

Clarion Borough Stormwater Authority Minutes of October 24, 2019

Present were Chairman Jason Noto, Secretary Tom DiStefano and Board Member Bill Miller. Also in attendance were Borough Projects Coordinator Todd Colosimo, Authority assistant Jessica Schwabenbauer, and Borough Secretary Linda LaVan-Preston.

Mr. Noto called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Miller moved to approve the minutes of the Oct. 10, 2019, meeting, Mr. DiStefano seconded and all were in favor.

The board discussed the impact of removing public sidewalks from the impervious area (IA) of landowners. Mr. Noto said the effect on Authority revenue seemed minimal, based on an estimate from the HRG engineering firm of a loss of \$13,620 to \$13,800 per year.

Mr. Noto said he spoke with Authority solicitor Lee Stinnett who said about half of the municipalities consider public sidewalks as the landowners IA while about half do not, and he had no opinion as to the legality of either position, recommending the Authority do what it feels is best.

Mr. Noto said he had some questions to discuss, including whether driveway aprons on borough land (within the street area) be counted as landowner IA or not. Mr. Colosimo said the part of a driveway used as a public sidewalk would not count as IA, but the rest would and the definition of "sidewalk" would be important.

Mr. Noto asked how much recalculating IA would cost. Mr. Colosimo said HRG should provide an estimate.

Mr. Noto asked if the recalculation would further delay the first billing. Mr. Miller said it was a long-term matter. Mr. Noto said it would be a one-time cost, and the borough would have to cover the cost at this time. Mr. Colosimo and Mrs. LaVan-Preston discussed possible coverage under PennVEST funding.

Mr. Noto said he "leaned yes" on excluding sidewalks, but wanted to be sure.

Mr. Colosimo discussed progress on getting access to GIS data. Property line data from Clarion County does not always match up with aerial imagery; this is a major concern, but HRG is working to reconcile the matter.

Mr. Colosimo said the average difference across all parcels caused by removal of public sidewalks is 416 square feet per parcel; HRG said this estimate is close but not exact as it is not calculated for each parcel. This loss in revenue, roughly 3%, will likely be less than the loss through non-payment of fees.

Mr. Colosimo said he would ask for answers on the cost to recalculate IA with removal of public sidewalks, whether the authority will be able to bill in January, and whether the cost would be covered by PennVEST.

Mr. Colosimo said HRG should understand the Authority expects the maps and property lines should line up, given how much is being paid. Mrs. LaVan-Preston said maps must be corrected before bills are sent and Mr. Noto agreed.

Mr. Noto said the change in IA will vary for property owners, with those with corner lots seeing the most reduction. His biggest concern is being able to bill in the first quarter of 2020. There was a discussion of the timing of a vote and how that might affect the billing date.

Mr. Miller said we do not want to waste three weeks by delaying a vote until the next regular meeting. Mr. Noto said the recalculation effort should move forward. Mr. DiStefano suggested authorizing Mr. Colosimo to order the recalculation depending on the cost. The board discussed what the cost limit would be. Mr. Noto suggested \$10,000 as the limit to approve recalculation without requiring a vote at the next meeting.

Mr. DiStefano moved to authorize Mr. Colosimo to direct HRG to move forward with recalculating IA with public sidewalks removed if the cost is \$10,000 or less. Mr. Noto seconded and all were in favor.

Mr. Colosimo said he would act quickly to get answers from HRG.

Mr. Miller moved to adjourn, Mr. DiStefano seconded and all were in favor.

Attest:

Date:

Tom DiStefano, Authority Secretary