



Livia Smith, Chair
Portia West, Vice Chair
Joan Neal, Secretary
William Riley, Treasurer
John Shelton, Board Member
Fred Green, Board Member
Joy Taylor, Board Member
Joseph Oxman, Solicitor
Dr. Horace Strand, Executive Manager

MINUTES
Board of Directors
STORMWATER AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF CHERSTER
February 9, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester held a telephonic board meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Prior to the Board meeting there was an Executive Session on January 25th and February 5, 2021.

Call to Order

The Stormwater Authority meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Livia Smith.

It was confirmed by Cynthia Scarborough, Interim Secretary with the Stormwater Authority, that the Notice of Published meeting was sent to the Delaware County Times on January 25, 2021 and published in the Delaware County Daily Times on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. Proof of published meeting will be forwarded to Solicitor, Joseph Oxman.

Roll Call of the Board

The following persons were present: Ms. Livia Smith, Chair; Ms. Portia West, Vice Chair; Ms. Joan Neal, Secretary; Mr. William Riley, Treasurer; Mr. Fred Green, Board Member; Mr. John Shelton, Board Member, Ms. Joy Taylor, Board Member, Joseph Oxman, Solicitor. Also present was Dr. Horace Strand, Executive Manager.

Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer led by Dr. Horace Strand. Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

None

Action Item from Executive Session

Ms. Livia Smith, Chair stated on February 5, 2021, the Board already voted to assist the City of Chester with the Executive on Loan Program not to exceed \$120,000; that was already approved.

The next item on the Executive Session on January 25, 2021, the Board approved the purchase of 3215 West 3rd Street for the housing of our fleeted vehicles not to exceed \$400,000, and that was approved.

Approval of Minutes of December 8, 2020

Ms. Portia West made a motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2020. Ms. Joan Neal seconded.

Motion for Approval of Minutes of December 8, 2020

Ms. Portia West (Yes), Ms. Joan Neal (Yes), Mr. William Riley (Yes), Mr. John Shelton (Yes), Ms. Joy Taylor (Yes), Mr. Fred Green (Yes), and Ms. Livia Smith (Yes). Motion carried.

Approval of Report of Current and Most Recent Expenditures

Mr. William Riley made a motion for approval of current and most recent expenditures. Mr. John Shelton seconded.

Motion for Approval of Current and Recent Expenditures

Ms. Portia West (Yes), Ms. Joan Neal (Yes), Mr. William Riley (Yes), Mr. John Shelton (Yes), Ms. Joy Taylor (Yes), Mr. Fred Green (Yes), Ms. Livia Smith (Yes). Motion carried.

Approval to hire A-Essential Consulting Firm LLC to Handle Public Relation Matters for a Period of One-Year, Not to Exceed \$24,000

Mr. Fred Green made a motion for approval to hire A-Essential Consulting Firm LLC to handle public relation matters for a period of one-year, not to exceed \$24,000. Mr. William Riley seconded.

Motion for Approval to hire A-Essential Consulting Firm LLC to Handle Public Relation Matters for a Period of One-Year, Not to Exceed \$24,000

Ms. Portia West (Yes), Ms. Joan Neal (Yes), Mr. William Riley (Yes), Mr. John Shelton (Yes), Ms. Joy Taylor (Yes) Mr. Fred Green (Yes), and Ms. Livia Smith (Yes). Motion carried.

Approval to Rescind Vote to Purchase Land from the City of Chester

Ms. Joan Neal made a motion to rescind the vote to purchase land from the City of Chester. Mr. Fred Green seconded.

Motion for Approval to Rescind Vote to Purchase Land from the City of Chester

Ms. Portia West (Yes), Ms. Joan Neal (Yes), Mr. William Riley (Yes), Mr. John Shelton (Yes), Ms. Joy Taylor (Yes), Mr. Fred Green (Yes), and Ms. Livia Smith (Yes). Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor's Report for February 9, 2021 submitted by Joseph Oxman Esquire

To the Board of Directors,

Philadelphia Union's property portfolio appeal hearing occurred on January 29th, 2021 at 10:00am. The Authority found the following:

1. The Philadelphia Union held a past due balance of \$594,993.68.
2. The balance included all payments to date consisting of 1965.2 ERU's. The Union's yearly assessment currently is \$194,554.98.
3. The Union's assessment does not include any MS4 permits as the supporting documentation sent to us, for the appeal showed permits for storm water discharge during construction activities only.
4. Within the Union's complex there are present mitigation practices built into the infrastructure.

The Authority proposed the following settlement:

1. Stadium folio be exempted from past and future assessment reducing total ERUs by 331.9 to give credit for built-in Stormwater mitigation processes.
2. The past due amount, after removing stadium folio, to be reduced to \$360,000, representing a flat rate of \$120,000 for the calendar years 2018-2020.
3. The yearly assessment to be reduced to \$120,000. This assessment will remain the same for a period of 5 years following the execution of the agreement.
4. The terms of this agreement will be valid for 10 calendar days from the date of the letter.
5. If after 10 days, the agreement isn't executed, all accounts will be turned back over to Portnoff Law Associates for further collection activities.

The Best Homes LLC v. The Chester Stormwater Authority litigation presently is still waiting for a final decree from the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court.

Executive Manager's Report

Executive Manager's Report for February 9, 2021 submitted by Dr. Horace W. Strand

Since my last report we have been busy working on the needs of the Stormwater Authority. We have worked on an appeal hearing for the Philadelphia Union, and Evonik. An excellent location has been identified for the housing of our fleet of vehicles.

The men have received training on how to clean the new catch basins, and how to properly discharge debris.

We have heard from PENNVEST concerning our latest project and was elated to hear that the entire project was approved. We were awarded a \$9,963,000 dollar grant. This means more jobs, and a better stormwater control system for our Community.

The revenues are stable, and we anticipate a surge in payments within the next sixty (60) days due to our collection agency.

Vice-Chair West extended her heart-felt gratitude and thank you to Dr. Strand, Executive Director, Joseph Oxman, Solicitor, Andrew Nelson, CFO and all of the staff at the Stormwater Authority for doing an excellent job; so grateful for the work that they do.

Chair, Livia Smith asked Dr. Strand to expound on a section of the Executive Manager's report a little more.

Dr. Strand stated that what the Stormwater Authority has done is that they have installed catch basins. In the catch basins that fit into the stormwater system drainage, there are special sponges that act as filters. So, when the rain comes, and whatever it washes in those storm drains, it is captured within those sponges. The unseen chemicals or poisons that are on our driveways, sidewalks, or in the streets, are captured before it goes into the main sewer. This is phenomenal because one of the things the EPA has required us to do, is to reduce the amounts of poisons that are going into the waterways, specifically the Delaware River. The Delaware River, unknown to a lot of people, is still used for drinking water for many communities up the river. This is phenomenal because we are one of the first cities to use this type of technology. Our men have been trained how to handle these catch basins, and how to also remove the sponges, and to monitor them daily. Also, the EPA has gotten information through Delcora about what we are doing, and the EPA is probably going to require that every inlet in the City of Chester have these catch basins. It is phenomenal, and there are going to be a lot of opportunities for our residents to have jobs in the process.

Board Secretary, Joan Neal asked if Dr. Strand knew the cost of the catch basins. His response was that each catch basin costs about \$800. The filters are changeable, some could last six months; some can last long as a year, and they run about \$60.00 per filter. We would have to replace those filters daily.

Dr. Strand wanted the Board to also be aware of, that, prior to SAC taking over the system, there were tons of debris and dirty water trapped in these inlets. Unknown to all of us, that was affecting the air that we were breathing. We have unclogged them and have removed tons of debris from these inlets and have cleared the waterflow throughout them.

Vice Chair, Portia West addressed a question as to whether there have been any studies since Stormwater has been in existence about the asthma incidents? The City of Chester was inundated with several asthma incidents and had to have a special team from Crozer addressing it in the Chester community. Since we have had the Stormwater Authority, and with the cleaning and replacement of these inlets, are there are less incidents of asthma cases? Dr. Strand replied by saying that he had not checked with anyone in the medical field to provide that type of data, however, I will tell you that the sponges that we have had in the inlets for the past year or so, have been taken to a lab, and they are going to tell what kinds of chemicals we have been capturing in these sponges that are running through our City so that might help with the data.

Board Secretary, Joan Neal addressed the question of are the catch basins in every inlet? Dr. Strand responded by saying “Not at this present time since we are just starting the process.” There are over 2000 inlets in the City of Chester, and I think the Stormwater Authority has covered at least a \$1,000 of them. The good part about it is that all this work has been covered in our Pennvest loans. There is not anything coming out of our direct operating budget to accomplish this.

Unfinished Business

Chair, Livia Smith inquired about the electrical work on Welsh Street. Dr. Strand informed Madam Chair and the Board that the electrical work has been completed. They are in the process of cleaning up the debris, i.e., the old lighting and fixtures that they had to take down. An inspection has been done, and you will be pleased with what has been done.

Board Matters

None

New Business

None

Public Comments on Other Matters

None

Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Portia West motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. John Shelton seconded.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Next Board Meeting will be held on April 13, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.