

The Swatara Township Board of Commissioners held a virtual Public Hearing via Zoom on the proposed organization of a municipal stormwater authority at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

Members of the Board present were: Commissioners Zubeck, Varner, Ellis, Vice President Boudier and President Connolly were present. Also present: Township Manager Jim Fosselman, Assistant Manager Kim Kaufman, Solicitor Scott Wyland, Solicitor Steve Coccoresse, Director of Public Safety Darrell Reider, Director of Public Works Todd Webb, Director of Building and Codes Robert Ihlein and Assistant Secretary Karen Alleman.

Solicitor Wyland: This is the time, and place that has been duly advertised for a hearing on an ordinance proposed to create a new stormwater authority, the Swatara Township Stormwater Authority, to provide for stormwater system planning, management and implementation, appointing and fixing the terms of the first members of the board of this new authority and authorizing directing the officers to perform all acts and execute all other documents required or contemplated by the ordinance to set up the authority and to set forth new article of incorporation and authorize any other actions necessary to set the authority and to repeal any ordinances that are inconsistent with this new ordinance.

Briefly by explanation the township when it embarked on the collection of a stormwater authority fee by management agreement, assigned the collection of the funds, the fee itself and the handling of the funds to the Swatara Township Authority which is primarily by its function a sewer authority. The township retained the obligation to do the work and provide the reporting that would meet the obligations of the permit and the program. So now the township wants to make a new structure where its going to create a whole new stormwater authority that will have the sole purpose of doing all of the work I just described, its just now divided between two entities so the stormwater authority will take care of the work and handle the billing and that sort of thing. It will be a special purpose authority. Tonight's ordinance is kind of the midway point in the formation of the ordinance. It is the step that would authorize the filing of the Articles of Incorporation with the Department of State. Upon those being filed there's some further steps we will take in the next month or so to officially create, populate the authority with new members, assign it with the project of handling stormwater and entering into an agreement or resolution with Swatara Township Sewer Authority to terminate the existing management agreement and provide for the transfer of all the funds and records pertaining to stormwater from that Sewer Authority over to the new stormwater authority.

So, with that I open the hearing to any comments from the public pertaining to this ordinance. We are required to have a hearing and receive any public input. So, on this meeting if you push the button to raise your hand if you have any comments for the record on the stormwater authority, we can take care of that now. I also ask the Secretary, I'm assuming we did not receive any emails from anyone requesting to testify, is that right?

Assistant Secretary Alleman: We have not.

Solicitor Wyland: Okay. I'll give it another moment, but I see no raised hands for comments. (pause) Do any of the Commissioners have any comments they'd want to put on the record in this hearing for the ordinance?

Commissioner Ellis: I just wanted to confirm again, I think we had discussed this in past, by doing this, this will allow residents to pay by ACH, is that correct?

Manager Fosselman: Yes, Yes, I can answer that. Yes, ACH also internet payment online. They can pay ahead, a lot of the features will be handled by our own computer system, or own software system which is also partially set up. ACH payments can be made, online payments can be made, credit card payments can be made. Any pay ahead can be made too.

Commissioner Ellis: Thank you.

President Connolly: Commissioner Zubeck?

Commissioner Zubeck: Yeah, I mean I just wanted to reiterate that this is something we have been talking about for well over a couple of years now and I think one of the number one questions, I mean, I get from residents is, why can't I pay, you know, via internet or, you know, with a card and things like that. So I think its, it will be nice to, you know, offer them more options as far as a payment.

President Connolly: Yeah, I think we've all heard that, and it came up once or twice at a public meeting so it is nice that we can provide that remedy. I do have a question Scott. On the formation, the existence of the fifty years, is that just standard language?

Solicitor Wyland: That's....yes, that's the maximum life span of a municipal authority and sometime forty-nine years from now if the stormwater authority is still thriving it will need to be renewed with another fifty year term. But that's standard, yes.

President Connolly: Alright, thank you.

Solicitor Wyland: I sill see that there are no raised hands so with that I'll close the record on this hearing and then suggest that the ordinance will be ready for a motion.

The Public Hearing concluded at 7:22 p.m.

  
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Karen Alleman, Assistant Secretary