

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH WATER AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2025 – 6 p.m.
301 N. Spring Street, Suite 200 – The Oak Room
Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order December 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL Authority members present:

Mr. Joe Beigle	
Mr. Greg Brown	Mr. Frank (Buddy) Halderman
Mr. Jon Eaton	Mr. Doug Johnson
Mr. Joe Falcone	Mr. Ralph Stewart

Staff

Mr. Ralph Stewart, Consultant
 Mr. Frank Noll, WWTP Superintendent
 Mr. Matt Auman, Public Works Superintendent
 Mr. Shannon Struble, WWTP Assistant Superintendent

Guests

MINUTES

A motion was made by ? and seconded by ? to approve the minutes from November 4, 2025. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

In accordance with Act 65 of 2021, If a matter is not on the Agenda, the Authority cannot take official action on it with some exceptions. The Authority can act on matters relating to potential or real emergencies. The Authority may add a matter of agency business to its agenda through majority vote. The Authority should state the reason why the action item is being added to the Agenda. The Authority may vote to add an action item(s) to the agenda.

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATIONS - ORAL

Please sign in, come to the podium at the appropriate time, and state your name and address and what you are speaking about. Please limit comments to three minutes maximum.

Some representatives from an architecture firm were present to discuss the Big Spring Cover/Talleyrand project.

- Screening, lighting, landscaping, water feature/fountain, service wall, etc
- The firm came up with several options and costs for each option.
 - Option 1 - \$500,000 (1 wall and screening)
 - Option 2 - \$700,000 (additional wall/2 tiered wall)
 - Option 3 – \$800,000 (water feature)

COMMUNICATIONS (Written)

NONE

FINANCIALS (Mr. Falcone)

Fund/Budget Review for 2026 Budget, Consider any Fee Changes for 2026. The Authority may take action to adjust the water and sewer rates/fees. Lori McGowan, Finance Director

- The budget was discussed at the end of the meeting. Details are under “Discussion”.

? motioned to raise water rates \$1/1000 and reevaluate 6 months into the year. Seconded by ?. Motion carried unanimously.

? 3:08 motioned to raise sewer rates \$25/quarter (\$100/yr) for a revenue of \$320,000 and reevaluate rates halfway through the year. ? seconded. The shortfall is still \$750,000. Motion carried unanimously.

? motioned and Johnson seconded to approve the budget with the water and sewer rate increases. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget v. Actual October 2025

- Income of \$206,000 on the water side

Budget v. Actual November 2025

There was no motion or vote to accept the financial report.

ENGINEER’S REPORT (Jean Ryan, Barton and Loguidice)

Water/Wastewater:

- Jean reported on several projects and permits being completed.
- The Valentine Hill Road replacement was put out for bid and the Authority received 9 bids.
- The Authority had a meeting with one of the industrial users to go over the permit renewal applications. Permit renewals will go out towards the end of February.
- The Authority is working on finishing the local limits analysis for the NPDES permit. It was requested that additional sampling be done at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- There will be a change order for the contract with PSI for the replacement of the RAS pumps. It is not financial, it is just a change order in regard to contract time.

They are requesting more time. The approval of this change order will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

SEWER REPORT (Superintendent - Frank)

The Superintendent highlighted the details of various projects and repairs completed in November 2025.

- Bulk Water sales for November were 36,200 gallons.
- A new operator started on November 24

WATER REPORT (Matt)

Details were offered regarding projects and repairs completed in November 2025.

- 38 PAONE calls
- Installed 60 new water meters
- Niagara – ? gallons

OLD BUSINESS

Big Spring Enhancements - landscaping – please see the report from tonight’s presentation under “Public Comments”

Review of current Rules and Regulations. Staff will try to review the regulations and provide markups to the Authority.

Niagara Bottling Agreement. Authority may review the current agreement and amend it.

New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC Fourth Amendment to Lease Agreement. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC Fourth Amendment to Lease Agreement.

It was agreed to revisit this agreement at the next meeting.

HomeServe NLC Service Line Warranty Program. Authority may take action.

Ashley Shiwarski of the National League of Cities Service Line program (Homeserve) presented on her company and the services it provides.

- The Authority will consider this program and vote on it at next month’s meeting.
- Homeserve is a company based in Pittsburgh that helps cover homeowners via optional protection on their home water/well lines, sewer/septic lines, and in home plumbing. There is no cost to local authorities for Homeserve services, if the Authority does decide to participate in the program, but there is the potential for a revenue stream for their participation.
- The biggest benefit to the Homeserve program is it does help to raise awareness for home and property owners about what is covered by the Authority vs homeowner’s insurance for needed repairs and replacements. Homeserve will also help to establish a plumber/contractor network to help service resident claims.
- Homeserve offers 3 options: (up to \$8,500 towards each repair/incident)
 - External water line protection

- External sewer line protection
- In home plumbing (covers water sewer or drain lines in the home after the point of entry, clogged toilets and lines in basements)
- Homeserve is available to homeowners 24/7/365 for claims and service
- Includes street repair, sidewalk repair, permitting costs
- There is no service fee or deductible, no annual or lifetime limit, no limit on number of claims
- The Authorities involvement includes mailings (no more than 3 a year) to local residents with information about the program.
- The Authority has the option to collect 10% of all premiums collected by Homeserve annually, paid every January.
- Rates for premiums for property owners:
 - External waterline protection - \$5.99/mo
 - External sewerline protection - \$7.99/mo
 - In home plumbing protection - \$11.99/mo

Homeserv typically sees between 15-18% participation in their program

Valentine Hill Road Bids. Authority discussion requested.

- o The low bid was Keystone Water Group - \$572,000
- o Keystone Water Group has only been in business for a year. They are associated with 3 other companies.
- o Their reference report included a 4-month delay on a recent project, but this was related to the death of one of the company owners.
- o Jean's recommendation is to award the bid to Keystone, but to keep a close watch on the contractor for the duration of the project.
- o It was suggested to push this discussion to next month's meeting to give it a little more consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Daily Water Withdrawal November 2025. No Authority action is requested.

2025 Bulk Water Billing and Usage for Milesburg and Niagara. No Authority action is requested.

Memo: Rate Increase Letters – Niagara & Milesburg Borough. No Authority action is requested.

Memo: Authority Water Usage January-November 2025. No Authority action is requested.

McQuaide Legal Invoice November 2025. Call for a motion/2nd to issue payment for McQuaide Legal Invoice November 2025.

Stewart motioned and ? seconded to approve the above-listed payment. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Authority Member Reappointment- Greg Brown's term expires December 31, 2025. Call for a motion/2nd to reappoint Greg Brown to the Bellefonte Borough Authority for a 5-year term expiring December 31, 2030.

Johnson motioned, and Beigle seconded to approve Greg Brown to the Bellefonte Borough Authority for a 5-year term expiring on December 31, 2030. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 Bellefonte Borough Authority Meeting Schedule. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the 2026 Bellefonte Borough Authority Meeting Schedule.

Beigle motioned, and Eaton seconded to approve the 2026 Bellefonte Borough Authority Meeting Schedule. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Extensive discussion regarding the budget and agreement between the Bellefonte Borough Water Authority and Spring Benner Walker Authority, and agreements for flow, repairs, costs etc.

- o Discussion regarding electric rates and commercial vs private rates, generation vs distribution rates

The Authority agreed to bring Tom Schrack (McQuaide Blasko) in to an executive session to help the Authority find a path forward for funding issue with Spring Benner Walker. The biggest factors in the budget shortage are electricity costs, chemical costs and the loss of Rockview revenue.

ADJOURNMENT

? motioned and seconded to adjourn tonight's meeting. No discussion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.