

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, June 1, 2020

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Chairman Bruce Bush called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:00 pm via virtual meeting.

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, Solicitor

Andrew T. Bohl, P.E., Engineer

Farley F. Fry, P.E., Engineer (ABSENT)

John Guignet, UST Acting Director of Water and Sewer Resources

Patrick Lambert, Director of Water and Sewer Resources

Ed Rasich, UST Asst. Director of Water and Sewer Resources

VISITORS:

Mr. Frank Hanner of 5601 Daisy Lane

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:

Mr. Frank Hanner of 5601 Daisy Lane attended to follow up from last month's meeting regarding his connection to public sewer. He told the Authority that he has hired a contractor who would like to start at the end of June, but he has not heard back from the Community Development Department. He was waiting on them to tell him how much he was going to owe for the permits. He asked if there was anything, he could do to help move the process along.

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May meeting minutes as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

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

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Date list was prepared or amended: 5/25/2020, 5/28/2020, 5/29/2020

Date of letter: 5/4/2020

Letter from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor (email)

Letter sent to: Tom Dinkelacker, LV Law Practice, and others

Subject: Saucon Valley Mobile Home Project

Gary thanked Tom for his comment to hold off on acceptance resolution until June meeting of the Authority.

Date of letter: 5/5/2020

Letter from: Bruce Bush (email)

Letter sent to: Authority members

Subject: 5601 Daisy Lane Sewer Extension Project

This email forwarded a copy of Hanover Engineering's letter dated 3/23/2020 to John Guignet regarding the subject project.

Date of letter: 5/6/2020

Letter from: Bruce Bush (email)

Letter sent to: Tom Beil, UST

Subject: Mount Trexler Manor - Connection to Public Sanitary Sewer

Mount Trexler Manor's request for connection to public sanitary sewer was on the USTMA Agenda for Monday evening's meeting. This item was briefly discussed but without more details regarding what Mount Trexler is considering the Authority took no action. Fred Ebert did not show up at the meeting.

Date of letter: 5/6/2020

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patrick Lambert, UST

Subject: 6869 North Main Street.....Proposed connection to Township Sanitary Sewer Collection System

The letter listed the documents that were reviewed and were prepared by Martin Schuler Company.

Bohl had only one comment and that was.....sanitary sewer lateral shall have cleanouts located (at) all proposed bends/elbows.

Sanitary sewer service user permit should not be issued until the applicable fees are submitted.

Date of letter: 5/12/2020

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Bruce Bush

Subject: Old Saucon Subdivision Phase 1.....Sanitary Sewer Video Inspection Review
Hanover Engineering reviewed the video clips from the television inspection of the sanitary sewer within the Old Saucon Subdivision Phase one of the project. Purpose of the inspection was to determine the current condition of the sanitary sewer. The sewers were inspected and videoed on 3/10/2020 by the Township Staff.

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The letter continues with comments regarding each segment that was televised. All the pipes are 8" in diameter.

All segments appeared to be in acceptable condition, including the laterals, except for one segment where there was a small sag in the pipe of about 1/4".

See the letter for all details.

Date of letter: 5/18/2020

Letter from: Tom Dinkelacker, LV Law Practice (email)

Letter sent to: P. Reinke, Poag Shopping Centers and Gary Brienza, Solicitor

Subject: Legal Bills

(There were numerous emails regarding a billing from Gary regarding easements involving the Promenade Shops and its neighbors. After emails between Gary, Tom Dinkelacker and Paul Reinke it was determined by Tom Dinkelacker that the sewer issues are closed as relate to the Shoppes.)

Date of letter: 5/19/2020

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Lanark III.....Preliminary/Final Lot Consolidation and Land Development Plan.....Sanitary Sewer Review #2.....5321 West Valley Road

Reviewed the listed plans dated May 8, 2020 and we have no further comments.

Date of letter: 5/21/2020

Letter from: Tom Dinkelacker, LV Law Practice (email)

Letter sent to: J. Geib, UST and others

Subject: Mt. Glen Sewer Easements

(Attached) is a sewer easement for Lot 11 at Mt. Glen executed by the property owners. Have no indication that the Township and USTMA signed.

(The easement was signed by Bruce Bush on 5/26/2020)

Date of letter: 5/26/2020

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Bruce Bush

Subject: Old Saucon Subdivision.....Security Release Request.....Sanitary Sewer Improvements Only

Hanover Engineering reviewed the requested Letter of Credit Release for sanitary sewer improvements. The developer has requested a release of \$ 2,475.00 (\$2,250.00 for sewer and \$225.00 for inspection and construction contingencies). The construction of the onsite sanitary sewer and offsite installation was observed by Hanover Engineering. We recommend the Township release the requested \$2,475.00.

Date of letter: 5/28/2020

Letter from: Tom Dinkelacker, LV Law Practice (email)

Letter sent to: Tom Beil, UST, and Bruce Bush

Subject: Mt. Trexler Manor - Public Sewer Alternatives

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I will return John's call. I did place a call to Tom Beil but got his voicemail. Is this on anyone's radar?

(This message was a result of an email from John VanLuvanee, Eastburn and Gray, dated 5/28/2020. That email read as follows....

Just left you a voicemail message on your office phone. I would appreciate it if you would give me a call to discuss public sewer alternatives for Mt. Trexler Manor. I am in the office.)

Date of letter: 5/28/2020

Letter from: P. Lang, UST (email)

Letter sent to: Tom Dinkelacker, LV Law Practice, Tom Beil and Bruce Bush

Subject: Mt. Trexler Manor - Public Sewer Alternatives

They had a malfunction out there ----inspected by Chris Taylor of Hanover. They need to find a permanent solution.... we are hopeful that we can link this issue to permits for the new facility they are building out there. They called Tom Beil about connecting in UST - not likely. They are looking at connecting in Lower Milford - we are happy to have them do this.

Date of letter: 5/28/2020

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering (email)

Letter sent to: Gary Brienza, Solicitor and others

Subject: Mt. Trexler Manor - Public Sewer Alternatives

Here is the letter from Chris Taylor about Mt. Trexler Manor (this email was in response to Gary's inquiry regarding if we had any information on the "Malfunction")

Spoke with Fred Ebert last week about the subject. He was having a meeting with his client last Wednesday or Thursday to discuss how they were to proceed. I asked him to email me the outcome of the meeting. As of this morning, I have not received an email from Fred.

(Note: a copy of this email and Chris Taylor's letter was sent to each member of the Authority on 5/29/2020 by email)

Date of letter: 5/28/2020

Letter from: Tom Dinkelacker, LV Law Practice (email)

Letter sent to: John VanLuvanee, East Burn Gray

Subject: Upper Saucon Township - Mt. Trexler Manor - Public Sewer Alternatives

Called you a few moments ago and left a voice mail message. Before calling I did some homework, and here is what I have from Tom Beil.

In short, the Township and Sewer Authority are supportive of sewer service to MTM as well as other properties along the road. The most promising route appears to be extension of the Lower Milford line. An extension of the closest Upper Saucon line would require easements through ag security areas and Limeport Pike, a PennDOT highway.

Tom recommends that you send him a letter providing background in reasonable detail, and he will ask the USTMA to place you on the July 6 Agenda. In addition, we are happy to schedule a virtual meeting to discuss scenarios in advance of the Authority

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meeting. I note that Fred Ebert has already been in touch with Tom concerning the issue. At this point the more detail the better.

Am happy to discuss.

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

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor's Report dated June 1, 2020 was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

Attorney Brienza noted that the issue with the deck steps over top of our meter pit in Saucon Valley Crossings is being addressed. The park owner is going to meet with Patrick Lambert to come up with a suitable solution. They will either relocate the steps or extend the deck. Once they submit their as-builts this project should be complete.

Solicitor Brienza informed the Authority that the Oakhurst easements are almost complete. He received a few modifications from Lehigh, and will request two modifications be made on behalf of the Authority. 1. Lehigh requested the temporary construction easement expire on 12/31/2020, he is going to ask for that deadline to be extended. 2. Lehigh said the Township would be responsible for tree restoration, however since we do not want trees over the sewer line and trees of no substantial value or significance will be removed he will ask for that requirement to be removed as well.

Attorney Brienza said that the Corporate Parkway project still needs to be finalized.

Solicitor Brienza told the Authority that Tom Beil has directed Mt. Trexler to seek their sewer connection through Lower Milford. Chris Taylor from Hanover issued a letter telling them they are in violation and need to address the issue with their on-line septic.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Bohl, PE, presented Engineer's report dated May 29, 2020.

Mr. Bohl said that he is still waiting for the PennDOT HOP for the Oakhurst project.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that Coopersburg had a new data collector installed in April. He has prepared a spreadsheet using this data. The old wheel charts only showed an exceedance when the flow was greater than 1.54 MGD. Now he receives flow data every 5 minutes which allows him to see daily flow. Since the installation of the new data collector in April, they exceeded their half million-gallon daily allocation 11/15 days and in the beginning of May they had 6 more exceedances. The data shows they are exceeding their allocation 50% of the time.

Mr. Bohl noted that Brinley Court will go to construction this year sometime and TOA Locust Valley will begin next year.

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Mr. Bohl told the Authority that he has one request for payment tonight that will need approval for sanitary sewer improvements at Old Saucon.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that Saucon Valley Crossings work is complete, and they just need to submit their as-built drawings.

Mr. Bohl stated that there are still a few businesses that have not submitted their IPP's which were due in February. He sent out 2nd requests in April and still did not get any back. He will be sending out 3rd requests to these businesses.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that the Sewer Department has been focusing on flow meters and they have found some issues in the area of Gun Club and Blue Church Roads. They found a sewer main with a 4 x 5 section blown out with a large rock in it. It is averaging 100-200 GPM from the break in this line.

Mr. Lambert said that the Sewer Department is still finding rags and debris at the pump stations but less grease than normal with restaurants doing limited business.

Mr. Lambert noted that the new garage is moving forward but at a very slow pace.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sullivan reported that there were no disbursements this month. With interest the balance is \$720.74. He does need approval for this month's report.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report for June.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION (S):

A motion was made and seconded to release a partial line of credit for sanitary sewer improvements in the Old Saucon subdivision, Phase 1 in the amount of \$2,475.00.

REF: Hanover Engineering's letter dated 5/26/2020.

Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Unconnected Sewer Analysis

Reference SEA's letter dated 1/8/2014. Study identified 53 potential properties that should be connected to the sanitary sewers.

Background: (1) Update on the letter that the Authority recommended be sent to the "53"; (2) The request for an Ordinance to cover the inspection of the laterals prior to sale of the property.

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Status: 2/19/19--Tom Dinkelacker had a casual discussion regarding this matter with Tom Beil. Tom's sense is that there will be some discussion regarding further review by the committee. **3/8/2019**--Tom Beil stated that Bruce would be invited to the next Public Works Committee meeting. **October 2019** - Bruce Bush mentioned that he again, recently reminded Tom Beil that he would still like a meeting with the Public Works committee regarding the unconnected sewers. **February 2020** – Bruce noted that there is still nothing new to report on the unconnected properties and that to his knowledge a date still has not been set for the Public Works committee meeting.

B. Sewer Tapping Study – Nothing new on this either. Both the unconnected properties and the sewer tapping study needs to be addressed by the Supervisors.

C. Easement Problems

D. Oakhurst Drive Project

This project will be ready to go out for bid as soon as we receive the permits from DEP.

E. 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:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, July 6, 2020 @ 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 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Holmes
Secretary