

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

July 16, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Eby
Timothy Edkin
Jerrold May

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 July 16, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Thomas Eby, Chairman.

ROLL CALL:

Timothy Edkin, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording three members present. Mr. Lanning and Mr. Swales were excused from the meeting. 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 June 18, 2024 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. May moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to approve the Minutes of the June 18, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 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 \$8,640.34 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$24,696.58. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

SBWJA REPORT:

June 2024 System Overview – Mr. Barton provided an overview of the work completed for the Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) for the month of June.

Water Permits and/or Lateral Inspections – The Authority received one (1) new water permit application and completed one (1) water lateral inspection. A water meter was installed at 136 Edward Drive, which recently connected to the Authority's water system.

System Maintenance – A couple of site visits were completed to a home along Millgate Road for low water pressure and then to discuss the Authority's water meter setting requirements with the customer's plumber who was making some repairs. Follow-up meter readings were obtained at two homes within Opequon Hill due to atypical water usage. One of the homes was determined to have an internal water leak. The quarterly blowoffs were flushed within the Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park systems in June to aid in maintaining water quality. The fire hydrant at the Benner Elementary School was flushed to maintain water quality in the mainline due to low usage.

Lead & Copper Service Line Inventory – Two (2) service line inventory surveys and one (1) re-inspection of the repair work was completed within the month of June.

Analytical Testing – In June samples were obtained from the Grove Park water system and Hampton/Opequon water system to complete bacteria testing.

PA One Calls – There were three (3) PA One Calls located in the month of June.

Grove Park Water System (Grant Work) – The high service pumps and new VFDs were installed at the Grove Park well house as part of the grant project.

Nitrate Levels – Mr. Barton indicated the annual nitrate sampling was completed at the Hampton/Opequon water system on July 3, 2024 as well as the quarterly sampling of the Grove Park water system. The nitrate level of the Hampton/Opequon water system was 2.49 mg/l and the Grove Park water system was 8.02 mg/l.

PA DCED Local Share Account Grant Funding – We are currently waiting for the PA DCED to process our last two requests for reimbursement for the expenses associated with the grant work at each water system. The reimbursement requests total more than \$20,000 and should be forthcoming as per a recent email. Mr. Miller explained that a condition of the grant is for our vendors (subgrantee) to sign a Non-Discrimination/Sexual Harassment Clause, which needs to be provided to the PA DCED with submission of the grant reimbursement request. We were waiting for one vendor to provide the signed document, which has been received and was submitted to the PA DCED last week.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. Eby indicated that he recently spoke with Michael Levandoski, Esquire to familiarize him with the Authority and the renegotiation of the agreement with the SCBWA. Mr. Eby asked that Attorney Levandoski be added to the email list when the monthly board packet and meeting minutes are distributed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Nitrate Removal System (Grove Park) – Mr. Shura stated the public water supply permit application for the nitrate removal system has been submitted to the PA DEP and is currently under technical review. Once the construction permit has been issued, SBWJA staff will be able to move forward with the project including the connection to the public sewer system.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

PA DEP - We received a public water supply minor permit amendment from the PA DEP for the construction /installation of a VFD at the Opequon well and radio telemetry for the Hampton Hills water system.

PA DEP – We received notification from the PA DEP that they have received and reviewed the public water supply construction permit application for the installation of a nitrate removal system at the Grove Park treatment facility. The application has been deemed administratively complete and is currently under technical review.

Baker Tilly (Independent Auditor's Report) – Baker Tilly has provided an Independent Auditor's Report for the year ending December 31, 2023.

Letter to Robert Mix, Esquire – A copy of the letter issued to Robert Mix, Esquire for the termination of legal services was distributed to the board members.

Robert Mix, Esquire – The Authority received an email from Robert Mix, Esquire regarding the lead and copper rule inventory and the denial of access by property owners to complete the necessary internal inspection.

OLD BUSINESS:

Service Line Inventory Inspection (Access to Water Meter) – Over the last year SBWJA staff have been working diligently to complete a service line inventory inspection of every public water system customer's home to maintain compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) lead and copper rule revisions. As discussed during previous Authority meetings, there are several homes (approximately 20 remaining) that we have not been able to gain access to the water meter inside the home to complete the required inspection. SBWJA staff have made multiple attempts (letters, phone calls, knocking on doors, leaving notes requesting contact, etc.) to reach the homeowner to schedule the required inspection, but have been unsuccessful.

Discussion was held about enforcing the Authority's rules and regulations, specifically Section 6.5 (Access to Meters) which indicates the consumer shall provide access to the meter for the authorized agents, servants and employees of the Authority at all reasonable times to replace, inspect, test, repair and read the meter, and service may be discontinued to any consumer who refuses or persistently neglects to arrange for such access. This would allow the Authority to terminate water service to those homes that have not complied with our request. The Board authorized SBWJA staff to mail a letter to each of the remaining properties that have not had the inspection completed informing them that if the inspection is not completed by August 16, 2024 that water service will be terminated to the property until such inspection is completed. The homeowner will also be provided with the option of providing photos, in a format acceptable to the Authority, that can be used to fulfill the requirements of the lead and copper service line inventory. The completed service line inventory is due to the PA DEP by October 16, 2024.

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

ACTION ITEMS:


1. Mr. Miller to prepare and send a letter to the customers who haven't had their service line inventory inspection completed providing a deadline of 08/16/2024 or water service will be terminated to the property until such inspection is completed.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 09/19/24

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

**REGULAR MEETING
July 16, 2024**

GUEST LIST

***Please be sure to print your name on the lines below.**

1. John Elmitzki
2. _____
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