

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

November 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 November 16, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:32 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 October 19, 2021 regular meeting were presented for review. Mr. Eby asked if there were any comments or changes to the meeting minutes. Mr. Lanning commended Mrs. Gill on the accuracy and thoroughness of her meeting minutes. **Mr. Lanning moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 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. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$1,696.48 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$11,452.70. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

SBWJA REPORT:

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

System Maintenance – Two final water meter readings were obtained in Opequon Hill and the calibration curve on the colorimeters were verified as required by the PA DEP. The chlorine feed pump at the Hampton Hills well house was replaced. An access road was constructed for the test well at the Szeyller property and the road had to be extended to accommodate access for the drill rig. Soil had to be moved to allow for proper drainage of water during the drilling of test well #1.

Analytical Testing – In October samples were obtained from the Grove Park well to complete bacteria, nitrate and nitrite testing. Samples were also obtained from the Hampton/Opequon system to complete bacteria testing.

Call Outs/ PA One Calls – There were 6 PA One Calls located in the month of October.

New Water Source – Following the last Board meeting McCamley Hydrogeology was contacted about completing supplemental fracture trace analysis of the area and he has indicated the work can be completed for \$750.00.

Mr. Miller contacted the Szeyller family to inform them of the results of the test well drilling in October and to obtain permission to continue drilling at another location on the property. The Szeyller family appreciated the update on the progress of the work and provided written permission to move forward with test drilling at the second proposed location on their property.

Mr. Miller indicated that on 11/04/2021 he and Will Barton met with Mark Stephens, PA DEP, and Mike McCamley at the location of the proposed second exploratory well on the Szeyller property. Both Mr. McCamley and Mr. Stephens believe the proposed location will produce a better yield. Mr. Miller suggested waiting until the weather gets a little colder and the soil hardens before having Hull's Well Drilling access the site to begin test drilling. Mr. Miller is hoping to avoid extra costs associated with providing access to the site such as a stoned driveway.

Jersey Shore State Bank Line of Credit (LOC) Financing – Mrs. Gill indicated she had a conversation with Glenn Fisher of Jersey Shore State Bank earlier today about the tentative closing. Mr. Fisher indicated he has completed his review of the documents provided by Attorney Gaines and has some modifications that will need made. Jersey Shore State Bank has extended the deadline for closing to 12/15/2021. Mr. Fisher will contact Mrs. Gill once everything is finalized with Attorney Gaines.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney Gaines was absent from the meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Water Systems Improvement Study – Mr. Shura stated that once the new source is developed, he will prepare a scope for the next steps. At that point the Authority Board will need to decide on how to proceed with the next steps of its final objective. This could include extending a dedicated raw water line to Grove Park or the installation of an on-site disinfection facility which would require a water storage tank. Without Benner Township enacting a mandatory connection ordinance to the water system, Mr. Shura stated it would make more sense to run a raw water line to Grove Park. Mr. Shura continued by stating the most cost-effective option for running the raw water line would be directional drilling in lieu of open cut (trench). Mr. Eby stated the next steps will be dependent upon whether or not the Authority receives some type of additional funding such as grants.

Mr. Miller stated our timing of this project is pretty good because the President just signed the Federal Infrastructure Bill which includes funding to drinking water projects. The PA Municipal Authorities Association just released a statement indicating PennVEST will be overseeing the distribution of the funds and 49% of the funds will be in the form of grants.

GUESTS:

John Kostas - Mr. Kostas inquired about the quarterly nitrate result of the Grove Park well. Mr. Miller stated the nitrate result for the sampling conducted on 10/07/2021 was 8.24 mg/l and has remained steady throughout the year even with the additional rainfall.

Mr. Kostas mentioned that earlier today the PA DEP's Environmental Quality Board voted to move forward with a proposed rulemaking to establish a maximum contaminant level (MCL) in drinking water for PFOA (14 ppt) and PFOS (18 ppt). A 60-day public comment period will be posted in the Pennsylvania bulletin in 2022 with at least five public hearings being recommended.

Mr. Kostas also stated that Cheryl Sinclair, PA DEP, had indicated the Commonwealth has placed a two-mile limit around the contaminated well, near the University Park Airport, for additional PFAS testing to determine the extent of the plume.

CORRESPONDENCE:

PA DEP – We received a letter from Mark Stephens, PA DEP, regarding the Szeyller property site visit on 11/04/2021. Mr. Stephens indicated the proposed well site is suitable for community water source development and he provided guidance on the steps necessary to develop and permit a new public water source.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

American Rescue Plan Funds (ARPF) Meetings – Mr. Lanning provided an update on the discussions with local elected officials in an attempt to obtain American Rescue Plan Funds for the Authority for its capital projects. To date, three have responded affirmatively and one remains to be contacted in person. Mr. Lanning will continue to keep the Authority Chairman and Authority members updated on any progress being made.

2022 Tentative Budget - The 2022 Tentative budget was prepared by SBWJA staff and presented to the Board during the meeting. Mrs. Gill indicated the water revenue is based on 264 connections and does not include the addition of any new customers. Mrs. Gill stated there are a lot of unknowns at this time due to the timing of the new water source, but the budget can always be amended throughout the year if needed.

Mrs. Gill gave a brief description of the following income/expense accounts:

#50106 – Water Revenue - Increased by 2.2%. Based on current year usage and billings.

#50501 – Connection Fees – Did not budget for any new connections.

#52503 – Proceeds from Loan – This account reflects monies received from the line of credit associated with development of the new water source and is estimated to be \$100,000 for 2022. The engineer was consulted with this estimate.

#77501 - Analytical Testing – This Authority will be required to complete an extensive amount of testing in 2022; therefore, the line item was increased by 73.3%. Mrs. Gill indicated this line item may need increased more. Today we received an invoice from Fairway Laboratories that reflected a \$10.00 reporting fee being assessed for each bacteria test being completed. Contact will need made with Fairway Laboratories to determine how/when this is assessed so this can be evaluated further.

#79701 – Contracted Services/SBWJA - Increased by 10%. Further discussion to be held in Executive Session to discuss the contract.

#81703 – Capital Improvements – BTWA - \$100,000 budgeted for the new water source.

#85301 – BTWA Loan Payment - This account reflects interest only payments for the line of credit for the new water source.

#81701 – Capital Reserves – We anticipate adding \$50,750 to our cash reserves in 2022.

The overall budget reflects an 18.8% increase from 2021 to 2022.

Mr. Edkin asked what income account #52502 – System Reserve Income Deposit was being used for. Mrs. Gill stated as a Municipal Authority the BTWA is required to have a balanced budget where income equals expenses. System Reserve Income Deposit was created to identify monies used from savings to balance the budget. The auditor was consulted about how to handle this years ago and suggested the Authority establish an income account for use in balancing the budget. Mrs. Gill referenced the 2021 budget vs. actual report that's included in the board packet and pointed out that it shows no reserves in this line item; therefore, the current year to date shows the Authority as having a net loss.

Mr. Edkin referenced the \$117,306.10 spent year to date for the capital improvements and asked if he could get a breakdown of those expenditures. Mrs. Gill indicated most of the expense was associated with the upgrades to the Hampton Hills water storage tank, but offered to print out a report and email it to all of the board members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mr. Eby recessed the Board or an Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss contracts. The meeting reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

The Board discussed the contracted services provided by the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority (SBWJA) for the operation and maintenance of the water system and indicated they would like to possibly meet or speak with the Benner Township representatives that serve on the SBWJA Board.

Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to approve the 2022 Tentative Budget as presented. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

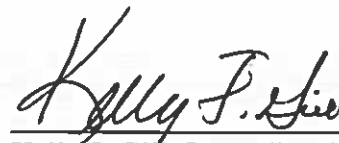
1. Mrs. Gill to email a breakdown of the capital expenditures spent year to date for 2021 to the Board members.
2. Mr. Miller to contact Fairway Laboratories to inquire about the reporting fee that has recently been added to the billings.
3. BTWA Board members to contact SBWJA Benner Township representatives. Mr. Miller to provide names and contact information.
4. Key Points of BTWA 11/16/2021 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
 - a. McCamley Hydrogeology's cost to complete supplemental fracture trace analysis is \$750.00 and he was authorized by the BTWA Board to complete the work.
 - b. A meeting was held at the Szeyller property on 11/04/2021 with the PA DEP, McCamley Hydrogeology and SBWJA staff to review a possible location for a second test well. The PA DEP provided correspondence indicating the proposed well site is suitable for community water source development and provided guidance on the steps necessary to develop and permit a new public water source. The BTWA intends to have Hull's Well Drilling complete the drilling at this location once the ground hardens to possibly avoid any additional expense associated with providing access to the drill rig.
 - c. Several members of the BTWA Board have been contacting/meeting with local legislators in an attempt to obtain grant funding for the Authority's capital projects.
 - d. The BTWA approved a tentative budget for 2022 which reflects an overall increase of 18.8% as compared to 2021.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 12/22/2021

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

**REGULAR MEETING
November 16, 2021**

GUEST LIST

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