

**CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE RECEIVER'S  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC**

**July 7, 2014  
6:30 P.M.**

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A Public Special Meeting of the Receiver of the Chester Upland School District was held this afternoon at the Administration Building of the Chester Upland School District located at 1720 Melrose Avenue, Chester, Pennsylvania.

Executive Staff Present:	Mr. Joseph Watkins, Receiver Mr. Gregory Shannon, Superintendent Dr. Tamara Thomas Smith, Deputy Superintendent
Solicitor:	Leo A. Hackett, Esquire

The Receiver's meeting opened with a call to order by Receiver, Joseph Watkins and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Leo Hackett, Esq.

**NOTICE OF ADVERTISED MEETING**

(COPY OF ADVERTISED NOTICE ATTACHED)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Beverly Harris, School Board Member** – She wanted to comment on the record about taxes, even though they have been passed already. She believes that the School Board should lobby the Chester Housing Project to pay their fair share of taxes. They don't pay taxes on the rents that are collected in the housing developments. She believes that they should have to give back to the schools since children from the developments go to the Chester Upland schools.

**Bettie McClairen, School Board President** – Stated that the budget was not attached.

**Joseph Watkins, Receiver** – answered that there was a glitch but it was being send electronically and we should have it before meeting end. He said that the preliminary budget was out there and the final one had a savings of \$6 million.

Delores Shelton – Asked if the budget was increased or changed by \$6 million.

Joseph Watkins, Receiver – answered that it had been decreased.

Ms. Shelton – asked since there was no teacher contract yet, did this new budget include it.

Mr. Watkins – answered yes.

Ms. Shelton – asked about any layoffs.

Gregory Shannon, Superintendent – answered that no layoffs of teachers have been enacted, but that teaching staff is determined by enrollment.

*Ms. Shelton asked about a previous matter before the Receiver at a Meeting of the Public and was told that is was a personnel matter and would be handled as such and was not up for discussion. Mrs. Shelton persisted and Mr. Shelton, Sr. spoke up and wanted to know if the matter had been handled. Mr. Shannon reiterated that it was a personnel matter and not up for discussion. Mrs. Shelton still persisted and the employee in question then spoke up and got very angry and a verbal altercation ensued which was handled by Security promptly and the meeting was brought back to order.*

*Mr. Watkins then explained the details of the budget.*

**John Shelton, Jr.** – said that he is looking forward to a good year provided that the needs have been met and that he is sure that the children are addressed. He wanted the audience to know that no matter what, he, the teachers and the administration are working as a team to get the job done.

*Ms. Harris asked to again speak and was granted permission.*

**Ms. Harris** – asked about properties sold

**Mr. Watkins** – stated that we haven't sold any properties yet.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

**A-1 Approval of the Chester Upland School District's Final General Operating Budget for 2014-2015**

1. Adoption of Budget

The Administration presents the following resolution to be adopted approving the final budget for the Chester Upland School for the fiscal year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$118,442,209 as set forth in the summary attached;

RESOLVED, that the Budget of the Chester Upland School District, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, as was proposed at a special meeting of the Receiver of said District held the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 2014 is hereby adopted as the final Annual General Fund Operating Budget of the Chester Upland School District, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, for the fiscal year beginning, July 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors of the Chester Upland School District, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, hereby authorizes the appropriation and expenditure of the funds as itemized in said Budget during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. The necessary revenue for the same shall be provided by the following taxes enacted pursuant to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly No. 511 as approved December 31, 1965, and as amended, provided for by resolution imposing such taxes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, adopted concurrently herewith.

2. Adoption of Real Estate Tax

The Administration presents the following resolution to be adopted approving the Real Estate Tax to meet the 2014-2015 budget requirements of the school district.

The Chester Upland School District by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, hereby resolves under and by virtue and pursuant to the authority granted in the Public School Code of 1949, as amended and supplemented, as follows:

Section I. That a tax be and the same is hereby levied and assessed on all real property within the City of Chester, Delaware, County, Pennsylvania, subject to taxation for school purposes for the fiscal year beginning the first day of July, 2014, a tax of 56.5723 mills on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed valuation, and;

that a tax be and the same is hereby levied and assessed on all real property within Chester Township and Upland Borough, Delaware, County, Pennsylvania, subject to taxation for school purposes for the fiscal year beginning the first day of July, 2014, a tax of 25.0900 mills on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed valuation of taxable property.

Section II. That the said tax so assessed shall be levied upon all the property upon which the City of Chester has assessed for tax purposes and the County of Delaware has assessed for tax purposes in the Township of Chester and Borough of Upland.

Section III. This resolution shall become effective and the tax hereby imposed is for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of July, 2014.

3.       Readoption of Real Estate Transfer Tax

          The administration presents the following resolution to be adopted approving the readoption of the Real Estate Transfer tax.

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR GENERAL SCHOOL PURPOSES BY IMPOSING, ASSESSING AND LEVYING A TAX UPON TRANSFERS AND CONVEYANCES OF ANY LAND, TENEMENTS OR HEREDITAMENTS, OR ANY INTEREST THEREIN, SITUATE WHOLLY OR PARTLY WITHIN THE CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA; IMPOSING DUTIES AND CONFERRING POWERS ON THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF THE DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE SAID TAX; PRESCRIBING THE METHOD AND MANNER OF COLLECTING THE TAX IMPOSED, ASSESSED AND LEVIED, PROVIDING CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR THE NON-PAYMENT THEREOF.

          WHEREAS, the Chester Upland School District requires additional revenue by virtue of the ever increasing cost of maintaining school facilities and providing services required under the Public School Code of 1949;

          NOW, THEREFORE, under and by virtue of and pursuant to the authority granted by Act 511 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved the 31<sup>50</sup> day of December, 1965, P.L. 1257, as amended from time to time and by Act 40 of 2005 of the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, it is hereby resolved, adopted, and enacted as follows:

          Section 1. The Real Estate Transfer Tax Resolution of the Chester Upland School District originally adopted by the School District in 1968, and last amended and supplemented, is further amended and supplemented as follows:

          SECTION III - IMPOSITION OF TAX; INTEREST is supplemented and amended to read as follows:

          The tax imposed under Section III at the rates current in effect for fiscal year 2014-15 and all applicable interest and penalties shall be administered, collected and enforced under the Act of December 31, 1965 (P.L. 1257, No. 511), as amended, known as the "The Local Tax Enabling Act"; provided, that if the correct amount of the tax is not paid by the last date prescribed for timely payment, the Chester Upland School District pursuant to Section 1102-D of the Tax Reform Code of 1971 (72 P.S. §8102-D), authorizes and directs the Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to determine, collect and enforce the tax, interest, and penalties.

Any tax imposed under Section III that is not paid by the date the tax is due shall bear interest as prescribed for interest on delinquent municipal claims under the Act of May 16, 1923 (P.L. 207, No. 153) (53 P.S. §§ 7101, *et seq.*), as amended, known as "The Municipal Claims and Tax Liens Act." The interest rate shall be the lesser of the interest rate imposed upon delinquent Commonwealth taxes as provided in Section 806 of the Act of April 9, 1929 (P.L. 343, No. 176) (72 P.S. §805), as amended, known as the "Fiscal Code", or the maximum interest rate permitted under the Municipal Claims and Tax Liens Act for tax claims.

All other provisions of the Real Estate Transfer Tax Resolution of the Chester Upland School District shall remain in effect.

4. The Receiver pursuant to the authority granted by Section 672-A (b) (4) of Act 141 of 2012 has directed the Board of School Directors of the Chester Upland School District to levy and raise taxes in accordance with this Resolution.

5. Severability. In the event that any section, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Resolution shall be declared illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not prevent, preclude or otherwise foreclose enforcement of any of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

6. Repealer. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions inconsistent herewith or in the conflict with any of the specific terms enacted hereby, to the extent of said inconsistencies or conflicts, are hereby specifically repealed.

7. This Resolution shall become effective and the tax hereby imposed is for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of July, 2014, and shall remain in effect hereafter unless this Resolution is modified, amended or repealed.

**Executive Sponsor:** Joe Watkins, Receiver

***BUSINESS AGENDA ITEM #A-1 WAS APPROVED BY JOSEPH P. WATKINS, RECEIVER***

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business *Receiver, Joseph P. Watkins* adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

**CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**FINANCIAL RECOVERY RECEIVER**

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**Joseph P. Watkins**

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**Date**