

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

April 15, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Eby
Timothy Edkin
James Lanning
Jerrold May
Andrew Swales

OTHER ATTENDEES: Will Barton – SBWJA
Kelly Gill – SBWJA
Brian Shura, P.E. – Stiffler McGraw
Michael Levandoski, Esq. – MKC Law
See Attached Guest List

CALL TO ORDER:

The April 15, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Jerrold May, Chairman.

ROLL CALL:

Timothy Edkin, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording four members present. Mr. Swales entered the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Mr. May, 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 March 18, 2025 regular meeting were presented for review. Mr. Lanning stated he continues to have computer problems which prevented him from opening any attachments associated with the electronic board packet; therefore, he would be abstaining from voting. **Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.** 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 1 abstention. **The motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Edkin reviewed the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. May asked the Board if there were any questions or comments regarding the Paid Checks or Bills by Vendor submitted for approval. **Mr. Lanning moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$1,208.59 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$5,239.21.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

SBWJA REPORT:

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

System Maintenance – The quarterly blowoffs were flushed within the Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park systems in March to aid in maintaining water quality. Quarterly water meter readings were obtained in the Village of Peru. We installed a new pump for the chlorine feed at Hampton Hills.

Analytical Testing – In March samples were obtained from both water systems for bacteria testing.

PA One Calls – There were two (2) PA One Calls located in the month of March.

Grove Park Nitrate Level – Mr. Barton indicated the nitrate level of the Grove Park well on April 3, 2025 was 8.77 mg/l.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Stipulation/Payment (110 & 122 Teasel Way) – Mr. Levandoski stated that back in February of 2025 the Authority Board proceeded with the condemnations of an easement across the Mazzitti and Henninger properties. Following the last meeting there were some discussions held among a few board members and the property owners in an attempt to reach a settlement. Mr. Levandoski stated both property owners have agreed to accept a payment of \$2,500.00 each for the easement and have already signed a stipulation which will finalize the condemnation so that the easement is in place. Mr. May stated that the initial request from the property owners was \$8,000 each. Mr. Edkin and Mr. May met with the property owners on site following the last meeting to review/discuss the location of the sewer line and Mr. Edkin was able to negotiate the payment with the property owners. **Mr. Lanning moved, seconded by Mr. Edkin to approve the stipulation that the Mazzitti and Henninger's have already signed where they accept compensation of \$2,500.00 each for the easement that the Authority has condemned as full/just compensation.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

Discussion was then held about the method of issuing payment to the Mazzitti and Henninger families. The Board questioned how soon the work would begin to install the nitrate removal system. Mr. Barton stated he would need to discuss that with Mr. Miller and would send an update by email.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Shura had nothing to report.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA) – In response to our request for operator services, SCBWA sent a letter indicating the Board voted to not submit a proposal at their March 20, 2025 meeting. SCBWA referred the BTWA to Bellefonte Borough or Spring Township as potential sources for contracted operator services.

ELA Group – The Authority received a letter from Matthew Harlow of the ELA Group inquiring if the BTWA has an interest in providing public water service to a portion of the Tomco property (Tax Parcel No. 12-004-,017-,0000-) which lies along Buffalo Run Road. Mr. Harlow is requesting written confirmation as to whether the BTWA has an interest in providing public water and if not, then he would require written confirmation stating the BTWA does not object to SCBWA providing the public water supply. Mr. May stated the tax parcel borders the Village of Nittany Glen, which is currently served by the SCBWA. Mr. May stated without any service in the area, the BTWA would have no other option than to decline providing public water service to the tax parcel in question.

OLD BUSINESS:

RFP for Water System Operations – Following the last meeting Mr. Edkin and Mr. May sent out RFPs with a due date of April 11, 2025. Mr. Edkin indicated to date he only received responses from Spring Township and Milheim Borough. Spring Township and Milheim Borough both indicated they do not have the manpower to provide these services. Mr. Edkin asked if SBWJA received any responses and Mrs. Gill stated no. Mr. Edkin stated he does not know what to do from here.

Mr. Swales entered the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Mr. May stated he received an email from College Township requesting additional information and the last response received was that College Township would not be able to respond before the BTWA's April 15, 2025 meeting. Mr. May will follow up with College Township to see if they may be interested.

Attendance at Benner Township Supervisor's Meeting – Mr. May reported that he attended the April 7, 2025 Benner Township Supervisor's meeting regarding the BTWA's situation. The Supervisors talked about sending a letter to SBWJA to see if they may be interested in acquiring all assets of the BTWA so that continuing service could be provided to customers of the BTWA. Mr. May stated there was also mention of setting up a work session between the Benner Township Board of Supervisors and the SBWJA Board.

Walnut Grove Estates (WGE) – Mr. Edkin reported that he, Mr. Swales and Mr. Elnitski attended a meeting with several representatives of PSU on 04/11/2025 where the following was discussed. The BTWA doesn't have the funds to design, construct or maintain a public water system to serve WGE. If anything is going to happen, from BTWA's standpoint, PSU will have to fund the monies. Mr. Edkin stated discussion was also held about the potential for grant funding to facilitate the project, in which the BTWA could apply for a water grant, which PSU doesn't have the ability to do.

Mr. Edkin stated that the meeting was mostly informational and no decisions were made or promised. PSU representatives indicated they would take the information back to the necessary PSU personnel for discussion. Mr. Swales anticipates continued communication/conversation with PSU throughout this process. Mr. Elnitski stated he believes providing the history of the BTWA during that meeting has helped PSU to better understand the situation. Mr. May thanked Mr. Edkin, Mr. Swales and Mr. Elnitski for attending the meeting with PSU and providing an update during the BTWA's meeting.

List of Requirements for Submission to Benner Township Supervisors – Mr. May indicated the list of requirements that the BTWA would need from the Benner Township Supervisors which was discussed at the February meeting was never formally presented to the Township Supervisors; therefore, Mr. May suggested the information be submitted now. The list previously prepared by Mr. Swales addressed items the BTWA would need from the Benner Township Supervisors before they (BTWA) could consider any water projects in the township such as defining BTWA's service area, enactment of a must-tap ordinance and providing resources to address the outdated service agreement with SCBWA. **Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to authorize preparation of a letter to the Benner Township Supervisors outlining a list of requirements needed for the BTWA to address requests for water service within the township. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

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

ACTION ITEMS:

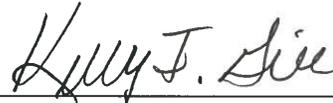
1. Mrs. Gill to process the payments to Mazzitti and Henninger as part of the approved stipulation.
2. A letter will be prepared by Mr. Swales in response to ELA Group's request for public water service to the Tomco property in Benner Township.
3. Mr. Swales to prepare a letter to the Benner Township Supervisors outlining a list of requirements needed to address requests for water service within the township.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Swales to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. 5 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 05/21/2025

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

REGULAR MEETING
April 15, 2025

GUEST LIST

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

1. Dennis McDowell
2. John Elitski
3. Lee + Ellen Cooper
4. Scott Fleng
5. Nancy Albright
6. David Albright
7. John M. O'Regan
8. Who Rats
9. JOHN MR. LAGE
10. Karl Howe
11. Will Houn
12. KEN SMITH
13. Marshall Aci
14. ROB HUFFARD

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GUEST LIST

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

- 15. Deborah Rhoads
- 16. _____
- 17. _____
- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____
- 21. _____
- 22. _____
- 23. _____
- 24. _____
- 25. _____
- 26. _____
- 27. _____
- 28. _____