

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, August 2, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Chairman Bruce Bush called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:03 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 – **ABSENT**

STAFF PRESENT:

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

VISITORS:

None

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:

None

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion passed unanimously with Ron Reybitz abstaining.

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)

Date list was prepared or amended: 7/26/21, 7/29/21, 7/30/21

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, August 2, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Date of letter: 7/8/21

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Landis Mill Estates.....Preliminary Subdivision Plan Set

We reviewed the Plan for the subject, dated 10/5/15, last revised 4/28/21 and prepared by Cowan Associates, Inc.

Subdivision consists of 91 lots of which 86 lots are to be single family residential lots. Project is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Landis Mill Road and Old Bethlehem Pike. The project proposes to connect to South Branch Interceptor in two locations.

Hanover than listed 13 comments regarding their review. See the letter for details.

Date of letter: 7/7/21

Letter from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor (email)

Letter sent to: T. Paashaus, Coopersburg Borough

Subject: Coopersburg

First, I want to thank you again for the transparency and open lines of dialog between the USTMA and your office. The spirit of cooperation is greatly appreciated and hopefully will allow all parties to effectively address the issues we currently face. Second, it is clear that the replacement of the Valley Manor lateral has had a beneficial affect on the flows. However, it is also clear that the decrease has not been substantial. Obviously every little bit helps, but we must have a strategy in place to address other currently existing problems that lead to overuse at the Coopersburg end. What is being considered next by Coopersburg to build on the current momentum? Based on the numbers we are seeing, it appears that Coopersburg has a rainwater issue. Is any consideration being made to address that aspect specifically? Any information you can share is appreciated.

Finally, the USTMA/USSTA staff have advised the Board that there appears to be a significant grease problem at the Coopersburg Diner. Is your staff aware of this? Again any information on how that is to be dealt with is appreciated.

Thanks for your time and attention Tim.

Date of letter: 7/7/21

Letter from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor (email)

Letter sent to: T. Paashaus, Coopersburg Borough

Subject: Coopersburg

Thanks for the prompt and detailed response. I am most intrigued by the positive results from the new lateral ordinance. I will discuss all of your response with staff, engineering consultants and the Board. A meeting will be very helpful.

This is Tim's response:

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, August 2, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

We are continuing to work on infiltration throughout the sewer, and would certainly be open to joint projects/recommendations.

- As I understand, the USTMA staff has completed a significant amount of main line flushing / video work and found a few areas that need to be repaired or lined. Which we will review and fix.
- We also implemented the lateral inspection ordinance. These inspections have already resulted in multiple residential laterals with root intrusion issues. We believe a lot of infiltration is happening in private laterals, and we will continue to pursue this issue.
- We are aware of the grease issue and notified the owner (Tom Gourzis). He stated that they have their trap cleaned on a regular, monthly basis. He believes that the majority of build up is from multiple years of issue. We also encouraged him to clean his lateral asap. Our goal is to monitor that manhole in the next few months to see if his approach is working (after the clean up).
- Our staff has started inspecting manholes for deterioration (especially along the creek area).
- A storm water pipe was located during our Streetscape project along Main Street. This pipe has been blocked and leaking into the ground for a long time. This is being repaired correctly and directed into storm water basins. Although not directly related to the sanitary sewer, we believe that improvements to our storm sewer and ground water maintenance will help with I&I. Especially if there are weak areas in the main line nearby.
- At some point in the near future, we would like to have an in-person meeting to go over all the video results and strategize a good direction forward. We would also like to discuss the entire system and its future (joint authority, projects, etc.). We want to make decisions in the best interest of the residents/businesses. The more we can partner, the better the entire system will be.

Let me know if you need any clarification, and if an in-person meeting would be helpful soon. I cc'd our Public Works Director and a member of the Infrastructure Committee.

Thanks.

Timothy Paashaus - Borough Manager - 610.282.3307 CoopersburgBorough.org - Like The Borough On Facebook

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, August 2, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Date of letter: 7/8/21

Letter from: T. Dinkelacker, LV Law Practice (email)

Letter sent to: Gary Brienza, Solicitor

Subject: Coopersburg

Thanks for bringing me into the loop on this. Please keep me posted and for everyone, please note my new email address – thdinkelacker@norris-lsw.com.

Date of letter: 7/14/21

Letter from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor (email)

Letter sent to: Bruce Bush and Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Subject: Agenda- UST – BOS – 7/12/21

(Gary forwarded an email from Tom Dinkelacker regarding Weyhill.)

Gary stated that this would seem to close out most of the loose ends with Weyhill that we were waiting on.

Date of letter: 7/20/21

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Wawa Food Market and McDonald’s Restaurant

The grease interceptor sizing calculations shall use the formulas within the Grease Interceptor Section of the UST Standard Sewer Specifications dated 2/6/17.

Date of letter: 7/21/21

Letter from: T. Beil, UST (email)

Letter sent to: P. Lambert, UST

Subject: New Sunshine Act Requirements

This email forwarded the New Public Meeting Requirements Under The Sunshine Act.

In summary:

1. Effective 8/29/21, local and state agencies must make meeting agendas available to the public 24 hours in advance of public meetings.
2. The advance agenda must be posted on the agency’s website, and at the agency’s principal office and meeting site.
3. Agenda copies must also be made available to attendees at the Meeting
4. The new advance agenda rules apply to regular and special meetings, but not to work sessions or executive sessions.
5. There are limited scenarios under the new rules where the agency may consider business not listed on the posted agenda.

Date of letter: 7/22/21

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, August 2, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Subject: Good Shepherd Rehab Hospital -----Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan

We reviewed the Plan dated 4/7/21, last revised 7/9/21 prepared by Pennoni Associates, Inc. and the response letter from Pennoni Associates Inc dated 7/9/21. The building is located on Center Valley parkway west of the intersection of Center Valley Road and Saucon Valley Road. The project consists of one 33,966 sf rehab hospital with 76 beds, Hanover had 12 comments from their review of the documents. (See the letter for details).

Date of letter: 7/27/21

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering (email)

Letter sent to: Patrick Lambert, UST and others

Subject: Quarterly Corrective Action Plan for the South Branch Interceptor (Attached) is a copy of our cover letter to the PADEP for the submission of the subject document and the quarterly report.

Date of letter: 7/28/21

Letter from: Patricia Lang, UST (email)

Letter sent to: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Subject: Good Shepherd Land Development Plan Sanitary Sewer Review Letter

You identify the project as a 33,966 square foot rehab hospital.

But, this building has 3 stories and is actually 123,000 square feet in size. I do not know if this changes anything in your review other then the narrative on the first page.

Date of letter: 7/29/21

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Bruce Bush

Subject: Traditions of America at Locust Valley ----- Security Release Request #1

Hanover Engineering has reviewed the developer's request for a release of \$337,559.07 for the sanitary sewer improvements for this project. The construction of the sewer improvements was observed by Hanover Engineering.

We recommend a release of \$298,848.55 for the sewer improvements for the project. See (attached) spreadsheet with the sewer improvements to date.

***** end of correspondence for August

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor's Report dated August 2, 2021 was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, August 2, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Attorney Brienza noted that the developer for Brinley is looking to acquire additional building permits. As of now they will be issued some additional permits, but no CO's will be issued until the pump station is complete. They are still looking for the Authority to approve a temporary pump and haul or pump around agreement. There will be a meeting to discuss this. Andy added that the developer is meeting with PPL and UGI this week. PPL will not extend electric within the development until the roads have 1 layer of asphalt base and curbing in. The approximate timeline for the electric to be complete is mid-October and they will probably be looking for COs by mid-November. Wording in the permits clearly states they will NOT be issued any CO's unless the pump station is complete, or a pump-around agreement is in place.

Solicitor Brienza said that representatives for Mt. Trexler finally submitted a contribution agreement. After review, it's a good start but will need to have a discussion and come up with a response. Mt. Trexler would like to schedule a meeting to discuss. Tom Beil has indicated he is unavailable most of August and said to have the meeting without him. Mt. Trexler is proposing a contribution of \$1 million, however they are looking for a debit of that amount from any bill they receive from their Engineer. Andy feels they should make the contribution and pay for their Engineer on their own.

Attorney Brienza told the Authority that Keith Kichline stopped by the Water/Sewer office to ask about the status of the lateral connection for his property and he was told to reach out to Andy Bohl. Andy informed him that they will either need a lift station or an EOne grinder pump.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Bohl, PE, presented the Engineer's report dated July 30, 2021.

Mr. Bohl said that the Oakhurst project is in a holding pattern because the contractor is unable to get the materials needed at this time.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that they had an on-site meeting with PPL on July 21 for the Executive Parkway project. PPL provided an easement form to fill out and return to them. The plan is to use the transformer near the Olympus driveway and will need Olympus to sign off on the document.

Mr. Bohl said that last month Coopersburg had three days where they exceeded their allocation.

Mr. Bohl noted that the Ohl subdivision plan for the North Branch Interceptor design has been signed and submitted to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

Mr. Bohl said that the UST Sewer Department videoed the sewer line for the developer at Old Saucon where they said they repaired the sag in the sewer line. Andy has a copy, and he will review tomorrow. There are other issues in this development that will need to be addressed as well. Some manholes don't have covers, they were asked to plug the manholes between phase 1 and 2 so construction debris would not enter the

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, August 2, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

system. They never did this so Andy is going to issue a letter to the developer telling them this must be done immediately and if the sewer department finds debris in the lines the Township will flush the lines, clean them out and then back charge the developer for this work. They were notified of these issues last November and they dug their feet to fix the sag and cover the manholes. Now they're in a hurry to get Phase 2 started and plans recorded without addressing these issues.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that construction has begun at Estates at Saucon Valley.

Mr. Bohl said that Good Shepard has been advised to move the location of the proposed grease trap. On the drawings they submitted the grease trap is way out behind the building and it would make it difficult to get a truck back there to clean out the grease trap when necessary.

Mr. Bohl indicated that TOA Locust Valley is working on their pump station.

Mr. Bohl indicated that WaWa submitted revised plans and Andy informed them the grease trap is undersized.

Mr. Bohl informed the Authority that the South Branch CAP report was submitted prior to the 7/31/2021 deadline and the next report is due in October.

Mr. Bohl noted that after he sent a letter to Lutron notifying them that they failed to submit their IPP for 2020 they reached out to Karl Schreiter looking for a blank questionnaire.

Mr. Bohl said the ACT 537 is still on hold.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that the contractor for 4895 Majestic Drive in Blue Ridge Estates has finally made the required repair to the sewer line. However, Lennar is building two homes in this development, lots 16 & 17 where there was either a design flaw or the homes weren't built according to spec so there are problems with the sewer connections at both lots. Both homes will now need grinder pumps to correct the problem.

Mr. Bohl has one motion that needs approval tonight for the letter of credit for TOA Locust Valley sanitary sewer improvements. They were looking for around \$340,000 but he is only releasing \$298,000 after review of what has been completed so far.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert noted that National Water Main Cleaning will be in this week lining out by Madle's where we found several leaks.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that the flow at SVCC has been super high, almost triple. They had issues last year after a storm knocked out their pump station. Since then, our guys have been reading their flows on a weekly basis to monitor. The meter was just

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, August 2, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

calibrated to assure it is reading correctly. Patrick spoke with Greg from SVCC and he isn't sure what's going on because Greg says their water usage from Bethlehem is a 1/3 of what the sewer reading is. Patrick advised them that they should be looking for a break in there line somewhere.

Mr. Lambert said that the Sewer Department moved the sewer meter that was at the old Center Valley Golf Club out to Domarray and Blue Church Road because there have been some high spikes out there recently.

Mr. Lambert said there is a customer at Vera Cruz and Lanark Roads that will be connecting to the sewer later this week.

Mr. Lambert noted that he will be meeting with the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township and will be installing cameras at our stations to track and monitor.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that the Sewer Department has videotaped about 60-70% of the sewer lines in Coopersburg. We cannot video some of the lines because they get the camera past. They found leaks but no smoking gun.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Reybitz reported that with interest, the balance stands at \$498.01. The report does not need approval this month.

MOTION (S):

A motion was made and seconded to release a letter of credit in the sum of \$298,848.55 for sanitary sewer improvements to TOA Locust Valley as per Hanover Engineering letter dated 7/29/2021.

Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Unconnected Sewer Analysis

Gary discussed this with Tom Beil and noted that if the Mt. Trexler project goes through it could bring this issue to a head.

B. Sewer Tapping Study – This continues to be an unresolved issue.

C. Authority recommendation sent to Tom Beil to adopt an Ordinance similar to what Coopersburg recently adopted, addressing lateral inspection at time of sale and sump pump inspections.

D. Bruce Bush asked about the homes in Old Saucon that are occupied without CO's having been issued? Patrick Lambert said he is going to verify how many homes are occupied and are being billed for water service through Bethlehem. He will then check

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, August 2, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

with UST Community Development to see how many CO's have been issued and with finance to compare how many of those homes are being billed for sewer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Attorney Brienza indicated that there are only minor things the Authority needs to modify to be in compliance with the new Sunshine Act. 1. Bruce needs to get the information for the agendas to Wendy by Thursday so she can complete the agenda and forward to the main office to post by Friday.

2. Motions can only be made if they're on the agenda unless it's an emergency. If it's not on the agenda, it can be discussed but not voted on until the following meeting. This shouldn't be an issue as this rarely ever occurs.

3. Patrick will purchase a bulletin board to hang in the lobby or meeting room where the meeting agenda and other necessary information can be posted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Tuesday, September 7, 2021 @ 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 6:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Holmes
Secretary