

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

August 19, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Fenush
Joshua Fitz
James Lanning
Garen Smith

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The August 19, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Garen Smith, Chairman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Smith led the Board Members, Guests, Professional Services and Contracted Services in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Joshua Fitz, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording four members present. Mr. Eby was absent from the meeting. 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 July 15, 2025 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Fenush moved, seconded by Mr. Fitz to approve the Minutes of the July 15, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.** 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention, 1 absent. **The motion carried.** Mr. Lanning abstained from voting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Smith asked Mrs. Gill to review the Treasurer's Report with the Board. Mrs. Gill provided an overview of the Treasurer's Report as presented, which included Paid Checks in the amount of \$3,424.34, Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$8,065.17, bank account balances for the period ending July 31, 2025 and the budget vs. actual report through July 31, 2025. **Mr. Fitz moved, seconded by Mr. Fenush to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, Paid Checks in the amount of \$3,424.34 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$8,065.17.** 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention, 1 absent. **The motion carried.** Mr. Lanning abstained from voting.

SBWJA REPORT:

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

System Maintenance – There were two site visits in July for low water pressure complaints. Mr. Barton reported one was in Grove Park and the other was in Opequon and both were a result of internal plumbing issues. One was a water softener and the other was an issue with the customer's pressure reducing valve.

Analytical Testing – In July samples were obtained from both water systems for bacteria testing, nitrate/nitrite testing and TTHM/HAA5 testing. Mr. Barton reported that nitrate level in the Grove Park well was 7.49 mg/l and Hampton/Opequon's result was 2.19 mg/l.

PA One Calls – There was one (1) PA One Call located in the month of July.

Call Outs – There were two (2) call outs during the month of July at the Grove Park water system for low system pressure. Mr. Barton indicated the cause of those call outs was a bad pressure switch which has since been replaced.

Lead/Copper Sampling – Mr. Barton informed the Board that all of the samples for the lead and copper sampling of both water systems have been collected and are currently at the laboratory to be analyzed. The sampling was required to be completed by September 30, 2025.

Grove Park Nitrate Removal System – Mr. Smith asked Mr. Barton for an update on the nitrate removal system at the Grove Park water system. Mr. Barton confirmed that all equipment has been purchased and indicated the installation is not currently scheduled. Mr. Barton then suggested Mr. Smith speak to Mr. Miller about the timeframe for the installation of the system.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Ordinance to Dissolve the Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) – Mr. Levandoski stated he spoke with Mr. Beard, Benner Township's Solicitor, who indicated an ordinance to dissolve the BTWA will be on the September meeting agenda of the Benner Township Supervisors.

SBWJA Articles of Incorporation – Mr. Smith asked Mr. Levandoski if he had an opportunity to review the ordinance that identified the makeup of the SBWJA Board. Mr. Levandoski stated the ordinances from each of the incorporating municipalities as well as the Articles of Incorporation state the SBWJA is comprised of nine (9) board members with four (4) representatives from Spring Township, three (3) representatives from Benner Township and two (2) representatives from Walker Township. Mr. Levandoski indicated he believes that was based on population at the time. Mr. Levandoski informed the Board that those numbers are fixed unless the Supervisors from all three incorporating municipalities would amend that at some point in the future. Mr. Smith stated there was a question/concern about that relative to the water authority in Benner Township not having sufficient voice at SBWJA. Mr. Levandoski confirmed that no municipality has majority on the SBWJA Board.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Village of Peru Corrective Action Plan – Mr. Shura provided the Board with the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that was submitted to the PA DEP for the Village of Peru, which outlined a timeline for compliance. Mr. Shura indicated the proposed construction will require the installation of a vault for a meter and sampling location near the interconnection point, but prior to the first customer. Mr. Shura stated a permit application and all of the associated documentation will be submitted to the PA DEP prior to a construction permit being issued. Mr. Shura indicated the timeline is drawn out to allow for the work to be completed in house. Further discussion was held about the PA DEP's default schedule as referenced in the notice of violation.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

PA DEP Water Supply Inspection Report (Peru) – The Authority received a water supply inspection report from the PA DEP for the Peru water system which provided an overview of the consultation with the PA DEP on July 24, 2025 via Microsoft Teams.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Obligation of BTWA – Mr. Smith asked if the BTWA has any legal obligation to inform its customers of any decision the Benner Township Supervisors may make. Mr. Levandoski indicated the BTWA has no legal obligation, but suggested it would be beneficial to provide some form of notification to its customers once a final decision has been made. Mr. Smith stated perhaps the three entities could get together to decide how it would best be handled.

ACTION ITEMS: There are no outstanding action items.

Next regular scheduled meeting is September 16th at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Fenush moved, seconded by Mr. Fitz to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 09/17/2025

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

**REGULAR MEETING
August 19, 2025**

GUEST LIST

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

1. Jacob Michael
2. Randy Moyer
3. _____
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