

Centre Documenters

Meeting: Benner Township Water Authority
Township: Benner Township
Documenter name: Rivka Wolin and Cady Barcak
Date: March 19, 2024
Start Time: 6:31p.m.
End Time: 8:09p.m.

Attendance

Water Authority members

- Secretary Tim Edkin — present
- Chairman Thomas Eby — present
- Treasurer Jerry May — present
- Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer James Lanning (Jim)— Arrived later (6:39)
- Andy Swales — Present

Other officials

- SBWJA Office Administrator Kelly Gill — present
- SBWJA Executive Director Warren Miller — present
- SBWJA Maintenance Crew Leader Will Barton — present
- Stiffler McGraw Engineer Brian Shura — present

Guests

- Micheal Levandoski
 - John Elnitski
 - John Kostas
 - Kathy Evey
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- **Approval of February 20, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes**
 - A motion to approve minutes was passed by all members but James Lanning that came later.
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - Approval of Expenses & Liabilities (**Total Payments \$38,347.44**)
 - Approval of **Paid Checks** in the Amount of **\$6,704.50**
 - Approval of **Bills by Vendor** in the Amount of **\$31,642.94**

- A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was passed by all members but Jame Lanning that came later.

- **SBWJA Report**

- According to Will Barton in February **repairs to a phase converter and replacement of a well pump at the Opequon. well house were completed.**
- A final water reading was done at Meadow Flower Circle and verified the calibration curve for choline and quarterly readings at Hampton, Opequon, and Grove Park were taken.
- Barton said the Annual Well House cleaning was completed and they continued to work on grant projects and service line related work They were able to complete five more service line inventory surveys and two reinspects from prior inspections.
- According to Barton, samples were collected for the monthly bacteria testing was done at both of the townships systems and they respond to one PAOne call
- In April, Barton said that they will be collected the second round of samples for PFAS testing and they are doing that quarterly at Hampton Hills and Opequon.
 - The results of the test will determine the repeat motoring frequency is going to be moving forward
 - There are between 60 and 70 inspections that need to be completed according to Barton the goal is to be done with them by end of July

- **Solicitor's Report**

- Nothing

- **Engineer's Report**

- Grove Park Nitrate Removal System
 - According to Brian Shura he spoke with several vendors about quotes for the Grove Park Nitrate removal system. Tri-County Water and Martin Water were the two based on the equipment they were proposing.
 - Tri county water was below the bid threshold and based on Shura's review that particular system was too small to meet DEP requirements for the system.
 - Shura said he spoke with a representative that provide him with information that they could supply a system that is the size needed.
 - Shura also mentioned he had "concerns over the type of system that was being proposed by TC Water" and he spoke with a representative with Martin Water about those concerns and he "kind of verified some of the concerns especially considering the head that was used and how it regenerates."
 - Martin Water can provide a system that meets DEP requirements.
 - Shura said that after discussing with Will and Warren the Martin's system can be provided though Co-Stars going with Martin "makes the most sense, its going to provide you with the sufficient sized

system and the head that you would want.”

- The head of the system that Shura discussed would bring in pressured water to complete regeneration and backwash cycles as opposed to having to have pressure from the discharge side of a system.
 - The head is also electronic meaning it can provide information to operators so they can have more control over the system.
 - According to Shura the system provided by Tri-County water is “likely to be a little less expensive,” but the system can not be provided through Co-Stars so after bidding that is a chance that “you’re going to eliminate all potential savings” and “ extend the timeframe for getting everything accomplished,” said Shura.
 - Shura recommend that the Water Authority to work with Martin’s and get the information needed to submit a permit before moving forward with any agreement though Co-Stars.
 - Shura will get an updated quote regarding the system and installation.
 - According to Shura the current quote from Martin’s was “ in the middle with installation I think that was about \$ 45,000. The highest was about \$65,000 and the lowest was a little under \$20,000.”
- A motion to move forward with Martin Water as a vendor for Nitrate Removal System through the Co-Star was passed unanimously.
 - **Guests**
 - No guests had anything to discuss
 - **Correspondence**
 - Email to Authority from Solicitor about Re-negotiation of Agreement with State College Brough Water Authority
 - State College was looking for emails for Benner Township Water Authority members.
 - **Old Business**
 - No old business was discussed.
 - **New Business**
 - Re-negotiation of Agreement with SCBWA
 - According to the way the agreement reads, Benner Township and State College have to agree to make changes to the agreement
 - said that the authority should send correspondence to State College get an idea of what changes they want to make and what changes Benner Township would like to make.

- According to the authority this is a 50-year agreement that was signed in February 1998 nothing has to be done until 2048.
 - According to Eby, the agreement was drafted with the intention that we turn over a part of the service area by the Airport, all of High Tech Road and Continual Courts (as a bulk water customer) to State College to supply.
 - Miller said the authority should talk about what they want to do with the agreement prior to meeting with or sending correspondence to SCWA in an executive session.
 - John Elnitski said “I would suggest reading the agreement, seeing what their limitations are and see if they have any rights or don’t have rights. Make a list of that that, then come with an approach.”
 - John Elnitski volunteered to look at the agreement.
- Appoint Replacement of Solicitor Due to Possible Conflicts
 - Lanning and Eby looked into replacing Robert Mix. According to Eby, Mix indicated that he would like to be removed due to possible conflicts. This is in relation to State College Water.
 - Eby said the first person that Lanning and him met with was a John Miller. According to Eby him he does not have any conflicts and he is “definitely interested.”
 - Elnitski suggested that the authority look into lawyers with expertise in Pennsylvania water laws and have Mix be recused from discussions with the State College Borough Water authority.
 - A partner of John Mille, Micheal Levandoski said he was asked to attend the meeting by Lanning and Eby.
 - Lanning made a motion to retain a Micheal Levandoski as second solicitor and Eby second the motion. The motion was rejected 2 to 3
 - Swales called to table the motion Edkin seconded the motion. Passed unanimously by the authority.
 - John Elnitski suggested that the board meet tonight after the meeting for personal.
- Benner Township ARPA Contribution - Grove Park Nitrate Removal System
 - Benner Township Supervisors are allowing the water authority to use \$60,000 “from the COVID money” to use on the Nitrate Removal System said Eby
 - “Hopefully it will only cost us \$70,000 now,” said Eby
 - Kathy Evey said it was “50% up to \$60,000”
- PA Rural Water Association Membership -Benner Township Agreed to Pay
 - At the supervisor meeting’s meeting a motion was passed to have the supervisor’s pay for a one-year membership to the PA Rural Water Association for the water authority.
 - The supervisors are “encouraging us to take advantage of that,” said Eby “I

think there are advantages that just come from networking with other people in the state. There're people that have similar situations and that good just to know what someone else did.

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- Shiloh Road Service Agreement
 - Was not discussed by the board but was addressed by the Eby.
 - Eby said “I want to table it, I don’t want to take any action I just want to keep it on the [agenda].”
- A motion to hold an executive session before the next authority meeting to discuss legal matters was passed unanimously by the board.

Summary

- *The meeting minutes for February 20, 2024, were approved by authority members.*
- *The Treasurer's Report was approved by authority members.*
- *A motion to hold an executive session before the next authority meeting to discuss legal matters was passed unanimously by the board.*
- *A discussion to retain a new solicitor was tabled after a motion failed 2-3*

Follow-Up Questions

- *What is Benner Township Water Authority’s plan going to be regarding the renegotiation with State College Water Authority?*
- *Will a new solicitor be appointed?*
- *Will the Benner Township Water Authority take the offer from the Supervisors to*

become a member of the Pa Rural Water Association?

Top Quote

- *There were no quotes we would choose to include.*