

# BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

## REGULAR MEETING

June 17, 2025

### ATTENDANCE:

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

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Kelly Gill – SBWJA  
Michael Levandoski, Esq. – MKC Law  
See Attached Guest List

### CALL TO ORDER:

The June 17, 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 was excused from the meeting. Mr. Edkin stated Mr. Swales is available by telephone if needed. 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 May 20, 2025 regular meeting were presented for review. Mr. May asked if there were any questions. Mr. Lanning indicated he is still trying to locate prior meeting board packets which include meeting minutes, agendas, correspondence, financials, etc. Mr. Lanning stated that he and Mrs. Gill reviewed/discussed his issues with viewing the attachments that are emailed with the board packet just prior to this evening's meeting, but he would like it mentioned in the minutes. Mrs. Gill stated that she showed Mr. Lanning how to open the attachments on his iPad just prior to the meeting so this shouldn't be an issue going forward. **Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to approve the Minutes of the May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.** 3 ayes, 1 nay, 1 absent. **The motion carried.** Mr. Lanning voted against approving the minutes.

**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. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, the Paid Checks in the amount of \$2,303.00 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$7,968.16.** 3 ayes, 1 nay, 1 absent. **The motion carried.** Mr. Lanning voted against approving the Treasurer's Report, Paid Checks and Bills by Vendor.

**SBWJA REPORT:**

**May System Overview** – An overview of the work completed for the Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) for the month of May was included in the board packets.

**System Maintenance** – A water meter was installed at 292 and 294 Meadow Flower Circle and a Service Line Inventory Survey was completed of both properties. The snubbers at the Hampton Hills well house were cleaned (parts associated with tank level control system). Quarterly water meter readings were obtained at the Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park water systems.

**Analytical Testing** – In May samples were obtained from both water systems for bacteria testing and SOCs. PFAS sampling was completed for the Grove Park water system.

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

**Meeting with PA DEP Sanitarian** – SBWJA staff (licensed operators) met with the PA DEP Sanitarian in May to discuss lead and copper sampling requirements due to having to update the sampling site plan as a result of the service line inventory that was completed last year.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

**Address Resignation of Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) Board Members** - Mr. Levandoski indicated he would like to deliver a communication from the Benner Township Solicitor, Rodney Beard. Mr. Levandoski stated the Benner Township Supervisors have instructed Mr. Beard to prepare an ordinance to dissolve the BTWA. The Benner Township Supervisors, through Mr. Beard, have requested those BTWA board members who have submitted resignations letters to hold off on those if at all possible because there will be requirements for resolutions to be passed by the BTWA Board to effectuate the dissolution. With three of the five BTWA board members intending to resign, the BTWA would no longer have a quorum to conduct business, which includes paying bills and other important tasks. Mr. Levandoski indicated he was asked to pass that information/request along to the BTWA Board.

Mr. May stated personally he feels as though the Benner Township Supervisors have drug their feet for some time with the situation and he feels as though they have been no help; therefore, he will not change his mind. Mr. May emailed his letter of resignation to the Benner Township Secretary earlier this afternoon with an effective date of immediately following this evening's meeting.

Mr. Edkin stated he is in agreement with Mr. May especially since the Benner Township Supervisors knew of the planned resignation immediately following last month's meeting and have done nothing to address the situation.

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

**Grove Park Nitrate Removal System** – Mr. Lanning inquired about the status of the installation of the nitrate removal system at Grove Park. Mr. Shura indicated his only role with the project was for the permitting. Mr. Elnitski stated he was in attendance at the work session between the Benner Township Supervisors and the SBWJA Board where it was discussed. Mr. Elnitski stated SBWJA won't take the responsibility with the installation of the system because they terminated their contract with the BTWA and they want to ensure an official body takes over the water authority operations. Mr. Elnitski also stated that he believes if the recent election went another way that SBWJA wouldn't even be considering taking over the water systems.

**GUESTS:**

**David Roberts** – Mr. Roberts introduced himself to the BTWA Board and stated that he has been a big advocate for water issues in the township. Benner Township Supervisors have appointed him to serve on the Spring Creek Watershed Commission. Mr. Roberts provided an overview of sampling that was completed of Spring Creek, Bald Eagle Creek and Buffalo Run for PFAS.

**John Elnitski** – Mr. Elnitski stated he has been attending the BTWA meetings consistently for a few years now and wanted to let the BTWA Board know that he appreciates them and thanked them for their service. Mr. Lanning thanked Mr. Elnitski for his assistance with the SCBWA agreement and other surrounding authorities in the region.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There was no Correspondence presented for the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2024 Audit** - Baker Tilly US, LLP has provided the Board with a draft copy our 2024 audit for review. Mrs. Gill indicated she was asked to provide the auditor with complete access to our accounting software remotely along with back-up documentation electronically.

Mrs. Gill provided the overview of the financial statements with the Board. Mrs. Gill indicated that the Authority's current assets consist of \$346,160 which is an increase from 2023.

Mrs. Gill reported the Authority's total operating revenues slightly decreased from \$153,910 in 2023 to \$152,018 in 2024. This is mostly attributed to a reduction in customer water usage. Mrs. Gill noted the operating expenses increased from \$138,880 in 2023 to \$195,826 in 2024 for an operating loss of \$43,308 (including depreciation of \$44,784). The increase in operating expenses is mostly due to the PA DEP's requirements associated with completing the SLIS work which amounted to an overall cost of \$56,946. The overall net position increased from \$1,406,256 in 2023 to \$1,530,229 in 2024.

Mrs. Gill stated that the 2024 audited financial statements include the Management's Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally require.

Mr. Lanning asked if there were any corrections associated with the audit and Mrs. Gill stated no, other than some typical year end journal entries which will be provided once the audit is approved. Mr. Lanning stated that he cannot approve something he did not have the opportunity to review. Mrs. Gill stated the draft audit was emailed to all board members the Friday before the meeting as part of the board packet.

Mr. Edkin stated he reviewed the management letter earlier today and indicated the management letter is the opportunity for the audit company to tell the audited entity what they did wrong or things they should be doing differently. Mr. Edkin stated the letter was clean with no findings which is unheard of. Mr. Edkin thanked Mrs. Gill for the way she is running the operation with the administration, which is over the top.

**Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. May to approve the 2024 audited financial statements as presented. 3 ayes, 1 nay, 1 absent. The motion carried.** Mr. Lanning voted against approving the 2024 audit.

**Resignation Letters** – Mr. May indicated he, Mr. Swales and Mr. Edkin submitted letters of resignation to the Benner Township Supervisors (via their secretary) earlier today effective at the conclusion of this meeting. Mr. May stated he will not change his mind about the resignation. Mr. Edkin stated he is not inclined to change his decision either.

Mr. Levandoski informed the two remaining BTWA board members, Mr. Eby and Mr. Lanning, that with only two members remaining, no further business can be conducted at the conclusion of this meeting. This will require the Benner Township Supervisors to appoint new BTWA board members. Once board appointments are made by the Benner Township Supervisors, the BTWA will have to hold a reorganization meeting to elect new officers for ongoing business purposes.

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

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Filing of 2024 Audit.

**Next regular scheduled meeting is July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Edkin moved, seconded by Mr. May to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 07/16/2025

**BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY  
170 IRISH HOLLOW ROAD  
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823  
(814) 355-4778**

**REGULAR MEETING  
June 17, 2025**

**GUEST LIST**

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

1. David Roberts 1995 Valley View Rd
2. John Elritski
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