

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
September 6, 2017 6:00 p. m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the September 6, 2017 Bellefonte Borough Authority was called to order in the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building at 6:00 p. m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

PRESENT: Mr. Greg Thal
Mr. Brian Walker
Mr. Joe Falcone
Mr. Joe Beigle

ABSENT: Mr. Greg Brown
Mr. Dan Badger
Mr. Frank Halderman

STAFF: Mr. Ralph Stewart
Ms. Lori Walker
Mr. Matt Auman
Mr. Bob Cook
Mr. Bob Decker, Nittany Engineering
Mr. Eric Lundy, Nittany Engineering

CITIZENS: Andrew Nough
Thomas Baker

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

**Mr. Thal moved to approve August 1, 2017
Authority Meeting Minutes;
Mr. Falcone seconded the motion;
Motion carried unanimously.**

ORAL:

Centre Crest Water Bill

Andrew Nough and Thomas Baker discussed the water leak at Centre Crest which made their bill increase substantially. In November of 2016 a water bill was received by Centre Crest. The a/p department noticed increased water usage during this quarter. They initiated a building wide search trying to isolate the issue. There were small minor problems that were remedied but it did not seem to take care of the large bill. January, 2017 there was a worker in on the weekend on a cold morning, who saw some moisture coming out of a pit in front of Centre Crest in the office area. He found that an old outside faucet buried underneath stone and dirt from the 1992 construction had burst. He located the shut off valve and turned it off. At that point, daily water meter readings were monitored to assure that this was under control. The bill went down about 80,000 gallons instantaneously. This was obviously the problem and caused the water bill to increase substantially from normal quarterly usage. The leak was not in the parking lot but adjacent to the building. Neither Mr. Nough nor Baker new of this outside faucet in that location. They wanted to see if there is anything they can do about the bill.

The bills went from 680,000 gallons and have kept it down to around 597,000. Seems like the spike was due to this leak. The bill is now back to where it used to be. Centre Crest has not received any waivers from the Authority in the past, to Mr. Baker's knowledge.

Mr. Stewart stated that the policy is if a waiver is granted, it is for one time only. This has been done with other property owners and businesses. If a waiver is granted, this is only for one time. Another leak in the future could not be waived.

Mr. Baker explained some of the water use sources at the facility, laundry facilities, toilets in use, bath tubs, water heating systems, etc....Maintenance is done in house.

The difference in the monthly bill was \$31,000.00.

**Mr. Thal moved to grant Centre Crest a one-time waiver of the difference of
the water bill;
Mr. Walker seconded the motion;
Motion carried unanimously.**

LB Water – Sensus Meter Reading Equipment

No presentation. Staff unavailable.

COMMUNICATIONS - WRITTEN:

Letter from Spring Creek Watershed Commission to Authority and Council.

Mr. Stewart indicated that Council took care of this with the Bulk Water Funds at last night's meeting.

Email re: PADEP imposing Fee on Water Authorities

Mr. Stewart indicated that there was information in the packet regarding a gap in the DEP budget. They propose to fill the gap by raising all water fees that they charge and create new fees. Comments are due on or before September 24, 2017.

Mr. Halderman requested that we state that the Authority is not in favor of this fee proposal. The DEP budget was discussed briefly in that funds should be able to be found in other areas, and not water.

Letter from Nittany Engineering re: Acquisition by Century Engineering

Mr. Decker reported on this acquisition. Nothing will change. The company wishes to grow geographically. The Pennsylvania office, which is in New Cumberland, PA mostly, deals with DOT work, i.e. PennDOT. They do everything except wastewater. Cenruty bought Nitany and another firm in Maryland at the same time. The transition will be challenging. Some local subs will still be utilized and they are fine with that.

This should be a smooth transition. However, administratively, there are active contracts for wastewater treatment plant and annual retainer. The contracts need to be signed and were available at the table.

A tentative meeting will be scheduled with Century.

Letter from Nittany Engineering re: Big Spring Cover Drain Issues

Nothing new to report. A.J. has been speaking with the attorney and this is in the report. A claim on the bond is intended to be filed. The first step is notification. This notification will at least get the contractor's attention. The solicitor's office should handle this. Mr. Stewart will verify the status of this issue.

Copy of Letter from Nittany Engineering to SBWJA re: WWTP Upgrade

Response letter will be forwarded to Mr. Stewart. Response was positive.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Walker reviewed the water finance with cash balance as of August 31, 2017: Checking \$393,276.70; Reliance had \$353,830.07. Lump balance for Reliance for the pump house upgrade was \$296,309.67. The Authority will pay off the pump house upgrade loan with the Reliance checking money as approved at the last meeting. This is in the process.

Sewer: Checking \$331,860.42; Redemption Checking \$72,317.70 and the money market had \$1,336,594.86. Lump balance for Reliance was \$603,627.84. Northwest the three loans were at \$35,758.30, \$21,284.49 and \$1,124,496.16. _____ loan was \$3,144,360.53.

Sewer raise increases were discussed briefly. 2016 was 1.10 and 2017 was 1.20 and the next was 1.25. 2019 went to 1.30 and stayed steady. This will be reviewed.

Mr. Thal moved to approve the the sewer and water fund Finance report.

Mr. Falcone seconded the motion;

Motion carried.

BUDGET OTHER:

There is verbiage in the regulations regarding charging outside municipalities for hydrants. There are over 84 that are not in the Borough that there is fire protection outside of the Borough. The hydrants need to be maintained and there is nothing in the fee schedule. This should be reviewed and remedied.

Fire lines are also not charged for. This is missing revenue that other authorities have included in their budgeting. Fee schedules from College Township, State College and Walker Township were provided and will be considered.

An updated maintenance program was started this year on the hydrants.

More information will be provided at the next Authority meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – WATER:

Mr. Eric Lundy reported on the spring cover and attorney communication on the remedy. Bottom line is the Authority solicitor will issue a letter beginning the process on going after the surety for the remedy work. Notification is the first step. This was discussed in detail in previous meetings, i.e. failure and lack of resolutions. Authority members would like to be taken care of before winter arrives.

ENGINEER'S REPORT –SEWER:

Mr. Auman reported that on August 2nd a 4" sewer lateral was replaced at 521 E. High Street; August 3 a possible leak was dug up across from the Sheetz; nothing was really found; 202 Water Street, water main repair, August 8 replaced fire hydrants at 1225 Fairview Drive, August 9 hydrant replaced at Burroughs and Penn; August 11 another one was replaced at Linn and Shugart; 14th installed a new sewer clean out at 953 E. High ; 15th deleted a water line service to 239 Ridge Street for home demolition; August 15 removed the water meter which was sent back for calibration; 16th installed a new water line service at 133 W. High Street; 17th replaced the hydrant at Curtin and Linn; August 28 water shut offs at Valentine Hill Road; last week a 6 inch sewer main was repaired at Phoenix Avenue next to the EMS. The hydrants are done (10) for the year.

Members complimented the water crew on a very good job done on repair work.

Ranio Project

Mr. Stewart spoke with Mr. Ranio and he is considering the deal. Asked if the project can be done this fall. Waiting for the go ahead from Mr. Ranio.

Other:

On the upcoming project at the Wastewater treatment plant, DEP still has permits in hand and as far as it is known, the Borough is next on the list per phone call. Approvals are expected by October.

A set of progress drawings were provided.

Keystone was awarded the scale project and gravity belt thickeners project is progressing.

Mr. Cook reported on bulk water sales for August: 111,000 gallons. Received notice from the DEP that the NPDES permit application is due August 1, 2018. Wet test samples were collected and submitted during week of August 7. August 22 the EQ digest

for blower No. 2 failed. Dean, the electrical tech that was in during the event, stated there is an issue with the drive. He is looking into repair.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water usage is pretty steady. Corning seems to be using more water up that way as it develops more. The State Police Barracks will break ground soon as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

PA Bulletin – proposed rulemaking re: Safe Drinking Water and Permit Requirements

Reviewed prior in the meeting.

Phoenix Road Sewer Line:

A lot of infiltration being addressed.

Budget:

Will be worked on over the next month or two.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – LEGAL

ADJOURNMENT:

**Mr. Falcone moved to adjourn;
Mr. Walker seconded;
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.