

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH  
AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES  
(Virtual Meeting)  
September 1, 2020 – 6 p.m.  
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The virtual meeting of the September 1, 2020, Bellefonte Borough Authority was called to order at 6 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS  
PRESENT VIA ZOOM:**

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

**EXCUSED:** Mr. Joe Beigle  
Mr. Greg Brown

**STAFF:** Mr. Ralph Stewart  
Mr. Bob Cook  
Mr. Matt Auman

**ENGINEERS:** Mr. Bob Decker

**GUESTS:** Ms. Anna Child, WMF

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**MINUTES:**

**Mr. Walker moved to approve the August 4, 2020, Authority meeting minutes.**

**Mr. Falcone seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried.**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Anna Child from Weber Murphy Fox was on the call to discuss the email from A. (Tony) Grace re: Courthouse Fire Protection Water Line issue. Mr. Stewart summarized the email with Mr. Grace who contact Mr. Stewart last week regarding an issue on the water lines for the sprinkler system at the courthouse. They did not realize that there was a rule that if they go with an extension or service line more than 100 feet, a meter pit would need to be installed.

Mr. Grace is upset that the project already went to bid. He demonstrated that there was a conversation on-site and there was a follow up email with an attached drawing showing the water line where it would go alongside the courthouse. It appears to be more than 100 feet but there was no indication until recently that a meter pit was necessary. Ms. Child is involved on the project and Mr. Auman was involved as well. Mr. Stewart would like to resolve this issue in the best manner possible. They were intending to put a backflow preventer on the inside of the building. The issue is if there was a distance of pipe that would potentially leak, and it may not be caught right away.

Ms. Child added that the backflow preventer or check valve has already been installed inside of the basement in the courthouse. She does not know how much access would be available to read a meter. It is hopeful that this system is acceptable. The building will not be changing hands as it is a county building, and there can be a formal agreement to gain access.

Mr. Stewart clarified that the rule for the meter pit is in place because there is a distance between the main in the building that is considerable and there is a higher risk of leak the longer the distance. When over 100 feet a meter pit is needed. There was a miscommunication somewhere along the line. He asked the Authority members to work out a waiver since the project is already bid and the backflow and other equipment is already installed. Leaks will have to be proactively watched for.

Mr. Auman understood their point of view, but he is trying to repair a lot of the pre-existing problems and keep things uniform. He realized that this got overlooked and does not remember seeing an official set of plans for approval. From the edge of the property down where the main needs to be installed is another 130 feet which totals about 300 feet of water that will not be metered.

Mr. Stewart stated that during the onsite meeting, nothing was mentioned about where they would be able to go into the building. He went back to Mr. Grace and he stated that they followed up with an email and a drawing (shown on screen). Mr. Auman interjected that it is 150 feet from the edge of the building to the steps.

Mr. Halderman offered that it is the engineer's job to look at the rules and regulations and they need to be read before any bidding is done. The lack of the meter pit was an honest mistake, per Mr. Stewart. There may be some liability that falls on the Authority. The drawing was attached to an email back in August and may have been overlooked. Mr. Halderman did not want to see

precedent set. Mr. Stewart does not think that there is a precedent as there was a good faith effort to follow procedure by submitting the drawing in August. Worst case scenarios is a leak and Mr. Stewart said that someone will be onsite to observe the bedding of the pipe which bedding is a big part of preventing leaks down the road. Mr. Auman offered that there is a joint every twenty feet and couplers on the joints.

**Mr. Johnson moved to approve the meter inside of the building and forego the meter pit.**  
**Mr. Walker second the motion.**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Revenues have held steady despite the pandemic. Additionally, the Authority has done a good job in curtailing expenses, per Mr. Falcone. Mr. Stewart stated that many projects, including the meter installs, were halted during the pandemic. He offered that one of the operators is retiring that was doing the installations, and one of the crew helping him had knee issues and that meter installation project will be held up anyway until early 2021. No big projects were undertaken. The focus was on maintenance and leak detection/repair.

Mr. Falcone offered that continuing on the rest of the year should show a bit of a surplus. At some point the maintenance demands are going to expand because things are at a halt. That needs to be kept in mind in future years when the maintenance budget would be higher than normal.

### **SEWER REPORT – B. DECKER**

Replacement parts are on order from the last meeting. The Mag Drum is the same situation and they are running slow. They are still waiting on University Park Airport to return updated documents on changes made on their deicing fluid management.

The engineer's submission of the Headworks Analysis will be reviewed and he will get back to Mr. Cook shortly.

### **WATER REPORT – M. AUMAN**

August 4, 2020 a 12-inch bell joint was prepared that was leaking in front of Youngs on West High Street. A cork leak as capped off as well. August 6-7 the sewer lateral was done on Monroe Street. August 10 the crews replaced a service line at 43 Sunnyside Blvd. August 11-12, spot digging was done in Parkview Heights. Maps are not very good, and they do not have any as built. The spot digging was being done for Columbia Gas for their main line installation project. August 13 located a leak at 113 \_\_\_\_ Lane which was on the property side and four days later the property owner had it repaired. August 18 a new sewer tap was installed, and a water service line was replaced at 130-32 East High Street. August 19 a break was repaired at 130 Collins Avenue. August 21 repair a 6-inch water pipe across from The Remodeler's Workshop. August

21 replaced service line at 130 Collins Avenue. August 24 repaired a six-inch main at Zion Road and Park Place. August 24 129 Meadowlark Drive was repaired, and a leak was located on August 26 at 112 Kelsey Lane. August 28 service line was replaced on the PRV at the pit down by \_\_\_\_\_.

All in all, it was a pretty good month back, per Mr. Auman. The Corning Pump readings were down 200,000 a day pretty much for the last week. He remarked that the leak on Zion Road was pretty substantial.

### **WWTP REPORT – B. COOKE**

Mr. Cook reported that bulk water sales for July 2020 was approximately 306,000 gallons. August 12 the exhaust fan in the A S Blower Room was taken out of service. There was excessive wear on the shaft. They are currently waiting on the HVAC Contractor to provide a quote to repair or replace the fan. August 18 replaced the new refrigerator effluent sampler system and August 31, the mag drum started to develop another oil leak.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Reminder to schedule a work session to draft an agreement with Big Spring Spirits regarding the bottling of water.

All paperwork was finished on the Dale Summit water loss settlement. That is completed at this point.

Water personnel retirement was discussed. Other personnel will be leaving as well.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Inquiry regarding large water volume and pressure needed - Benner Commerce Park. Mr. Stewart stated that this was a significant inquiry. A minimum of 50 psi was needed with low turbidity levels. All requirements were met.

Daily Water Withdrawal July 2020.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Legal**