



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 Director
STORMWATER AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF CHESTER
October 13, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester held a telephonic board meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Prior to the Board meeting, an Executive Session was held to discuss the approval of the audit and the H.R. Director hiring.

Call to Order

The Stormwater Authority meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair, Livia Smith.

It was noted and recorded that the Executive Secretary of the Stormwater Authority provided verification of published meeting via email to Solicitor, Joseph Oxman due to the pandemic. Mr. Oxman confirmed he did, in fact, receive the Notice of Published Meeting.

Roll Call of the Board

The following persons were present: Ms. Livia Smith, Chair; Mr. William Riley, Treasurer; Mr. Fred Green, Board Member; Mr. John Shelton Board Member; Ms. Joy Taylor, Board Member; Dr. Horace Strand, Executive Manager and Joseph Oxman, Solicitor.

It was asked by Livia Smith, Chair if a quorum had been established. Confirmed by Executive Secretary of Stormwater Authority that a quorum had been established.

Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

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

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

None.

Action Items from Executive Session

None

Approval of Minutes of August 11, 2020

Mr. John Shelton made a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020. Mr. William Riley seconded.

Motion for Approval of Minutes of August 11, 2020

All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Report of Current and Most Recent Expenditures

Mr. Fred Green made a motion for the approval of current and most recent expenditures. Mr. John Shelton seconded.

Motion for Approval of Current and Most Recent Expenditures

All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Purchase of Ford Truck with Snowplow not to exceed \$42,500

Mr. John Shelton made a motion for approval of the purchase of a Ford truck with snowplow not to exceed \$42,500. Mr. William Riley seconded.

Motion for Approval of Purchase of Ford Truck with Snowplow not to exceed \$42,500

All in Favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor's Report for October 11, 2020

Joseph Oxman, Solicitor

To the Board of Directors,

Portnoff and Associates, our collection firm, is continuing to identify major properties who have been delinquent in paying their Stormwater fees. Recently, in the past month, we have identified several properties in and around the Talen Energy Stadium which are several months in arrears. These properties have now been fully identified as being owned in whole, or part, by Riverfront Developers, FC PA Stadium, and the Buccini Pollen Group. It is my belief that these properties could be targeted for acquisition by the Authority as they are, in combination, over \$300,000.00 in arrears, by either foreclosure or Eminent Domain.

The Best Homes LLC v. The Chester Stormwater Authority litigation continues appeal at The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court which has been scheduled for a final hearing, by way of video conference on Monday November 9th, at 10:30 a.m. Both the Plaintiffs and the Authority have submitted their briefs to the court. I believe that the court will rule on this case by the end of the year.

Submitted by:

Joseph Oxman

Joseph Oxman, Esquire, Solicitor

It was asked by Livia Smith, Chair, if anyone had any questions regarding the Solicitor's report. The only question addressed was by her, "Have the collections started from Portnoff, the Collection Attorney."

The answer to Ms. Smith's question was given by Dr. Strand, Executive Manager. Dr. Strand stated that Portnoff had not yet started collections, what they have done is they have sent out notifications to residents regarding their delinquent accounts, and notifying them that they have until the end of October 2020 to reconcile with SAC before Portnoff takes legal action to collect the funds.

Solicitor Joseph Oxman confirmed Dr. Strand's answer, also added that if residents' accounts are not rectified by the end of October 2020, their accounts will officially go into arrears.

Dr. Strand also brought it to the attention of the Board that the result of the letters had been overwhelmingly beneficial, and SAC's revenues have increased. In fact, Dr. Strand was informed by the CFO, Andrew Nelson today that last week SAC brought in close to \$17-18,000 in collections at our office which is the highest that we have received since we have been in operation. Dr. Strand thanked Mr. Oxman for recommending them and helping SAC to get on track.

Executive Manager's Report

EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT

October 13, 2020

Since our last board meeting, we have been quite busy carrying out the work you assigned us to do. We received delivery of our new VacCom truck and have been busy training our crew to operate and familiarize themselves with the equipment, and to practice best safety methods. We have been able to address several troubled areas that have been troublesome to our community. This equipment has already proven to be a vital part of our operations.

For the entire month of September, and part of October, we have once a week cleaned our city streets with our new street cleaner. This has been a great asset to keeping debris off the streets, and out of our stormwater inlets. Although it seemed to be a surprise to most of our residents that street sweeping has resumed in Chester, they have overall joyfully cooperated by moving their cars. The men are doing an outstanding job and are to be commended for their work.

We have ordered uniforms for our workers, and we hope to have all crews uniformed within the next two weeks. The uniforms will meet Osha standards and will identify our crew from others. We also will install a locker for each worker to store their uniforms and personal belongings.

Collections have been exceptionally good for the past two months. The letters from our Collection Attorney has proven to be helpful.

We are pleased to report that our 2019 audit has been completed. We are well in compliance with all standard accounting practices.

We are looking forward to the hiring of our new H.R. Director, once the Board has interviewed the many outstanding candidates who have applied.

Respectfully Submitted:



Dr. Horace W. Strand, Executive Manager

Livia Smith asked if there any questions on the Executive Manager's report. She extended thanks to the stormwater crew and the office staff for a job well done for the good of the community.

Unfinished Business

None

Board Matters

None

New Business

None

Public Comments on Other Matter

Mildred Williams - 216 West 24th Street, Chester, PA. Ms. Williams stated that she was extremely impressed seeing the workers from SAC cleaning up and sweeping the streets and making sure the inlets are cleaned. Ms. Williams also mentioned that while conversing with one of the employees, he stated to her that he was proud to be doing work for his City.

Susan Dennis - 218 Arbor Circle, Chester, PA. Wanted to follow-up with Mr. Oxman on the in-kind services that Widener University is supposed to do. Asked if they can do anything in this point in time with Covid-19 going on, and where are we in that process.

Joe Oxman responded there are major setbacks with Widener being able to do anything due to Covid-19 situation. Their campus is not open and if it is, it is in limited ways. We were moving forward with building relationships with faculty and students to develop mentorship programs, possibly internship programs, and a lot of that got tabled because of the COVID-19 situation.

Susan Dennis - If Widener is not able to follow through, then what course of action do have? What is the next step?

Joe Oxman – We had to mutually table with moving forward with the in-kind services simply because of the unique situation with the Covid-19 pandemic. If Widener decided that they were not going to move forward with in-kind services, then we want to petition the Court to have the settlement dismissed and they would have to start paying the full amount of fees due.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. John Shelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fred Green seconded.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Next board meeting will be December 8, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.