

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH WATER AUTHORITY**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 3, 2026 – 6 p.m.**  
**301 N. Spring Street, Suite 200 – The Oak Room**  
**Bellefonte, PA 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order March 3, 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**

**MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Beigle and seconded by (1:45?) to approve the minutes from February 11, 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.*

Barbara Dann, a Bellefonte Borough Council Member, commented regarding announcements of motions and seconds. She asked the Authority to try to fix the issue with announcing motions and seconds.

### **COMMUNICATIONS (Written)**

NONE

### **FINANCIALS (Mr. Falcone)**

- Mr. Falcone presented the financial report. There were no questions or discussion.
- Budget v. Actual January 2026
  - Mr. Falcone commented that it is only the first month into the new fiscal year so there's no way to discern the finances this early in the year.

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

- Water:
  - Jean reported on several projects and permits being completed. Written report was submitted.
  - Valentine Hill Road – change order in the amount of a \$1000 credit to the Authority (waiver of the insurance requirement)
  - B&L will provide supervision.
  - Notice to Proceed will be issued this week and currently reviewing submittals.
  - Pre-Construction meeting scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> with Keystone Water.
  - Tentative start date of March 16.
- Big Spring Cover Replacement
  - First draft of the permit is completed – planning to have the permit submitted to DEP mid March.
- Big Spring Pump House Electrical Work
  - Work is moving forward.
- Wastewater/Sewer:
  - Draft of local limits was submitted to the EPA on February 25.
  - 2025 Chapter 94 and Industrial Pre-Treatment reports have also been started and are being completed. Both are due at the end of March.
- Industrial Pretreatment:
  - Reviewed the permit renewal applications for 8 of the Industrial users that had permits expire at the end of February. The permits have been updated and include the EPA comments from the Audit that was completed last year.
- RAS and Carrier Pump Replacement:
  - Pump replacement has been completed.

### **SEWER REPORT (Superintendent - Frank)**

- The Superintendent highlighted the details of various projects and repairs completed in February 2026.
- Bulk Water sales for February were 4,100g.

### **WATER REPORT (Matt)**

- Details were offered regarding projects and repairs completed in February 2026.
  - ? PAONE calls
  - Installed ? new water meters
  - Niagara – ? gallons

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Big Spring Enhancements
  - The design is still in progress.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Bellefonte Daily Water Withdrawal February 2026. No Authority action is requested.
- 2026 Bulk Water Billing and Usage for Milesburg and Niagara January 2026. No Authority action is requested.

### **DISCUSSIONS/ACTION ITEMS**

- Bulk water billing issue
  - Should there be a policy to read the meter monthly? (Niagara)
- Issue regarding the water charge/sewer bill
  - \$200,000 charge added to the wastewater treatment plant for total water usage.
- Sewer Budget Slideshow Presentation
  - The 2026 Draft budget was presented on November 4, 2025
  - The Sewer Budget had a 200% increase in electricity service costs – approximately \$340,000 cost increase.
  - Authority staff also estimated \$800,000 in capital projects.
    - \$600,000 was in the Wastewater Treatment Plant
    - \$200,000 was Borough specific capital projects
    - According to the 2025 budget, capital projects – both Borough specific and Wastewater Treatment totaled approximately \$639,000.
    - In the 2025 fiscal year there was a \$730,000 deficit
    - The Authority had \$1.7M in reserves – about 38% of the budget, and \$3.3M in debt.
    - Revenue projections for 2026:
      - Spring/Benner/Walker would have a slight increase in revenue
      - Bellefonte would be about an \$80,000 increase in revenue – leaving the \$730,000 deficit.
    - The updated budget that was presented on December 16, 2025 showed a 175% increase in electric service rates
      - The updated budget also showed a reduction in capital projects – from \$800,000 down to \$350,000 in the Wastewater Treatment Plant and \$200,000 in Borough

Specific projects, for a total of \$550,000 which is approximately \$80,000 under the 2025 budget.

- This resulted in a reduced deficit of \$500,000
- The Authority decided a \$25 increase per quarter would help to bridge the funding gap. This rate increase filled \$343,000 of the \$500,000 deficit, leaving a \$153,000 deficit – 9% of available reserves.
- The rate increase was instituted in order to minimize operating costs and meet the budget deadline. The rates will be reviewed and revised once better cost projection details are available. The Authority is hesitant to use reserves to cover operating costs, as these reserves are intended for capital projects or debt reduction.
- Rockview usage at the shutdown:
  - Usage at the shutdown will be 33/67 split.
  - This line services SCI benner, the forestry camp and the Village of Peru
  - \$665,000 costs for loan repayment/debt service
  - \$450,000 costs for operating the Bellefonte System
  - \$200,000 for capital expense
  - \$1M operating costs
  - Cost Share with Spring/Benner/Walker would be \$2.4M
    - Capital equipment expense of \$.147M
  - Maintain the capital equipment at a 58/42 split
- The Authority decided to keep the rates where they are for now.
- They will meet in executive session on April 27, 2026 at 5pm to further review the budget.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- (1:14) ? motioned and ? seconded to adjourn tonight's meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm (not announced).

***\*\*NOTE FROM THE TRANSCRIPTIONIST: There was 1 announcement for names of motions/seconds tonight. I cannot discern individual voices of speakers from a recording. Please CLEARLY announce all names for motions/seconds so I can record accurate minutes. Please also announce the adjournment time. This will help avoid difficult audio fees. Thank you.***