

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH WATER AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 11, 2026 – 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 February 11, 2026 at 6 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 Will Barton, Chris Gibbons, Barbara Dann, Tim Horstmann (Zoom)

MINUTES

A motion was made by (3:05)? and seconded by ? to approve the minutes from January 6, 2026. 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.

Will Barton, Executive Director (recently appointed), SBWJA, attended tonight's meeting to meet Authority members.

COMMUNICATIONS (Written)

NONE

FINANCIALS (Mr. Falcone)

Mr. Falcone presented the financial report. There were no questions or discussion.

Budget v. Actual December 2025

Discussion of Plan of Finance with Chris Gibbons, Concord Public Finance, and Tim Horstmann, Eckert Seamans.

- Chris Gibbons (Concord Financial): Presented financing options for water projects including:
 - water storage tank (\$1.3M)
 - water line replacement (\$500K)
 - pump house (\$300K)
 - generator (\$150K)
 - FlexNet tower upgrade (Water meter system) (\$375K)
 - TOTAL: \$2.625M
- Outlined two main options - financing all projects through a bank loan at 5.25% interest or splitting between bank loan for immediate projects (this year - \$975,000 for projects this year) and PennVest loan (1.5-2% interest) for future (next year) projects
- A member noted that retiring debt in 2024-2025 provides flexibility within current rate structure
- Joe: Questioned if the Authority could use cash reserves instead of borrowing
- The Authority decided to use cash reserves rather than borrowing for 2026 water projects: Valentine Hill Road water line replacement, pump house work, and generator replacement
- • For 2027 projects (water storage tank and FlexNet tower upgrade) the Authority will explore PennVest financing options.

Current water fund balances include \$553,000 in checking, \$1,108,000 in capital projects fund, and \$174,250 in the Corning Water Fund.

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

- Water:

Jean reported on several projects and permits being completed. Written report was submitted.

Valentine Hill Replacement:

- Bonds and insurance requirements have been received from the contractor
- Waive Pollution and Liability Insurance?
- Declined to waive pollution insurance but Liability insurance was waived with a \$1,000 credit to the Authority (change order for \$1000)
- Should B&L provide full-time construction observation? Would start in March
- Members expressed concern about costs and staff availability due to numerous water leaks. Jean will look into costs to have B&L provide observation.
- Jean will provide cost options for construction observation, including a potential 50/50 split
- A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled in the next couple weeks

Wastewater/Sewer:

- PennDOT 30006 Water Main on MillRace Rd – all submittals are completed
- Draft of local limits will be completed this week (due March 1)
 - Once approved by EPA, the Authority will have to update regulations to reflect the new local limits
 - Developing and submitting the 2025 Chapter 94 report – due at the end of March
 - B&L has scanned in the 2025 Biosolids report, which will be submitted to appropriate agencies this week.
 - Jean is putting together information on a WWTP proposal/analysis that will highlight projects – needs and costs - that will need to be completed in the future. Grant money options?

Industrial Pretreatment:

- Reviewing all the renewal applications
- RAS and carrier pump replacement – Jean inspected the installation on January 22. The pumps were underperforming slightly but the problem was resolved.

SEWER REPORT (Superintendent - Frank)

The Superintendent highlighted the details of various projects and repairs completed in January 2026.

Lots of water leaks due to the extremely cold weather

Bulk Water sales for January were not announced.

WATER REPORT (Matt)

Details were offered regarding projects and repairs completed in January 2026.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Big Spring Enhancements

- o Minor permit amendment - \$750 application fee
- o Members agreed to keep this moving and to submit the application

NEW BUSINESS

Bellefonte Borough Authority Reimbursement Resolution No. 02112026-01. Call for a motion/2nd to approve Bellefonte Borough Authority Reimbursement Resolution No. 02112026-01. **The Authority determined no action was needed for this item.*

PA Rural Water Association Board request of letter of support for Ralph Stewart. Call for a motion/2nd to approve a letter of support for Ralph Stewart's participation on the PA Rural Water Association Board.

(1:09) ? motioned and ?seconded to approve a letter of support for Ralph Stewart's participation on the PA Rural Water Association Board. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

McQuaide Legal Invoice January 2026. Call for a motion/2nd to issue payment for McQuaide Legal Invoice January 2026.

(1:11) ? motioned and ? seconded to issue payment for McQuaide Legal Invoice January 2026. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Daily Water Withdrawal January 2026. FYI. No Authority action is requested.

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

DISCUSSIONS/ACTION ITEMS

High water loss on the Corning line (930,000 gallons) needs to be addressed

Heating system at the wastewater treatment plant is not functioning properly in cold weather

Jean

- o Provide cost options for construction observation of Valentine Hill Road project
- o Schedule pre-construction meeting for Valentine Hill Road project
- o Submit permit application for Big Spring cover replacement
- o Prepare proposal for wastewater treatment plant assessment (after March)
- o Complete draft of local limits report by March 1st
- o Submit 2025 biosolids report to appropriate agencies
- o Develop 2025 Chapter 94 report (due end of March)

Matt

- o Continue leak detection and repair efforts
- o Work on RFP for Big Spring cover replacement

Dave

- Follow up with Attorney Schrack regarding regulations for water service outside borough boundaries
- Explore PennVest financing options for 2027 projects

Authority

- Review quarterly metered sales data as part of regular meeting packets
- Consider extension for grant funding for Big Spring enhancements

ADJOURNMENT

(1:15) ? motioned and ? seconded to adjourn tonight's meeting. No discussion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm. There was an executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss legal issues.

*****NOTE FROM THE TRANSCRIPTIONIST: There were 0 announcements for names of motions/seconds tonight. I cannot discern individual voices of speakers from a recording. Please announce all names for motions/seconds so I can record accurate minutes. This will help avoid difficult audio fees. Thank you.***