

# **BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**May 18, 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  
See Attached Guest List

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The May 18, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:34 P.M. by Tom Eby, Chairman.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Timothy Edkin, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording four members present. Mr. Swales entered the meeting at 6:56 p.m. 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 April 20, 2021 regular meeting were presented for review. Mr. Eby asked if there were any comments or changes to the meeting minutes. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 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. Lanning stated that he understands that we are tracking the system leaks and wanted to know how that is measured on an annual basis. He has been asked that question by several ratepayers and he would like to provide a proper response. Mr. Miller stated the Authority meters what is being pumped out of each well, which is then compared to the water readings (usage) obtained from each customer of that particular water system. Water used during the flushing of hydrants and completion of water testing is estimated and also part of the equation. Our Authority's typical unaccounted for water is less than 10% of the total amount pumped. Our Authority is also required to report this information to the PA DEP on an annual basis as well. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Lanning could always refer those ratepayers to contact our Authority office directly with any questions they may have.

Discussion was then held about modifying the Treasurer's Report to reflect the addition of two payments in the amount of \$50.00 each payable to the Commonwealth of PA for waivers from analytical testing of Dioxins and/or PCBs. Mrs. Gill explained that the waiver is for a three-year cycle and will save the Authority money in lieu of testing for these contaminants. With the fee being \$50.00 per system, the Bills by Vendor report will increase by \$100.00 and bring the total to \$4,574.86. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to approve the Treasurer's Report as amended, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$2,950.22 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$4,574.86.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**SBWJA REPORT:**

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

**System Maintenance** – The maintenance department topsoil/seeded several areas that were affected by water leaks last fall/winter. A final water reading was obtained for a property closing. The calibration curve on the colorimeters were verified which is required by the PA DEP every 90 days. Mr. Barton provided the Board with a description of the necessary steps when calibrating the colorimeters. A new relay/timer was installed at the Hampton Hills well house. That unit controls the chemical feed pumps and it was only working intermittently, so a new one was purchased and installed.

A customer in Hampton Hills development contacted the office regarding their high-water bill. The customer indicated they monitor their water usage and recently had their water softener company ensure it was working properly. We met with the property owner on site to assist with checking for leaks and didn't find any issues. An additional water meter reading was obtained one month after the last one and the customer had used 8000 gallons in that time span.

**Analytical Testing** – The monthly bacteria samples were obtained for both systems in April and the quarterly nitrate/nitrite sample was obtained at the Grove Park water system.

**Call Outs/ PA One Calls** – There were ten PA One Calls located in the month of April.

**Exploratory Well Agreement (Szeyller Family Limited Partnership)** – Following the last board meeting, Mr. Miller provided the Szeyller family with the draft exploratory well agreement which they have accepted and will sign when we are ready to proceed with the project. Mr. Miller recommended the Board determine a time frame for proceeding with the project.

**Interim Financing of New Source Development** – Mr. Shura provided a sample letter for soliciting banking proposals for interim financing of the project. Discussion was held about the terms, conditions and requirements for the financing. Mr. Edkin indicated that he would like language added to the RFP (Request for Proposal) which outlines the basis for accepting the proposal which Mr. Miller indicated would be the best interest rate and fee schedule. Mr. Edkin requested this language be added to the RFP before sending it to the banking institutions.

**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021** – After the last meeting we were informed that Benner Township will be receiving an estimated \$919,967 in grant funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. One of the approved uses for the funds is water infrastructure. A letter was submitted to the Benner Township Supervisors requesting consideration for the Authority's new source and also the scheduled repairs to the Hampton Hills water storage tank. Mr. Miller stated that Benner Township recently received the rules pertaining to use of the funds and believes that the Township has two years to spend the monies. The Township Supervisors seem receptive to our request.

**Mr. Swales entered the meeting at 6:56 p.m.**

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

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

**GUESTS:**

**Bellefonte Airport RV Park** – John Elnitski was in attendance at the meeting to provide the Board with an update on the status of his proposed project at the Bellefonte Airport property. Mr. Elnitski shared a plan with the Authority Board that he intends on submitting in the near future. Mr. Elnitski stated they could drill a well on their property, connect to the Hampton Hills water system or connect to the proposed well on the Szeyller property. Mr. Elnitski indicated that all three alternatives were acceptable to the Centre County Planning Office as presented at their pre-submission meeting and they understand that water service for the project will be determined on where the closest utilities are at the commencement of construction.

Mr. Lanning inquired about the status of the grant that Mr. Elnitski previously mentioned applying for. Mr. Elnitski indicated that the project wasn't awarded any grant monies, but he will be applying for another grant in July. Mr. Elnitski indicated that he has a potential investor for the proposed RV Park.

Mr. Elnitski stated that they intend to approach the Benner Township Supervisors at their June meeting to file for a conditional use hearing for the property. His intention is to have a preliminary plan on the books by this summer.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There was no correspondence presented for discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**New Source Development** – Mr. Eby indicated he would like to have more discussion pertaining to the financing of the project and the necessary steps associated with the project. Mr. Eby asked what the first step would be and Mr. Miller stated soliciting RFPs for interim financing. This would assist the Authority with paying for the design and permitting of the project, which is required prior to applying for PENNVEST funding. Further discussion was held about the deadline for receiving the RFPs and the Board indicated they would like to have the proposals for consideration at the June 15, 2021 meeting. **Mr. Lanning moved, seconded by Mr. Swales to send out a Request for Proposal for interim financing for the New Water Source Development with a due date of 3:00 p.m. on June 10, 2021 so the proposals can be considered at the Authority's June 15, 2021 board meeting. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

Mr. Swales indicated the Pre-Drilling Plan would need to be completed by a Hydrogeologist. Discussion was held about McCamley Hydrogeology, LLC providing the Authority with a proposal in 2018 which outlined the necessary steps associated with the development of a community public water supply well and was approved by the Authority on 11/20/2018. McCamley's proposal also included a total estimated project cost of \$38,925 for their work associated with the project. **Mr. Swales moved, seconded by Mr. Lanning to proceed with Task 2 and Task 3 of McCamley Hydrogeology's July 16, 2018 proposal for Hydrogeologic Consulting Services for the Development of a Community Public Water Supply Well for the Benner Township Water Authority. Task 2 is for the preparation and submission of the pre-drilling plan to the PA DEP. Task 3 is for the preparation of technical specifications. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

Mr. Edkin indicated he would like to see a project plan which outlines each step of the process. Mr. Miller agreed with Mr. Edkin's request and indicated he would contact Brian Shura about preparing and providing the project plan. The project plan will then be emailed to each Board member prior to the next board meeting so additional discussion can occur at the next board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no New Business presented for discussion.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Brian Shura to provide a project plan for the new source development.
2. Send RFPs for interim financing of project with a due date of 06/10/2021.
3. Key Points of BTWA 05/18/2021 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
  - a. The Szeyller family has accepted the draft agreement for drilling a test well on their property. They will sign the agreement once the Authority is ready to proceed with the project.
  - b. The Authority will be sending out a request for proposal (RFP) for interim financing of the project until PENNVEST financing can be obtained. PENNVEST requires the project to be shovel ready before applying for funding. The RFPs are due on 06/10/2021 and will be discussed at the 06/15/2021 Water Authority meeting.
  - c. The Authority authorized McCamley Hydrogeology to proceed with the preparation and submission of the pre-drilling plan to the PA DEP and the preparation of technical specifications for the new water source. The proposal was previously approved by the Authority Board in November 2018 and includes several tasks associated with the hydrogeological work.

**Next regular scheduled meeting is June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. 5 ayes,  
0 nays. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 6/16/2021

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

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 18, 2021**

**GUEST LIST**

1. JOHN KOSTES Grave Park
2. John Elnitski
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