

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2018 - 6:00 p. m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the January 3, 2018 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. Frank (Buddy) Halderman
Mr. Greg Brown
Mr. Brian Walker
Mr. Joe Falcone
Mr. Doug Johnson

EXCUSED: Mr. Beigle, Mr. Badger

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

CITIZENS: Brian Preski, PAWSC
Lynn Herman, PAWSC
Mike Schmidt, resident

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Mr. Stewart indicated his willingness to take on the position of Secretary if no one else would like to. Mr. Falcone indicated that he would be willing to serve as Authority Treasurer as well.

Mr. Stewart asked for nominations.

Mr. Brown nominated Mr. Falcone for Treasurer and Mr. Stewart as Secretary, keeping all other positions the same. (Mr. Beigle as Chair, Mr. Halderman as Vice Chair).

**Mr. Walker moved to approve the 2018 nominations and elections;
Mr. Halderman seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Halderman.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

**Mr. Brown moved to approve the December 12, 2017 meeting minutes;
Mr. Walker seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

ORAL:

Presentation by Pa. Water Specialties Co. (PAWSC) – Backflow Program Administration

Messrs. Brian Preski and Lynn Herman presented the Authority with information on cross connection control and backflow administration. They met with Mr. Stewart previously and he suggested coming before the Authority Board. Mr. Preski went on to explain backflow and cross connections. Pennsylvania Law mandates that a resident or commercial business cannot introduce a contaminant into the water system. It is the Authority's responsibility to make sure that they comply. The Pennsylvania Building Code also mandates this. Essentially backflow devices are mandatory, and the level is based on the risk associated with the customer type. The building code states that all customers must have a backflow device installed and must be tested either at install, repair, relocation or annually. PAWSC administers programs for municipalities for the backflow and cross connection program. It is free of charge to the municipality or Authority.

The company administers the notice and testing. If the customer refuses, then they would be subject to water supply shut off. 70% of customers comply with the first letter, 80% compliance with the second letter, and 95% with the shut off letter. The last 5% is usually just addressing error clean ups.

There are two call centers that would intake calls. Their website contains all Pennsylvania certified testers (ASSE Certified). Cost for a test (average \$150.00) is billed directly to the water customer. PAWSC makes money when the tester puts the information into their system. They are charged \$17.00. With backflow and cross connection, there is no problem until there is a problem. Backflow occurs in every water system practically every day.

If an event ever occurred, there are twelve different points in the computer system to assure that the system is safe. RPZ valves have two checks and between the two you can only get a reading of 5,000 PSI or less. If a tester results greater than that, it kicks the result, so it can be checked.

Mr. Preski discussed the Flint lead water problem. The municipal officials and water authority were indicted for what was going on in their water system. The EPA was alarmed and then began to regulate Pennsylvania. DEP then went out and assessed systems to reintroduce a sanitarium control program.

Mr. Preski stated that their customers include Aqua and Pennsylvania American Water and about 25 systems across the state at this time. He stressed that it does not cost the Borough anything, and they are being brought into compliance. He asked that the Authority consider having PAWSC administer this program for the Borough. Contracts were provided at the table for review. He reiterated that he would like to have the opportunity to serve the Borough.

Mr. Falcone added that the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association has had a long-standing relationship with the PAWSC. He favors the program but recused himself from any vote on the topic.

Mr. Stewart indicated that there are about 300 commercial sites in the Borough with much more residential. He stated that the residential were installed with backflow devices with the new meters. The commercials were updated as well. The annual inspections have not been kept up on. Since the commercial meters are privately owned, the owner would need to hire a certified inspector.

Mr. Preski offered that the Borough would have access to a “read only” database and all information would be readily available.

The State College Borough system was discussed briefly. It was acknowledged that there is a lot of administrative duties involved with the program and the Authority and Public Works does not have that capacity.

**Mr. Johnson moved to approve the use of the PAWSC on the commercial side inspections only and archiving the residential;
Mr. Brown seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

A kickoff meeting will be scheduled with Mr. Stewart for approval of the standard letters that will be sent out. PAWSC can provide information for posting to the Borough website. A note can also be added to the billing advising of the backflow prevention services beginning. Training can be accommodated as well.

Authority Volunteer

Mr. Mike Schmidt, resident of East Bishop Street addressed the Authority. He is a member of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission. He explained to the Authority his experience with water science and engineering. He is retired and would like to join the Authority. He has provided his information to Mr. Stewart.

COMMUNICATIONS - WRITTEN:

None.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

None.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – WATER:

Engineer's Report – Water – December 12, 2017

Cover contractor was discussed; seeking out another company to repair the cover at the spring.

Nick Boyle was in contact regarding a potential development at North Thomas Street. Some specs and maps were provided to him.

Engineer's Report – Sewer – December 12, 2017

Gravity belt thickener was discussed. The roller will be replaced, and one is being made and will be the correct size at the contractor's cost.

Bids – Bid results are in for the wastewater project. General, Mechanical, and Electrical were received. Bids were reviewed. Parts and supplies were discussed. The total of the General Bid with all alternatives came in just under \$6 million. The Electrical Bid came in at \$802,893.00

The Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority 42%/58% split was discussed. Rates were discussed as well. McCrossin and Lepley were recommended for bid award. After this meeting, and if the bid is awarded, the letter at the table will be sent out with all the bid information. The original 537 project had the project in around \$6.3 million. Current everything is at \$7.4 million.

Different upgrades to the existing structure were discussed. Authority was reminded that the building is 27 years old.

One of the bigger projects is full replacement of the final clarifier mechanisms. There were some emergency repairs done about 5 years ago. There are several other energy saving items that were also included replacement. Mixers were added so that the blowers do not need to be used as much in the Q tanks. This will save a lot over time.

The silos that originally stored lime back in the day, were going to be repurposed. A contractor was contacted, and the quotes were too much. This project was put into the big project budget. Many of the costs include repurposed equipment. There is a lot of concrete work to be done.

Bid forms were reviewed at the table. Costs and rates were also discussed. Refinancing when the rate goes up in 2026 was discussed, being \$1 million plus over the estimate. Biomag locked in the price but just adding in the brake assemblies was over \$250,000. Mr. Decker explained that until you have the bids in, the cost of the project is not for sure. Estimates have been pretty good in the past but until bids come in, nothing is set. Everything in the job is prevailing wages. Mr. Stewart asked if anything can be removed to be done in smaller pieces that would not require prevailing wages. Mr. Decker stated that there have been issues in the past with buying direct i.e. something goes wrong it is the Borough's responsibility. Ownership is not taken over until it is accepted and started up from the contractor. Perhaps 10% could be saved purchasing equipment up front but other problems come along with that. Decker did not recommend it.

Mr. Stewart recommended that the Authority take 30 days to review the entire project item by item and see if anything can be delayed, changed, or modified. He feels that the \$1 million overage is huge and was not a planned expense.

Mr. Decker will try to obtain McCrossin's breakdown schedule. A meeting will be scheduled with Mr. Decker, Mr. Cook, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Halderman to view the bid and costs.

Water Report – December 2017 – Matt Auman

December 7 there was a check valve fail on Pump 1 at Corning, December 12-13, pump house maintenance was done at Big Spring. December 17 Pump 2 motor failed at

Corning. The same day the check valve needed to be switched from 2 to pump 1 to get the Corning side back up and running. Two-inch main break at 405 South Monroe on December 21. December 27 the motor was picked up from EMS and on the 28th a sewer main break was repaired at 311 E. Howard. December 29 EMS aligned the motor on pump 2 at Corning. December 29 a new check valve was installed and spool piece as well. EMS lined the motor last Friday. They feel there is too much play in the pump shaft. December 30 injector fail at the Corning pump house. This was replaced. Frozen pipes at the Decker Building on December 30 were addressed.

Wastewater Report December 2017 – Mr. Bob Cook

Bulk water sales for December was 900 gallons. December 7 the meter tech was on site to calibrate flow meters. December 18 the International Farm Tractor was taken to Valley Ag for repair. Nittany Engineering survey was also on site and located a property line near the car lot. December 20 maintenance picked up and placed concrete barrier along the property line and picked up the building permit for the Biomed project. December 26 contractor began dismantling the gravity belt thickener. December 28 UV service tech troubleshot the system.

OLD BUSINESS:

Executive Session items will be discussed at adjournment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Bylaw Amendments

There have been discussions about board members calling in and attending meetings via teleconference. Mr. Stewart checked the bylaws and they are very outdated. He updated the bylaws a bit relative to the agenda, when the annual meeting takes place, and that board members can call in to attend meetings remotely.

Mr. Walker moved to approve the new bylaws as submitted;

Mr. Falcone seconded the motion;

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Walker moved to adjourn;

Mr. Johnson seconded;

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Executive Session: Legal Matters