

# Centre Documenters

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Meeting: Joint Authority Meeting  
Townships: Spring, Benner, and Walker  
Documenter names: Mackenzie Bruns, Olivia Games  
Date: Nov. 13, 2023  
Start Time: 7:00 p.m.  
End Time: 7:54 p.m.

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## Notes

### Board members and staff members present:

Spring Township  
Joseph Galbraith – Present  
Rodney Maney – Present  
Douglas McKee – Present  
Christie McMurtrie – Present

Benner Township:  
Brian Book – Present  
Willis Houser, Jr. (secretary) – Present  
William Hughes – Present

Walker Township:  
Dennis Brown – Present  
Dennis McDowell (chairman) – Present

Others:  
Robert A. Mix Esq. – Present  
Chaos Coordinator Warren Miller – Present

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Meeting started by the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority board members standing, and stating the **Pledge of Allegiance**

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Discourse starts with the unanimous **approval of Oct. 23, 2023 meeting minutes.**

The council then continues to the **approval of payments:**

- Executive director and chaos coordinator Warren Miller begins to speak about the Revenue Requisition #2020-85 to the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority, which is the total amount of bills paid by the township for the month of October. *Note: Miller showed documenters in attendance a two-page document that compiled each payment adding up to a total of \$113,546.23.*
- Two board members motioned to vote and approve the payment of these bills. Approval was unanimous.

Miller proceeds to discuss the Zion/Ridgecrest pump station located throughout Spring, Benner, and Walker townships.

- *A note from your documenters – Did you know? A pump station is a chamber that receives wastewater and sewage to transport it to other facilities.*
- The commission members discussed the cost of a new PLC, a programmable logical controller (PLC), which is the “brain” of the pump system.
- Before programming costs, the PLC would be approximately \$9,000. With programming costs, the PLC will be no more than \$12,000 (programming costs about \$3,000).
- Typically, you can get about 15-20 out of a PLC, in which the Zion/Ridgecrest PLC had a significantly smaller lifespan.
- “Not sure what happened,” said Warren Miller, “It’s disappointing it’s a short life on one of those.”

The commission moves on to the Walker Township Act 537 Plan Update. The plan is being put on the backburner. *Not much more was said.*

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- ***A note from your documenter – did you know?*** The Walker Township Act 537 Plan is a regional sewage facilities plan, extending the existing sewer system at University Park Airport (recently renamed State College Airport) to the Shiloh Road interchange. If you'd like to learn more, [you can do so on the joint authority website](#) and, if you'd like to look at much [earlier version of the plan, dated 2007](#), [you can do so here](#).

Following the update, Miller guides the board members to talk about the 2024 tentative budget.

- The budget is approximately 4.3 million.
- The commission goes through each committee, and there are no updates to be addressed.
- The meeting ends at 7:35, approximately 35 minutes following the start.

### **Summary:**

Within the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority board meeting, members discussed several topics that pushed economic and ecological interests for the community.

- The commission began by discussing the revenue requisition 2020-85, which assessed the bills paid throughout the month of October 2023. The final amount was approximately \$113,546.23.
- The joint authority members discussed the purchase of a new programmable logic controller (PLC) —the “brain” of the pump system—for the Zion/Ridgecrest pump station. With programming costs, the PLC will cost approximately \$12,000.
- Executive director and chaos coordinator Warren Miller updated the joint authority board members about the update regarding the Walker Township Act 537 Plan, which was ultimately pushed to the backburner. Lastly, the commission discusses the 2024 Tentative Budget, which reaches the approximate amount of \$4.3 million. After a little over a half an hour of discussion, the meeting ended.
- The 2024 tentative budget is approximately \$4.3 million.

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## Follow-Up Questions

*What are you left wondering?*

- What caused the former Zion/Ridgecrest pump station PLC to fail? Were there pressures from other systems that caused its functionality to be halted?

## Top Quote

“Not sure what happened. It’s disappointing” said Warren Miller when speaking to the joint authority committee members about needing a new PLC. Miller is the executive director and chaos coordinator for the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority.

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