

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, January 11, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Chairman Bruce Bush called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:09 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 - **ABSENT**

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

Patrick Lambert, Director of Water and Sewer Resources

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

REORGANIZATION:

-Elect Chairman

Motion made and seconded to elect Bruce Bush as Chairman.

Motion passed unanimously.

-Elect Vice-Chairman

Motion made and seconded to elect Jack DeMatos as Vice-Chairman.

Motion passed unanimously.

-Elect Secretary

Motion made and seconded to elect Ryan Holmes as Secretary.

Motion passed unanimously.

-Elect Treasurer

Motion made and seconded to elect Mark Sullivan as Treasurer.

Motion passed unanimously.

-Elect Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Motion made and seconded to elect Ron Reybitz as Asst. Secretary/Treasurer.

Motion passed unanimously.

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APPOINTMENTS:

Motion made and seconded to appoint Gary Brienza (Firm-Peters, Moritz, Peischl, Zulick and Brienza) as Solicitor.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made and seconded to appoint Hanover Engineering as Engineer.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made and seconded to appoint Reinsel, Kuntz, Leshner, LLP as Auditor.

Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING DATES AND TIMES:

Motion made and seconded to establish the meeting dates and times as the first Monday of each month exceptions being the July meeting which will be held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 and the September meeting which will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Time of the meeting will be 6PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

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 December 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: 1/3/2021, 1/4/2021

Date of letter: 12/7/2020

Letter from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor (email)

Letter sent to: T. Paashauss, Coopersburg Borough

Subject: Valley Manor Sewer Lateral

Gary responded to Tim's 12/7/2020 email thanking him for the following update:

(Tim) I believe we have a plan submitted; the Water Authority stated they would "ok" them crossing their water easement if Council Engineer approved the design. Apparently, they have a contractor lined up, and will work on permitting soon. I will have a better update after the infrastructure committee meeting.

Date of letter: 12/15/2020

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: 4886k PA Route 309.....Parking Lot Plan.....Preliminary/Final Land Development.....Sanitary Sewer Review

We reviewed the cover letter and the Preliminary/Final Parking Layout Plan for lands located at 4886 PA Route 309, revised 8/6/2019 and last revised 10/14/2020.

Andy offered the following comments:

1. Applicant shall provide additional documentation, such as water bills, to substantiate the projected average daily sewer usage is 80 gallons per day as indicated on Sheet 1 of 5 of the above referenced Plan.

2. Since the proposed use is a dental office, the applicant shall complete the UST Industrial Pretreatment Program Wastewater Discharge Application Form.

Date of letter: 12/28/2020

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Good Shepherd Rehab Hospital.....Land Development - Sketch Plan.....Sanitary Sewer Review

We reviewed the Sketch Plan dated 12/11/2020 prepared by Pennoni Associates Inc.

The land development project is located on Center Valley Parkway west of the intersection of Center Valley Road and Saucon Valley Road. The Plan set as submitted depicts a project which consists of one 35,300SF Rehab Hospital Building and a future expansion to the proposed building.

The project proposes to connect to the existing sanitary sewer collection system located within the subject parcel.

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The letter then listed 19 comments regarding Hanover's review.

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

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor's Report dated January 8, 2021 was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

Solicitor Brienza said that the Yundt easement for the Oakhurst project has been sent to Lehigh County for recording. Once he receives this back it can go out to bid.

Attorney Brienza noted that there was a Mt. Trexler meeting held to discuss acquiring necessary easements. It was determined, due to the scale of the project, that public meetings will need to be held. There are 20-30 easements required, covering a large area. Another meeting with the developer is scheduled for 1/15/2021. A tentative time frame for the public meetings will be late Spring.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Bohl, PE, presented Engineer's report dated January 8, 2021.

Mr. Bohl noted that his report for this meeting should be dated January 8, 2021, not 2020.

Mr. Bohl said that the North Branch interceptor design meeting to update exhibits is to be held 1/15/2021. Surveyors have begun to survey the boundaries and topography.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that Coopersburg had three exceedance's this month on 12/1/2020, 12/24/20 and 12/25/2020.

Mr. Bohl said that the design documents for Corporate Parkway need to be finalized.

Mr. Bohl noted that the annual IPP questionnaire should go out later this week. He met with Patrick, Ed, and Wendy last week to revamp the annual report. The prior report was very antiquated and seemed to cause confusion as to what exactly was to be submitted. Bruce Bush asked what would be done about the one business that did not submit their IPP and Andy said that repercussions need to be established.

Mr. Bohl indicated that there is a sanitary sewer connection issue in Blue Ridge Estates West. Around Christmas time he received as-builts for Lot 56 and they did not match the design that had been approved. What was approved was the sewer lateral traversing around a proposed storm water underground filtration trench. During construction, the builder decided to go straight through this trench instead of around. Trent Sear flagged it as not matching the approved plans. They are trying to work with the developer and design Engineer to come up with a solution.

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Mr. Bohl told the Authority that the developer for Old Saucon is supposed to be fixing the sewer pipe by the OBP pump station that had the sag. Ed Rasich noted that we are getting mud into the pump station due to this construction.

Mr. Bohl said that the Estates at Saucon Valley sewer will connect via Flint Hill Road. This will be an additional 102 homes connecting to our system.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that in Old Saucon there are three occupied homes to date. They have COB (City of Bethlehem) water but are connected to our sewer. COB is already billing them for their water usage, but we are not billing for sewer usage. The Township Finance Department told us they do not begin billing until they have a CO in hand. At this point they do not have a CO and its unclear when one will be issued.

Mr. Lambert noted that Sewer Department went out to investigate a resident complain about repeated sewer back-ups. They TV'd the nearby lines and found a few area's where there are roots in the sewer main. They removed the roots along with a large grease ball that was tangled up with the roots, so they are going to see if there is better flow during the next storm. This is the same resident who had a check valve but had a bathroom installed in his basement and the plumber that did the work removed the check valve.

Mr. Lambert said that the Sewer Department has been doing stream bank improvements behind Copperhead. The weather has kept them from progressing with the project to put stone in and shore up the stream bank and manholes. They are looking into which option would be better, hardening the entire stream bank in that area or relocating the sewer line.

Mr. Lambert stated that the Department is still working to install new sewer meters so they will all be on-line so flow can be tracked better.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that most issues in the south branch have been addressed but after looking at the data from several recent storms believes there may be issues that need to be identified in the north branch.

Mr. Lambert also mentioned that the Promenade has had a significant amount of grease recently. They have been notified and are trying to figure out which building the grease is coming from. The Promenade is the only business on that section of line, so we know it's coming from somewhere in there.

Mr. Lambert noted that Coopersburg has contributed to almost 40% of our flow during the last few rain events.

Mr. Lambert said that the escrow account for Liberty Village will only be in place until the end of February, so we are going to go out and inspect the manholes before the escrow runs out.

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TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sullivan reported that there were no disbursements this month and with interest the balance stands at \$706.37. The quarterly report does not need approval this month.

MOTION (S):

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.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, February 1, 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 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Holmes
Secretary