

BENNER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

October 21, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Eby
Richard Fenush
Garen Smith

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 October 21, 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, Professional Services, Contracted Services and Guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Garen Smith, Chairman, took Roll Call, recording three members present. Mr. Lanning and Mr. Fitz were 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 September 16, 2025 regular meeting were presented for review. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Fenush to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

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 \$2,015.81, Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$7,745.39, bank account balances for the period ending September 30, 2025 and the budget vs. actual report through September 30, 2025. Mr. Smith commented on the total expenses being around 45% of the total budgeted amount for the year and asked if we were expecting any large purchases coming up for the last quarter of the year. Mrs. Gill indicated the nitrate removal system for Grove Park was included in the budget and the project is about to commence, which will be discussed by Mr. Barton during his report. **Mr. Eby moved, seconded by Mr. Fenush to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, Paid Checks in the amount of \$2,015.81 and Bills by Vendor in the amount of \$7,745.39. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

SBWJA REPORT:

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

System Maintenance – The quarterly blowoffs were flushed within the Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park systems in September to aid in maintaining water quality. There was a site visit to 491 Millgate Road as a result of high usage, which was an issue with the homeowner's toilet leaking. Two final water meter readings were obtained in the Hampton/Opequon water system. We had Keystone Engineering on site at Hampton Hills to address SCADA alarms that were not being received, which has since been corrected. We repaired a water leak at the curb stop for 251 Reichenbaugh Lane. Mr. Barton indicated it was leaking on the homeowner's end of the curb stop at the sealing nut and small piece of pipe just outside of the curb stop which he felt was the Authority's responsibility to correct. Mr. Barton stated there may be some restoration work (topsoil & seed) to complete in the spring once settling occurs.

Analytical Testing – In September samples were obtained from both Hampton/Opequon and Grove Park water systems for bacteria 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 September.

Call Out – There was one (1) call out during the month of September to Grove Park for a faulted VFD on the well pump. Mr. Barton indicated there was no issue and it was able to be reset. Mr. Barton indicated the VFD faulted on undervoltage, which he suspects was just a power blip that caused the issue.

Grove Park Nitrate Level - The nitrate level of the Grove Park well on October 2, 2025 was 9.40 mg/l. Mr. Barton reported this is the highest level ever detected in the Grove Park well.

Grove Park Nitrate Removal System – Mr. Barton reported that work began on the Grove Park nitrate removal system on 10/20/2025 and the equipment is scheduled to be delivered on 10/23/2025. The supplier will deliver the equipment and fill the tanks with resin. SBWJA staff will begin the associated plumbing work inside the well house. Trees and brush are being cleared through the Water Authority's property towards Teasel Way for the installation of the sewer lateral for the waste stream from the system. The excavation work and installation of the sanitary sewer lateral will begin tomorrow. Mr. Smith asked if the easement agreements have been secured for the properties affected by the installation of the sewer lateral and Mr. Barton confirmed both right-of-ways are in place. Mr. Barton also indicated that he has made contact with both property owners over the past week to discuss the planned work.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Termination of the Benner Township Water Authority – Mr. Levandoski indicated that he recently spoke with Mr. Beard, Benner Township's Solicitor, who confirmed that the Benner Township Supervisors are not expecting the BTWA Board to take action on Exhibit A (Certificate of Termination) until the Authority's November 18, 2025 meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Village of Peru Corrective Action Plan (CAP) – Mr. Shura stated that he's been in discussions with the operators and Stiffler McGraw has begun working on the permit application and the required business plan for the Village of Peru. Prior to finalizing the permit application, a decision will need made as to whose name is listed on the permit application as the applicant due to the pending termination and transfer of the Benner Township Water Authority assets. Discussions have been held with the PA DEP about this matter. Mr. Smith inquired about the timeline for submission of the permit application to the PA DEP and Mr. Shura stated the CAP provided for a completion date of February 2026; therefore, he wouldn't require an answer on the applicant's name until January 2026.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no Correspondence presented for discussion.

Memo Issued to BTWA Customers – Mr. Smith informed the Board that the Chairman of the Benner Township Supervisors recently issued a memo to the customers of the BTWA discussing the pending dissolution of the BTWA which included an invitation to an informational meeting being held at the Benner Township Municipal Building on 10/27/2025 at 7:00 p.m. where any questions may be addressed.

Mr. Smith stated this memo answers all of the issues he was concerned about relating to public notification to the BTWA customers of the pending dissolution of the BTWA and provides the community and the BTWA customers with an opportunity to listen and address any questions they may have. Mr. Smith stated he believes the memo accurately described the situation.

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 November 18th at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Fenush moved, seconded by Mr. Eby to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township 11/13/2025

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

REGULAR MEETING
October 21, 2025

GUEST LIST

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

1. Jacob Gotshall
2. Feras Boges
3. _____
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