

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH AUTHORITY MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2016**

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, Halderman, Thal, Clark, Walker

Members Excused: Badger, Brown,

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

Guests:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Mr. Halderman made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5, 2016. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to accept the minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

ORAL

- None

WRITTEN

- A statement from the National Rural Water Association regarding the lead contamination issue in Flint, Michigan.

- A memo from Mr. Stewart informing the Authority that he will be going with PA Rural Water Association on a trip to Washington DC to help with the National Rural Water Association's efforts to discuss regulations, funding and training for small water and wastewater systems. The trip is Monday, February 8th through Wednesday, February 10th. He will be taking Tom Long, Certified System Operations Specialist, at the wastewater treatment plant. Tom has

the most years of service of any certified operator and can speak first-hand about regulations, operational issues, and training needs. All expenses for the trip are covered by the PA Rural Water Association.

The conference is pretty standard. There are appointments with all the members of congress from Pennsylvania and the two senators. The appointments will be all day Tuesday and part of the day on Wednesday.

- Mr. Stewart received an email today about the Flint Michigan issue. The EPA is considering more regulations. Mr. Stewart read one paragraph. It says the rule requires states to enforce the law of making sure water systems keep the lead out of the drinking water supplies. They are looking at if you have lead in your pipes, you have to replace them. Mr. Halderman said the only lead pipes were put in at the turn of the century. He is not aware of any lead water lines installed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee –

- No report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Water Report - by Eric Lundy

Corning Pump House - Pump Upgrades – Work on site to date included installing duct banks and concrete encasement and pouring pad for generator.

Contractor (Strouse Electric) has not submitted a schedule yet for remaining work on project, which they are required to do per the contract.

According to Scott Strouse, he is trying to determine when some of his electrical gear will be delivered so he can resume working on site; he is also contacting West Penn Power to schedule their transformer installation.

Corning Pump House – Optimization Study – It is anticipated that the optimization study will be completed in February.

Big Spring Cover Replacement – It is anticipated that the Public Water Supply Permit application will be provided to the Authority the week of February 1st for review and signature/notarization. Once signed and notarized the permit application can be submitted to DEP.

Mr. Stewart provided a copy of the proposal from NEA to go from start to finish. It includes the design, permitting, technical specs, bid documents, bid administration, reviewing bids, making recommendation to the Authority on low bidder, moving forward with the administration of the contract.

Mr. Halderman made a motion to approve the proposal from NEA. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. The document needs notarized.

Rockview Prison – Corning Waterline Relocation – Received email notification from PADOT that the PADOT Highway Occupancy Permit for the Corning waterline relocation due to Rockview’s prison project has been closed out, noting that all work has been completed consistent with permit and PADOT regulations.

They started putting a vault in at the American Philatelic Match Factory. They found a 6” line where they had wanted to put their vault. Matt took a clamp over so they could experiment with the line to see if it was live or not. There may be a change in the “as build” but Matt won’t know until morning. Dick Brown said there used to be six different lines that fed the old Claster’s building. Eric said any plans found on the Match Factory didn’t show anything.

Matt Auman -

- 01/05/16 – North Thomas/Scott Alley – 6” main break (clamp)
- 01/06/16 – Linn Street/Shugart – 6” main break (clamp)
- 01/07/16 – 715 West Lamb St. – ¾” service line
- 01/08/16 – 303 W. Beaver St. – Replace sewer lateral
- 01/14/16 – Armor/East Beaver St. – 4” main break (clamp)
- 01/21/16 – 722 W. Lamb Street – 4” main break (clamp)
- 01/24/16 – 132 W. High Street – Frozen water (call out)
- 01/29/16 – 722 W. Lamb Street – Install sewer clean out

Sewer Report - by Eric Lundy

Sludge (Volute) Press Replacement

The contract for the new sludge press has been approved, and the equipment is scheduled for production.

NEA will be providing design, permitting and coordinating contract installation services on the new sludge press over the coming months.

Phosphorous Treatment

The installation is complete. The system will be monitored and compared to the existing process testing prior to relying on the new automation for alum addition and subsequent phosphorous levels.

NEA will be doing a system evaluation report in February on the Phosphorous testing equipment.

Return Activated Sludge - Piping

The contractor has provided an updated schedule with a mid-February start date due to material/equipment acquisition issues. Mr. Lundy shared copies of the schedule.

The project had a Substantial Completion date of February 15th and Final Completion date of March 15th, which cannot be held with this revised schedule. The new completion schedule would be the end of March. They were having trouble getting a check valve and a bend because they are not in stock.

WWTP Major Upgrade Project (RBC Replacement) – DEP Planning Special Study

NEA has completed and circulated the Special Study to various planning agencies for comment. In addition, we have provided a courtesy copy to SBWJA as requested.

NEA attended the NVPC which has representatives from each municipality (Spring, Benner, Walker, and Bellefonte Borough). We anticipate some minor comments from the meeting that can be addressed without much concern.

After all comments are received from the planning agencies, the document will be advertised (newspaper) for public comment. The last meeting is Spring Township Planning Commission on February 22nd. We hope to advertise at the end of February and then submit to the DEP in late March after the 30-day period.

WWTP – Project Cost/Schedule/Contacts

The Sludge Press (Volute) and Return Activated Sludge Piping projects have been setup as separate (standalone) projects due to the potential for failure prior to the Major Project. We have revised the design contracts to reflect these changes.

<u>Project</u>	<u>NEA Design Contract</u>
Return Activated Sludge (RAS)	15-001N
Sludge Press (Volute)	15-001F
Major Upgrade Project	15-073

Bob Cook -

The bulk water sales for January was 26,700 gallons

January 11th – Our Maintenance Department relocated the carbon source discharge point, due to cleaning issues with the intake filter, for the new Phosphorus RTC.

January 15th – HACH Service Tech was on-site, to service and calibrate HACH Probes.

January 18th – A meeting with Borough Council and Union employees to resolve the grievance issue.

January 19th – The “2015 Sludge DMR” was mailed to EPA.

January 20th – The “Spicer Farm 30-Day Notice” was mailed to DEP.

January 25th – H. R. Committee, interviewed employees who had applied for the Lab Tech position. Doug Watson was selected to fill the position, starting 2-1-16.

The Sludge Return Piping Project schedule may need to be reviewed, due to bulking issues related to the cold weather. Once it gets cold the activated sludge units begin to bulk, which means the sludge is coming out over the weirs to the RBC’s to the final clarifier. At the final clarifier they can be captured and sent back to the head of the plant, but it is a vicious circle. This happens every winter. The last thing Bob wants to do is violate the permit because of the units bulking. If they think they can still get a valve in place they will try and if not they will wait until it warms up.

- Mr. Stewart noted there will be a Maintenance opening since Doug Watson is filling the Lab Tech position. It causes a domino effect.

OLD BUSINESS

- Per the request of the Authority a letter was sent to Johnson Controls, Inc. from Thomas S. Schrack, McQuaide Blasko. Mr. Schrack received a response that they are working on the reply and hope to have it sent by February 15th. When Mr. Stewart receives it he will forward it to the Authority members.

- Mr. Stewart had Ray Fisher review the financing proposals and included his email in the packet to be able to see what he said. In the email Mr. Fisher said if the Authority believes that short rates will remain very low over the term of the loan, it makes sense to finance at 65% of prime over the 20-year period through Fulton Bank. He does not believe short rates will remain low over the term and therefore prefers the longest fixed rate as possible. He feels the best deal is the 10-year fixed through Northwest Savings Bank even with the higher fee.

Mr. Halderman asked if it would be possible to go back and ask for a cap on the loan, after the fixed-rate period expires. Mr. Stewart thought that would be possible.

Mr. Thal made a motion to accept the finance proposal from Northwest Savings Bank with a request to put a cap on the loan. Mr. Halderman seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Stewart reported Mr. Beigle and Mr. Clark were part of a conference call with PA DEP, borough council reps and Deb Smith today, related to the fluoride removal appeals. A settlement was worked out and it was provided to the Authority members. The two council reps, on behalf of council, withdrew their appeal and it is understood that by tomorrow Deb Smith and Tim Smith will withdraw their appeals. The other three appeals went by the wayside. It sounds like the issue is resolved. This isn't the end. There are some things that need done. On the fluoride removal permit side the final notice has to be sent out. It will take Mr. Stewart one to two weeks to get a postcard made from Grove Printing. You have to allow a minimum of thirty-days once that goes out before you terminate the fluoride. Mr. Stewart feels by the end of March the fluoride can stop.

On the settlement side it was agreed that a task force would be put together to look at fluoride issues in the community. Gay Dunne emailed Mr. Stewart and asked if someone from the Authority would be willing to participate in the task force. Mr. Halderman is willing to serve on the task force. Mr. Stewart will send some information to Mr. Halderman about a study that was done county-wide. Mr. Walker is also willing to serve on the committee.

Mr. Clark feels the conference call was a little difficult at first. They wanted to challenge the Borough not just on the process but on some of the health issues of it. DEP didn't say they couldn't challenge them but they were pretty quick to say no, it will be an uphill battle for them at the environmental hearing. DEP is very much in favor of this being settled this way. He feels the Authority needs to move forward and address the issue. Mr. Beigle would like the public works guys to know, because of their concerns related to safety issues, that this thing will be done by the end of March. Mr. Halderman thanked Mr. Stewart for helping to work out a settlement.

Mr. Halderman had a few changes on the letter. One is for children covered; should be covered by insurance. Under program requirements it says be a resident of the Bellefonte Borough but he feels it should say be a customer of the Bellefonte Borough Authority. It should say parents should submit documents for children between the ages of six months and 16 years.

When residents are notified that fluoride is being taken out residents should be notified that there is a program being developed. A notice could be put on the water bill stating if your child needs fluoride contact the Bellefonte Borough. Mr. Stewart stated there could be two postcards. It was also suggested perhaps it could be advertised on the Borough website. Mr. Stewart said there needs to be a consensus between the Authority, Mrs. Dunne and Ms. Harvey on the notification procedure. Mr. Stewart suggested using the Borough newsletter. It will be written to state the Borough will cover any customer between the stated ages, that doesn't have coverage.

- A notice of termination of the lease has been sent to the Penn Eagle Industrial Park landlord.. All the equipment has been removed. The lease fee was approximately \$2,000.00 a month.

- The Public Works Department is still down a man a supervisor but Mr. Stewart would like to wait until the end of the year and make some reorganization decisions. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Holderman are taking turns with Matt on callouts. A lot of the decision is due to the financial situation.

- Mr. Halderman would like to know next month how much the Borough will save by deleting the fluoride out of the water system. Mr. Stewart said it would be approximately \$20,000.00.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Halderman made a motion to adjourn the February 2, 2016 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Authority at 7:56 p.m. to go into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The Authority went into Executive Session.