



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
August 11, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester held a telephonic board meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The Stormwater Authority meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair, Livia Smith. Prior to the Board meeting, an Executive Session was held at 9:30 a.m.

The Executive Secretary of the Stormwater Authority provided verification of published meeting. Verification of published meeting was confirmed, and notice was given to Solicitor, Joseph Oxman. Notice of published meeting was verified by Solicitor, Joseph Oxman.

Roll Call of the Board

The following persons were present: Dr. Horace Strand, Executive Manager; Livia Smith, Chair; Portia West, Vice Chair; William Riley, Treasurer; Joy Taylor (Board Member); Fred Green (Board Member); and Joseph Oxman, Solicitor.

Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer led by Ms. Livia Smith. Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

None.

Action Items from Executive Session

None

Approval of Minutes of June 9, 2020

Ms. Portia West made a motion to approve the minutes of June 9, 2020. Mr. William Riley seconded.

Motion for Approval of Minutes of June 9,2020

All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Report of Current and Most Recent Expenditures

Mr. William Riley made a motion for the approval of current and most recent expenditures. Ms. Joan Neal seconded.

Motion for Approval of Current and Most Recent Expenditures

All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of 2020-2021 Budget

Ms. Joan Neal made a motion for approval of 2020-2021 budget. Fred Green seconded.

Motion for Approval of 2020-2021 Budget

All in Favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor's Report for August 11, 2020 **Joseph Oxman, Solicitor**

To the Board of Directors,

Portnoff and Associates, our collection firm, has begun to send letters of "unpaid" fee notices to every commercial property owner in the city. The first "soft" letter will direct the property owner, with instructions, to pay their balances and notice to them that failure to pay outstanding balances will result in referring their account to collection procedures.

The Best Homes LLC v. The Chester Stormwater Authority litigation continues appeal at The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court. Both the Plaintiffs and the Authority have submitted their briefs to the court. It is unknown at this time if the court will ask the parties to appear by video conference for oral argument. I believe that the court will rule on this case, whether oral argument occurs or not, by the end of the year.

Submitted by:

Joseph Oxman

Joseph Oxman, Esquire, Solicitor

Executive Manager's Report

EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT **August 11, 2020**

Since my last report, we have received delivery of both our street sweeper and VacCom truck. Both these vehicles are state-of-the-art and are going to help up provide much needed services to the residents of Chester. It will also cut down on the amount of debris that covers our inlets daily.

Special thanks go out to the Chester-Upland School District, who has worked with us to begin our project on 13th and Parker Streets, by providing us with an easement on their property to run a pipe into the Chester Creek to reduce the flooding in this area. I recommend that the Board send a formal letter of thanks and offer two scholarships to 12th grade students of their choosing in the amount of \$20,000, over a four-year period at \$2,500 a semester. This would cost us \$5,000 a year and will be permanent.

Our crews are doing an outstanding job working together and assisting the City Parks Department when requested. The department has expressed their appreciation for their help and commend them for doing a good job.

As you know, we faced a heavy rainstorm the first week in August, our crews worked with the Highway Department to trouble shoot areas where flooding occurred. We especially worked hard to reopen 291 between Engle and Ward, which was shut down due to flooding, and much debris. This was our first time working a job of this size, but with the help of our contractor and J & K Trash removal, we were able to clean the highway up enough to reopen. Moor Brothers brought in their large VacCom machine and swept clean the streets that were full of debris.

We also assisted the Fire Department on 13th and Kerlin Streets, by providing two large dumpsters for residents for cleanup from the flooding, and clean debris off the streets. Overall, Chester was in good shape because of the work that we did before the flood.

Today, we are fully equipped with major equipment to continue serving our great community.

We are waiting for City Council to pass an ordinance to start street sweeping daily throughout the City of Chester. Once the ordinance has been passed, we will schedule street sweeping twice a week until the weather changes.

Respectfully Submitted:



Dr. Horace W. Strand, Executive Manager

Regarding the section in the Executive Manager’s report pertaining to the scholarships, Livia Smith asked that a correction be made from \$2,500 per semester to \$2,500 per year. Dr. Strand responded that the adjustment will be made in the letter to Dr. Baughn and the new Superintendent.

Unfinished Business

None

Board Matters

None

New Business

None

Public Comments on Other Matter

Susan Dennis - 218 Arbor Circle, Chester, PA. Asked for an update on Widener's suit that they have with the Stormwater Authority. Has that been settled, and if it has been settled, did they deal with the in-kind services?

Joseph Oxman, Solicitor, responded by saying that the case has been settled coming up on two years ago. Unfortunately, because of the Covid situation, we haven't been able to move forward with any in-kind services from any of the students, because Widener has been shut down as well as many of the other colleges and universities in the area. So, the in-kind services unfortunately have been put on hold. We are hoping that at some point, once the Covid situation resolves, we can start having students interact, and other faculty interact with the Authority to develop in-kind services, however, as of now, that has been on hold.

Susan Dennis asked if that was the only thing that has been put on hold, but everything else has been completed.

Joseph Oxman stated that they (Widener) are paying their negotiated fee every year; we negotiated with them two years.

Livia Smith commented on the commercial fees. Asked Dr. Strand if she was correct by saying that that a group of businesses have paid their stormwater fees up front. Dr. Strand confirmed and stated there were several. Dr. Strand stated that Widener has been consistent on paying their stormwater fees. Dr. Strand made mention that Widener pays annually, Chester Housing Authority pays annually, Kimberly Clark pays annually, PECO Energy and Exelon pays annually, and Best Homes, pays annually.

Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Joy Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Portia West seconded.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Next board meeting will be October 13, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.