

# Centre Documenters

---

Meeting: Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority (SBWJA)  
Township: Spring, Benner and Walker Townships  
Documenter names: Emily McGrory, Talaya Coffey  
Date: Jan. 22, 2024  
Start Time: 6:59 p.m.  
End Time: 7:57 p.m.

---

## Notes

### Attendance:

N. Warren Miller (Executive Director) - present  
Brian Book (Member, Benner) - present  
Douglas McKee (Member, Spring) - present  
Willis Houser Jr. (Secretary, Benner) - present  
Joseph Galbraith (Vice-Chairman, Spring)  
Dennis McDowell (Chairman, Walker) - present  
Chris McMurtrie (Treasurer, Spring) - present  
Dennis Brown (Assistant Treasurer, Walker) - present

Will Barton (Maintenance Crew Leader) - present  
Kelly Gill (Office Administrator) - present

William Hughes (Member, Benner) - not present  
Rodney Maney (Assistant Secretary, Spring) - not present

### Call to Order

### Roll Call

### Pledge of Allegiance

The group approved Jan. 8, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes.

### Correspondence

- **Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority (SBWJA)** approved a letter from Centre County addressing the two demolished homes on Valentine Street. The county wants to maintain sewer service at a reduced fee.

### Financial Reports

- None

### Treasurer's Report

---

**Note to readers of these notes:** Centre Documenters is part of a nationwide network dedicated to building a corps of “curious citizens” equipped with the skills necessary to support local government transparency. Our documenters attend public meetings in Centre County, and they make their notes available to the public. Documenters often include notes to their readers, and unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate or you would like to support our work in any way, please email us at [documenters@psu.edu](mailto:documenters@psu.edu).

**If you use this work to power your own reporting, please credit Centre Documenters.**

- The SBWJA brought in more than spent in 2023.
- The net income for 2023 was 31% of the \$3.8 million budget.
- SBWJA is looking to hire recent high school graduates and they discussed the recruitment of high school graduates.
- All were in favor of approving the treasurer's report, and the motion passed.

### Approval of Payments

- SBWJA approved revenue requisition 2020-89 to the joint authority in the amount of \$78,805.99.

### System Overview Report by Will Barton

- For SBWJA, there were responses to 1,082 PA One Calls, 329 in-home inspections, 138 sewer lateral inspections, 32 call-outs, and 156 permits were purchased.
- For Benner [Township](#) Water Authority, there were 39 PA One Calls, one sewer lateral inspection and one call-out.
  - o **A note from your documenter – Did you know?** According to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Pennsylvania One Call System requires homeowners and contractors to call 811 to approve any digging or excavation projects before they “disturb the earth.”

### Guests

- None

### Executive Director's Report

- SBWJA budgeted for a 2023 Ford vehicle, but it wasn't purchased in 2023. A 2024 Ford vehicle has been purchased.
- There's a need for a new transfer switch to turn on generators when the public power goes out. A new transfer switch will cost more than \$3,000. The motion to get a new switch was introduced by Joseph Galbraith; the motion was approved.
- The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is looking for a grant to fund its involvement in the Shiloh Road Project.
  - o **A note from your documenter – Did you know?** The Shiloh Road Project is an effort to stretch the sewer systems at the University Park Airport to the Shiloh Road interchange, according to SBWJA's website. This project was proposed in April 2019 and approved in January 2021 due to environmental concerns and obtaining permits. SBWJA will soon hire a contractor, and the project is expected to be complete in fall 2024.
- The Northwest Pennsylvania Conservancy won't allow the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to receive grant money because the project is within the wetlands, but the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is on board because the stream improvement efforts will allow a reconnection from Spring Creek to the wetlands for better floodwater control. The project is moving along.

### Old Business

- Executive Director Warren Miller gave an overview of services provided to Benner Township Water Authority for the fourth quarter of 2023.
  - o The labor rate is changing from \$56 to \$60 an hour, and \$90 an hour for overtime.

---

**Note to readers of these notes:** Centre Documenters is part of a nationwide network dedicated to building a corps of “curious citizens” equipped with the skills necessary to support local government transparency. Our documenters attend public meetings in Centre County, and they make their notes available to the public. Documenters often include notes to their readers, and unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate or you would like to support our work in any way, please email us at [documenters@psu.edu](mailto:documenters@psu.edu).

**If you use this work to power your own reporting, please credit Centre Documenters.**

- **A note from your documenter:** *It wasn't clear whether they were talking about outside work or their employees.*
- SBWJA approved revisions to the fee schedule.
  - **A note from your documenter – SBJWA members did not announce the exact information in the schedule fee revisions they were approving. Documenters were unable to obtain the packet with the specific revisions, but it seemed to include changes in salaries and fuel-consuming equipment.**

### Questions for Executive Director

- None

### Committee Reports

- Personnel and Community Relations Committee – Galbraith, chairman
  - *Nothing to report*
- Facilities Committee – Houser, chairman
  - *Nothing to report*
- Finance Committee – McMurtrie, chairman
  - *Nothing to report*

### Meeting Adjourned

---

### Summary Takeaways from your Documenters

- SBWJA is hoping to recruit young locals to join the sewer service team.
- The Shiloh Road project is moving along with environmental permits and grants as they navigate a project around the wetlands.

### Follow-up Questions from your Documenters

- When is the Shiloh Road project set to be completed by the SBWJA?
- What is the change in labor rate for Benner Township Water Authority employees?

---

**Note to readers of these notes:** Centre Documenters is part of a nationwide network dedicated to building a corps of “curious citizens” equipped with the skills necessary to support local government transparency. Our documenters attend public meetings in Centre County, and they make their notes available to the public. Documenters often include notes to their readers, and unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate or you would like to support our work in any way, please email us at [documenters@psu.edu](mailto:documenters@psu.edu).

**If you use this work to power your own reporting, please credit Centre Documenters.**