

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH AUTHORITY MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Authority was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Authority Chair Joe Beigle in the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building.

Pledge of Allegiance:

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Beigle, Brown, Halderman, Thal, Clark

Members Excused: Badger, Scott

Staff Present: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Eric Lundy, Nittany Engineering
Bob Cook, WWTP
Matt Auman, Public Works

Guests: Deborah Smith; Gay D. Dunne; Karen Harvey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Halderman made a motion to approve the minutes of September 1, 2015. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to accept the minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

ORAL

- Deb Smith, 113 Katherine Drive, Brockerhoff Heights. She is retired from Penn State Science Education faculty. She drinks the Bellefonte water. She provided handouts and a short presentation to review where she stands on the issue of fluoridation in the water. She has been doing research since the last Authority meeting.

Ms. Smith believes the Authority is failing in its responsibility to contribute to the well-being of the community by providing an adequate supply of high-quality drinking water. She noted in minutes that often when issues come up the Authority gets expertise on the issue but no expertise was sought on the fluoridation issue. On April 7th Mr. Beigle promised to have someone come and talk to the Authority, but that was never done. She feels facts need to be used rather than opinions on this issue.

She referenced Question 9 from the American Dental Association 2005 Fluoridation Facts - "What happens if water fluoridation is discontinued? The answer is dental decay can be

expected to increase if water fluoridation in a community is discontinued, even if topical products such as fluoride toothpaste and fluoride rinses are widely used.

She believes the Authority is ignoring the scientific evidence that fluoridation is safe and effective. Mr. Beigle will provide Ms. Smith with copies of articles he referred to in the last meeting stating thyroid and development affects result from fluoridation. She provided articles to the Authority from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Dental Association, Surgeon General's Office, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services which all provide evidence that fluoridation is effective, safe, and contributes to community's dental health.

She feels the Authority has provided inaccurate and misleading information to consumers. The Federal Government stated .7 ppm is a safe dosage not 2 ppm. The Borough issues messages that claim fluoridation is controversial but she feels that is not scientifically accurate.

Mr. Stewart stated that every gallon of water pumped must be within permitted parameters. Water usage changes yearly. The costs are estimated to rise \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00. A canister costs approximately \$160.00 and that usage is contingent on flow. The permit states the Authority has to be between .9 - 1.2 to be compliant. There are other needs that need to be met also. The acidic makeup of the material and the Borough crews having to physically handle it every two to three days year round are part of the decision being made. DEP reviewed the system and stated the Borough is out of compliance for the dosage; there must be a containment room; and there must be a shower available. The decision of whether fluoride is good or bad is not the basis of the decision. The basis of the decision is the employee's safety. Out of 10,000 customers on the system Mr. Stewart has only heard from a handful and they are both for and against the fluoride.

Ms. Smith wants to know if bids were sent out to get information about the costs required for changes to the pump room.

Ms. Smith asked if there would be a grant available for the fluoride to change the permit to the lowest required dosage and to get the changes that need done in the pump house.

She believes the Authority is ignoring overwhelming consumer's and medical/dental professionals' support for fluoridation and their opposition to discontinuing it. She wants to know at what point the evidence and consumer support make a difference in what is being decided. The minutes show no sustained conversation on fluoride decision especially based on scientific evidence.

She asked whether the current Authority members are committed to the stated mission and willing to take responsibility for making sure the community has healthy and safe drinking water.

- Gay D. Dunne, Council Member, attended the meeting as a resident that drinks the water and a healthcare provider that has read a lot of scientific literature. The most important thing to Ms. Dunne is when U. S. Public Health Services changed their recommended levels in the middle of what the Authority is going through and DEP is not requiring the lower level. She feels there should be more public communication regarding this issue. She would not like to see the fluoridation removed. She thinks a public hearing might be good.

-Karen Harvey echoed what has been said that there needs to be concrete figures about what the increase would be and also what the costs would be if a new permit was applied for and received and the cost of doing the requirements for the facility.

- Mr. Halderman feels all the safety concerns could be addressed. He also noted all the letters and the people that have talked to the Authority have requested the fluoride be kept in the water. He feels many people don't understand the gravity of the decision to remove the fluoride. He feels it needs to be further addressed before the final decision is made.

Mr. Stewart feels the engineers can evaluate the pump house and see what it would cost to make the upgrades to it and check on the permit to see if the dosage amounts can be lowered.

Mr. Beigle stated with it being budget time the Authority is going to see the money isn't there to do the things that need done and that is important in where things stand. He understands the health issues but it comes down to the money available. Someone told him today they hoped the water rates wouldn't go up. Things are strapped in the budget and Bellefonte is hurting for money. The Authority made the decision to take it out because of the money. If DEP states it can be taken out it will be taken out. Mr. Halderman feels it shouldn't be a money issue when you are talking about public health.

Mr. Beigle stated so many drink bottled water because there is nothing in it that will affect them and harm them.

WRITTEN

- An email from Edwin Obfenda regarding Unison Site Management. The organization contacted Mr. Stewart. They broker the water tower sites for the cell phone industry. If they get a deal they want 50% of the deal.

This will be turned over to Council for review and recommendation.

- There were six emails regarding removing the fluoride from the water.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Mr. Halderman made a motion to approve payment of an invoice to McQuaide Blasko in the amount of \$500.00 for services rendered (\$175.00 current & \$325.00 previous balance.) Mr. Clark seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Ms. Walker provided the Finance Reports beginning with the Water Fund. The numbers are as of September 30, 2015. The cash balance for the checking account is \$214,892.15; the Reliance Account, which is restricted for the Corning Pump House upgrade has \$349,648.24. The Water Meter Loan balance is \$43,667.12; the Corning Pump House upgrade loan is \$341,164.36.

The Sewer Fund balances as of September 30, 2015 are: Checking Account - \$293,892.67; The Bond Redemption Account, which is restricted for upgrades is \$245,456.32; the Money Market Fund has \$1,409,074.73. The Reliance Loan balance is \$692,633.53; the Plant Upgrade loan is \$3,701,286.45.

Mr. Halderman made a motion to approve the Finance reports. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Items For Budget Discussion

WATER

1. Penn Eagle Pumping Station
2. Interceptor Water
3. Corning Water Tank - It was suggested that people on that system would need to have a rate increase. The engineer will get some figures together and suggested rate increases.
4. Water Lines
5. Big Spring Cover
6. Ms. Walker stated water needs a new vehicle - the one that runs the meter service. It got red tagged about two weeks ago.
7. Meter maintenance will increase since it is nearing the end of the ten-year life expectancy of the meters.

SEWER

1. I & I
2. Smoke Testing
3. Increase rates \$5.00/qtr - The rates will be raised because of loans needed for upcoming projects.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Water Report - by Eric Lundy

Corning Pump House - Pump Upgrades - NEA conducted a pre-construction meeting with Strouse Electric on September 8, 2015.

V-Systems provided a proposal for insulated bearings on the pump motors. The total additional cost for these bearings is \$3,000/per motor. The insulated bearings are recommended due to the induced voltage from VFD's that cause damage/pitting. V-Systems has indicated that both the insulated and non-insulated bearings are warranted for three years and insulated bearings can be added at a later time. - Mr. Halderman talked to an engineer at the factory and was told that it is not necessary to have insulated bearings.

NEA submitted the revised electrical drawings to the Centre Region Code Office on 9/30/15. These revisions addressed the previous code comments and the issues surrounding the transfer switch and Borough supplied generator. NEA and Bellefonte are coordinating a meeting to review these revisions further due to the complex nature of the design and installation.

NEA continues to push for West Penn Power to complete their design effort and installation of the 480V power supply. West Penn Power has indicated that their design is near complete and NEA is waiting on their proposed construction schedule.

Big Spring Cover Replacement - NEA contacted two cover installers and requested quotes for replacing the cover per the existing permitted design. NEA sent a request to DEP to confirm if a permit is needed. Most likely will need to submit permit due to cover material type change and changes to manway access portals and drainage outlet.

Corning Pump House - Chlorine Backflow - NEA (Jason Little) issued a general design schematic, cost estimate, and valve submittal information regarding the proposed valve option to resolve the chlorine issue on 7/31/15. NEA is awaiting further direction, if needed.

Coke requested an alarm be put on the pipe where the water flow begins to detect any chlorine in the water.

Fluoride Removal Permit Application - The Permit Application to remove the addition of fluoride from the water system has been submitted to DEP on August 20, 2015. It is currently being reviewed by DEP.

Matt Auman -

- 9/1/15 - Finished Temple court fire and domestic taps
- 9/2/15 - Installed new water tap on Kathryn Drive (Brockerhoff Heights)
- 9/4/15- Water leak at 425 Willowbank Street (needed a new tap, corp broke)
- 9/8/15 - Finished new tap at 425 Willowbank Street
- 9/9/15 - Water leak at 440 East High Street (4" bell joint clamp)
- 9/11/15 - Unhooked Ron Smith from the Stoeker property on Bishop Street
- 9/15/15 - Rockview meter reading (5,906,000 gallons for the month)
- 9/15/15 - 9/16/15 - 4" fire line tap at the Undine Fire Company
- 9/18/15 - 4" fire line tap at Furniture 4-less on Benner Pike
- 9/24/15 - SCADA issues at the Reservoir (no level)
- 9/24/15 - 9/28/15 - Operator had to be around every 2 hours to manually turn pumps on and off and check the level at the Reservoir
- 9/29/15 - Meeting with DEP discussing the new sampling locations and procedures
- 9/28/15 - Martz Controls had the level sensor communication fixed at the Reservoir

Sewer Report - by Bob Decker

Maintenance Building Roof - The new metal roof on the Maintenance Building has been installed. The project is a significant improvement to the structure.

SCADA - A new UPS backup power supply has been installed to the SCADA system that will improve performance of the overall system during minor power outages.

NEA and BBA authority staff had met with the Controls Integrator to review the SCADA system for any required/beneficial maintenance and updates.

Phosphorous Treatment - BBA Authority staff has most of the HACH phosphorous system installed.

NEA has coordinated the new alum dosing pumps that will be used as part of the phosphorous treatment. The dosing pumps have been delivered to the plant.

In addition, NEA has provided project management oversight on the HACH installation and associated integration into the SCADA system.

Return activated Sludge - The RAS project has been rebid due to the additional problems with the piping/system that have occurred in recent weeks.

The bids were originally due on October 7th, but BBA/NEA will be delaying the bids by approximately one week to October 14th based on the initial short time frame.

The bids have the option for an Alternate Deduct for the Authority to purchase the system plug valves directly to save time and potentially at a lower cost with no contractor markup,. Please note that a majority of the current valves throughout the plant are Dezurik and it is my understanding that they are on the COSTAR procurement system.

BBA has received a preliminary quotation from the approved supplier for the valves. Please note that the preliminary quotation requires further evaluation from BBA/NEA.

The fittings are steel pipe and it's grooved so the wall thickness is reduced in points. They are machine grooved. The pipes are 8 x 16. There is an option to use flanged pipe to get away from the grooved pipe. There will be bids on both kinds.

Bob suggested the Authority purchase the pipe and fittings up front because it would save approximately thirty days and it could save some money. This morning there were four more leaks.

Odor Control - Odor loggers were installed at the BBA facility for approximately two weeks at the Activated Sludge temporary sludge storing tanks.

The information is currently being reviewed to assess whether or not odor control and/or covers should be installed as part of a future project to control odor at the facility.

WWTP Upgrade Project -

Please note that any additional work associated with the DEP planning coordination will have an impact on the schedule below. It would be difficult for NEA to estimate the delay at this time.

NEA/BBA has helped coordinate a revised/finalized Proposal and Performance Guarantee by EVOQUA. The Performance Guarantee verifies that the process will meet specific effluent goals based on detailed influent characteristics as noted within that contract and per BBA WWTP testing.

Settling Test

BBA/NEA has completed a few settling tests at various flows/loadings to obtain a better understanding, and observation of the BIOMAG MLSS increase and clarification enhancement.

Bench Scale Test and Solids Flux Testing

EVOQUA has completed its bench scale evaluation and provided a brief report.

EVOQUA was on site August 10th - 12th to complete additional Solids Flux testing (settling) and the report will be available within the next few weeks.

Representatives from SBWJA were on-site for the testing.

Bob Cook -

The bulk water sales for September was 101,500 gallons.

September 1st a 10" Sludge Return Valve (SRV) began leaking and had to be taken out.

September 3rd BNR Influent Pump was placed back in service.

September 11th The Contractor completed the roof on the Red Brick Building.
September 11th McCrossin was on site to evaluate repairing the leaking S. R. Valve.

September 17th McCrossin was on site, removed the leaking valve and installed a roll-grooved piece of pipe.

September 16th UPA had a permit violation - they exceeded their maximum daily discharge limit.

September 28th DEP conducted a water quality inspection, no issues to report.

October 3rd The 11-7 shift operator found another leaking SRV.

October 6th McCrossin was on site, removed the leaking valve and installed a roll-grooved piece of pipe.

October 7th There are four new leaks in the Sludge Return Pipe System.

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Halderman made a motion to adjourn the October 7, 2015 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Authority at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. The Authority went into Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Legal Matters