RV Park on the Bellefonte Airport Property, which would require public water service. A tentative design print was provided to the Authority members for their review.

Mr. Elnitski is proposing a tiny house development and some RVs spots. He is proposing to install a water line to connect to the Hampton/Opequon Water system and would also like to have fire protection as well.

The tiny homes would be on wheels and the investor has a similar park in Florida where he may move the tiny homes back and forth over the winter months.

Elevations of the Hampton Hills tank were discussed and also the ability to pressurize the system. The Authority Board discussed the opportunity to work with Mr. Elnitski to extend the water main from Hampton Hills and possibly achieve the interconnect with the Grove Park system as previously discussed when considering a new source. Discussion was held about the height of the Grove Park tank and the possibility of extending the tank at Grove Park depending on elevations and any restrictions of the FAA due to the proximity to both Airports. Mr. Elnitski doesn't recall there being any issues with the height of the Grove Park tank in connection to the Bellefonte Airport.

Mr. Miller indicated he would have to investigate the overflow elevations at both the Hampton and Grove Park tanks to determine the possibility of an interconnect. Mr. Shura stated an analysis would have to be done to determine the possibility. Mr. Elnitski asked if the Bellefonte Airport Property could be a possible location of the new water source (well). The Board indicated that was an option being considered but the property does not fall within the Gatesburg aquifer which is the desired location of the Authority due to the minimal nitrate levels. Mr. Miller stated a well at the Bellefonte Airport property would be significantly less than that of the Gatesburg aquifer due to the depth and development costs. Mr. Miller stated the nitrates could be lower at the airport due to it not being farmed for 50+ years, but it may be worthwhile to test nitrate levels in the private wells in this area. Mr. Elnitski stated he didn't mind giving up some land for a well.

Mr. Shura indicated his willingness to look into this further if the Board wanted him to. Mr. Eby indicated he thought it would be worth spending a little money with Stiffler McGraw to look at the options. The timing would be good now because of the need for public water to the Bellefonte Airport property.

Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to authorize Stiffler McGraw to investigate the Authority's options regarding a possible interconnect of the Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park water systems and also possibly developing a new source on the Bellefonte Airport property. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried. Mr. Miller will obtain the overflow elevations of both water tanks and provide the information to Mr. Shura.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence presented for discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thank You – Mr. Miller informed the Board that the Authority received a thank you card and girl scout cookies from a local Girl Scout, Maura Sharer, of Troop 40034 for the Authority's hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Edward Drive Connections - Two homes along Edward Drive have recently connected to the water system and there is one additional property that is connecting later this week. Mr. Miller stated the entire loop is now open and is fully charged. Mr. Miller also indicated with the additional use, flushing of the line to keep the water fresh has been reduced.

NEW BUSINESS:

2019 Audit - Mr. Eby inquired about the status of the 2019 audit. Mrs. Gill stated the audit is being completed remotely this year and she will likely have a draft later this week for review. The audit will likely be presented for approval at the June meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

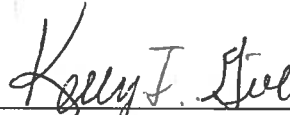
1. Warren Miller to obtain a price for testing Grove Park well for PFAS.
2. SBWJA to complete nitrate testing of some private wells near the Bellefonte Airport property.
3. Brian Shura to explore interconnection of Grove Park water system and Hampton/Opequon system along with developing a new source on the Bellefonte Airport property.
4. Key Points of BTWA 05/19/20 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
 - a. The BTWA will be obtaining prices to possibly test for PFAS in the Grove Park well.
 - b. The Bellefonte Airport approached the BTWA about a potential RV Park on their property that would be in need of public water.
 - c. Nitrate testing will be completed of some private wells near the Bellefonte Airport property.
 - d. Stiffler McGraw was authorized to investigate the BTWA's options regarding possibly interconnecting the Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park water systems and the possibility of developing a new source on the Bellefonte Airport property in connection with their need for public water.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 06/17/2020

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

REGULAR MEETING
May 19, 2020

GUEST LIST

1. Greg Schrodt - LR Kimball
2. John Elmquist
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