

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH AUTHORITY MEETING
September 7, 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: Badger, Beigle, Brown, Halderman, Clark, Walker

Members Excused: Thal

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

Guests: Paul DeCusati, 137 W Curtin St; John Kostas, Benner Twp;
Shirley Gryczuk, Benner Twp.; Helen Alters, Benner Twp
Kevin Lloyd, 136 Old Stone Lane

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of July 6, 2016. Mr. Badger seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to accept the minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

ORAL

- Mr. Michael Young, 246 West Curtin Street, addressed the Authority regarding his sewer lateral. He read two pages of information. Bellefonte Borough has two different positions on the same issue that he would like to bring to their attention. August 31, 2016 he was informed by two Bellefonte Borough employees that the water leak in front of his house was really a sewer leak and they requested permission to come on his property to investigate. Mr. Young granted the request. He was with them and the investigation included some digging by shoveling in front of the house next to the road. He explained the history of sewer problems at his house. On September 13, 1996 he and his wife closed the paperwork to purchase their house. They moved in Thanksgiving 1996. In the spring of 1997 he had George Raub do some backhoe

work on his property. As he was grading beside the house to install a gravel driveway he uncovered and broke some terra cotta pipe. Mr. Young felt that was coming from the downspout that was draining the rain water into the sewer, which is no longer legal. The result was the broken terra cotta pipe was draining out the driveway and no longer going into the sewer. Later when the wife was doing laundry he heard a gurgling sound in the driveway. He removed some dirt and stone and saw sewage backup. Mr. Raub came back and dug up all the terra cotta pipe to the area of the sidewalk and encountered a solid blockage. They tried various methods to dislodge the blockage and failed. Mr. Young went to visit Mr. Brown, Bellefonte Borough superintendent, and informed him of the problem, requesting his assistance. He informed Mr. Young that it wasn't the Borough's responsibility because that wasn't where the sewer hookup began. He informed him when the house was purchased and less than six months later there was full blockage. He informed Mr. Brown that he was going to the Courthouse to sue Bellefonte Borough for fraud. The fraud was that they allegedly conducted a dye test just prior to September 15, 1996 and stated in the report that the dye test was successful and the sewer line was clear. Mr. Brown sent a crew up and they took more than half a day to unplug the sewer line. They had all the manhole covers open above and below the house and the main sewer line access was removed. After many hours of work they removed the blockage with a large brown geyser of water and sewage shooting at least 20' or more in the air, as it was reported to Mr. Young. Mr. Brown instructed George Raub where to dig and connect to the Borough sewer connection. Mr. Raub did as instructed and Mr. Brown observed what was done with all new PVC pipe installed and connected to the Borough connection. September 1, 2016 the Borough brought their truck and trailer to the house the next day with a sewer auger and water pressure hose to attempt to unblock the blockage. He was there when the auger and water pressure hose was run all the way to the road and under the road to the main sewer line. Given that there was still water leaking from the front bank they made an emergency call for digging and a few hours later began digging between the road and the sidewalk. They reached terra cotta pipe and installed a connection and cleanout. He mentioned that there was still terra cotta pipe running from where they installed the connection and cleanout. They found a yellowish t-shirt with two or three buttons on top. Mr. Young said he never wears that kind so someone must have put it down one of his several cleanouts because they are easy access on the property. He asked if they found any tree roots and received no answer. How do they know there are no leaks in terra cotta pipe they did not dig up when they established a new connection: How can Mr. Brown, in 1997, tell him he was properly connected to Bellefonte sewer connection at one place above the sidewalk? How can Bellefonte Borough, Matt, in 2016 make a different connection that is not in the same place as the Bellefonte Borough's connection in 1996? Mr. Young talked to several of the water department crew and they said that was before their time and they didn't know. He feels ignorance is not a defense. Maybe in the Borough, but not in court. He spoke with all the workers and one particular employee had an arrogant and condescending manner for the entire time Mr. Young was out there. Is this how Bellefonte Borough trains its workers to relate to the residents? His neighbor, Kevin Burke, came out and asked why they were digging his property. They told him to mind his own business. He is saying Bellefonte has now established two different sewer connections that are so called Bellefonte Borough connections where you connect. If you say to him well the law changed he is saying you got terra cotta pipe in there between them. He wants a decision made and wants it put onto the books saying the Borough knows what it has so if there is a problem later on it won't be his fault, his problem.

Mr. Stewart cannot go back to when Dick Brown worked for the Borough. He said they do a dye test. It was standard procedure then and is still standard procedure today if there isn't a record of the property. The dye doesn't take much to get through a sewer line into a manhole. A little drop does wonders. Mr. Stewart has no doubt when it was reported by Mr. Brown that he was telling the truth that they saw it in the manhole. They probably didn't camera the line and look through a camera. Visually seeing a little bit of dye in the manhole in 1996, Mr. Stewart believes that happened. He backs up Dick Brown 110%.

Mr. Young doesn't feel a little bit of dye is the standard for the test. If that were the case and the sewer line was clear or nearly clear why did it take over half a day with their equipment to get that open. Mr. Stewart cannot say. He said that question should have been asked in 1996. What he can say is how powerful that little dye is. A little drop will turn a stream green. He has seen it. It is likely that they saw it in the manhole and thought it was connected. That is all the test is to show – whether you are connected or not. It doesn't say whether the pipe is clogged or not. It would have needed to be completely clogged for the dye not to get through.

Matt said they went up the next day and tried to run the jetter through and were unsuccessful. They couldn't get very far down his sewer lateral. He discussed it and there was no cleanout at the curb because it was put in before all the regulations so they dug up at the curb. Access from the terra cotta was coming from his property connecting to the Borough terra cotta going out towards the main, which was the Borough responsibility. When they got in there they started jetting to clean out his lateral, which was plugged and they found the t-shirt. Once they got that out of the blockage it relieved everything. The clean out and the hook up are at the curb. They can't know the condition of his lateral from that point in without using a camera, but that is not of their normal concern. They typically worry about from the clean out to the main.

Mr. Young said if there is another problem he won't come to the Borough. He will go directly to Court. He feels they are defining the sewer connection for Bellefonte Borough as the one that Matt described between the sidewalk and the road. Mr. Brown described it as between the sidewalk and up a little bit. The bottom line is they are talking about 6'-8' of the old terra cotta pipe. Relying on what Mr. Brown said he hooked up there and the man that did it was a professional in excavating. He does water and sewer lines all the time. Mr. Beigle asked if Mr. Young was there when they came for the most recent blockage, which he was. Mr. Beigle asked if he told them anything about where Mr. Brown had made the connection before. Mr. Young explained the history to Greg Brown and Pete. Pete came and inspected sewer pipe on his property, which Mr. Young doesn't understand because it is on his property. If there is a problem he is responsible for fixing it. He feels the Borough may want to consider not being too intrusive in people's lives. When the other guys came he explained it to them. One individual said he's not going to dig. Mr. Young asked what needed to be done to resolve the problem, but there weren't any answers forthcoming. He told them to get the guy in charge, which was Matt. He also said he was told they had no idea where the sewer lines were coming from that hill coming down on to Curtin Street. He was told when you come down Linn Street there are no connections after the curb.

Mr. Stewart said there are not maps of laterals on private property. The code requires them to inspect new installations. It wasn't the Borough that put the t-shirt in the sewer line. If it happens again it would be a fluke. Mr. Stewart does not know what to say to prevent it from happening in the future. He feels the crew did what they normally do. They tried to resolve it. It wasn't tree roots, it was a t-shirt. Mr. Stewart is not hearing anything where the Borough was at fault or did something wrong. Mr. Young reiterated he was told one thing by Bellefonte

Borough in 1996 about where his connection is. That position is different where they established a cleanout in 2016. It's probably a difference of about 6'-8'. Mr. Stewart does not know why they are 6' apart. Mr. Young said when they hooked up to the Borough in 1996, and he wasn't there when it was hooked up but was there when he dug it. He had the problem and came to see Mr. Brown. Mr. Young feels when you have a hookup there is some type of connection. He thinks it probably stopped before where the sidewalk is. He couldn't imagine he would tell him to hook up to the old terra cotta pipe because it's the Borough's connection. Mr. Stewart said it is not the Borough's connection. They stop at the curb, the edge of the road. Mr. Young said there was no connection there. There was nothing between the sidewalk and the road other than the terra cotta pipe so when they dug it up and found it why they didn't take the rest of it he doesn't know. Mr. Young said when that was dug up there was no PVC. All that was installed by George Raub in 1996 was PVC so they did not connect at the same place that George Raub connected to Bellefonte Borough according to Mr. Brown.

Mr. Stewart said maybe they tried to save the sidewalk. Mr. Young said that is not it because the sidewalk that was there was old and he replaced it and put in a new one. Mr. Stewart is trying to speculate why they didn't go to the curb in the road to start with in 1996.

Matt said it is the same connection. What they put in they tied in to the existing terra cotta with PVC. The terra cotta running under the road seemed to be in good shape.

Mr. Young said Bellefonte Borough has two different positions and if there is a problem they will have to defend both positions in Court because they don't want to acknowledge it and think they did everything right. He wants this to be an official part of the record so the sewer people know what is going on since he provided the history.

- Paul DeCusati, 137 West Curtin Street, attended the meeting to ask about a particular issue they have regarding the people that have owner/occupied homes and have a rental, but the rental is not occupied. In his case it has not been occupied for over a year and yet they still pay a double sewer/water/trash bill. He is asking if it is possible for something to be put into the ordinances that says if you have a rental and have not used it for over six months that you can get those fees waived? Later if it is rented then you can start up from when it was rented.

Mr. Stewart said the charges are kept there for a couple reasons. One is that you are indicating that you want to keep that apartment so it stays on the books. That way there is no concern about whether the apartment is abandoned. Also, in the past landlords come in and say it's not occupied so don't bill me and then three months later they don't call back and say it's now occupied so start charging me. It may take a year to catch up when the next inspection comes around and find out that the apartment has been occupied. That is why they are hesitant to take it off the books. Now there is the water meter to see if usage is going up, but that is the only thing today that wasn't there years ago.

Mr. Clark asked if there would be an issue for Mr. DeCusati down the road if the apartment was taken off and then he wanted to rent it again. Would there be a code issue? Mr. DeCusati already asked the code enforcement officer about that. The issue with the enforcement organization is if you take it off and apply later on then you have to come back and it has to be brought up to all the current codes. Mr. Schneider suggested that Mr. DeCusati come to the Authority meeting with his request. They would not give up their rental permit. Mr. Halderman said if someone rents it again without informing the Authority there would need to be some type of fine system. Mr. DeCusati suggested writing it in the agreement that the Borough has the right to inspect any time they want. Mr. Beigle feels this is a legitimate request. The Authority

will explore it. The question was raised as to whether the ordinance would affect other communities, but Mr. Stewart said it would not. Mr. DeCusati said they have one connection.

Mr. Brown feels it should be kept the way it is. Mr. Lundy said you run the risk of losing your sewer service if the plant ever gets to full capacity. He said other Authorities and Municipalities do not allow taking the sewer off line. Mr. Stewart said they will look in to this.

- John Kostas, Benner Township, was going through the minutes and was looking at the 2012 WWTP upgrade. There was some talk about possibly going after the engineering outfit and then he lost track of it in the minutes and asked if there was an update on it. The Authority members said that was an energy savings upgrade that was done. The Authority is in litigation on that at the moment.

WRITTEN

- A letter from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the 2015 Annual Report Review. It was received at the WWTP. It's about the pre-treatment program. It is saying Bob and the crew that does the pre-treatment work are doing a great job. The Authority members congratulated Bob on a good job.

- An article from the National Rural Water Association for Authority members to review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee –

- Mr. Badger gave the Finance Report. For the Water Fund there was a net income of \$277,563.84. The checking cash balance is \$518,618.50. The Corning Pump House loan balance is \$319,567.24. The account is currently 67% through the year.

For the Sewer Fund there was a \$74,609.10 net loss. The checking account balance is \$361,667.67. The Bond Redemption checking balance is \$72,207.43. The Money Market fund is \$1,092,617.02. The Reliance loan balance is \$650,792.87. The Penn Works plant upgrade loan is \$3,448,789.77.

Mr. Halderman made a motion approve the Finance report. Mr. (?) seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Water Report - by Eric Lundy

Corning Pump House - Pump Upgrades

The V-system was there in July. They replaced the packing and the pump ran fine for several weeks and then it began not starting up again on its own. Buddy contacted V-systems and Matt did also. There is a tentative date for the 14th to replace the gasket without the silicone. When they put the gasket on they used a red perma-seal compound to hold it on and he is fearful that they plugged some of the passages. He is concerned that some of the silicone came loose. The passages aren't very big. They are only 1/8" thick. Matt from V-systems wants to make it

right. It has been four months trying to get this worked out. Eric has not heard any updates from West Penn or Strouse regarding a disconnect date.

Eric reported they contacted Strouse and he is waiting on West Penn Power to be on site to disconnect power feed from the existing #2 pump motor. Once he knows that he will coordinate with Martz to cut the holes in the new VFD cabinets.

Hopefully at the next meeting there will be good news.

Big Spring Cover Replacement

The fountain liner was started and completed the week of August 8th. Shop drawings were received August 8th. They were reviewed and sent back. They addressed concerns August 11th. The actual cover replacement project began August 15th. The new cover was covering the spring on August 16th. The flushing system piping was installed around the top of the new cover and tested to 70 psi for the specs. Work was stopped on installing the drain until after the Grange Fair. The drain line was installed the week of August 29th. With the drain line installed the main project was substantially complete. Within the next week or two a final inspection on that system will be scheduled.

Matt reported that this process has not gone as smooth as they projected. Instead of three days they just finally got the sprinkler system buttoned up the end of last week. They still haven't pulled the cover tight. They got some drains resolved last Thursday or Friday. The other concern is the electrical for the pump. It is a two horse pump and there isn't enough in the panel to run that pump, which was brought up in the initial pre-bid meeting. The installers were a sub to whoever got the bid. Now they are in the middle of a standoff as to who is going to upgrade the panel. It draws 30 amps. The Authority members feel the person that got the contract should be responsible.

The gentlemen from Coca Cola were there and they weren't pleased either. The first day had many things go wrong. It was a long day and was not a very well thought out process. The first three days were full of chaos.

Mr. Halderman asked if that is the color the Authority chose. Mr. Stewart said it is very close to the color.

Matt Auman

Matt gave his report for July and August.

A lot of things happened in July. A water leak was repaired in the chlorine room at the Big Spring. A water and sewer lateral were replaced at 126 Brown Avenue. He repaired a 3/4" service line at 131 Florence Avenue, which was Nittany Terrace. He repaired a sewer line at 212 Burnside Street. Had complaints of low water pressure on Valentine Hill. On the 18th a water leak was repaired on North Thomas Street and Railroad Street. It was a lead joint. On the 19th they exposed the water main at Parkview Boulevard and East High Street to install a hydrant. The next day a hydrant tap was done and the hydrant was installed. They repaired some water boxes for some training through L/B water. The following day L/B water came and the training was done on the loggers. On the 25th they continued to look for a leak at 519 Valentine Hill Road. On the 26th they repaired a service line at 213 North Thomas Street. On the 27th did a hydrant at 948 Woodland Street. The 28th there was a 4" main break at Willowbank and Water Street. The 29th they repaired a sewer line at 122 South Penn Street. They also installed loggers on Bel Aire Hill trying to locate a leak on Valentine Hill.

On the 1st the Corning Pump came on and losing prime issues reoccurs. They finished fire hydrant nozzle replacements for the manufacturer on the ones that were failing in the field. They started to replace a service line at 136 South Water Street. It didn't go where it was thought because there were no maps on it. They had to dig a little farther. They tried tracing it but the lines broke and they can't get a good trace on it. They came in at midnight and worked on that one due to its location. The 8th and 9th New York Leak Detection came in and located a couple of problem areas. They were unable to locate the main concerns, but did find a couple other ones. They came in to help on Valentine Hill Road where there were some issues. It still isn't totally resolved. They dug six different places and had people come up with possible leaks but didn't have much luck. Three phantom holes were dug. They are still trying to figure that one out since it hasn't been resolved. When they have spare time they go out and try to find stuff. They replaced the fire hydrant on Reynold's Avenue on the 10th. The 12th they prepared for the cover replacement at the Big Spring. The 15th – 19th they assisted the Big Spring Cover replacement and did the sampling. The 22nd there was a 4" main break at West High and North Thomas Streets. The 23rd they repaired a service line at West High and South Thomas. The 29th dug again on Valentine Hill Road looking for the leak. The 31st they replaced the pump at the Zion Road pump house.

Sewer Report - by Eric Lundy

Sludge (Volute) Press Replacement

It is in place and startup is scheduled for Monday, September 12th.

Major Upgrade Project - WWTP RBC Replacement

They met with DEP and officially submitted the Special Study on July 7th. The meeting appeared to go well, but unfortunately DEP sent a letter a week later denying the submission saying it was administratively incomplete for minimal reasons, reasons that they didn't bring up prior to submitting. They are now requesting that Benner and Walker Townships approve the plan via a resolution and Bellefonte Borough and Spring Township readopt the plan. There is documentation proving the scope of study from DEP showing only adoption by Bellefonte Borough and Spring Township. This is a special study to replace plant equipment, not an area wide study. The Authority asked for assistance from Senator Corman's office. They pulled a revised plan together addressing their comments and their administratively complete letter. It was submitted to Senator Corman's office on Thursday or Friday of last week and then on to DEP that same day.

AECOM – Study Review

This is on hold until the special study issue is resolved.

PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

They are assisting Bob Cook on updating the Authority's pretreatment program to maintain compliance with the EPA guidelines.

Bob Cook -

Bulk water sales for July were 359,000 gallons. Bulk water sales for August were 242,000 gallons.

On July 6th the influent sampler failed. A service tech looked at the unit and recommended replacing it.

On July 13th Ingersoll Rand service tech was on site to try to trouble shoot the BNR air compressor. He determined the air dryer needed to be replaced and he provided two quotes for a replacement dryer.

On July 18th the new certified operator Alec started working solo shifts at the wastewater treatment plant.

On July 27th the volute press installation meeting with Nittany, the contractor, and the electrician took place.

During the first week of August the wet test was performed.

August 10th DEP conducted a water quality inspection and no issues were identified.

August 15th the contractor was on site and installed the volute press. Mr. Hampton also stopped in, the contractor, and dropped off the building permit. The majority of the volute press work has been completed by September 2nd and the volute press startup is scheduled for September 12th.

OLD BUSINESS

-Response to DEP letter July 21, 2016 and Revised Study Documents, Act 537.

-Children's Dental Health Task Force Meeting – This was held last Wednesday as an informal meeting. Brian Walker represented the Authority. Dr. Dankanich; Gay Dunne; Karen Truesdale, a school nurse; and a couple other folks were there. They talked about the idea of working with Centre Volunteers in Medicine Program that has a dental health task force associated with it and/or the idea of bringing in a facilitator to help the process. The decision was the Dental Health Task Force of Centre Volunteers of Medicine has a meeting in October. Mr. Stewart sent the contact person an email to get the exact time and date and they will try to attend that meeting and summarize where things are and what they would like to accomplish and see if they are a fit. There will then be another meeting mid to late October to see where to go.

Mr. Walker said a task force like this can seem to go on and on with no end goal so one of the things he would like to do is push that task force towards an end goal, which the Authority can end and say they've done their part and step down. He tried to help the group identify three areas: education, treatment and industry standards. As an Authority he feels beyond education it is out of the scope of the Authority. He would like to help them get the local education part up and started and let them run with it.

Mr. Stewart agrees it is important to try to keep everybody focused. It is a pretty narrow mission with a strict timeline. That was very helpful.

-WWTP Project Financing – The financing is in place. The loan has been closed on. There is a three-year interest only period and you only pay what you draw down. It is there and available. Once the permit is ready for the big project there could be some discussion about whether to draw on that to take care of the volute press project or the piping project. Both of those were started because of the concerns with both those projects. Timeliness was a concern.

NEW BUSINESS

- The water report for August 2016 and September 2016 were included in the packets. The numbers were up a little bit, but that is because water is being sold to SCI Rockview for approximately five days. They were sold approximately four million gallons.

- The Waterworks building, a small building connected to the Gamble Mill. It is owned by the Borough. It was a mechanical pump room built in the 30's or 40's to mechanically pump water up to Halfmoon Hill and up Lamb Street. There is a 6" line that went up Halfmoon Hill and a 12" that went up Lamb Street. In the late 1980's they mothballed the facility and it has been used for storage since then. The people interested in purchasing the Gamble Mill want to renovate the inside and outside of the building. They would like to build a new kitchen on to the mill on the footprint of the waterworks building, which is in very poor condition. Going back thirty years there was a \$1 a year lease with the owners of the Gamble Mill. At that time they did renovations to the building. They added on a little bit to hide a freezer, which is still there. The roof was a cement poured floor that deteriorated since it was put in. Council discussed what to do with the building. They are in favor of transferring the property to the IDA, who can work with the new owners of the Gamble Mill and decide how best this property could fit in with their plans.

There is still an active water line that feeds the mill and goes in to there. It wouldn't be a big deal to disconnect it where it is.

- There are still plans to renovate the Corning tank. That will be included in the special rate for the Corning customers. It is on the horizon.

- Mr. Auman said with the Centre Region Code the water guys that do the inspections are running into some trouble with them already inspecting the water and sewer lines and the pressure tests that the Borough normally does. They are getting to the buildings and they have already signed off on the permits. Mr. Stewart will address that with a letter to Mr. Schneider.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Halderman made a motion to adjourn the September 7, 2016 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Authority at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Following adjournment the meeting went into Executive Session – legal matters.