

**Benner Township Supervisors  
December 5, 2022**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Benner Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairman, Randy Moyer with members Tom Moyer and Larry Lingle present. Also in attendance were Rod Beard, Sharon Royer, Scott Rhoat, John Elnitski, David Roberts, Allen Strouse, Treva Strouse, Dennis McDowell, Tammy Chronister, Larry Chronister, Dorothy Blair, Wes Glebe, and Gene Stocker.

**PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Kenneth Schindler: It was noted that Mr. Schindler asked to be on the agenda for this meeting but is not in attendance.

David Roberts: Mr. Roberts of 1995 Valley View Road addressed the board and asked that the board's meetings be broadcasted on CNET. He noted that many other municipalities have their meetings broadcasted and wanted to know why Benner Township does not. Mr. R. Moyer noted that being broadcasted on CNET costs money and that he does not believe that it is a real benefit. Mr. Roberts noted that a lot of important information is discussed at these meetings and he believes the residents have a right to see what happens in the meetings. Mr. R. Moyer noted that the meetings are open to the public and that anyone is welcome to attend them. He continued that all actions taken at the meetings are recorded in the meeting minutes. A member of the audience questioned what the cost is to participate in CNET. Mr. Lingle noted that he believed the last cost estimate was around \$10,000 for year. Mr. Stocker asked the board if they would participate if he raised funds to pay for the service. Mr. R. Moyer noted that it would have to be discussed.

Scott Rhoat: Mr. Rhoat from the Bellefonte EMS was present to give the board an update on EMS services for Benner Township from the past year. He noted that Mr. Lingle and Mrs. Royer attended the open house that was held in August. A summary was provided to the board. Mr. R. Moyer noted that funds were allocated to Bellefonte EMS however he could not recall the amount off the top of his head. He noted that the Board would have to have serious discussions in order to adopt a separate tax that would only be allocated to this service.

Gene Stocker: Mr. Stocker noted that he is here this evening because he received an e-mail from an elderly couple that lives in his neighborhood. The neighbor noted that they received their second set of test results which were high, they received their first shipment of bottled water and a contract to have a point of entry service system installed in their home. The neighbor was asking Mr. Stocker's advice on the note that would need to be placed on their deed. That neighbor also noted that they have concerns about being reimbursed for all of their medical conditions. Mr. Stocker noted that he does not believe the Township is representing its residents well in this situation. He noted that he believes the Township officials should be contacting representatives on a daily basis. He noted that he believes by placing this note on the deeds that the values of the homes in the Walnut Grove area will be depleted. Mr. Stocker stated that he believes the Township representatives should be focused on residents and not on Penn State. That they should be concerned about the resident's health and property values. Mr. Stocker noted that he feels that the board is just concerned with public sewer. He noted that Mr. Ferris has come up with a solution to sewer the Shiloh Road area where there is vacant land that could produce tax dollars and yet the Board isn't doing anything and is showing no interest. Mr. R. Moyer noted that sewer would have been worked on and perhaps in by now had we not been faced with a lawsuit trying to stop it. Mr. Lingle noted that the sewer authority is continuing pursuing putting public sewer in the Shiloh Road area and that meetings have taken place with DEP concerning trying to get public water to

the residents of Walnut Grove. Mr. Lingle continued that he does not understand how Mr. Stocker can make statements that nothing is being done. Mr. Stocker stated that DEP has not made any commitment to anything in terms of providing public water to his neighborhood. Mr. T. Moyer noted that two weeks ago Mr. Lingle, Sharon and himself attended a meeting with DEP where public water was discussed. Mr. Stocker questioned where the water was going to come from. It was noted that they are looking at several options, but State College Borough Water seems to be the most doable at this part of the study. Mr. T. Moyer noted that DEP reviewed their feasibility study process with the Board at that meeting. First they must find a water source, they then need to have an engineering firm determine how they would get the water there and then to have it permitted, the project bid and lines run. Mr. Stocker noted that he is also concerned about residents bathing in this water. He noted that he is upset that DEP didn't give people water that had the levels under the 70 ppt up until recently. Mr. Lingle noted that he understands why Mr. Stocker is concerned and he is as well. Mr. Lingle noted that what he doesn't understand is where are all the people that Mr. Stocker says is concerned when he is the only one we seem to hear from. Mr. Lingle noted that the Board is very concerned about this problem, but DEP is in charge of this situation, and it goes at the speed that is established by them. DEP is doing the best they can.

Mr. R. Moyer noted that his advice would be the same now as when he was asked previously regarding what would he do if this was in his water? He noted that he would have the same kind of treatment system installed in his home that Mr. Stocker had placed in his home and he wouldn't wait until someone did it for him. Mr. R. Moyer asked Mr. Stocker how much his system cost him? Mr. Stocker indicated that it was \$3,000. Mr. R. Moyer noted that he doesn't think that \$3,000 is too much of an investment for your health and the health of your family members.

Mr. Stocker expressed concerns about sinkholes on Penn State's property and why isn't the Township sending their Township Engineer out to look for them. He also expressed concerns about dirt piles on Penn State's property and where they were taken and if they were tested. Mr. R. Moyer noted that PFAS is a nationwide problem it isn't isolated to Benner Township. Mr. R. Moyer noted that DEP is in charge of doing the testing on both the water and dirt. Mr. Lingle asked Mr. Stocker if public water can be provided how long does he think it is going to take to make that happen. Mr. Stocker indicated at least two years. Mr. Lingle noted that in the meantime DEP is providing water systems to the residents as best as they can. Mr. Stocker asked why the Supervisors aren't expediting the testing process and using the Township solicitor to assist in this process.

Mr. Roberts noted that he feels that the Supervisors should be contacting the EPA and putting pressure on them to do something.

Mr. Beard noted that he believes that there is a very complicated bureaucratic process in matters like these and doesn't believe that the Board can do anything to speed this process up. Mr. Beard noted that the Board could send a letter to the EPA and what would happen is they would contact DEP, DEP would tell them what they are doing and that would be the end of that. He noted that he believes that public water is the best option, the Township is encouraging those steps, but it is a process and will take time. He noted that things happen. Lead in the water at Flint Michigan happened and children suffered brain damage, unfortunately things happen.

Mrs. Royer read the December update from DEP. It was noted that 11 additional homes are now going to receive a Point of Entry System with the lower limits as a guide. A few residents that previously had

systems installed, Mr. Stocker being one of them, have been offered to be reimbursed for the cost of their systems.

Mr. Lingle noted that the Township sent letters to people in the study area. A meeting was held here. It was placed in the newsletter. The Township has done things.

Mr. R. Moyer asked Mr. Stocker if he has contacted State Representatives and if so what have they done so far. He indicated that he has and that so far nothing has been done.

Mr. R. Moyer noted that he is sorry that Mr. Stocker is disappointed in the Board but they are not, not doing anything.

Dorothy Blair: Ms. Blair noted that EPA is now stating that any trace of PFAS is dangerous. The limit is so low that it can't be tested. Ms. Blair questioned if the Township couldn't provided some relief so that people could bath, like a water buffalo. It was questioned how this water would then be put into the homes to be heated for bathing since we are in Pennsylvania and the water would freeze. Ms. Blair noted that when she lived in Mexico where they were used and it worked well. The Board noted that Mexico doesn't see the temperatures that we do. It was noted further that this is why DEP is installing Point of Entry Systems into these homes to treat their water.

#### **MINUTES**

The minutes of November 7, 2022, were presented to the Board for their review and comments. Mr. R. Moyer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Lingle seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. T. Moyer – yes                      Mr. Lingle – yes                      Mr. R. Moyer – yes

#### **BILLS**

The bills of December 5, 2022, were presented to the Board for their review and approval. It was noted that the General Fund bills were \$123,884.78, the State Fund - \$4,246.65, the American Rescue Funds - \$66,795.09. Mr. R. Moyer moved to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Lingle seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. T. Moyer – yes                      Mr. Lingle – yes                      Mr. R. Moyer – yes

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

2023 Budget: The 2023 budget has been advertised for public comment. No comments were received.

Mr. R. Moyer moved to adopt the 2023 budget as proposed. Mr. Lingle seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. T. Moyer – yes                      Mr. Lingle – yes                      Mr. R. Moyer – yes

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Insurance quotes: The Board received a renewal quote from St. Mary's Insurance in the amount of \$25,795.00 and one from McGowan Governmental Underwriters in the amount of \$25,123.00. Mrs. Royer noted that the McGowan quote doesn't have the new mini excavator or the new skid steer in their quote so there would be additional costs. The Board noted that they would like to stay with our current carrier since the savings isn't extraordinary and we have a good working relationship with them.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

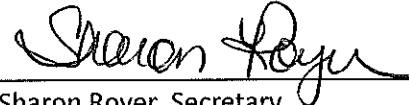
1. SBWJA Minutes – October 24, 2022 & November 14, 2022
2. Benner Township Water Authority Minutes of October 18, 2022
3. Benner Township Water Authority Key Points - November 15, 2022

4. Centre County Planning Commission Letters
  - i. Non Substantive Changes Benner Pike Shopping Center
  - ii. Time Extensions
    1. Belle Rose Townhomes
    2. Bellefonte Warehouse
    3. Village of Nittany Glen Phase VII
  - iii. Cascade Plan Comments
5. Engineering Review Comments
  - i. McCormick/Taylor – Bellefonte Warehouse TIS
  - ii. Franson – Benner Pike Shopping Center
6. DEP Letters
  - i. Bellefonte Warehouse Planning Module Approval
  - ii. PFAS Update
7. PennDot Review Letters
  - i. TIS Bellefonte Warehouse
8. Letter from Spring Creek Watershed Commission
9. Environmental Hearing Board Decision Stocker VS DEP/Benner Township/SBWJA
10. Comcast Price Increase Notice

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** It was noted that the Board was going to hold an executive session at the conclusion of meeting on personnel matters and that the meeting would not reconvene.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned the time being 7:42 p.m.

  
Sharon Royer, Secretary