

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

August 17, 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 August 17, 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 entered the meeting at 6:39 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 July 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. Lanning to approve the Minutes of the July 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. Edkin noted the decrease in assets of approximately \$43,000 from June 30, 2021 through July 31, 2021 and wanted to know why that amount didn't correspond with the bills being approved at the meeting of approximately \$27,000. Mrs. Gill stated that the Treasurer's Report (Bank Account Balances) only reflects payments issued through July 31, 2021 and the payments being submitted for approval at tonight's meeting are for invoices that occurred between the last meeting on 07/20/2021 and today. Mrs. Gill stated that a Transactions by Account Report is included in the board packet each month that itemizes all transactions that occurred for each bank account during the previous month.

Mr. Swales entered the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$20,420.00 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$6,990.87. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

SBWJA REPORT:

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

System Maintenance – The Hampton Hills water storage tank panels were pressure washed by our staff. The tank repairs have been completed and the temporary pumping system has been disconnected. Mr. Barton indicated we are currently waiting for the contractor to pick up his temporary pumping system. We replaced an hour meter on one of the service pumps at the Grove Park water system that was no longer functioning and also installed a new transformer. The transformer that controls the hour meter at Grove Park burned up. Mr. Miller stated these are low voltage electrical components in a small cabinet. The fence at the Grove Park well house was repaired. We replaced a pressure gauge at Hampton Hills that was no longer working and obtained a final water reading.

Analytical Testing – Samples were obtained from both systems to complete bacteria, nitrite and nitrate testing in July. The required bacteria and VOC testing for placing the Hampton Hills water tank back into service was completed.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were 10 PA One Calls located in the month of July.

Hampton Hills Water Storage Tank Repairs – Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Barton for all of his work associated with the repairs to the Hampton Hills water storage tank and indicated the project went very smooth. We were able to maintain the water pressure in the system without incident. Mr. Eby asked how long the tank was out of service and Mr. Miller indicated about a month. There were some weather-related delays throughout the process. Mr. Miller stated at some point we should consider replacing the existing fence around the water storage tank, which will be expensive.

PA COSTARS Electricity Procurement – As a member of the COSTARS electricity procurement program we have been informed that a bid was awarded for the electrical energy contract that serves our water systems. The contract will run from 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2024 and the new awarded price will save the Authority approximately \$2,227 over the three-year contract.

Chlorine Gas System – Mr. Miller stated that at the last meeting discussion was held and a rough estimate was provided for upgrading each water system to a chlorine gas feed system. Following the last meeting, Mr. Barton obtained a current quote for the equipment from our supplier, Dennis Chlorination, which amounted to \$4,169.50. Mr. Barton indicated the quote he received did not include the purchase of a chlorine analyzer which would add approximately \$3,000 to the price. Mr. Miller indicated the equipment costs have come down a bit and he would like to adjust his estimate to approximately \$20,000 per system.

American Rescue Plan Funding (ARPF) – Mrs. Gill stated she was recently contacted by Benner Township who informed her that Centre County Commissioners have received American Rescue Plan Funding and are accepting requests for distribution of the grant monies. Mrs. Gill contacted Liz Lose, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development, and provided her with an overview/background of the Authority's capital projects. Ms. Lose suggested the Authority provide a written request to the Centre County Commissioners for further consideration. A letter was drafted and provided at the meeting for signature. It was then suggested that we also mention the interconnection between the Grove Park Water system and the Hampton/Opequon Water system that would be a long-range goal of the Authority. **Mr. Lanning moved, seconded by Mr. May to issue a letter to the Centre County Commissioners requesting consideration of ARPF for the Authority's capital projects to include repairs to the Hampton Hills water storage tank, a new water source to replace the Grove Park well, radio telemetry, upgrading the disinfection controls to a gas chlorine process and an interconnection between the Grove Park Water system and the Hampton/Opequon water system which will require a centrally located water storage tank to equalize system pressure along with providing fire protection. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mrs. Gill stated that she has been in contact with David Gaines, Esquire and he will be attending the 09/21/2021 meeting to address everything needed for the bank closing tentatively scheduled for 10/01/2021.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

New Water Source – Discussion was held about what services would possibly be provided by the Authority's hydrogeologist in connection with drilling the test well and production well. Ultimately this would have an impact on the bid schedule provided to the well driller when soliciting quotes/bids. Mr. Shura suggested contacting McCamley Hydrogeology to discuss their professional services further. **Mr. Lanning moved, seconded by Mr. Swales to authorize Mr. Miller and Mr. Shura to work with McCamley Hydrogeology in determining the tasks to be completed under professional services as it pertains to the drilling of a test well and to proceed as needed to prevent any delays. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried**

GUESTS: There were no Guests wishing to address the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Sierra Club Moshannon Group – We received a copy of a letter that was sent from the Sierra Club Moshannon Group to the Office of the Governor regarding the PFAS contamination found in the soils and waters of Benner Township, Centre County, PA. The purpose of the letter was to ask the Governor's Office to direct appropriate state agencies and responsible organizations to quickly and effectively address the PFAS contamination found locally.

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

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

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Mr. Miller and Mr. Shura to contact McCamley Hydrogeology about professional services provided as part of the new source development.
2. Key Points of BTWA 08/17/2021 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
 - a. The repairs to the Hampton Hills water storage tank have been completed and the tank has been placed back into service.
 - b. The Authority will be providing a letter to the Centre County Commissioners requesting consideration for funding of its capital projects through the American Rescue Plan Funding.
 - c. The Authority will recognize a cost savings of approximately \$2,227 in energy electrical costs over a three-year period as part of the COSTARS Electricity Procurement Program.

Next regular scheduled meeting is September 21st at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. May to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 09/22/2021

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

**REGULAR MEETING
August 17, 2021**

GUEST LIST

1. John Elwick
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____