

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
(Virtual Meeting)
July 7, 2020 – 6 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

CALL TO ORDER:

The virtual meeting of the July 7, 2020, Bellefonte Borough Authority was called to order at 6 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS

PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Mr. Joe Beigle
Mr. Brian Walker
Mr. Doug Johnson
Mr. Joe Falcone
Mr. Frank (Buddy) Halderman
Mr. Mike Schmidt (via teleconference)
Mr. Greg Brown

EXCUSED:

STAFF:

Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Mr. Bob Cook
Mr. Matt Auman

ENGINEERS:

Mr. Bob Decker

GUEST:

Kevin Lloyd, Big Spring Spirits

MINUTES:

Mr. Halderman moved to approve the June 2, 2020, Authority meeting minutes.

Mr. Beigle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

PARTNERSHIP TO BOTTLE WATER

Mr. Stewart discussed the bottling of the spring water from Bellefonte. There were larger water deals that did not seem to help the Borough much, but a smaller scale operation with more oversight and control may be beneficial to the Borough.

Mr. Stewart reached out to Kevin Lloyd at Big Spring Spirits. He was interested in partnering with the Borough. A more upscale glass bottle with regional distribution is what Mr. Stewart had in mind. The Borough was founded around the Big Spring and the Borough is proud of the water and its quality and taste. It has always been held in high regard. The Borough would like to have product available if tourists or family comes to town, wherein a case of water could be purchased and perhaps the water can be shipped across the country.

Mr. Lloyd spoke about his desire to be part of this water partnership and discussed environmentally friendly factors. The hard seltzer market was discussed as well as spring water and regular seltzer waters. He discussed his project in the works in Pittsburgh. There is a lot of retail opportunity with that site as well.

Mr. Lloyd stated that he is onboard with the water and would like to see Bellefonte participate in partnership that make money for the Borough and would like to make it worth while for both parties. He discussed space options for the production of water as well as reaching the hygienic components and other regulations for the water production.

Authority members expressed their interest in the project as well. Marketing the water as a premium product was mentioned. Mr. Lloyd discussed his connections with a flavor-house in Kentucky who flavors his spirits. There are many seltzers in cans at any store, but he hopes to come up with some unique flavors.

The details of a possible partnership or working relationship was discussed. Mr. Johnson discussed public private partnerships. Mr. Stewart stated that legal advice would be sought as the Authority is a public entity.

Mr. Johnson would like to see the spring recognized but would also like a local outlet selling merchandise and the water products. He wants the name Bellefonte on the bottle. He would like to see a celebrity on board with it sitting on their desk. With the waterfront developing, Mr. Johnson offered that Bellefonte has some exciting times coming up. Bottles were discussed briefly.

The cover for the spring was discussed. Mr. Stewart stated that it will be redone to enhance the spring and the whole area. Community input will be sought on how to make the entrance to the Borough more attractive and having a place to showcase Bellefonte products.

Timing and quantity was discussed. Mr. Lloyd discussed his future plans and how the pandemic has delayed some of the plans for now. There are, however, things that can be done in the meantime to prepare for when the additional space is available. If the bottle design, flavors, etc. are chosen, he offered that maybe by next fall the water could start being bottled.

Next steps may include discussions with Penn State relative to quality control, and a bottling line will be researched that can accommodate the ideas. Mr. Lloyd will have the space to do it. An agreement can be worked on, as well as the bottle design, and possible flavors. These things can be worked on at present. He would like to meet with Authority members about once a month to keep the conversation rolling.

Work sessions can be scheduled for future discussions.

CONSUMER CONFIDENTENCE REPORT

Mr. Stewart stated that the annual CCR was completed. The report was posted online, as required.

The SCADA issue was discussed in June. There was a high number due to filling the tanks back up. The pump did not run during the evening and the levels needed to be brought back up.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no financial report presented.

Utility bills have been basically on schedule and so far, the Borough has been doing well during the pandemic. This may change once unemployment is exhausted.

Projects have been curtailed due to Covid.

WATER REPORT – M. AUMAN

The crews installed the new facilities at Governor's Park in the top restroom. June 24, 2020, a four-inch main break was repaired at the park. June 26 an old service line leak was repaired. Once back to full staff there is a list of things to attend to. Lateral and main repairs will need to be done once everyone is back on the schedule.

SEWER REPORT – B. DECKER

Comments were received from the EPA on June 26, 2020. The response is being prepared for July 2020. Everything is in order with the paperwork.

WWTP REPORT – B. COOK

Bulk water sales (sales from the loading station at the WWTP) for June were approximately 608,100 gallons. On June 4, 2020 the blower on one had a loss of power. Service techs troubleshot over the phone. Failed transformer was determined. A new one was shipped, and the maintenance staff installed the transformer. On June 7 a digester blower was repaired. June 9 maintenance department replaced a 30-year-old gear box and motor on the rapid mixer No. 2. June 26 a violation was cited due to UV cleaning equipment. June 30 the UV service tech was on site replacing some of the failed equipment.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Stewart discussed furloughs. July 27, 2020 everyone will be back at the Borough. The pandemic has put a wrench in projects and anticipated income. A retirement will create a need to reorganize in the department.

The Penn State football program's 2020 future was discussed relative to the economy.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Legal