

STORMWATER AUTHORITY ADOPTS NEW BILLING METHOD FOR 2021

Responding to public comments regarding its current ERU billing method, the West Hanover Township Authority selected a tiered method of billing for its 2021 Stormwater Fee. Under this new method, parcels will be grouped into tiers based on the total square footage of their impervious area (IA). A fee is being established for each tier and all parcels falling within that tier will pay the same fee. The only exception is properties falling in the final tier (IA of 8,000 sf and above) whose fee will be determined based on a dollar amount per 100 sf of impervious area. 648 of the total 4,911 parcels in the Township fall under this final tier. Unlike the Authority's current ERU method which only billed developed parcels with more than 800 sf of IA, the tiered billing will include all developed parcels with more than 400 sf of IA. This means a number of parcels which were not billed a fee in 2020 will receive a bill in 2021. The tier system applies to all properties in the Township regardless of land use classification. More than one-half of property owners will pay a fee of \$103.00 or less.

The Authority established the fee for each tier at its December 16th meeting. Property owners will have the option to pay the 2021 Stormwater Fee in its entirety or in four installments throughout the year. Each parcel's bill will be calculated by the Authority in early January after

Tier	Tier's Impervious Area Range	2021 Annual Fee
1	400 to 1,999 sf	\$ 45.00
2	2,000 to 3,999 sf	103.00
3	4,000 to 5,999 sf	166.00
4	6,000 to 7,999 sf	235.00
5	Greater than 8,000 sf	\$3.44 per 100 sf of impervious area

receiving the list of 2020 delinquent accounts from Keystone Collections. This delinquent list is required before establishing each parcel's bill since delinquent accounts do not receive the benefit of any credits available under the Authority's program. Payment of the 2020 fee plus any penalties or interest must be received or postmarked by December 31st in order to not be considered delinquent for the 2021 billing. The 2021 stormwater bills

should be received by property owners in mid-February. Once the Authority has calculated each bill in mid-January, property owners will be able to view a detailed calculation of their bill including all credits by accessing their parcel data on the GIS website. Anyone needing help accessing their parcel data can receive assistance from our stormwater coordinator, Alexis Woodruff, at 717-412-0154.

In addition to changing the billing method, the Authority also made certain revisions to its stormwater credit program. For 2021, parcels lying outside of the Township's Urbanized Area (as determined by the US Census Bureau) will received an automatic credit equal to 25% (increased from 15%) of their 2021 stormwater fee. A property owner can determine if they lie in the non-urbanized area by going to <https://arcg.is/1S8nSLO> and looking up their parcel. The Authority also streamlined and made automatic its Low- Impact Parcel Credit. This credit no longer requires an application and will only be based on a parcel's percentage of impervious

coverage. The formula for the applicable credit amount has not changed. This low-impact parcel credit change will impact approximately 20% of parcel owners. Any property owner who applied for the low-impact credit in 2020 and paid the \$25 application fee will receive a refund of that fee. The maximum amount of annual credits a property owner can receive in a given year remains at 50% of the parcel's Stormwater Fee. The Covid Credit is a separate, one-time credit equal to 50% of the 2020 Stormwater Fee. In order to receive this credit against the 2021 Stormwater Fee, a property owner must have paid their 2020 Stormwater Fee along with any penalties and interest by December 31, 2020. This credit will then be applied against the 2021 Stormwater Fee. If delinquent 2020 fees, penalties and interest payments are received after December 31, 2020 but no later than July 1, 2021, the 2020 Covid Credit will be applied against the 2022 Stormwater Fee. If the delinquent 2020 fee, penalties and interest are received after July 1, 2021, the Covid Credit will be forfeited. The special Covid Credit is excluded from the annual 50% maximum credit limitation.

The Authority will be sending a notice in December to all property owners in the Township describing these changes to the Program and detailing the new tiered billing method and rates.