

**Benner Township Board of Supervisors
June 2, 2014**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Benner Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairman, David Wise with members Randy Moyer and Mark Capriani present. Also in attendance were Rita Herr, Ed Galus, Genny Robine, Susan Rockey, G.F. Clair, Dennis O'Leary, Don Franson, Mark Shawley, Bill Harkness, Randy Tice, Dan Shawley, Nichole Mendinsky, Howard Long, Joe Conklin, Chuck Herr, Pam Winter and Sharon Royer.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Dr. Clair: Dr. Clair was present seeking information on why the Township is participating in the Septic Management Program and also would like to know why Benner Township's program is much more costly than any of the several surrounding townships including the Centre Region. Dr. Clair also expressed concerns relative to the information that was provided to the residents as to being confusing.

Chuck Herr gave Dr. Clair an overview of the Septic Management Program. Mr. Herr noted that DEP had created a pamphlet several years ago that has pointers, etc. dealing with maintaining on lot septic systems. He noted that they use to include this pamphlet with the letter, but found that the recipients weren't utilizing them. The Board suggested that perhaps a copy of that pamphlet be obtained as several residents have commented that they felt that the information that was sent to them was confusing and that they weren't sure what was expected of them.

Dan Shawley commented that he doesn't see how an inspection fee of \$200 is warranted when he only receives \$225 per pumping and that there is much more involved with what he does. Mr. Herr noted that this fee also covers the administration fee not just his inspection fee and he is traveling from Spring Mills to do these inspections.

Genny Robine: Mrs. Robine noted that she wanted to thank the Township for once again picking up the bagged garbage that was collected during the Spring Creek Watershed Cleanup. She noted that she had 20 volunteers cleaning up along the roadside and in all 60 tons of trash was collected.

Sue Rockey: Mrs. Rockey questioned what is done with the farmers that allow farm animals to wander through streams and ultimately vacate in or near the water. The Board noted that farmers are required to submit manure plans to the conservation district. Mrs. Robine noted that she participates in the stream monitoring program and that when test results show high levels DEP does follow up to see what is going on and then works to see that the problem is corrected.

Chuck Herr: Mr. Herr was present to present to the Board the 2-M Sewage Planning Module to be submitted to the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Herr noted that this process is necessary in order for the Township to receive reimbursement should funds become available at some point in the future. Mr. Moyer moved to adopt Resolution 14-2 which adopts the 2-M amendment to the Township's Act 537 Sewage Management Plan. Mr. Capriani seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Capriani – yes

Mr. Moyer – yes

Mr. Wise – yes

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Franson reported on the following:

*Attended a meeting with Alex MacDonald from DCNR regarding the Canyon grant. Is recommending that the Board go ahead and submit for the 50% grant payment. Mr. Franson noted further that he will be able to begin the baseline survey to begin to address the ADA requirements for the trail elevations/slopes. Due to the possible existence for the brown bats, clearing and grubbing can only take place during the time frame of November 16 through March. He noted that he anticipates billing the project early next year and that the Township has until 2017 to complete the project. Mr. Moyer moved to begin the project and to submit for the first payment of the grant. Mr. Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Capriani – yes

Mr. Moyer – yes

Mr. Wise – yes

*Retro Bridge Funds: It was noted that the vote was 10 to 2 to give Boggs Township the \$100,000 in retro bridge funds that was allotted the to the MPO. Mr. Wise reported that it is possible that the Township could receive additional funding in the 2018-2020 round of funding.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. O'Leary reported on the following:

*It was noted that Mr. Franson , Mr. Harford and himself did a walk-through of the Opequon Hill Development to come up with a punch list of items that still need to be completed prior to the dedication of the roads. Mr. O'Leary noted that several of the residents have been complaining about drainage issues. It was noted that most of these issues should be corrected once the final grading is completed.

OLD BUSINESS

Amberleigh Development Street Dedication: Mrs. Royer noted that no new news has been received regarding the dedication. Mr. Wise noted that he will draft a written reminder to Mr. Glass to see what the status is.

NEW BUSINESS

Nittany Valley Rec. Authority: Howard Long, Sue Rockey, Nicole Mendinsky, and Joe Conklin were present to give the Board an update on the Kepler Pool. Mr. Long noted that the life expectancy of the pool was 35 years. However, the pool is now 43 years old and the core samples that were taken show that the base structure is still sound. Cost estimates to improve the facility in 2009 ranged from \$1,768,000 to \$1,843,000. The expected cost estimates for 2015 is \$2,469,795. These cost reflect modernizing the pool to something comparable to the Park Forest Pool. Mr. Long noted that the Authority's pool project does not qualify for state grants due to the pool's current age and the fact that it does not meet the necessary ADA requirements. Due to current conditions, this will be the last year the pool will be open. It is the Authority's hope that the municipalities would consider adopting a tax to raise funds for recreational amenities in the Nittany Valley Region. This would enable the Authority to take out a loan and be able to make loan payments on the pool improvements as well as other recreation projects in the region. Mr. Long noted that once the pool is closed and remains inactive, the ownership will revert back to Bellefonte Borough. It was stated that this is an all or nothing situation. It will require all members of the Recreation Authority to participate or it will not work as only three participants cannot afford to take on such an endeavor. Mr. Long noted that after the 16th each municipality will have heard this presentation. He noted that the

Authority welcomes any questions, comments, etc. that the Board has on the proposal that has been made.

MINUTES

The minutes of May 5, 2014 and May 19, 2014 were presented to the Board for their review and comments. Mr. Moyer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Capriani – yes Mr. Moyer – yes Mr. Wise – yes

BILLS

The bills of June 2, 2014, were presented to the Board for their review and approval. Mr. Wise moved to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Capriani – yes Mr. Moyer – yes Mr. Wise – yes

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. SBWJA minutes –
 - a. April 28, 2014
 - b. May 12, 2014
2. PSATS News Bulletin
3. Letter from Walker Township Re: Transportation Plan
4. Conservation District Letter Re: NPDES Permit Fox Ridge
5. April Building Permit Report
6. Time Extension – Mammoth Construction

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned the time being 8:32 p.m.

Sharon Royer, Sec.