

# **BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**December 21, 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 December 21, 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 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 November 16, 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 November 16, 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. Edkin to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$2,075.57 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$4,568.18. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

**SBWJA REPORT:**

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

**System Maintenance** – The daily flows within the Grove Park water system increased by about 1,500-2,000 gallons per day so the maintenance crew spent some time looking for a leak. A leak was found at the Benner Township Municipal building's frost-free hydrant which has since been repaired. A final water meter reading was obtained within Hampton Hills and a new water meter was installed in Opequon Hills. The crew replaced a check valve on the chlorine pump at the Hampton Hills well house and read all of the meters at the Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park water systems.

**Analytical Testing** – Samples were obtained from both systems to complete bacteria testing in November.

**Call Outs/ PA One Calls** – There were 5 PA One Calls located in the month of November.

**New Water Source** – We have been waiting for the ground to freeze in the hope of saving some money on road construction to the well site #2; however, the weather has not been cooperative. Mr. Miller estimates the roadway to well site #2 will cost \$10,000 - \$12,000 for material, equipment and labor and asked the Board for some direction on proceeding with the installation of the road. Discussion was held about the timing of the installation of the driveway as it relates to weather. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to move forward with installing the access road to well site #2 to avoid any further delays with completing the test drilling. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

**Analytical Testing (Reporting Fee)** – Mr. Miller contacted Fairway Laboratories to discuss the \$10.00 reporting fee and has been informed that it will be assessed with each chain of custody per water system. This will increase our overall budget by an estimated \$300.00 in 2022.

**Jersey Shore State Bank Line of Credit (LOC) Financing** – Mrs. Gill indicated the closing for the line of credit at Jersey Shore State Bank is scheduled for 12/31/2021 and will be held at the Solicitor's office. Mr. Eby and Mr. Edkin will be attending the closing.

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

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

**Stakeout of Well Site #2** – Discussion was held about staking out the area of well site #2. Mr. Shura stated he will coordinate the stakeout with Mr. Miller and Mr. Barton.

**GUESTS:**

**John Elnitski** – Mr. Elnitski stated he was in attendance to hear any updates on the new water source, but did inquire about the landowner's thoughts on drilling at a second location on their property. Mr. Miller stated that once it was determined that well site #1 would not produce the quantity of water needed the landowner was contacted to provide an update and request permission to drill at another location on the property. The landowner was provided with a description of the second location and permission was granted to our Authority to proceed as needed to make public water available to the community.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Representative Borowicz Letter of Support** – The Benner Township Water Authority received a copy of a letter of support that was sent from Representative Stephanie Borowicz to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development regarding funding for its projects as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**American Rescue Plan Funds (ARPF)** – Mr. Lanning stated that earlier today he was provided with a letter of support for the Authority’s capital projects from U.S. Congressman Glenn “GT” Thompson which was addressed to the Centre County Commissioners. Mr. Lanning commended Mr. Miller and Mrs. Gill for their part in preparing the letter that was previously issued to the Centre County Commissioners in August of 2021 requesting consideration for funding which was the platform used by local legislators to create their letters of support on behalf of the Authority. Mr. Lanning indicated some additional letters of support are in the works and should be forthcoming.

**2022 Budget** – Mrs. Gill indicated the 2022 Tentative Budget that was approved at the last meeting was slightly modified to reflect the increase in analytical testing expense as a result of the reporting fee that is now being assessed. This resulted in line item # 77501 – Analytical Testing being increased by \$300.00 per year to \$5,500.00. Mrs. Gill stated that line item #81701 – Capital Reserves was then reduced by \$300.00 per year to \$50,450.00.

Mr. Eby asked if there were any questions pertaining to the budget. **Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the 2022 Budget as amended. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

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

**ACTION ITEMS:**

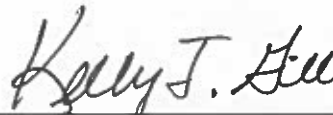
1. Mr. Eby and Mr. Edkin will attend the closing on 12/31/2021 for the line of credit.
2. SBWJA to build an access road to well site #2.
3. Mr. Lanning will continue to contact local legislators for their support of the ARPFs for BTWA's capital projects.
4. Key Points of BTWA 12/21/2021 meeting to be submitted to Benner Township Supervisors.
  - a. The BTWA authorized the construction of an access road to well site #2 on the Szeyller property to provide access for Hull's Well Drilling to complete the drilling in the near future.
  - b. The bank closing for the line of credit is scheduled for 12/31/2021.
  - 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. The BTWA has been provided with two letters of support for its projects to date. One letter is from Representative Borowicz and the other is from Congressman Thompson.
  - d. The BTWA approved the 2022 budget which reflects an overall increase of 18.8% as compared to 2021.

**Next regular scheduled meeting is January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 01/19/2022

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

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**December 21, 2021**

**GUEST LIST**

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