

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

September 16, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Eby
Richard Fenush
Joshua Fitz
Garen Smith

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The September 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Benner Township Water Authority was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Garen Smith, Chairman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:

Joshua Fitz, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording four members present. Mr. Lanning was excused 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 August 19, 2025 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Fenush moved, seconded by Mr. Fitz to approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.** 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention, 1 absent. **The motion carried.** Mr. Eby abstained from voting since he wasn't in attendance at the last meeting.

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 Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$7,887.79, bank account balances for the period ending August 31, 2025 and the budget vs. actual report through August 31, 2025. **Mr. Fenush moved, seconded by Mr. Fitz to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$7,887.79.** 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

Mr. Eby informed Mrs. Gill that he received a telephone call and subsequent voicemail from Kish Bank indicating the Authority's money market account is pending dormancy. Mrs. Gill stated that the Authority will need to make a deposit into the account with Kish Bank as soon as possible to avoid dormancy. Mrs. Gill will prepare a check for deposit to Kish Bank and contact the check signers when it's readily available.

SBWJA REPORT:

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

System Maintenance – There was an electrical problem at Grove Park which was determined to be a faulty pressure switch and timer. Those two items were replaced. Two final water meter readings were obtained in Grove Park. We had a site visit to 153 Teasel Way for low water pressure which was an internal issue requiring the pressure reducing valve (PRV) to be replaced. Quarterly meter readings were obtained in the Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park water systems. We flushed all lines, tested fire hydrants and exercised all valves within all three water systems (Hampton/Opequon, Grove Park & Peru). The main line from Hampton Hills towards Benner Elementary was flushed a number of times to maintain water quality due to low usage.

Analytical Testing – In August samples were obtained from both Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park water systems for bacteria testing and lead/copper testing. Samples were also collected for PFAS testing of the Grove Park water system.

PA One Calls – There were five (5) PA One Calls located in the month of August.

Grove Park Nitrate Levels – Mr. Eby indicated the nitrate levels in the Grove Park water system seemed to have decreased since the Authority switched laboratories and asked if contracted staff noticed any correlation. Discussion was held about the impact wet weather seems to have on the results of the nitrate level in the Grove Park well, which was witnessed for the second and third quarter sampling of 2025. Mr. Barton stated he anticipates the fourth quarter sampling will return to typical results due to the dry weather we are experiencing.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: Mr. Levandoski was excused from the meeting.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Village of Peru Corrective Action Plan (CAP) – Mr. Shura stated that just prior to this evening’s meeting he and Mr. Barton met on site to review the proposed location of the vault which is needed for a meter and sampling location at the Village of Peru.

Mr. Shura referenced correspondence received from the PA DEP, which is included in this evening’s board packet, that states the PA DEP agrees the steps outlined in the CAP will ultimately resolve the violation, but they are still discussing internally how best to formally approve the CAP and accommodate the extended timeframe (outside of the 120 days). Mr. Shura stated he fully anticipates the result will be PA DEP issuing a consent order since that’s the only way that the PA DEP can deviate from the timeframe identified in the regulations (120 days). Mr. Shura stated the Authority will likely receive a draft consent order in the near future that will dictate those timeframes listed in the CAP. Mr. Shura stated he’s ready to begin the permitting process once he is authorized to do so, which he understands may be delayed due to the dissolution of the BTWA.

GUESTS: There were no Guests present for the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Benner Township Ordinance No. 146 (Termination of the Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA)) – Mr. Smith indicated the ordinance to dissolve the BTWA was approved/passed by the Benner Township Supervisors at their September 2, 2025 meeting. This ordinance would transfer the assets of the BTWA to Benner Township upon the BTWA’s approval/execution of Exhibit A (Certificate of Termination) which is included in the board packet for tonight’s meeting.

Through discussions with Mr. Levandoski, Mr. Smith indicated that no action on Exhibit A is necessary for tonight’s meeting since Benner Township’s solicitor is currently preparing the documentation needed for Benner Township to receive the assets. Waiting to take action on Exhibit A allows the BTWA to continue to conduct business such as paying invoices. Mr. Smith stated Benner Township anticipates having this finalized by the end of 2025.

Mr. Smith indicated that he has spoken with Mrs. Gill, Mr. Miller and others about notification to the customers, which he feels is important. Mr. Smith’s original intent was to draft a notice to the customers and have input from SBWJA and Benner Township, but with the way the ordinance is set up the press release will come jointly from Benner Township and SBWJA. SBWJA’s and Benner Township’s solicitors are working cohesively to prepare the notice announcing the transition while indicating essentially there is no impact on the customers from the services they have been receiving.

PA DEP Water Supply Inspection Report (Peru) – The Authority received a water supply inspection report from the PA DEP dated August 27, 2025 for the Peru water system pertaining to the CAP. This correspondence was discussed earlier in the meeting as part of the Engineer’s Report.

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

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

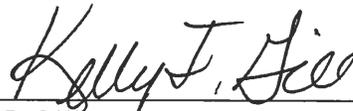
ACTION ITEMS: There are no outstanding action items.

Next regular scheduled meeting is October 21st at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Fenush moved, seconded by Mr. Fitz to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 10/22/2025

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

REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 2025

GUEST LIST

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

1. None present
2. _____
3. _____
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