

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
November 5, 2019 – 6 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the November 5, 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. Frank (Buddy) Halderman
Mr. Joe Falcone
Mr. Doug Johnson (via teleconference)
Mr. Mike Schmidt
Mr. Joe Beigle (via teleconference)

STAFF: Mr. Ralph Stewart
Mr. Bob Cook
Mr. Matt Auman
Ms. Lori Walker

ENGINEERS: Mr. Eric Lundy
Mr. Bob Decker

MINUTES:

Mr. Falcone moved to approve the October 1, 2019 Authority meeting minutes.

Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

ORAL: Nothing presented.

COMMUNICATION WRITTEN: Nothing presented.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

2020 Budget

Lori Walker, Finance Director for the Borough Bellefonte discussed the budgets.

The water budget came out balanced, but she was missing the cost of the water meter upgrade for the meter reading data. She received that information and the extra funds were put into capital projects and can always be pulled if it is decided to defer on the upgrades.

The upgrades to the system came in at \$230,000. That will be discussed in the future. The vendor will be coming in to discuss pricing, per Mr. Stewart. He would like the Authority to consider using the service improvement monies to upgrade the meters, the MXUs and purchase the Flex Net meter reading system. The Authority will gather more information on this.

The track hoe discussion changed from purchasing a used one to leasing one. That brought the price down from \$25,000 to \$8,480. Everything that Mr. Auman requested is in the budget. The big spring cover project was allocated with \$75,000 for engineering and design, and DEP permitting for 2020. With this, there was an extra \$75,000 which was put into capital projects.

The Corning water tower has \$47,500.00 in the budget. All together there is about \$900,000.00 between the two. It looks like there is a loss on the water fund, but Ms. Walker actually transferred some extra money to capital projects.

Ms. Walker did not put in any kind of increase in rates. It is up to the Authority to increase, but Ms. Walker stated that they are in pretty good shape with the fund.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the fees for the grass containers. Mr. Stewart clarified that that the authority does not set those rates. Those rates are set by borough council. They are looking at a potential \$10.00 per container per year charge for the grass and brush collection. There is a \$1.00 per month increase in refuse and recycling has been increased .90 per month as a pass through from the Recycling and Refuse Authority.

The Authority members agreed that there is no need for an increase water rates at this time.

When completed, the new phase of Amberleigh will generate some revenue for the Authority.

The sewer budget was discussed. Ms. Walker added everything on the wish list. The budget is operating on a loss of about \$279,000.00. Last year it was a deficit of \$307,000.00. Everything is in the budget that the staff asked for.

An increase was discussed. The loans are now principal and interest. A small increase may be possible.

Mr. Stewart stated that there are no major projects for 2020 for the wastewater treatment plant.

The wastewater treatment plant projects were discussed briefly. The Spring Benner Walker money has been used to pay the project back to the Authority. The money market was up to \$651,000.00. The checking was \$101,000.00 and Ms. Walker pulled some money out to keep it up.

Mr. Falcone discussed the finance reports. The sewer fund with loan proceeds adding back in there is about 87-90% revenue. The sewer fund is much more capital intensive.

Electricity at the new facility has gone up. Ms. Walker accounted for the increase in the 2020 budget. Some of the plant testing could be accountable for the increase and it may come down some next year.

ENGINEER REPORT – WATER:

Water Report

Mr. Lundy reported on the bulk water station. Once that installation is completed, Mr. Auman will let him know and the construction certificate can be done.

The spring cover pumping system was discussed. The issues were reviewed, and they are trying to come up with solutions to make that a better system. Some proposals were provided, and they will be reviewed with staff in more detail to see if something can be implemented.

Sewer Report

Mr. Decker reported on the WWTP project. Tests are now being received. Everything went well and it is ramped up to the 3.2 mgd. It has been getting great results. The biomag process was discussed. The shear mills were down with the VFD issue. The overall performance is good with the nitrogen production but there has been a lot of biomag being fed, more than should be fed, in staff's opinion. It is about 250 lbs. per day. It should be leveling off soon.

The McCrossin claim has been silent for a few months. There is no pay app. The final report needs to be provided as contractually required. They are expecting the final pay app at the December meeting (December 17). Hopefully the project will be closed out at that time.

The EPA review needs to be done and the final U.S. Bank Certificate is being worked on. The updated appraisal is in.

Authority Water Report

October 1 the water service lines were disconnected at Governor's Park for the new restroom project. October 2 top seed and mulch repairs were made on several locations. October 3-4 leaks detection was performed on Bishop Street and W. Water. October 8 a six-inch main was repaired at Bishop and McAllister. October 9 service line leak was repaired at 747 W. Water. October 10 3-service line were replaced at 214, 213 and 217 Upper Coleville due to PennDOT's paving project. They were vibrating and broke three service lines. October 11 a 6-inch main brake was

repaired at 223 Paradise Hill Road. October 15 power was traced for the upcoming installation of the filling station. October 17, the tree stump was dug out for the location for the new filling station. October 18 new water and sewer taps were installed at 206 W. Beaver for the Habitat for Humanity house. October 21, hydro excavation took place at the sewer plant to locate the conduits. October 23 a new four-inch tap was installed for the filling station. October 24 hauled and set the filling station at the plant. October 25, demo on leak detection equipment. October 28, winterized restrooms at the parks and the fountains October 29 LB water leak detection equipment was demoed.

The loggers that the Authority got from Coca Cola five years ago are starting to die out. They have been actively checking out other technology that has advanced in five years. Some may need to be replaced in the next few years. October 31 some more demo out at Governor's Park. There will be new facilities installed. The filling station was cleaned out and the equipment was cleared out, fiberglass paneling was installed and lighting and power panels were installed. Food grade hoses were installed.

The leak detection equipment from LB Water was tested. The crew does not feel comfortable with using them and they do not do the same as the ones from Exeter Supply.

WWTP

Sales for October were 243,500 gallons. October 7 Ingersoll Rand installed a stand-alone air driver for the air compressor. October 18 a set of spare tires and other small items were posted on the Municibid site. Preliminary testing for the biomag system occurred over a three-week period from October 7. October 12, Ingersoll developed an oil leak. Service tech was onsite October 21 and provided a quote of \$11,925 to rebuild the unit, which was not recommended due to its age and house of services. Ingersoll/Crane proved a quote through Co-Stars, at \$24,549. October 17 PA DEP requested a new application for a biosolids permit. October 18 received the environmental enforcement decision on the Spicer Farm. October 24, Central Pa Door replaced a door at the bay. There was a typo on the EPA report. The date of the permit expiring is listed before the permit was actually submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Benner Township Water Authority v. Bellefonte Borough, et al adjudication

Benner Township's appeal to DEPs issuance of a biosolid application permit appeal for the Spicer Farm in Benner Township resulted in the appeal being denied. The Borough along with the DEP was successful in that case. The Environmental Hearing Board made the decision, made up of five judges, per Mr. Stewart. All five judges voted in favor.

Nutrient Credits

Excess credits will be sold. All the nitrogen credits have been sold. Some of the phosphorus credits have sold as well. They must be sold by the end of this month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Daily Water Withdrawal Report – September 2019

Deed of Dedication for Amberleigh Phase III

In 2017 a letter of intent to serve water was presented to Matt Harlow at ELA Group. It was a different developer. That developer went out of business and another one picked up the subdivision. Inspections were done and it is ready to be turned over. As each house went online, the Authority began billing. In essence, they were already the Borough's customers.

Mr. Falcone moved to accept the Deed of Dedication for Amberleigh Phase III water system.

Mr. Beigle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

EPA Inspection Report

The detailed report was provided in the packet. The EPA governs pre-treatment inspection. The DEP does everything else at the Plant.

Article re: How Smart Cities Prepare for Technology

Article on making sure data is secure and speaking to insurance company regarding specific types of insurance coverage.

Reminder: December 17 next meeting due to hunting season.

Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association

They offered a few months free membership. Mr. Stewart signed the Authority up and they provided a few items of interest, i.e. magazine, etc.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Beigle moved to adjourn.

Mr. Falcone seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOLLOWED THE REGULAR MEETING