

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH AUTHORITY MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 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, Badger, Brown, Thal, Clark, Scott

Members Excused: Scott, Halderman

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

Guests: Frank Dankanich; Rick Murrell; Richard Miller; Romaine B. Naylor;
Curt Stanton; Anna Mae Stitzer; R. Tim Smith; Deb Smith; Brian Walker;
Karen Harvey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Thal made a motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2015. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to accept the minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

ORAL

- Karen Harvey, 729 East Bishop St., Bellefonte, and a Borough Council member. She hopes everyone had a chance to get the materials that were circulated among Council members having to do with the issue of fluoridation. The issue she wants to bring up is the cost of upgrading the facility. She asks respectfully that the Authority would reverse their decision and continue fluoridation. She also asked that they very carefully look over the estimates that they have or will receive for how much it will cost. The total cost according to the materials they received for a 16' x 12' structure plus all of the other operations and considerations with all the safety features would be \$317,000.00. She asks the Authority to very carefully review the plans. She is not a construction expert but feels there are places where costs might be cut back. She

feels everyone is in agreement that the costs for worker's safety are fine. Some of the surrounding costs could be significantly trimmed down and cost was an important factor in the Board's decision to discontinue fluoridation. Two very quick examples...the facility will be in the Historic District, however it is not the refurbishing of an existing structure. It isn't a historic site that has to be preserved. She thinks it would be possible to talk to HARB and compromise on the covering of that building. Secondly there is a provision in there for providing better access for delivery of chemicals. This would mean upgrades to the existing service entrance off of Water Street. The access is there. It may well be that a larger entrance is not needed if it goes from the mandated .9 down to .7. In summary she asks that the Authority reconsider their original decision and go back to fluoridation and secondly, certainly any costs concerning upgrades to the facility and worker's safety are vital. Thirdly, she thinks this can be done for less than \$317,000.00. Thank you.

- R. Tim Smith, 113 Kathryn Drive, Spring Township. Last night at Council they discussed the issues of cost and safety and regulations, which is what the original decision was based on, but last night some other things got introduced by Mr. Stewart including ethics and whether or not fluoride has some negative effects as well as its benefits. Mr. Smith put together a packet of information regarding fluoride and explained each item in it to the Authority members. He asked the Authority members to read information behind the claims that are out there. Information is readily available on the web.

- Rick Murrell, 401 East Lamb Street, Bellefonte. He has to filter out his own water every day. It costs him \$50 for 200 gallons of water to get fluoride out of his water. He doesn't think he should have to pay for water that gets put in at a dosage that no one knows what it really is anyway except for .7 – 1.2 milligrams and that is being lowered to .7 so it just goes to show you that for over 40 or 50 years everybody has been over fluoridated which causes a problem called fluorosis, which is really bad and 40% of teenagers are affected by it approximately. Twenty-three references, sources and references, he can make available to everybody. If you want to fluoridate your water after you read that you won't want to.

- Richard Miller, 305 Robin Road. He had a few questions. October 6th is when the letter was received and they have 30 days to respond? Mr. Stewart stated there was a letter from DEP dated October 7th and it gave a 30-day notice. And then do you get postcards after that and have thirty days to... Mr. Stewart stated depending on what action is taken at this meeting. If no action is taken they will continue down the process. The letter outlines what the Authority is supposed to do to finish the process, and that involves a direct notice to the customers that they are discontinuing fluoride. Even though it has already been done it will be done one more time. Then they wait thirty days before the actual discontinuation takes place and then after that they can turn off the fluoride pump. Mr. Stewart cannot answer what the Environmental Hearing Board will do. Mr. Clark stated it is a judicial board that anybody can appeal if they feel that their concerns have not been properly addressed. It is very much in the legal realm. It is operated very much like a court of law. It is an appeal process for issued permits and decisions made by DEP. Mr. Miller's opportunity to do something will be up in about four days. The letter is posted on the Borough website.

- Frank Dankanich, 1331 Parkwood Drive, Bellefonte. He echoed what Councilman Harvey said and hopes they reconsider the thought of removing fluoride from the water for all the reasons discussed before.

- Deb Smith, 113 Kathryn Drive, Spring Township. She addressed some of the comments Ralph made in the CDT last Friday and in the report today from last night's meeting. Ralph is quoted as saying the fluoride put into the system is a toxic acid that can carry metals like lead and arsenic. The health risks, he said, include potential developmental issues in infants and children. Tim took care of the Sauer paper article and she wants to address Steve's claims because they are unsubstantiated by any scientific evidence. You can go online and look for any scientific evidence and the only place you will find them is in the website for the fluoride action network, which promotes scare tactics and misinformation to get people to take fluoridation out of their water. She is going to quote from the American Dental Association fluoridation facts, which is available online. The suggestion of optimally fluoridated water does not have an adverse effect on bone health; no scientific basis to show fluoridated water has an adverse on the thyroid gland or its function. There is no credible scientific evidence that fluoridation has an adverse effect on human reproduction, fertility, or birth rate. There is no known association between the consumption of optimally fluoridated water and Down syndrome. There is generally accepted scientific evidence establishing a relationship between consumption of optimally fluoridated water and central nervous system disorders; attention deficit disorders. Generally accepted scientific evidence has not shown any association between water fluoridation and blood lead levels. As discussed throughout this booklet the overwhelming weight of credible scientific evidence has consistently indicated that fluoridation of community water supplies is safe and effective. The possibility of any adverse health effects between continuous low-level consumption of fluoride has been and continues to be extensively studied. It has been determined that approximately 10% of dental fluorosis is attributable to water fluoridation. This type of fluorosis has been determined to be a cosmetic affect rather than an adverse health affect. Of the thousands credible scientific studies on fluoridation the matter has shown health problems associated with the consumption of optimally fluoridated water. Allegations that fluoridation causes corrosion of water delivery systems are not supported by current scientific evidence. This is a publication that has many, many scientific references that support the claims that they are presenting. She challenges anyone to find scientific evidence that would support any other claims.

Mr. Stewart stated he did make comments. Each person will need to read the literature and draw their own conclusions. He would like to say more, but he isn't going to. Council voted last night to continue fluoridating. The Authority has voted to discontinue. He is not going to comment since there are two entities that are looking at this from different perspectives.

-Mr. Beigle would like to address the issue. There is a resolution on the fluoridation of water from the Bellefonte Borough Council. The resolution was passed by Council at their meeting after the Public Hearing.

It states: Whereas, by virtue of Resolution No. 11022015-001, adopted the 2nd day of November, Bellefonte Borough declares its intent to make the following recommendation to the Bellefonte Borough Water Authority: Bellefonte Borough Council, by unanimous vote, highly

recommends to the Bellefonte Borough Water Authority that the Authority continue to add fluorosilicic acid (Fluoride) to Bellefonte's water at the permitted levels. Concurrently, Borough Council also asks that the handling of metering equipment for the chemicals be brought up to the current best practices to provide employees a safe handling and storage system. Borough Council will support these measures to cover the cost associated with the new system. Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Borough of Bellefonte hereto this day supports the continuation of fluoridation of Bellefonte's Water System. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Bellefonte Borough, Borough of Bellefonte, Centre County, Pennsylvania, hereto this day supports the continuation of fluoridation of Bellefonte's water system. This resolution duly adopted this 2nd day of November, 2015, by the Bellefonte Borough Council, Centre County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Stewart stated a number of articles/letters were brought in or dropped off and put at the table for Council. Those were all copied for the Authority members.

Mr. Beigle asked if there any Authority members, from the letter date October 7th, would see any change or change their position on the way they had voted before. Nobody was opposed so the Authority will continue with the October 7th letter and meet the requirements DEP has presented to take fluoridation out of the water.

WRITTEN

- A letter from J. C. Hutchins, Vice President, JH Waters, Inc. providing an updated cost for the Big Spring Reservoir Cover. The contract total would be \$101,117.68.

- A letter from N. Warren Miller, Executive Director, Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority in regard to the upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Ms. Walker presented the Water Fund Budget Analysis. There is a page listing the items requested by Public Works. Everything on Matt's list is in the budget. The union contract with Public Works is up at the end of this year and they have not resolved it so there are assumptions in the budget. Health insurance will increase 12.1% and electric costs are increasing. That all has been factored in to the budget. The Penn Eagle pump station will be discontinued.

The Sewer Fund Budget Analysis was more of a challenge. Bob Cook, Plant Superintendent, has a list of projects that will help keep the plant operating in an effective and efficient manner. The piping project is in the budget for this year because it was felt it would get done before the end of the year. Mr. Stewart said this would be paid for out of the Sewer Fund reserves and then the money could be taken out of the upcoming loan to reimburse it. For the Sewer Fund Ms. Walker is proposing an increase of \$7.00 per quarter. That would give approximately \$80,000.00 in revenue. That would make the cost \$110.00 per quarter. Nittany Engineering did a rate study and they had the Borough at \$110.00 instead of \$103.00. Next year it can be bumped again. It will end up at \$130.00 - \$140.00 per quarter. Mr. Stewart reported the Authority is not breaking even in revenues and expenditures and haven't been since the last upgrade was completed at the treatment plant. At the end of 2019 the bond will be paid off. The

rates are going up to take care of new debt that is coming. He feels by the end of 2019 things should be okay. There is no choice but to move ahead with the piping project.

Mr. Badger provided the Finance Reports beginning with the Water Fund. The numbers are as of October 30, 2015. There was a net income of \$196,128.60. The cash balance for the checking account is \$248,812.99. The Water Meter Loan balance is \$30,915.52; the Corning Pump House upgrade loan is \$339,303.59.

The Sewer Fund net income is \$134,269.63. The Sewer Fund balances as of October 30, 2015 are: Checking Account - \$120,057.10; The Capital Account, which is restricted for upgrades is \$245,546.32; the Money Market Fund has \$1,409,074.73. The Reliance Loan balance is \$688,854.48; the Plant Upgrade loan is \$3,678,522.91.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Water Report - by Eric Lundy

Corning Pump House - Pump Upgrades – The pump motors are ready to be released for shipment with non-insulated bearings per the Authority's direction at the October meeting. Jason Little will coordinate with the contractor on the timing to receive the pump motors

NEA received a verbal approval from the Centre Region Code office for the revised drawings that were submitted on September 30th.

Since that time and based on the options reviewed and discussed in order to provide a UL listed connection(s) from a portable generator, a revised drawing was submitted to the Centre Region Code Office on October 21st. We anticipate approval of this minor change from the Code Office the week of November 2nd. Once approval is received we will issue the notice to proceed and coordinate with Ralph and the contractor shipment of the pump motors.

The electrical engineer, Dan Mattern, is to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure(s) for the operator(s) use in the event that a generator needs to be used.

It is our understanding that Craig Herrold will mark the existing utility lines so that West Penn Power can be notified to proceed with their work to install the new electric pole.

Big Spring Cover Replacement - NEA has received two (2) quotes to replace the cover per the original design of the cover and the costs range from \$31,137 to \$101,117.68. He will provide copies of the quotes to the Authority members. He wants to do a summary because there are a lot of various options. NEA has requested some additional clarifications from the installers on the quotes they provided and will coordinate with Authority staff to determine the best path forward.

Corning Pump House – Optimization Study - NEA (Jason Little) provided Ralph with a proposal to conduct the study to determine the most efficient point of operation of the new pump(s) based on power and required flow values. A copy of the proposal is attached for the Authority's review and approval to proceed with the outlined scope of services.

Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the study. Mr. Badger seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Fluoride Removal Permit Application – Our office provided Ralph and Matt with an Engineer’s Report for the Required Fluoride Addition Upgrades. Based on a conceptual design, we estimate the cost for these upgrades to approach \$317,000.00.

Corning Tank – Rehabilitation Cost Estimate and Rate Study – NEA is currently working on the cost estimate and estimated user rate impact to paint the interior and the exterior surfaces of the Corning Tank.

ResTek Fitness Center Water Service – Matt and Eric received submittals on October 27th for the proposed water service and meter pit installation for this project and are proceeding with review of same to ensure compliance with Authority specifications.

Matt Auman -

- 10/01/15 – Installed new Hach chlorine analyzer at the Big Spring
- 10/02/15 – Martz Controls came and ran the data lines for the chlorine analyzer
- 10/05/15 – Hach did startup of new analyzer
- 10/06/15 – Checked sewer laterals at the Cadillac Building with sewer camera
- 10/12/15 – Cleveland Brothers was in to service generator at the Big Spring
- 10/14/15 – Started preparation for the fire line tap at High/Allegheny Street
- 10/15/15 - L.B. Water came to do the 6” tap at High/Allegheny Street
- 10/20/15 – Repaired 4” main break at Bishop/Wilson Street
- 10/26/15 – PA Rural Water came in to help locate a leak on North Thomas Street
- 10/29-30/15 – Finished running 140’ of 6” fire line and the new 2” domestic tap for the new Garmin Building
- 11/02/15 – Meter reading at Rockview (1.8 million gallon use)

Sewer Report - by Bob Decker

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

On behalf of BBA, NEA has forwarded a letter notifying the DEP that it is being installed. We are requesting a meeting with the DEP to go over any documentation required prior to official startup of that system.

At this time, BBA staff is finalizing the installation and hopes to have the system completed in the coming weeks and ready for activation.

After 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.

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.

Additional Addenda (#1 to #4) were issued and the Final Bid Form (Addendum #3) ultimately removed the option for an Alternate Deduct for the authority to pre-purchase the system plug valves directly based on the lead time and potential coordination issues with the construction contract. With that said, the contractor was responsible for include the valves within their bid form pricing.

In addition, Addenda #3 also provided more supplier options for the Plug Valves which would have the potential for shorter lead times and enhanced product competition (lower costs).

Addenda #3 also provided an Alternative Deduct/Add for flange style piping. Again, the flange system would provide another pipe connection option with the potential for more selection (lower costs), and potentially reduce the lead time on this timely repair/replacement project. Please note that the owner has the option of selecting or not selecting this alternative.

BBA received three bids on the project on October 14th (see attached bid tabulation) and NEA provided a review of the bids for the authority (see October 22 NEA correspondence).

Based on the three bids and variation in pricing, BBA/NEA met with the apparent low-bid on October 26th to briefly review the project.

At this time, BBA needs to provide their recommendation to issue Notice of Award upon final review of bid documents.

- Mr. Clark made a motion to proceed. Mr. Thal seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

WWTP Major Upgrade Project -

BBA/NEA staff has met with the DEP staff in regards to potential “Planning” required prior to the design permitting associated with the proposed Facility Upgrade in October. The major Facility Upgrade has been prompted on continued issues with the existing Rotating Biological Contractor (RBC) units and other equipment that is aging at the facility and requiring replacement.

Based on this meeting and direction by the DEP, BBA needs to complete a Special Study scope that provides analysis and cost evaluations for the most effective solutions to replace the RBC units and improve restrictions associated with the Activated Sludge system. In addition to this core study requirement, the study also includes other applicable information.

The study will also examine the existing sewage flow/loading at the facility and the potential to increase sewage flow/loading for future needs.

NEA has included a draft DEP Task Activity Report for the preparation of this planning document.

Odor Control

Odor loggers were installed at the BBA facility for approximately two weeks as 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 SBWJA and DEP planning coordination will have an impact on the schedule below. It would be difficult for NEA to estimate the delay at this time until we know if we will conduct the planning.

BBA has completed the process wastewater testing and the results have been used to finalize the Modeling of the process by EVOQUA which is ultimately used in the credibility of the Performance Guarantee.

Bob Cook -

The bulk water sales for October was 172,500 gallons

October 12th – October 15th – the Pilot Volute Press was on-site and operating

October 15th and 16th HACH technicians were on-site to do start-up of the Phosphorus, RTC System

October 22nd received notice from Tetra Tech, a company that is conducting a Pretreatment Audit for EPA

Currently in the process of permitting a new farm for biosolids land application, DEP site visit and the soil profiling evaluation is scheduled for Nov. 12th and 13th. (Approximately 160 acres.) This will be the 5th farm.

Our Maintenance Department land applied approximately 488 tons of biosolids during the last few weeks of October.

OLD BUSINESS

- Updated information on the Public Hearing that took place on November 2nd before the Council meeting.

- A new updated estimated was received for the Big Spring cover. It can be installed in the winter, but the cover molds better if it is kept warm. The plan is to go with a cover replacement in-kind and continue to look at alternatives to beautify the Big Spring. With the regulations in process it would be lengthy. It may take a couple years to get approval.

NEW BUSINESS

- The report on the new building was in the packet. The numbers are legitimate. Mr. Stewart talked with Eric and since it is in the Historic District it will have to go through HARB. Options can be discussed for the outside of the building. The existing building has no plumbing and where the plumbing is under the ground would have to be investigated. It is very tight now and if larger containers are going to be brought in you need to make the entrance wider. Eric stated it is important to note that the estimate is just that...an estimate because there is no final design. Eric emphasized that he would not recommend to the Authority to fund a project that is under-funded. The goal of NEA always is to provide a cost effective project.

- Sludge Press Demonstration at WWTP – They did real calculations on how much the press is run. They would like to purchase the mentioned model. It can be purchased through Co-Stars, which saves the bidding process because the Borough would be piggy-backing off the

state's bidding program. The current press would cost approximately \$50,000.00 to rebuild and the goal is to keep that as a back-up. There is enough room in the existing building to squeeze the new one in and keep the old one. Bob would like a professional do the installation. Was to Ft. Indiantown Gap last year. They do land application to their solids too and they actually have a manure spreader sitting underneath it. It comes out dry and when it is full they take it out and apply.

Mr. Clark made a motion to acquire the unit. Mr. Thal seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Brown asked that the Authority go back out for financing proposals since the terms have changed.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Clark made a motion to adjourn the November 3, 2015 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Authority at 7:34 p.m. Mr. Badger seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.