

**SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**January 27, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>AUTHORITY MEMBERS:</b>	<b>Spring</b>	Joseph Galbraith
		Gregg Heny
		Chris McMurtrie
		Vacancy
<b>Benner</b>	Brian Book	
	Dan Hoffman	
	Willis Houser, Jr.	
<b>Walker</b>	Dennis McDowell	
	Joseph Swanderski	

**GUESTS:** None present

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** N. Warren Miller

**EMPLOYEES:** Will Barton and Kelly Gill

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The January 27, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Dennis McDowell, Chairman. Mr. McDowell thanked everyone for attending and stated that the meeting would be recorded for transcription purposes.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Swanderski, Secretary, took Roll Call, recording eight members present. It was noted that there is a Board vacancy in Spring Township. Mr. McDowell, Chairman, noted that with a quorum present, the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was permitted to conduct business under the laws of Pennsylvania.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. McDowell, Chairman, led the Board members and Employees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. McDowell asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the January 13, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy. The motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**McFarland Johnson** - We received a letter from Raena C. Lindemuth, PE of McFarland Johnson requesting an intent to provide sewer service to the new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Facility at the University Park Airport in Benner Township. The total number of EDUs required for this project is 2.00 EDUs. A letter of intent was provided to Ms. Lindemuth on January 20, 2020.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Heny reviewed the financial reports for the period ending 12/31/2019. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. Mrs. Gill provided an overview of the Budget vs. Actual Report for the 2019 calendar year and indicated that this Authority had an exceptional year financially, even with expending over \$2.3 million in capital projects. Over \$2.1 million was paid to the Bellefonte Borough Authority in 2019 for the capital upgrade project to their wastewater treatment plant. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Galbraith to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy. The motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

Approval of Requisitions:

**Revenue Fund Requisition 2012-162** – Mr. Heny presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2012-162 in the amount of \$59,753.23. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2012-162. **Mr. Hoffman moved, seconded by Mr. Swanderski to approve Revenue Requisition 2012-162 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$59,753.23. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy. The motion carried.**

**GUESTS:** There were no Guests present for the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Act 537 Plan Special Study** – Following the last Authority Board meeting, Maggie Weitzel of Gwin, Dobson & Foreman Engineers (GD&F) contacted Sharon Royer of Benner Township to discuss the PA DEP's suggestions/concerns pertaining to the procedure involved with responding to the public comments received as part of the Act 537 Plan Special Study. Mr. Miller also discussed this Authority's concerns with Mrs. Royer about not wanting to move forward until Benner Township approves the Act 537 Plan Special Study due to the costs associated with the planning process.

Mr. Miller is planning to attend the February 3, 2020 Benner Township Supervisor's meeting to discuss this in more depth with the Supervisors along with their consideration of amending the mandatory connection ordinance and the impact it could have on our Authority.

Mr. Book suggested the Authority may want to contact its solicitor to discuss the possibility of modifying its rules and regulations to allow for recouping monies for a connection that an incorporating municipality exempts from connecting to the sanitary sewer system, but the homeowner decides to connect years down the road.

**Refinancing of 2012 Bonds** – Mr. Miller provided an update on the status of refinancing the 2012 Bonds. Late last week the market was in our favor and Mr. McDowell stopped by the office to sign the necessary paperwork to move forward with the refinancing. The Authority's gross savings is \$925,000 with a net savings (present value) of \$772,000 over the remainder of the term through 2038.

The Authority will not be refunding the 2020 and 2021 bonds due to the existing rates and needing to stay below \$10 million for bank qualified bonds. Mr. Miller recommended the Authority consider calling (paying off) the 2020 and 2021 bonds as part of this process as we have previously. This would amount to paying just over \$125,000. **Mr. McMurtrie moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to call the 2020 and 2021 bonds in the amount of \$125,581.26 as part of the refinancing process.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy. **The motion carried.**

The bond closing is tentatively set for February 27, 2020.

**Centre County Christian Academy (CCCA)** – Mr. Miller stated that last fall the CCCA again reached out to our Authority about moving forward with connecting to our sewer line and becoming a customer of the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority, which could save them a considerable amount of money each quarter. The CCCA received approval from the Bellefonte Borough Authority (BBA) to make the transition. After discussing this at our meeting last fall and hearing Mr. Smeltzer's concerns with the impact the connection would have on the homeowner at 525 Blanchard Street who recently paved their driveway, the Authority personnel came up with another option.

This option would involve allowing the CCCA to remain connected to the BBA's sewer system, but be added to the list of unmetered customers of which the BBA invoices our Authority at a flat rate per quarter per EDU.

Mr. Miller sent an email and letter to the BBA requesting they consider allowing the CCCA to remain connected to the BBA main sewer line with our Authority invoicing the CCCA for the services provided. The BBA would then invoice our Authority at an established flat rate per EDU as with the other unmetered customers. During a recent conversation with BBA staff, Mr. Miller reported the BBA has agreed to our request; however, it is contingent upon the amount the BBA would charge our Authority. Further discussion was held about the flat rate we are paying the BBA in comparison to the amount we are collecting from the customers.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Maintenance Crew Leader Job Description** – Mr. Heny referenced the job description approved at the last meeting for the Maintenance Crew Leader and after further thought he would like to recommend changing the language under the experience (minimum qualifications) section. It currently reads *Must have a minimum of five years' experience working in the water/wastewater industry with one year of supervisory experience within the water/wastewater field.* Mr. Heny stated the word *must* may deter existing personnel with a few years of experience from applying for the job and indicated he would like to see it modified. Mr. McDowell stated the word *must* could be changed to *preferred*. **Mr. Heny moved, seconded by Mr. Book to modify the Maintenance Crew Leader job description minimum qualifications to state: *A minimum of five years' experience working in the water/wastewater industry preferred with one year of supervisory experience within the water/wastewater field a plus.*** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy. **The motion carried.**

**Maintenance Department Vacancies** – Mr. Swanderski inquired about where things stood with the two vacancies in the maintenance department for laborers. Mr. Miller stated that he reviewed the job applications on file for the Maintenance Assistant/Laborer and there weren't any current applicants; therefore, the job openings were advertised. Mr. Swanderski asked if any further applicants were received for the Maintenance Crew Leader and the Maintenance Supervisor positions. Mr. Miller stated we received a few applications/resumes for the Maintenance Supervisor position and there is one applicant that has the experience needed; however, the salary requirements are significantly above the amount the Board set for the salary. The Board was provided with a copy of this applicant's proposal for their review.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**PMAA Board Member Training** – Mr. McDowell announced that PMAA will be holding a Board Member Training Seminar on March 11, 2020 in Camp Hill and indicated anyone interested in attending needs to let the Authority office staff know soon. Mr. McMurtrie confirmed his attendance for the board member training.

**Board Vacancy** – Mr. Book inquired about the vacancy on our Authority Board for Spring Township and wanted to know if there has been any development with the appointment. Mr. Miller stated he believes a decision will likely be made at the Spring Township meeting next week.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel & Community Relations Committee:** Mr. McDowell appointed Mr. Hoffman as the Chairman of the Personnel and Community Relations Committee and asked if he had anything to report. Mr. Hoffman stated he had nothing to report.

**Facilities Committee:** Mr. McDowell appointed Mr. Book as the Chairman of the Facilities Committee and asked if he had anything to report. Mr. Book recommended starting discussions on a new building location. Mr. McDowell asked if anyone else was interested in sitting on the Facilities Committee and Mr. Houser indicated his willingness.

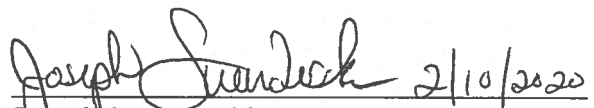
**Financial Committee:** Mr. McDowell appointed Mr. Heny as the Chairman of the Financial Committee and asked if he had anything to report. Mr. Heny stated he had nothing to report.


**Committee Appointments** – Mr. McDowell indicated the remaining committee appointments will be made at a future meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Swanderski moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Joseph Swanderski, Secretary

  
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Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Spring Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Walker Township \_\_\_\_\_