

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

February 16, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Eby
Timothy Edkin – via Zoom
James Lanning
Jerrold May

OTHER ATTENDEES: Warren Miller – SBWJA
Kelly Gill – SBWJA
Brian Shura, P.E. – Stiffler McGraw
See Attached Guest List

CALL TO ORDER:

The February 16, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Tom Eby, Chairman.

ROLL CALL:

Timothy Edkin, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording four members present. Mr. Swales 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 January 19, 2021 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. 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. Lanning to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$2,169.52 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$5,813.43. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

SBWJA REPORT:

January 2021 System Overview – Mr. Barton provided an overview of the work completed for the Benner Township Water Authority for the month of January.

System Maintenance –When reading water meters in Peru on 12/31/2020 we were unable to obtain a reading from the touchpad and had to schedule an internal visit to look at the meter. The property owner recently had a contractor completing some remodeling and the wire from the meter to the touchpad was cut. A new wire was installed by the maintenance personnel. The annual inventory was completed. The chlorine pump within the Grove Park well house was rebuilt. A hydrant extension was installed on the fire hydrant located at the 4-way intersection within Grove Park due to it being too low. This hydrant is now more accessible.

Water Leak – The service laterals for 151/165 Chicory Avenue located within Grove Park were replaced on 01/27/2021. We noticed our daily flows increasing slightly and continued to monitor prior to the repair. The daily flows remained about 2 GPM above normal for several weeks without returning to normal flows. Water meters were read on 01/27/2021 to see if it may be increased usage from homeowners, but nothing was found. At that point we decided to go to each home listening on the system and found the leak on the service lines for 151/165 Chicory Avenue which was repaired. Mr. Miller indicated this was another issue where two ¾" copper service lines were installed within plastic conduit and improperly bedded with limestone under the roadway. Mr. Lanning asked if this was from poor maintenance or poor installation. Mr. Miller stated this was another development that was constructed without oversight and then dedicated to this Authority; therefore, this was due to poor workmanship. Unfortunately, this will likely continue until all service lines under the roadway within this development are replaced. Discussion was held about the costs associated with this leak, which amounted to around \$2,000 and does not include the cost for materials we had in stock. Mr. Barton also indicated that the sidewalk blocks will need replaced later this year once the area has had time to settle. There will be additional expense with concrete, topsoil and seed.

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

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were four PA One Calls located in the month of January.

PA COSTARS Electricity Procurement Services – The Benner Township Water Authority has recently become a member of the PA COSTARS program which allowed us to enroll in the program for electricity procurement services. The Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority, along with other municipalities within the Commonwealth, participate in the program and have recognized a large savings in electric costs. The program is administered by Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute which receives \$0.001/Kwh and this cost is embedded in the supplier's pricing. Mr. Edkin indicated the Authority could shop around on its own and stated he had several questions regarding the program. Mr. Miller suggested he email those questions so they can be forwarded to the proper personnel.

PA DEP PFAS Testing – The Authority received its results from the 11/18/2020 sampling of the Grove Park well and the Hampton/Opequon wells. There were 18 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) analyzed and the PA DEP indicated none were detected.

Mr. Lanning indicated that he has been communicating with representatives involved with the testing in the area and a report should be forthcoming in March 2021.

Site Visit for Potential New Water Source – Mr. Miller informed the Board that a meeting has been scheduled at the Szeyller property with Mark Stephens, PA DEP hydrogeologist, on 02/23/2021 to discuss the possibility of drilling a test well at this location. Mr. Shura has provided Mr. Stephens with some initial well site information and will also be in attendance at the meeting.

Rate Increase Letters – The rate increase letters were delivered to the customers last week and we have received some calls expressing their displeasure with the timing of the increase. Mrs. Gill anticipates receiving more inquiries once the first billing under the new rate structure is mailed.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Bellefonte Airport Property (RV Park) – Following the last meeting Mr. Shura contacted Mr. Elnitski's engineer to discuss the engineering estimates provided at the last meeting for the proposed RV Park. His engineer provided a more detailed breakdown of the options. Mr. Shura believes some of the numbers are skewed. The lowest cost item proposed by Mr. Elnitski's engineer was for developing a well and installing a disinfection facility on site; however, based on the cost presented, Mr. Shura doesn't believe that a well and disinfection facility could be built to our specifications for that low cost.

Mr. Shura stated the second-lowest cost item was to extend a line from Hampton Hills and install a booster pump near the water tank. Mr. Shura spoke with the PA DEP who indicated we would be required to provide 20 psi at the tap, which Mr. Shura believes we would be able to provide 29 psi at the tap. This option will require the Bellefonte Airport to obtain an easement from a neighboring property owner.

Mr. Shura also asked the PA DEP if the Authority would be able to provide raw water to the Bellefonte Airport property since we were not intending to install a disinfection facility on site at the Szeyller property at this time and the PA DEP said no, only treated water could be provided to the Bellefonte Airport property.

Mr. Lanning asked Mr. Miller what his opinion was about this proposed project and the owner's timeline for water service. Mr. Miller believes this could be an excellent opportunity for the Authority to extend the system within the area which is a community benefit based on the nitrate levels found in many private wells. Mr. Miller also stated he has been informed that the developer has not submitted a formal request to Benner Township or the Centre County Planning Office and believes this project may take longer than the developer is planning. The Board decided that our main objective is to focus on a new well and the developer would be responsible to negotiate with this Authority once the approvals are in place at the Township/County level.

GUESTS: There were no Guests in attendance at the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence presented for discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Spring Creek Watershed One Water Plan – Mr. Lanning indicated he is a member of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission and asked if everyone in attendance was familiar with the Watershed's One Water Plan. He then provided the background of the One Water Plan and asked the Board and its support staff for their input on the goal of the One Water Plan. Mr. Lanning thanked everyone for their input on the plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Residential/Commercial Rates – Mr. Eby stated that following the last meeting Mr. Elnitski approached him about the water rates this Authority would charge for the proposed RV Park at the Bellefonte Airport property. Mr. Eby explained the rate structure for the Benner Elementary School to Mr. Elnitski and indicated he thought a similar rate structure would be followed. Mrs. Gill was included in the email chain to Mr. Elnitski and expressed concern with that approach since it's not consistent with the Water Authority's rules and regulations. Discussion was held about the need to update the Water Authority's rules and regulations to possibly incorporate a rate structure for commercial properties since the current rules and regulations do not address this. Mr. Miller and Mrs. Gill will work together to provide some recommendations at a future meeting.

SCI Rockview Nursery Fire – Mr. May indicated that there was a fire at SCI Rockview's nursery last week and he was surprised to see that the emergency personnel did not use the fire hydrants within Peru. He stated that several tanker trucks were used instead. Mr. Miller stated he will contact Mr. Royer with the Pleasant Gap Fire Company to inquire about why the hydrants weren't accessed.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Warren Miller and Brian Shura to meet with Mark Stephens, PA DEP.
2. SBWJA staff to update Rules and Regulations and provide rate recommendations for commercial water customers.
3. Key Points of BTWA 02/16/2021 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
 - a. The BTWA representatives will be meeting with the PA DEP at the Szeyller property along Raymonds Lane on 02/23/2021 to review the proposed well site.
 - b. There was another set of water service lines underneath Chicory Avenue on 01/27/2021 that were leaking and were completely replaced. As with the other leaks, the copper lines were installed within PVC conduit and bedded in limestone. This will likely be an issue for all service lines extending from the main to the other side of the road within the development, until they've all been replaced. This repair will be in excess of \$2,000 once the restoration work is completed later this year.
 - c. A rate increase notification letter was hand delivered to each of the BTWA customers outlining the need for capital projects and routine maintenance work. We have received some calls pertaining to the increase.
 - d. The PFAS testing that the PA DEP completed of the Grove Park well and Hampton/Opequon well on 11/18/2020 resulted in no detection of PFAS.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. May moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. 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
February 16, 2021**

GUEST LIST

1. None present
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