

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2019 – 6 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the December 17, 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. Brian Walker
Mr. Doug Johnson
Mr. Mike Schmidt
Mr. Joe Beigle (via teleconference)

EXCUSED: Mr. Greg Brown

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

ENGINEERS: Mr. Eric Lundy
Mr. Bob Decker

MINUTES:

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

ORAL:

LB Water Presentation

Dave Sollars and Tony Brouse appeared before the Authority to discuss the FlexNet system, meter upgrades and leak detection.

The water meters were discussed first. Currently the Borough uses a drive by meter reading system. Mr. Sollars discussed the AMI system. A benefit of the AMI is a flex system. This reduces meter reading costs greatly. There will be more data available than just the reading itself. It decreases the meter reading time as everything is pulled in from the tower.

Each residence will have a radio attached and within the system, the collectors, and antennas (usually on the water tanks) would be installed. The read would be from the home directly to the collector. There is no in between. From there a sim card would send the readings through the Sensus network through the cloud. No server is needed. Everything is taken care of through the software of the service program.

The system will provide hourly data daily. The customer service aspect increases with this service. The Borough will be able to detect a leak much faster. Zone metering can be done too for main line leak detection. Water consumption can also be pulled from the system.

Final readings can also be done from this system which eliminates the field work. The customer will be able to be provided with more detailed information on an hourly basis.

Water meters work through the system, as well as other monitoring i.e. switches, electric meters, leak detection. They can all report through the license spectrum to the tower. A logger can be put out on the valves and that information can be reported back for major leak detections. Leaks can be watched for urgency on an hourly basis. The detectors can be permanent, or they can be moved around to other areas.

A propagation study is underway and will be completed in the near future. When the report comes back, the readings will be guaranteed, over a three-day period 98.5% guaranteed readings. The numbers that will be read through the software will show accuracy every single day. A sample propagation study was presented that was done for Ebensburg Borough.

Topography and range limitations were discussed briefly. Two sites for towers are being looked at for Bellefonte.

Anything done to a meter will set an alarm and the alarm will be monitored every day instead every 30-90 days. The older meters will have to be updated. About 500 are already updated. Calibration is guaranteed to be accurate for 20-years.

FlexNet radios are 2 watts of power and the strongest in the market. 24 readings daily for 20 years. The battery is guaranteed for 20 years. Sensus owns the 901 frequency and that is being used to transmit information. There is no interference on that frequency. A modem is needed in

the base station and internet service will be needed for that modem. With regard to cyber security, the system is protected with military grade security.

The Allied meters have valves built in and the meters can be shut down through the software system from the office. All shutoffs can be done through the office. They can be installed in the nuisance accounts that are always letting their bill go past due to the point of shut off. There is also a reduced flow option as well.

With the same meter there is a pressure meter and a temperature sensor. There is also a customer option to view the water meter reports.

Sensus Analytics is the software program associated with this service. Customers could have access to the customer portal if the Borough wanted that made available.

A live demonstration of the software can be arranged. Training was discussed.

Leak detection was discussed. The loggers would show financial return immediately.

Street lighting was discussed. They can be controlled through the system as well – turning them on and off, and dimming the lights are options. There are more things to come in the future as well. More products will be introduced in the future.

Ballpark numbers were discussed. The first quote was the system itself with the base stations, software setup and five-year support \$230,000. The meters would be separate. If the heads are newer than 2002 the older meters can be used. All the information would not be able to be transferred. Hourly information would be available but nothing else. The meters would be \$753,000. This can be phased out. The MXUs can be done first if desired.

Leak logger costs would be estimated if the system was reviewed. Every valve would not need a logger.

Mr. Auman stated that the meters would be able to be installed by in-house crews as time permitted. Mr. Beigle agreed with this approach.

The Authority thanked LB Water for their presentation.

COMMUNICATIONS WRITTEN:

Letter from PA Municipal League re: NLC Service Line Warranty Program

Mr. Stewart stated that this letter was picked up by a member of Council. This information was provided to Authority members for their review.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Approve Rates/Budget for 2020

Mr. Lori Walker discussed the numbers for sewer increases. \$1 dollar increase in sewer would accrue about \$15,000, \$2 would be about \$31,000 and \$3 would be \$46,000. She budgeted \$243,000 for reserve. The worst-case scenario is added to that and would not necessarily be used.

If \$750,000 was borrowed from the reserves, \$1 a quarter could be done, and that money could be put back into the fund at \$15,000 a year.

Mr. Stewart discussed the prior rate increase study. This year does not show an increase. The study was done prior to the bids coming in. The bids came in about \$1 million higher than was projected. Spring Benner Walker paid their share in cash. The fund is right because the WWTP project was over budget. Some increase is necessary. He suggested a nominal increase until the numbers can be re-reviewed.

Mr. Falcone inquired if anyone would even notice such a nominal fee increase. Ms. Walker discussed the increase in refuse and recycling. Real estate taxes have increased for next year.

Mr. Johnson was okay with the \$3 increase. Mr. Stewart stated that the WWTP is an expensive system.

Mr. Beigle moved to increase the rate \$3.00 per quarter.

Mr. Falcone seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

The Water System project costs and funding was discussed briefly. The loan on the water meters was paid off. Mr. Stewart would like to take that revenue and borrow from that for a project and use that money to make the payments. Mr. Beigle suggested using funds from the Bulk Water Fund controlled by the borough to help fund some of the new project. The Authority and Borough Council may have this discussion.

Mr. Stewart stated that if projected water sales come through, that revenue will go to the Water Authority water fund. Mr. Beigle suggested that the Authority request of Council a payment from that fund to help with projects on an annual basis. Mr. Stewart said that would be kept on the radar. Some of the funds were used for the waterfront project, making payments on the armory property and other capital projects.

Ms. Walker stated that there is about \$600,000 in the fund currently. Mr. Beigle opined that that money could be used to fund some of the Borough projects. He did not feel it was financially responsible in having that money sitting there.

The Big Spring Cover Project will be a large community project and Stewart stated that he can see Council letting some of those funds go for that project.

Calculation of the meter replacement revenue was discussed. There are no figures available right now. Revenue will go up. Ms. Walker discussed the budget with regard to projects funding.

The capital projects fund is about \$400,000.

The older meters were discussed briefly regarding replacements and increased in revenue, exponentially. The newer meters will create a more realistic picture of the revenue for the usage. The new meters will be more efficient and accurate.

Water fund November 2019

Sewer fund November 2019

ENGINEER REPORT – WATER:

Water Report

The bulk water report was distributed. After the first of the year, a cover flushing system will be reviewed.

Sewer Report

The testing period is done and there was some additional testing, and everything was positive. The money has been held for the performance testing. Now that there is a satisfactory report and all is done, a final payment application was submitted for approval and payment. (Pay App. 17 \$34,018.80). This is the final payment which closes out this project.

**Mr. Beigle moved for approve payment for
Pay application 17 for \$34,018.80.
Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

The NPDES permit is in process. The biomag testing is complete and the report is satisfactory. The recovery equipment was tweaked.

Borough Water Report

Mr. Auman reported the following: November 1 leak detection. November 4 probable leak at 474 W. Water Street. No leak detected. November 5 installed a new water/sewer tap at 231 N. Ridge Street. November 6 more leak detection was done. AED CPR training was also done that day. November 7 a 4-inch main was repaired at Spring and Cherry. Also replaced a one-inch service line going into the Corning Pump House. Later that evening there was a 12-inch water main break outside of the Spring Pump House. The guys worked until 11 a.m. the next day. November 12-14 finished the new filling station at the sewer plan. The permit was received from the DEP. Everything is done there. November 15 leak detection demo at Clemens Lane. November 19 a leak was repaired at 163 Clemens Lane. A leak was detected at 143 Exeter Lane. November 21 service line was repaired at Clemens Lane. November 22 repaired a leak on a 2-inch main at 129 Clemens Lane. A leak was detected at the Econo Lodge. Located leak at 136 Exeter Lane on the customer side. November 26-27 cleaned and camera-ed the sewer the lateral.

Borough Sewer Report

Bulk Water sales for November were about 37,400 gallons. November 5 four items were sold on Municibid, for \$3,959.00. November 11 met with a sale rep who will install the _____. A revised quote was needed. November 20 meters were serviced and calibrated. November 22 the field gimmy was reposted to Municibid as it did not get the reserve price. November 22 received quote from Traine to purchase the compressor. November 26 met with the Pa DEP re: Spicer Farm. The biosolid application was discussed at Spicer Farm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution for Plan Revision for New Land Development (Tressler)

Mr. Stewart stated that Council approved the resolution. This is a DEP requirement for on-lot septic systems. An on-lot was approved at the Tressler property.

Tour

A tour of the WWTP will be arranged for with Spring Benner Walker and the Authority and Council members. The performance report will be circulated. A date in the Spring will be selected.

NEW BUSINESS:

Water Withdrawal Report October 2019 and November 2019

Land Application Site Compliance Inspection Report – Spicer Family Farms

The land application inspection report was submitted.

Christian Academy

Mr. Stewart stated that the Christian Academy is on the Authority system but is located in Spring. It was meant to be turned over to Spring Benner Walker. The Authority agreed to do this months ago.

Warren Miller recently emailed the Borough and asked if the school can stay on the Borough system. The regional sewer agreement allowed for houses that went through the Borough system but were located in the township. They were counted as EDUs. A formula was worked out so that the Borough was compensated for that flow going through the Borough system. Credit would be given to the Borough for the infrastructure and the flow.

Mr. Falcone moved to approve the Christian Academy remaining on the Borough's system and working out a credit system as was previously done in the past.

Mr. Beigle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

**Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn.
Mr. Falcone seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6: p.m.

Executive Session – Legal