

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

March 16, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Eby
Timothy Edkin
James Lanning
Jerrold May
Andrew Swales

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The March 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 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 February 16, 2021 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Minutes of the February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. 5 ayes, 0 nays. 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. Mrs. Gill indicated the Bills by Vendor report reflects a \$31,000 payment being issued to K.A.R. Storage Tank Erectors representing a 40% down payment for the Hampton Hills tank rebuild project. The contractor is requiring the down payment by the end of March 2021 for the project currently planned for May 2021. Mrs. Gill informed the Board that monies will need transferred from the Authority's Public Funds Money Market account (Savings) at First National Bank (FNB) to the Authority's Preferred Interest account (Checking) at FNB to cover the cost of the down payment. The Board was provided with a Funds Transfer Authorization in the amount of \$31,000 that will require execution by two authorized FNB check signers. Mr. Lanning asked if there were any issues with the Authority's cash flows. Mr. Eby indicated the majority of the Authority's monies are held in the savings account and the monies in the checking account are primarily used for routine expenses. The Authority's 2021 budget reflects using monies from reserves to fund a portion of the tank rebuild project. **Mr. Lanning moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to authorize transferring \$31,000 from the Authority's FNB Public Funds Money Market account to the Authority's FNB Preferred Interest account for the 40% down payment for the Hampton Hills water tank rebuild project and sign the Funds Transfer Authorization form as presented. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

With no further questions pertaining to the Treasurer's Report, **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$1,142.87 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$35,657.03. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

GUESTS:

Spring Creek Watershed Commission (One Water Plan) – Mr. Lanning indicated he asked Paul Takac, College Township Supervisor and Spring Creek Watershed Commission Vice-Chairman, to attend the meeting to provide a presentation on the One Water Plan. Mr. Takac indicated the goal of the presentation is to provide the history of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission and a synopsis of the Phase II Report that was recently completed.

The Spring Creek Watershed Commission is comprised of 12 membered municipalities which include Bellefonte Borough, Benner Township, College Township, Ferguson Township, Halfmoon Township, Harris Township, Milesburg Borough, Patton Township, Potter Township, Spring Township, State College Borough and Walker Township. Mr. Takac would like to brief everyone on the future plans of the Commission and gather comments/feedback for use when having discussions with the 12 membered municipalities to gain their endorsement moving forward.

The One Water Plan is an innovative, collaborative approach to water resource management in which municipalities work together to maximize benefits, reduce redundancy and save money. The long-term benefits include a reliable, high-quality

water supply and a healthy sustainable ecosystem, but also enhance economic and recreational opportunities to benefit everyone in the Townships.

The Spring Creek Watershed covers approximately 175 square miles with a population of about 130,000 people. It's highly developed along much of its land. The area is underlain by extraordinary Karst geology and a huge aquifer system. The Spring Creek Watershed Commission was founded in 1996 to help develop a vision and a plan for the Watershed's future. The Commission is made up of representatives from the elected officials of 12 of the 14 municipalities in the Spring Creek Watershed. It's also actively supported by roughly 30 other stakeholders (Trout Unlimited, Clearwater Conservancy, Other Non-Profits, Water and Wastewater Authorities, Local, County, Regional and State agencies).

The mission statement of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission can be summarized in three words: Vision, Leadership and Planning. The mission was to establish a long-term consensus vision for the watershed and to take a leadership role in developing a comprehensive, long-term plan that could help guide future projects and advance that vision on behalf of the member municipalities. In 2003 the Commission published a Phase I report to help guide development of the watershed and thoroughly analyze the overall environment. This phase had two primary objectives – the first was to produce a comprehensive matrix of problems and challenges facing the watershed. Along with potential solutions and topics for future research. The second was to identify and organize existing data on the watershed-- particularly surface and groundwater, water supply and land use. After the first report was completed further progress stalled due to a lack of funds for nearly 15 years.

In 2017 Phase II commenced which was funded by local municipalities, authorities, the Pennsylvania State University, non-profits and local businesses (totaling \$16,000). This support allowed the Commission to hire a facilitator and have some administrative support. A work group was formed that developed additional background information and organized several public forums and presentations to gather input from the community. This identified population growth was accelerating and the lack of a comprehensive plan to help identify and prioritize challenges increased the risk that water resources may be insufficient at some point to meet the needs of the community and of the ecosystem. This increased the need for a more collaborative and cooperative approach. It also became clear that what was not needed was another bureaucratic or regulatory layer, but rather the development of robust partnerships between all of the stakeholders and the public. The resulting Phase II report was approved by the Spring Creek Watershed Commission in December of 2019 and a copy has been made available to the municipalities.

The key findings are captured in a revised, forward-looking vision statement. The vision for the watershed is an integrative, collaborative, management of water resources in an environmentally, economically and socially beneficial manner. It emphasizes long-term resilience and reliability as well as economic prosperity and the importance of community engagement. Improved communication and coordination are expected to lead to significant benefits including considerable savings by reducing duplication of effort and improving efficiency and effectiveness. Such cooperation will be helpful in securing outside grants. The report emphasizes that in order to make all of this happen a Phase III

planning effort is needed to develop a 50- year roadmap for integrated water resource management in the Spring Creek Watershed.

Mr. Takac indicated there are two steps to be taken. The first step is to obtain a consensus of the majority of the member municipalities moving forward. The Commission hopes that this presentation sufficiently describes the goals, objectives and benefits of such an undertaking. This does not imply funding or a funding commitment at this point. As stated in the governing agreements, any ongoing project of the Commission is strictly voluntary on the part of each municipality.

The second step is to establish a Phase III working group, which would be tasked with preparing a plan/proposal/outline to develop a realistic budget and pursue funding. The initial budget is estimated to be in the range of \$35,000-\$45,000, but that could increase as the project develops. The Commission anticipates that much of this funding will likely come from outside agencies, potentially authorities, organizations as well as member municipalities that are interested in contributing.

As soon as possible, the working group would assist with contracting a project director and/or support staff. Additional responsibilities would include researching other one water plans, engaging other local and statewide stakeholders and providing regular progress reports and presentations not only to the commissioned member municipalities, but the public. Finally, the working group would oversee and supervise the production of a final stage III One Water Report for use by the municipalities.

In conclusion, a comprehensive One Water Plan for the Spring Creek Watershed will provide a strategic vision and framework to maintain economic and environmental prosperity in a high quality of life over the long-term. Improvements and communication or collaboration are expected to lead to improved outcomes and considerable savings. Most importantly this process will help build a greater sense of community and confidence in the future of this unique and precious resource. The Spring Creek Watershed Commission is asking the Authority to support this project by informing our incorporating municipality that the One Water Plan is of interest to us and we would like to see this further develop.

Discussion was held about the Benner Township Water Authority being in support of the next phase of the One Water Plan and how best to show its support. **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. Lanning to inform the Benner Township Supervisors that the Benner Township Water Authority supports the efforts of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission's One Water Plan and would like to see further development of the project. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

John Kostas – Mr. Kostas indicated he was recently informed that Pennsylvania State University's Applied Research Lab test track is using bottled water and wanted to know if the Authority Board knew anything about that. Mr. Miller indicated he thought they were drilling a well at that location, but wasn't aware of any issues.

SBWJA REPORT:

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

System Maintenance –The rate increase notices were hand delivered to each customer of the Authority on 02/09/2021. The motor on the orthophosphate mixer within the Hampton Hills well house was replaced. A resident of Hampton Hills called the office regarding a leaking water meter which was replaced. Water was terminated at the curb box for a customer within Hampton Hills that had a leaking valve inside their home and water service was restored later that day. The well houses were cleaned. Mr. Barton has been working on the operation and maintenance plan for the Grove Park Water system.

Analytical Testing – The monthly bacteria tests were completed for both systems. The Disinfection Requirements Rule (DRR) testing site changed from 222 Edward Drive to 258 Edward Drive for the Hampton/Opequon system. The DRR and bacteria testing site for the Grove Park water system was changed from 125 Chicory Avenue to the Benner Township Municipal building. Mr. Barton indicated the homeowner at 125 Chicory Avenue recently had a water softener installed and was not willing to allow our Authority personnel to bypass the water softener to allow for the proper testing.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were no PA One Calls or Call Outs for the month of February.

Mr. Lanning indicated there is one additional item that should be added to the list. He asked Mr. Miller to assist with stormwater diversion at his residence along West Water Street in Benner Township. He thanked Mr. Miller for taking the time to assist him with this process.

Site Visit for Potential New Water Source – Mr. Miller informed the Board that he attended a meeting at the Szeyller property along Raymonds Lane on 02/23/2021 with Mark Stephens, PA DEP, Mike McCamley and Brian Shura to discuss the possibility of drilling a test well at this location. During the meeting Mr. Stephens suggested the Authority consider the potential development in the surrounding area when developing the well so as not to limit the potential production of the source. On 03/02/2021 we received correspondence from the PA DEP indicating the proposed well site is suitable for community water source development. The correspondence provided guidance on the steps necessary to develop and permit a new public water source.

Mr. Miller indicated he was contacted by a Szeyller family member yesterday inquiring about the status of the project. The Szeyller family informed Mr. Miller that they have recently received other inquiries about the property as well.

The next step would involve obtaining written permission, in the form of an agreement, from the Szeyller family to drill a test well. Mr. Miller has contacted the State College Borough Water Authority to obtain a copy of an agreement they have used for these purposes. He's hoping to have that agreement for the April meeting. **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. Lanning to proceed with finalizing an agreement with the Szeyller Family for drilling a test well on their property along Raymonds Lane. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

Benner Township Supervisor, Larry Lingle, asked how much land would be needed for the proposed well. Mr. Shura stated that in order to maintain the 100-foot radial Zone I protection area, which is the minimum requirement, approximately 1 acre would need obtained. Mr. Miller indicated he told the Szeyller family that we would be looking for up to 2 acres. Mr. Shura confirmed that when discussing the proposed well site with the hydrogeologist he indicated we would need a 150-foot radial zone for the well head protection which equates to approximately 2 acres. Mr. Shura indicated a 150-foot radial protection area would still handle a 100 gpm well which would equate to approximately 150,000 GPD.

Hampton Hills Water Tank Rebuild – As discussed earlier in the meeting, we received a proposal from K.A.R Storage Tank Erectors for rebuilding the Hampton Hills water tank in the amount of \$77,500. We are required to provide a 40% down payment by the end of March 2021. They intend to start the work in mid-May, depending on the weather. Discussion was held about maintaining water service to the customers during the scheduled repair work and Mr. Miller reminded the Board that TC Water Inc. will be invoicing for the use of their equipment during this time. The project is estimated to take two weeks and TC Water would invoice our Authority approximately \$17,000. The contractor has indicated they will not need to remove the existing fencing around the tank during the repair. Mr. Miller indicated the Board may want to consider replacing the fence once the work is complete and suggested the Board stop by the tank to view the condition of the existing fencing. A quote was obtained to replace the existing fencing if the Authority Board would decide to do so.

Rate Increase – Mr. Edkin asked if the Authority has received many complaints about the rate increase that recently went into effect. Mrs. Gill indicated the office staff has received some calls from property owners who inquired about their bill and have hinted that they didn't read the notice that was previously provided to them. Mr. Miller stated Senator Corman's office was receiving some complaints and contacted our office to obtain some additional information. Mr. Miller explained the reasoning for the rate increase and informed Senator Corman's office that the rate comparison provided by the Centre County Planning Office previously identified our rates to be low. As a result of the rate increase, our rates now fall within the median. Mr. Miller also inquired about grant monies when speaking to Senator Corman's office.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Hampton Hills Tank Repair Permit – Mr. Shura indicated he had the permit completed for the repairs to the Hampton Hills water tank which will need signed. He believes this will be treated as a minor amendment to the permit which will result in a \$250 fee as well.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence presented for discussion.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Audit Engagement Letter – Mr. Edkin asked for a copy of the 2019 audit engagement letter to compare to the 2020 audit engagement letter provided by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP. Mrs. Gill indicated the auditors are scheduled to start the audit the week of April 19th, which is prior to our next meeting and expressed concern with delaying the audit for not having an approved audit engagement letter. Mr. Edkin stated that he didn't want to delay the audit, but would like to have the opportunity to review last year's audit engagement letter for comparison. **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Audit Engagement Letter with Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP for completion of the 2020 audited financial statements contingent upon Mr. Edkin's review of the audit engagement letter. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

Jim Lanning – Mr. Lanning requested he be added to the agenda to discuss multiple topics which are: One Water Plan, Planning, Water Reporting, Revised Benner Township Ordinances.

Water Reporting - Mr. Lanning stated that since his appointment to the Benner Township Water Authority Board he has been asked questions from all sides that he believes could be addressed with better communication. Mr. Lanning suggested the Authority Board provide the Benner Township Supervisors with a report on at least a monthly basis that outlines everything discussed at the Water Authority meetings. Mr. Edkin informed Mr. Lanning that a report with key points from each meeting is submitted to the Township Supervisors along with the meeting minutes. Mr. Lanning suggested the report be reviewed in person with the Benner Township Supervisors. Mr. Eby stated he tries to attend all Supervisor's meetings and he could review the report. Mr. Lingle stated that he personally reads the meeting minutes and he thinks that attendance on a quarterly basis would be helpful.

Ordinances – Mr. Lanning reported that there are two work sessions scheduled later this week (March 18th & 19th) to discuss the pending zoning ordinance.

PFAS – Mr. Lanning stated that sometime this month the final report for the PFAS testing around the University Park Airport will be issued. Through discussions with key personnel at the Pennsylvania State University, he understands that traces were found, but they aren't certain if the traces are high enough to report or retest. Mr. Kostas asked if there is anything in writing regarding the conversations. Mr. Lanning said no, all communication has been verbal. Mr. Kostas asked if we can receive something in writing and Mr. Lanning stated he could ask if that was a possibility.

ACTION ITEMS:

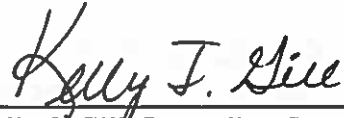
1. Kelly Gill to provide Tim Edkin with a copy of the 2019 Audit Engagement Letter for his review and to compare to the 2020 version.
2. Warren Miller to provide a draft agreement for drilling a test well on the Szeyller property along Raymonds Lane.
3. Key Points of BTWA 03/16/2021 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
 - a. The BTWA representatives met with the PA DEP at the Szeyller property along Raymonds Lane on 02/23/2021 to review the proposed well site. The PA DEP has provided correspondence indicating the proposed site is suitable for community water source development. The BTWA Board is currently drafting an agreement to provide to the Szeyller family for drilling a test well on their property.
 - b. The Spring Creek Watershed Commission was in attendance at the meeting to provide a presentation of the One Water Plan. The BTWA Board supports the efforts of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission's One Water Plan and would like to see further development of the project.
 - c. The repairs to the Hampton Hills water storage tank are tentatively scheduled for May 2021.

Next regular scheduled meeting is April 20th at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 04/21/2021

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

REGULAR MEETING
March 16, 2021

GUEST LIST

1. BRANDON TARR
2. Angela Winder
3. JOHN KOSTES
4. PAUL TAKAE
5. Larry Lingle
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11. _____
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14. _____