

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Tuesday, September 8, 2020

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Chairman Bruce Bush called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:05 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, Solicitor
Andrew T. Bohl, P.E., Engineer
Farley F. Fry, P.E., Engineer
Patrick Lambert, Director of Water and Sewer Resources (ABSENT)
Ed Rasich, UST Asst. Director of Water and Sewer Resources

VISITORS:

Michael P. Dontas, Carly Dontas (Copperhead Grille)

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:

Michael and Carly thought they could attend to discuss the upgraded water connection at the restaurant, but Bruce informed them that the motion on the agenda for tonight was to approve the revised planning module for additional sewer capacity. They owe additional money from when the outdoor seating area was built and added to their seating capacity. Bruce explained that the EDU allocation dated back to the days when the restaurant was the “Camelot” and was inadequate even before the expansion. Approval of the planning module tonight will be conditional on Copperhead paying for the additional EDU’s.

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as presented from August 2020.

Motion passed with Jack DeMatos and Ryan Holmes abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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: 9/2/2020

Date of letter: 8/11/2020

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Copperhead Grille.....5737 Route 378..... Planning Module Review

(Note: This planning module comes from their expansion project a few years ago.....they finally were able to quantify the projected flows for the expansion project.) We reviewed the UST Planning Module and PADEP Planning Module Mailer Exemption for Copperhead Grille, dated 7/20/2020 prepared by Ott Consulting Inc related to the land development project at 5737 Route 378.

Based on these projections contained in the above planning documents the estimated addition sewage flows for the building addition will be 1130 gpd or 5 EDU's. It should be noted, the UST equivalent dwelling unit is equal to 226 gpd.

Based on current available information, there is sufficient allocated treatment plant and conveyance capacity to provide sewer service to this building expansion project.

We recommend that PADEP Planning Module Exemption Mailer and the UST Planning Module be approved by the USTMA and the USSTA.

Ultimately, the total sewage flows from the property is projected to be 5,424 gpd (19 existing EDU's and 5 proposed EDU's) or 24 EDU's.

Date of letter: 9/1/2020

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Bruce Bush

Subject: Lanark Commons (Sanitary Sewer Release)

Hanover Engineering's letter dated 9/1/2020 recommends a release of \$7,877.65 to the letter of credit for the sewer improvements installed for the Annex Building at the Lanark Commons Land Development Project.

Date of letter: 9/1/2020

Letter from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor

Letters sent to: 3701 Corporate Parkway LP

C/O Grubb & Ellis Management

C/O Penncap Properties

Subject: Corporate Parkway Sanitary Sewer Easement

On 12/5/2019 I sent to your attention a draft easement agreement regarding the sewer extension in your region and on 5/11/2020 I sent an amended easement agreement. As of today's date, I have not received any reply to my previous correspondences. Kindly have a representative of your legal counsel immediately contact me to discuss this matter. In order to acquire the appropriate easement, I have been authorized to indicate that the UST is willing to provide you with a \$1000 credit against the applicable sewer tapping fee in return for granting the easement.

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

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor's Report dated September 8, 2020 was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

Attorney Brienza noted that he is waiting for Attorney Dinkelacker to prepare the final approval for Saucon Valley Crossings.

Solicitor Brienza informed the Authority that both easements from Lehigh University are finalized and recorded but will need to be signed by Bruce. They Yundt Trust is still not finalized. He is waiting for information from the Trust to complete the paperwork.

Solicitor Brienza said he still has not received a response from the representative for 3701 Corporate Parkway LLC., regarding the easement. He received two additional addresses from Andy Bohl to try.

Solicitor Brienza told the Authority that Mt. Trexler Manor is moving forward with its plan to try and connect to the UST sewer system. They are going to try and get an easement from a neighboring property for the pump station. The owner indicated that he would be willing to pay fees associated for the connections of several neighboring properties. They are doing preliminary design work, but the Township would be responsible for maintaining the pump station. Their next meeting is scheduled for the second week of October. Additional connections could possibly include Sunset, Ackerman's, and St. Joseph's Road. This is already included in the 537. Best case scenario project is at least two years out.

Attorney Brienza reported that he has no update on the Brinley "pump and haul" proposal.

Solicitor Brienza noted that he has no update on Weyhill.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Bohl, PE, presented Engineer's report dated September 3, 2020.

Mr. Bohl said that he is waiting on the Yundt easement to finalize the plans for the Oakhurst project.

Mr. Bohl noted that the Executive Parkway plans are mostly complete, but he is waiting to receive the easement before finalizing them to make sure there are no changes.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that Coopersburg Borough is still working with Valley Manor. Gary Brienza added that the Engineer for Valley Manor has prepared a design to address the leaking lateral. Coopersburg Borough Manager did not like the location, so

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they have a site visit planned to discuss moving the lateral to a different location. Coopersburg has given them a time frame to adhere to or they will resume legal proceedings. Andy will review the plan and give Coopersburg his thoughts on the new proposal.

Mr. Bohl noted that he has no update on the finalization of things for Saucon Valley Crossings.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that construction of Phase 2 at Old Saucon has begun. They still must address repairs that need to be made on the sanitary sewer line on the West side of Route 378. There are several sags in the line and CO's will not be issued until repairs are made.

Andy Bohl reported that Coopersburg had two exceedances this month from July 29 – September 2 was the first, from the tropical storm and was approximately 6". The other was in the 2 – 5" range.

Mr. Bohl said that another meeting is needed to finalize the Act 537.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Rasich told the Authority that there was some damage from the bad storms this month. A few flow meters were damaged, there was significant I&I and one resident had a back-up in his basement.

Mr. Rasich said that the Sewer Department has completed additional fiberglass point repairs and they are up to 23 this year. They are continuing to flush and TV to find additional places where point repairs are needed. They hope to continue this through October.

Mr. Rasich mentioned that he and Patrick are working with Hanover Engineering to address an exposed manhole in the creek behind Copperhead due to wash-out from the storms. Temporary repairs will be made but it may be necessary to relocate the lines as the stream back has migrated and exposed the manhole. Andy Bohl noted that he has applied to DEP for an emergency permit to address this.

Mr. Rasich noted that the 2021 budget is being put together and that carry over items will be Oakhurst and Corporate Parkway.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sullivan reported that with interest this month and the subtraction of printing reimbursement in the amount of \$15.10 for Bruce Bush the balance stands at \$705.54. He plans on letting the account draw down further before asking for a replenishment. He does need approval for this month's report.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report dated September 8, 2020 as presented.

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Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION (S):

Motion was made and seconded to approve the release of the letter of credit in the amount of \$7,877.65 for the Lanark Commons Annex Building sanitary sewer lateral. Ref: Hanover Engineering letter dated 9/1/2020.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made and seconded to conditionally approve the PADEP Planning Module Exemption Mailer and the UST Planning Module for Copperhead Grille located at 5737 Route 378. Ref: Hanover Engineering letter dated 8/11/2020 conditional approval upon executed agreement with the Township.

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.

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.

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NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, October 5, 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 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Holmes
Secretary