



Livia Smith, Chair

Portia West, Vice Chair

Joan Neal, Secretary

William Riley, Treasurer

John Shelton, Board Member

Joseph Oxman, Solicitor

Dr. Horace Strand, Executive Manager

**Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester
Board Meeting February 11, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.
29 East 5th Street
Chester, PA 19013**

Agenda

- Executive Session
- Meeting Call to Order
- Verification of Published Meeting
- Roll Call
- Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Comments on Agenda Items Only
- Action Items from Executive Session

- Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2019
- Approval of Report of Current and Most Recent Expenditures
- Approval of Human Resource Director's Report
- Solicitor's Report
- Executive Manager's Report
- Unfinished Business
- Board Matters
- New Business
- Public Comments on Other Matters
- Motion to Adjourn



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
February 11, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester met at the Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester, 29 East 5th Street, Chester, PA 19013, on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

The following persons were present: Dr. Horace Strand, Executive Manager; Livia Smith, Chair; Portia West, Vice Chair; William Riley, Treasurer; John Shelton (Board Member) Joan Neal, Secretary and Joseph Oxman, Solicitor.

Call to Order

The Stormwater Authority meeting was called to order at 10:24 a.m. by Chair, Livia Smith. It was stated by the Executive Secretary of the Stormwater Authority that prior to the Board meeting this morning, the Board held an executive session.

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

John Shelton (Board Member), William Riley (Treasurer), Livia Smith (Chair), Portia West (Vice Chair), Joan Neal (Secretary), and Joseph Oxman, Solicitor.

Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

All those in attendance stood for prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

None.

Action Items from Executive Session

None.

Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2019 Meeting

Joan Neal made a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2019. Mr. John Shelton seconded.

Poll Vote of Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2019

All in favor and motioned 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. Portia West seconded.

Poll Vote on Motion for Approval of Current and Most Recent Expenditures

All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Human Resource Director's Report

Ms. Joan Neal made a motion for approval of the Human Resource Director's Report with the addition of the H.R. Director. Ms. Portia West seconded for the approval of the Human Resource Director's report with the addition of the sixth position which that will be of Human Resource Director.

Poll Vote for Approval of Human Resource Director's Report

All in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

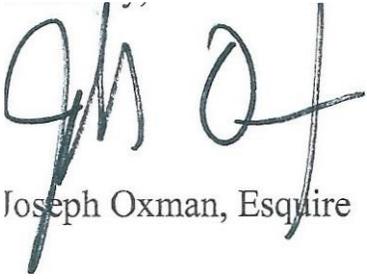
February 11, 2020

To the Board of Directors,

As you all know, on December 13, 2019, the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas denied all claims by the Plaintiffs in Best Homes DDJ, LLC vs. The Chester Stormwater Authority. On December 23, 2019, the Plaintiffs filed Post-Trial Motions to overrule the Court's verdict of December 13, 2019. The Stormwater Authority responded to Plaintiffs' Motions on January 6, 2020. On February 5, 2020, the Court denied the Plaintiffs' Post-Trial Motions which has ended this case in the Court of Common Pleas. The only redress the Plaintiffs have moving forward is to appeal the case to the Pennsylvania Superior Court and then to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Although it is absolutely in the Plaintiffs' right to appeal this case, their chances of even having the case heard are extremely unlikely. It is my opinion that the appellant courts will have no interest in overruling Judge Whalen as all the Plaintiff's issues were addressed at trial. An appellant court can only overrule a lower court on matters of law and not facts. The law and facts are squarely in the Authority's favor.

Since Judge Whalen has issued his last ruling in Best Homes DDJ, LLC vs. the Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester, our collection firm, Portnoff and Associates, will be mailing out initial notices of default for lack of payment of fees, to all outstanding bill holders, commercial and residential.

Sincerely,



Joseph Oxman, Esquire

Executive Manager's Report

EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT
February 11, 2020

Since our last board meeting, we opened our headquarter office at 31 East 5th Street. We are fully operational and are open to receive payments Monday through Friday for the convenience of our residents. This is going very well, and residents are coming in everyday making payments.

We are pleased to say that on February 4, 2020, we made settlement on our fourth project bringing in an additional \$10 million to our City. This totals about \$40 million thus far. This settlement came with a lot of work and effort on the part of our office and our partner, Corvias.

At the Board's request, I reached out to Widener University to engage them in carrying out their in-kind-commitment. I spoke with George Hassel, Associate Vice-President of Administration for Widener University, who said he would get back with me to meet. Thus far, he has not gotten back with me. After more than two weeks, I placed a follow-up call, and am waiting for a response.

Now that we are out of the court case, I am working with our Solicitor to engage a collection agency to begin collections for uncollected fees. It is my hope we should be able to get started by March 1, 2020.

The street crew is working well but are-in-need of more help and equipment in which we are working on providing within the next 60-90 days.

Respectfully Submitted:



Dr. Horace W. Strand, Executive Manager

Unfinished Business

None

Board Matters

Dr. Horace Strand asked the Board to allow Jim McBride with Corvias to do a presentation to the Board and guest to discuss what the Authority is going to do, what the new settlement is about, and what will be taken place for the next settlement.

Jim McBride handed up a hard copy of a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. His presentation was as follows:

Jim provided an update wherein it was mentioned that he would primarily be talking about the Pennvest projects. There are three projects that have been launched with Pennvest, that are known as Tranches 1, 2 and 3. The previous projects focused on catch basins, cleaning the catch basins, inspecting them to see what kind of work was needed, and also to do repairing and retrofitting. In addition, there was the green infrastructure work that was done at Veterans Park, Chester High School, and the Eyre Park trail behind the high school so that has been the previous project focus. The next two phases of the project go to another level of structural work.

In Tranches 4 and 5 we are shifting to putting in new Stormwater subsystems, so when we have done the inspecting of the catch basins, you must start there to catch all the water. But as we look at both the catch basins and some of the pipes, we can see that some of the pipes are corroded, they are not operational. What we have done, we looked at the City in different areas, and we are going to be putting in new piping systems, so that will be catching the water from the catch basins, new pipes from the catch basins, to either new outfalls or into the Delcora system.

For both Tranches 4 and 5, we have gone to the DEP and the Delaware County Conservation District, and we received permits to put in new outfalls. It is an accomplishment to get those permits in place, because if we can create new outfalls, that gives us the ability to move the water as opposed to having it sit in the streets. The significant factor is these two tranches, it is a more significant stormwater work. In some cases, too, putting in the new outfalls we are creating separations from the Delcora system, that helps both with water quality as well as capacity. This works helps to provide new piping, as well as provide better capacity management to handle the flow.

The Tranche 4 project which we just settled on February 4th which was about \$10 million dollars, literally the construction started the very next day. So, when these funds were available, we already have a team in place and we did a Notice to Proceed for the very next day, we were out in the streets. In this project again, we are going to focus on another 225 catch basins where we go through the normal process of cleaning and inspecting them and determining what retrofits are needed.

We are installing water quality devices, whereas this is a new technology into the stormwater system where those are insert filter within the catch basins. So, what happens is when water goes into the catch basins we put a filter there and we capture all that major trash, debris, leaves, etc.; we are preventing all the debris from getting into the stormwater system. For this tranche, we are looking at seven new stormwater subsystems which amounts to about eleven thousand feet of height. Lastly, there are three new outfalls in Chester Creek.

Tranche 4

For Tranche 4 we are starting in a range of West 5th to West 12th along Parker on the other side of the high school, we are putting in new piping which will either lead to Chester Creek which is behind the high school, we are putting in the new outfall, actually two new outfalls; and then the other ones that you do not see connected to the Creek, they are connected to the Delcora system.

In May some serious construction work will start and we are going to have to do some community outreach because there is going to be a lot more traffic control and impact to the streets, so we are going to have to work with the Board to plan out how we are going to do this. We are going to need some short-term traffic pattern management to do this work.

The three sub-systems are going to go in three-month chunks, so it is going to be May, June and July; July, August and September for the other one; and October, November and December for the last. We will make sure that we coordinate this with Michael Galante.

Dr. Strand asked Jim McBride to explain the trade-off the SAC has with Delcora and it was stated as follows:

When we build the new piping system, we are looking to put in new outfalls, because if we can get to the river, we can separate from Delcora, that actually helps Delcora because it will take in some of the capacity into the river, and it will generally help us because we are able to manage that water directly. This would be a benefit to Delcora. Anytime we weed out water from their system into the river that is an advantage to Delcora. The advantage that Delcora is giving us is that if we cannot get to an outfall, if you cannot get to the creek, they are allowing us to tie into their existing system. In this 1st phase, we are putting in three new outfalls, but four connections will tie back into the Delcora system.

Tranche 5

Tranche 5 we will be settling in the middle of April, April 17th we will be doing settlement for that and finalizing our permitting. Also, we will be getting new outfall permits for Tranche 5. In Tranche 5 we are going to address 350 catch basins, standard cleaning, inspecting, assessing, repairing, and retrofitting. Also, we will focus on water quality devices. We are going to have about five new sub-systems making up about 13,000 linear feet of piping. So, Tranche 5 will look a lot alike Tranche 4 but just expanding to a different part of the City.

The good news is that in addition to the stormwater systems, Pennvest does provide funding for new equipment. So, in Tranche 5, we have two major new equipment acquisitions that we are going to do, which one is for a street sweeper and the second one is a vac truck. The street sweeper will help us maintain the streets; the vac truck is helpful because it has the powerful ability to suck everything out of the catch basins.

Back to Tranche 4, the construction is starting, there will be some community outreach done from the May to December timeframe; we will be doing some piping installation, so we signage will be put up. We will only be putting in one setting of piping at a time. We will be providing residents with flyers, ringing doorbells, etc. to let people know what we are doing.

New Business

Increase of salaries for the employee by 5%.

Motion for Increase of Employee Salaries by 5%

Mr. Riley made a motion to increase employee salaries by 5%. Mr. Shelton, seconded.

Poll Vote on Motion for Increase of Employee Salaries by 5%

All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments on Other Matter

Delores Shelton – 138 East 18th Street, Chester, PA. Ms. Shelton asked if the photos compiled by Frank Morgan, Foreman for SAC could be made available for the community to see what projects SAC is doing throughout the City, which would give the community a better understanding of the purpose of the Stormwater Authority. Suggested that the photo board be made available at City Hall as well as community meetings for residents to see.

Councilwoman West stated the City use to do the work, however, it never looked like what was seen on the photos that were presented by Frank Morgan. The city workers did not have the time, in addition to other work they had to do, to pay detailed attention to the inlets and keeping them clean. So, the Stormwater Authority and its management, has been a real asset and benefit to the City in terms of keeping inlets and basins cleaned out. I have been getting a lot of complements from people who were saying “things look so much better,” since the Stormwater Authority has been established.

Dr. Strand informed the Board that on occasion on Booth Street between 5 & 6th, a lot of dumping has been taking place. People have been dumping large trash bags of debris, so the guys have been working hard to keep that area clean.

Joe Oxman stated that in the City of Philadelphia as it relates to illegal dumping program, there is a lot of grant money out there from the State. They have identified 100 spots throughout the City where they have illegal dumping area, and they have added surveillance cameras and they are nailing a lot of these contractors for illegal dumping. The City is identifying them by their license plates, and this has put a serious dent in dumping because they have been throwing fines on the contractors anywhere from \$1,000 - \$1,500 and taking away their licenses. This is something you may want to support.

Councilwoman West stated she will be meeting with Congresswoman Scanlon on Friday, February 14th at a breakfast along with FEMA and the U.S. Census. There are some monies that they may be able to ask for to assist in the purchase of surveillance cameras and other things for the City. Councilwoman West stated that illegal dumping is a priority with the City of Chester.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. William Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. John Shelton seconded.

All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Next board meeting will be April 14, 2020