

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH  
AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 1, 2019 – 6 p.m.  
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)**

**5:00 p.m. Review of Big Spring Cover RFPs**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting of the October 1, 2019, Bellefonte Borough Authority was called to order at the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building at 6 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Joe Beigle  
Mr. Frank (Buddy) Halderman  
Mr. Joe Falcone  
Mr. Brian Walker  
Mr. Doug Johnson  
Mr. Mike Schmidt

**STAFF:** Mr. Ralph Stewart  
Ms. Lori McGowan, Finance Director  
Mr. Bob Cook  
Mr. Dave Klinefelter

**ENGINEERS:** Mr. Eric Lundy  
Mr. Bob Decker

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**MINUTES:**

**Mr. Halderman moved to approve the September 5, 2019 Authority meeting minutes.  
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.**

**ORAL:**

Nothing presented.

**COMMUNICATION WRITTEN:**

**Letter from Habitat for Humanity**

Up near 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and N. Spring Street, several lots were created (Plosner estate) over the last couple of years. Habitat purchased the three lots that remained. They asked if the Authority would help them out with the tap fees (not water/sewer bills). The tap fees in the Borough average about \$600 per tap, each, for water and sewer. This would be about \$1,800 for each for water and sewer if the waiver was granted. Stewart explained that this is for Habitat for Humanity and they are trying to get a family in with as low debt as possible. Some of the factors were mentioned in their letter.

There was discussion on setting a precedent. Mr. Halderman would like to help them out, however.

**Mr. Halderman moved to approve the waiver of the capacity fee only.  
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.**

Discussion was held on perhaps just discounting the fees instead of waiving them. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization. Labor costs were discussed. The customer is usually charged the labor costs in addition to the tap fees.

**Motion carried.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Mr. Falcone recapped in the financials. The sewer was at \$2.1 million for proceeds from loans. When that is taken away, proceeds for the year seem to be right on track for the year. The only section lagging is waste disposal.

Expenses are over but nothing stands out as over the normal scope of operations. Net income for the year is \$885,000 and cash balance in checking and money market is about \$1.2 million.

Water fund is straight forward with revenue doing well for the year to date.

**Mr. Halderman moved to approve the financial report.  
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.**

## **Water Budget**

Ms. Lori McGowan discussed the wish list for the water budget. The Howard Street leak cost and equipment were discussed. Mr. Stewart stated that you have to also look at how much the equipment is used, consistently. If a track hoe is used 3-5 times per year, it may be more cost effective to lease one. The cost is between street, sewer water and refuse. It would also be used at the compost facility. There would be use than may be anticipated.

At times, the Borough will trade services between other Townships. Mr. Stewart stated that it does not always work out due to timing. The utilization of a Borough operator was also discussed when another Township wants to borrow the equipment.

The track hoe would be adaptable in the future for other tasks as budgets become available over the next few years.

The water meters by Sensus were discussed. Their reps are not able to make the November meeting. They would first do a study and that study would reveal how many antennas would be needed. That is what they are working on now and they will have some budget numbers in a couple weeks.

## **Sewer Budget**

Ms. McGowan discussed the sewer budget briefly. The magnetite was discussed at 5 loads per year. It is now 500 lbs. per day. The number may need to go higher.

### **ENGINEER REPORT – WATER:**

Mr. Lundy reported that the permit was obtained for the bulk water loading station. That is ready to go. It will be installed in-house.

## **Water**

Two four-inch main leaks were repaired on Wilson Street. Exeter Supply wanted to do a demo for leak detection and two leaks were detected at Wilson. They used correlators to detect the leak.

Hydrants were done. The service line on the Corning side at Penn Eagle was a 500,000 gal per day leak on a two-inch line. It is the first building on the right behind Sheetz. They now have a pit.

### **ENGINEER REPORT – SEWER:**

The testing and trouble-shooting of the Bio-mag equipment has been ongoing and actually dragging out longer than anticipated. There was a problem with sheer mills which pumps up the sludge and magnetite. There were fans in the VFD panel that failed. They are up and running again. There was a period of time (2 weeks) when magnetite would not be recovered. They will

try to quantify that and take that out of the final pay application which will hopefully come in next month.

Testing started but there are some issues with the performance testing. The testing was to start October 1 but has been postponed. They want to re-do the sampling points.

It is hopeful that October will be the final month. Nothing has been heard regarding McCrossin's claim. Final requisition is planned, not including that claim. The performance test needs to be done. All indications are that everything is working well, and results are good. Sludge has improved and the odor is a non-issue. The formal performance test needs to be done which is part of the contract before the project can be closed out.

The EPA permit approval was received, and the schedule is being updated with the insurance company. Once that is done, that can be wrapped up. Ms. Walker stated that this was sent out today.

The fan fail was discussed briefly. The fan is up and running now. The VFDs were new so it is unknown why the fans failed.

Mr. Cook reported that bulk water sales for September were about 183,600 gallons. September 24, the DEP conducted biosolids inspection at the Shaffer farm. No issues were reported. On September 27, the south mixer gear box motor was replaced. The new operated started on September 30.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Big Spring-Cleaning System – not doing the job**

Mr. Stewart reported on the failing cleaning system. The crews are still manually cleaning the cover.

The pump is pulling in debris from algae which plugs the lines. That is part of the problem. Perhaps expectation of what the system was to do may be another part of the problem. Mr. Lundy reported that it was not meant to scrub the cover, it was meant to flush smaller debris. The solution may be to try to get cleaner water going through. This can be done perhaps with in-line strainers to catch the debris before the lines.

A basket similar to a pool strainer may work but it may be so bad that it may need to be cleaned every day. A letter amendment was discussed.

Mr. Stewart suggested going out further in the channel/spillway and pull water from there where there is less algae. The design intent was to flush the smaller debris, per Mr. Lundy but there will be a need for manual cleaning at times.

A higher-pressure system would work better to get the debris off of the cover. The sprinkler type system does not work. It was unclear what the solution would be.

Mr. Lundy took the responsibility of trying to find a solution to the issue.

## **Tour**

Mr. Stewart discussed touring the wastewater treatment plant. He remarked that everything looks good at the site. Performance testing has not been done, but he will check with some interested parties for potential dates and times that may work for everyone. He will do individual groups, of authority and Council members and Spring Benner Walker personnel and supervisors.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Notes from NRWA Conference in Nashville**

Mr. Stewart summarized his notes. He discussed Sensus. The switch to the automated meter reading system was discussed. The data would just need to be captured. Some meter modifications and replacement may be needed to upgrade to the automated system. The Borough is due for meter updates. He is trying to get some figures on the package.

The data storage was a concern. Most vendors recommended against private servers storing the information and suggested outside secure data storage. A lot of the storage space will probably be leased to get it off the ground.

The system will allow streetlights to tie in and other amenities. Leak detection is a potential as well. The customer can also check their own data. As a side, to dim the lights, certain things would need to be in place as well. The ability to dim the lights would curb some of the resident complaint about the brightness of the LEDs.

Mr. Stewart stated that in 2020 the Borough will look at replacing meters and going toward the new system.

PFAS chemicals were discussed and the social media fear of chemicals being in the water and causing injury and death. Regulations will be in place to test for it and it will be expensive. If the chemical is found and needs to be removed, it will be expensive. Due to hysteria on social media they are looking everywhere to find it. The politicians are looking to see what they need to regulate and what standard needs to be met. It could be a new major expense, per Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Falcone reported that he enjoyed the conference.

### **Reappointment of Mr. Halderman**

Mr. Johnson discussed the terms that will be expiring on the Water Authority. Mr. Halderman's term will expire at the end of 2019. He has been with the Authority for many years, served on Borough Council for many years, has a 40+ year construction management background, and has offered many cost-saving options. Mr. Walker brought up the Big Spring Cover project that is just beginning and will involve significant construction detail and regulatory oversight.

**Mr. Johnson moved to recommend to Borough Council, the reappointment of Mr. Halderman.**

**Mr. Walker seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried.**

### **One Water Report – Spring Creek Watershed Committee**

Mr. Johnson mentioned that the “Plan” is nearing completion. They may contact the Authority to present the new program that they would like to initiate in the watershed area.

Members discussed the plan and members were opposed to participation as even though it is a “plan”, future phases may include mandatory controls. Members believed that the water control should rest with the Authority for the betterment of Bellefonte.

The water cover proposals were discussed briefly. Mr. Walker opined that the RFPs were vague.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn.**

**Mr. Halderman seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION FOLLOWED THE REGULAR MEETING**