

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

November 17, 2020

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Eby
Tim Edkin
Jerry May
Vacancy

OTHER ATTENDEES: Warren Miller – SBWJA
Kelly Gill – SBWJA
Will Barton - SBWJA
See Attached Guest List

CALL TO ORDER:

The November 17, 2020, 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 three members present. Mr. Swales was absent from the meeting. It was noted that there is currently a vacancy on the Authority Board. 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 October 20, 2020 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Minutes of the October 20, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 1 vacancy. The motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. May reviewed the Treasurer's Report as presented and 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 \$533.93 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$2,815.25. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 1 vacancy. The motion carried.**

SBWJA REPORT:

October 2020 System Overview – Mr. Barton provided an overview of the work completed for the Benner Township Water Authority for the month of October.

System Maintenance – A water service line inspection was completed in Opequon Hills due to a leak on the homeowner's service line. Two property owners in the Hampton/Opequon water system called indicating they were experiencing low water pressure. Mr. Barton indicated both issues were water softener related and noted the water softener needed serviced. Both colorimeters were calibrated as required. Mr. Miller took a moment to explain to the Board members what a colorimeter is used for and the history surrounding the calibration of the meters.

Analytical Testing – The monthly bacteria tests were completed for both systems and the quarterly nitrate/nitrite test was completed for the Grove Park water system.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were no call outs for the month of October. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 4 PA One calls were located in October.

New Water Source:

Site Location – After the last meeting Mr. Miller spoke with Mary Szeyller about the possibility of drilling a well on her property along Raymonds Lane and provided her with a map outlining the proposed location of the well. Ms. Szeyller indicated that her two daughters, that currently live out of state, have control over this parcel of ground and they have considered selling this entire parcel for development. Mr. Miller informed Ms. Szeyller that the Authority was only interested in approximately 2 acres of ground for the well and discussion was then held about having an appraisal completed to determine a fair compensation for the acreage.

Mr. Miller also provided Ms. Szeyller with details surrounding the elevated nitrate levels in the Grove Park well and the surrounding private wells. Mr. Miller stated that he took a sample of the private well on the Szeyller farm along Seibert Road and the nitrate result came in at 5.49 mg/l. The results were recently provided to Ms. Szeyller and she indicated she will discuss things further with her daughters over the holidays.

Mr. Miller also contacted David Flynn who owns property along Seibert Road where the Authority is considering installing a water tank. Mr. Flynn indicated he would be happy to discuss this in more detail as the Authority's plan develops. Mr. Miller stated that he hasn't contacted the PA DEP about a site visit due to waiting for a response from Ms. Szeyller when she returns after the holidays.

Funding – Mr. Miller informed the Authority Board that he and Mrs. Gill have contacted a couple of local banks to inquire about funding for the project. We have asked for a proposal for financing \$500,000, with a 20-year payback and a 9-month construction draw period. This information will be useful for budgeting purposes. Mrs. Gill stated she's hoping to have the proposals for the December meeting.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Shura was excused from the meeting.

GUESTS: There were no Guests present during the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

PA DEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water – The Authority received a telephone call and a follow-up email from Matthew Menendez, Environmental Engineer, of the PA DEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water requesting to conduct PFAS sampling of the Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park wells due to their close proximity to State of the Art, which had the largest PFAS result in the Commonwealth. The PFAS special study sampling is scheduled for November 18, 2020 and will be completed at no cost to the Authority. The email included information pertaining to the PFAS sampling plan. Mr. Miller stated the Authority should have the results within a month and it will be a good comparison for the tests we completed several months ago.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

2021 Tentative Budget – The 2021 Tentative budget was prepared by SBWJA staff and presented to the Board during the meeting. Following the last meeting Mrs. Gill prepared a rate scenario based on increasing the rates in 2021 to \$120.00/quarter for up to 12,000 gallons and then \$5.00 per 1000 gallons after that. Based on average usage, this would generate an additional \$39,000 per year in water revenue, which would aid in paying for the upcoming capital projects and needed repairs to the Hampton Hills water storage tank.

Mrs. Gill indicated the 2021 Tentative budget reflects increasing the rates to \$120.00/quarter for up to 12,000 gallons and then \$5.00 per 1000 gallons after that. The Authority has never had a rate increase since establishing its current rate structure in 2007. Mrs. Gill provided an overview of each line item within the budget and indicated \$100,000 is being budgeted for capital improvements in 2021. This would include the Hampton Hills tank repair and the cost associated with maintaining uninterrupted water service throughout that time. The 2021 Tentative budget does not include the new water source since there are too many unknown variables at this time. The budget can always be amended to reflect the new water source when needed.

Mr. Eby asked what line item #52502- System Reserve Income Deposit represented. Mrs. Gill stated the Authority is proposing to use \$37,220 of cash reserves to balance the budget in 2021. The Authority is required to have a balanced budget where income matches expenses.

Mr. May expressed concerns with the rate increase and the negative effect it would have on the residents of the Village of Peru, especially since that water system has little to no expense for this Authority. Mr. Miller stated that he understands Mr. May's concerns, but he reminded Mr. May that this Authority used approximately \$130,000 of its cash reserves to fund the Village of Peru waterline project and with only 21 connections to generate income it would take approximately 17 years to pay back those monies. Mr. Miller reminded the Board that each of the Authority's three water systems have special circumstances and stressed the importance of shared income/expenses for the entire customer base instead of special rate districts for each water system. **Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to approve the 2021 Tentative Budget as presented. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 1 vacancy. The motion carried.**

ACTION ITEMS:

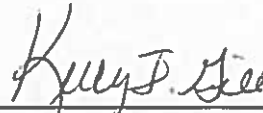
1. SBWJA staff to prepare a Drought Contingency Plan.
2. Key Points of BTWA 11/17/20 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
 - a. Contact has been made with the Szeyller Family to discuss possibly drilling a test well on their property along Raymonds Lane and David Flynn about a potential water storage tank at his property along Seibert Road. The PA DEP will be contacted about a site visit once the Szeyller Family indicates they are interested in allowing the Authority to pursue a new water source on their property.
 - b. Two local banks have been contacted to provide a proposal for financing the new water source and a raw water line extension to the Grove Park well.
 - c. The BTWA has approved a 2021 Tentative budget which includes a rate increase due to capital projects and routine maintenance work.
 - d. The PA DEP will be conducting PFAS sampling of the Grove Park and Hampton/Opequon wells on 11/18/2020 due to the close proximity of State of the Art.

Next regular scheduled meeting is December 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. May to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 1 vacancy. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township_____

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

REGULAR MEETING
November 17, 2020

GUEST LIST

1. None present.
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