

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, June 3, 2019

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Chairman Bruce Bush called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:15 pm in the public meeting room of the Upper Saucon Township Water and Sewer Department office building, 4774 Saucon Creek Road, Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County, PA.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Bush – Chairman
Joaquin (Jack) DeMatos - Vice Chairman
Ronald Reybitz - Asst. Secretary and Asst. Treasurer
Ryan Holmes - Secretary
Mark Sullivan – Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT:

Gary A. Brienza, Esquire, Solicitor
Andrew T. Bohl, P.E., Engineer
Farley F. Fry, P.E., Engineer
John Guignet, UST Asst. Director of Water and Sewer Resources

VISITORS:

Chris Ciccone, RGC Contracting

NOTIFICATION:

All public sessions of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority are electronically recorded. The recordings are maintained as part of the record of the meeting until the minutes are transcribed and approved by the Authority.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chris Ciccone asked about payment for the invoices that were just submitted late last week. Andy Bohl informed him that there is an approval process and that since the invoice was not received until late last week it still needed approval by the Authority and Supervisors. Andy also stated that there are still several issues that remain with the work that has already been done. Chris was informed that it would probably be July until he could expect payment.

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes for May 2019 with an amendment noting that Jack DeMatos called the meeting to order and that Bruce Bush was present by phone. Motion was made and seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

Authority members may comment on the correspondence packets or the "Summary" which they received.

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(NOTE: This is a summary of the correspondence prepared by the Chairman. Details must be obtained by reading the actual correspondence)

Date list was prepared or amended: 5/30/2019

Date of letter: 5/16/19

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Brinley Court -- Phase 1 Final Subdivision Plan.....Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Review

[This letter contained numerous comments of Hanover Engineering and Paragon Engineering Services review of the Brinley Court Pump Station and DEP Part 2 application. See letters for the comments.]

Date of letter: 5/20/19

Letter from: Bruce Bush (email)

Letter sent to: Tom Beil, UST

Subject: USTMA Matters - Hanover Engineering

At May's USTMA Meeting we discussed the services that Hanover Engineering is providing to the Authority and the Township Sewer Department.

We decided to take no action at this time regarding putting together an RFP for sanitary sewer engineering services. As you may remember we sent a note to you last year stating that we would use Hanover Engineering in lieu of trying to final another engineering firm upon the retirement of Karl Schreiter.

I stated in that note that we would see how they performed during the first part of 2019 regarding whether we would recommend to the BOS to issue an RFP for sanitary sewer engineering services. The Authority Members, including Chris and John, have found them to be responsive to our needs.

We will evaluate them again at the end of 2019 and determine if we want to recommend to the BOS that we begin a search for another firm during the year 2020.

One of the items we discussed that gave us the feeling to continue with Hanover was the work that is being done on the Act 537 Plan. We felt that we did not want to bring a new firm up-to-date and add costs on the completion of the 537 Plan.

While we have experienced some minor issues with Hanover, we all felt that the problems were the type of problems that arise when you change firms and individuals.

Date of letter: 5/28/19

Letter from: Michael Prokup, Attorney

Letter sent to: Gary Brienza, Solicitor

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Subject: Oakhurst Sanitary Sewer Easement.....Dolores Yundt
Attorney suggested a paragraph be added to the Easement.

While an offer of \$1,000.00 on account of the tapping fee is appreciated, I'd like to know whether the Authority would also be willing to reserve an EDU for my client or any assigns should the lot to which the driveway leads be develop in the future.

Date of letter: 5/29/19
Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering
Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST
Subject: Lanark Commons III.....Sanitary Sewer Review

Hanover reviewed the plans and documents prepared by Base Engineering Inc. related to the proposed sanitary sewer improvements for Lanark Commons III Annex Building Addition.

Proposed Annex Building consists of a 5500 square foot stand-alone building on the west of the recently constructed medical office building.

The letter then listed Hanover's comments.

Date of letter: 5/29/19
Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering
Letter sent to: Bruce Bush
Subject: Sunset Park Subdivision and Saucon Country Estates.....Review of Sanitary Sewer Video Inspection

Hanover has reviewed the videos of the television inspection of the sewers constructed in 2018 by RGC Development, L.P., within the subject locations. We only reviewed the sewer segments which were shown to be questionable per the review letters by Karl Schreiter dated 10/30/18.

Saucon Country Estates:
Segment from Manholes AL-10 to AL-4 (Glenn Ave.) segment was videoed from AL-4 to AL-10. This segment is satisfactory.

Segment from Manholes AL-6 to AL-5 (Ackerman's Lane) segment was videoed from AL-6 to AL-5. This segment has several areas with sags greater than 1/2" which are the following and shall be repaired.

Sunset Park Subdivision:
Segment from Manholes SD-21 to SD-20 (South Sunset Ave) segment was videoed from SD-21 to SD-20. Burr was removed from the join at about 57'. The repair is satisfactory.

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Segment from Manholes SD-20 to SD-19 (South Sunset Ave) segment was videoed from SD-20 to SD19. Spider crack observed in the wall at 62' was repaired; however, it was discovered at the time of repair to be dirt and not a crack within the pipe. An approximately 4-foot long pipe sleeve was installed. Repair is satisfactory.

Segment from Manholes SD-10 to SD-9 (North Sunset Ave) segment was videoed from SD-10 to SD-9. The burr was removed from the joint at about 215'. Repair is satisfactory.

Segment from Manholes SD-7 to SD-6 (North Sunset Ave) was videoed from SD-7 to SD-6. This segment is satisfactory.

Segment from Manholes SD-6 to SD-5 (Sunset Drive) segment was videoed from SD-6 to SD-5. During the taping of this segment there was a heavy rain event and the sags observed within the 10/29/18 video were not able to be confirmed nor inspected due to the inflow within the collection system. We recommend, this segment be vacuumed and televised again.

*****end of correspondence list for the June meeting

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor's Report dated June 3, 2019 was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

Solicitor Brienza said that construction in Saucon Crossings is proceeding but he is not certain that the developer's agreement has been finalized.

Solicitor Brienza stated that the Promenade Shops documentation is almost complete.

Solicitor Brienza said that he is waiting on the Township Solicitor regarding the Tapping Fee Ordinance.

Mr. Brienza stated that Mountain Glen is now complete.

Solicitor Brienza reported that Mr. Ginder of Camp Elim has again started excavation and is planning on hooking up the sewer line on Tuesday. Again, he has a hole that is 8' deep and 3' wide with no shoring. Rich from Keycodes had previously shut this job down for unsafe conditions and Bob Blanchfield has also indicated that he will not inspect this site until the safety issues have been addressed.

Mr. Brienza noted that the Weyhill documentation is almost complete.

Solicitor Brienza gave an update regarding the Oakhurst sewer extension and said that he had a conversation with the Kichline's attorney but to date he has not received a response. Only one or two easements have been signed and returned. He received a letter from an Attorney representing the Dolores Yundt trust which he forwarded to Tom Beil. The letter was oddly worded but essentially his understanding of it is that they are

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asking for more money and a minor change in the language, however they did also request the Authority to “hold” an EDU for a future hook up. He will follow up with Tom Beil.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Andrew Bohl, PE, presented Engineer’s report dated May 31, 2019.

Mr. Bohl said the North Branch Interceptor design is on hold pending the 537 which is still being finalized. The next review meeting for the 537 is scheduled for 6/12/2019.

Mr. Bohl said that he is working with Chris Cope to determine which option is best for the Executive Parkway. The option in the \$100K range seems to be the most likely choice. Bruce Bush said that if it’s budgeted for this year he would like to see it happen this year.

Mr. Bohl gave an update on the Sunset/Ackerman’s project and reported that 5 out of 7 segments look acceptable.

Mr. Bohl noted that Brinley Court is still finalizing the pump station drawings.

Mr. Bohl stated that the next report on the South Branch Interceptor is due to the PADEP by 7/31/2019.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that there will be a pre-construction meeting this Thursday (6/6) for the “Old Saucon” subdivision. Construction should begin by the end of June.

Mr. Bohl said that Saucon Crossings should be complete by the end of June.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. Guignet reported that the Preston Lane water line project is intended to connect the old water line with the new. Hopefully this will eliminate or greatly reduce the frequent leaks we have experienced in the past.

Mr. Guignet noted that the department had training on the new TV truck. The new feature of the truck is the ability to do lateral launches and inspections which will come in handy.

Mr. Guignet mentioned that the Sewer Department had training on new point repair equipment directly from the product manufacturer and that it was extremely helpful.

Mr. Guignet told the Authority that the Spring 2019 Township newsletter was mailed out and that the Sewer Department is offering clean out cap replacement. This is replacing the plastic caps with metal which should help reduce I&I and will make it easier to locate should the cap get covered with grass, mulch etc.

Mr. Guignet noted that the vac truck has been in for repair of one of the pumps.

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Mr. Cope stated that Station Avenue yard repairs are completed and this project is just about complete.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sullivan reported that there are no dispersements this month. The ending balance is \$923.53.

Motion was requested to approve the Treasurer's report.

Motion was made and seconded.

MOTION (S):

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Unconnected Sewer Analysis

Reference SEA's letter dated 1/8/2014. Study identified 52 potential properties that should be connected to the sanitary sewers. (1) Update of the status of the letter that the Authority recommended be sent to the "52"; (2) Status of the request for an Ordinance to cover the inspection of the laterals prior to sale of the property. Mr. Bush said he will attend the next Public Works Committee meeting to discuss this matter.

B. Sewer Tapping Study – as previously stated, Bruce Bush will send a letter to Tom Beil.

C. Easement Problems

D. Oakhurst Drive Project

Ref: Meeting minutes from the March 6, 2017 meeting. Installation of gravity and low pressure sewers to the area east of the I-78 bridge.

E. Saucon Valley Crossings Mobile Home Park. -
Update on the status.

F. Stabler Executive Parkway Sewer Issues. Ref: Letter from Karl Schreiter dated 9/19/2018. Copy of letter sent to each member of the Authority on 9/25/2018.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, July 1, 2019 @ 6:00 PM at the Water and Sewer Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting of the Upper Saucon Municipal Authority was unanimously adjourned at approximately 6:59 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Holmes
Secretary

