

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Tuesday July 6, 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 – **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

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 June 2021 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)

Date list was prepared or amended: 6/30/2021

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Date of letter: 6/9/21

Letter from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor (email)

Letter sent to: Lawrence Carl, Borough of Coopersburg

Subject: Status

Thank for the update. Shared the info with Plant Supervisory Personnel and the Engineer. I would ask that I have something before the USTMA Board meeting on July 6.

The note from Carl.....

Gary,

Sorry for the late reply, things have been hectic. All work has been completed on the Valley Manor sewer lateral. Visually the flow coming from Valley Manor has stabilized. By stabilized I mean the flow does not drastically raise during or after a rainstorm, but it also does not decrease during the times where we experience no rain. This is a good thing because it means the rainwater is no longer infiltrating the system, and sewage is also not leaking into the ground.

I have replaced the sewer logger in manhole (MH) 291 which is the MH that Valley Manor's sewer lateral ties in to. I was going to give it a solid month before sending you the data unless you want it sooner. If I can help in any other way just let me know.

Thank you,

Date of letter: 6/10/21

Letter from: Deb Nevells, Hanover Engineering (email)

Letter sent to: Tom Beil, UST

Subject: Oakhurst Drive Sanitary Sewer Extension Project

(Attached) is a PDF of Contract Documents being forwarded to the Township for their files.

***** end of correspondence for July

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

Jack DeMatos asked Andy if he ever received the information on the Brinley "pump and haul" that the contractor was supposed to send him? Andy replied that he had not, but the pump station is under construction and the estimated completion date is September 1st. Andy asked the contractor why then, if the pump station has an estimated completion date of September, they would need to do the "pump and haul". The contractor told Andy that PPL is requiring them to have stone and the first layer of base down on the roads before PPL will install the trench for the electric.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor's Report dated July 1, 2021 was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

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Attorney Brienza noted that he is still waiting for the Saucon Valley Crossings developer to return all of the documentation.

Solicitor Brienza said that representatives for Weyhill/Blue Belle have proposed paying a fee of \$22k, in lieu of moving the trees in the easement. There are still a few other easement issues that need to be addressed before this can be finalized.

Attorney Brienza told the Authority that he has received the contract documents for Oakhurst and that a letter to the affected residents should be sent out making them aware that the project will begin in the next few weeks.

Solicitor Brienza stated that there have been no meetings for Mt. Trexler Manor in the last two months and he also has not received the proposed contribution agreement that they said they would send him.

Attorney Brienza noted that he has received nothing from Tom Beil regarding the proposed ordinance similar to Coopersburg that the Authority would like to have put in place.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Bohl, PE, presented the Engineer's report dated July 1, 2021.

Mr. Bohl said that the contractor for the Oakhurst project told him they are probably at least, 4 weeks out.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that Executive Parkway plans are complete. Paragon is finishing up the Electrical design and he hopes to put this project out to bid in a few weeks.

Mr. Bohl said that last month Coopersburg only had one exceedance at the meter station June 11-12 but had 12 days in June when they exceeded their allocation. The UST Sewer Department continues to work with Coopersburg to try and locate problem spots.

Mr. Bohl said that the UST Sewer Department cleaned and videoed the sewer line for the developer at Old Saucon confirming there is a 1" sag. A copy of the video was sent to the Developer to review so they can come up with a plan to address the issue.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that sanitary sewer improvements should start at Estates at Saucon Valley in 4-6 weeks.

Mr. Bohl said that the Brinley pump station control building is in, and they are working on on-site sanitary sewer for Phase 1.

Mr. Bohl indicated that the on-site sanitary sewer for TOA Locust Valley is about 25% complete. The pump station is under construction.

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Mr. Bohl indicated that construction for WaWa has begun and should be completed in early fall. McDonald's construction will probably not begin for a few months.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert noted that he has made some progress on the IPP's. He has met with several of the businesses that failed to submit their IPP by the February deadline. He has met with Saucon Valley Car Wash, Upper Saucon Social Quarters, Spring Hill Suites and Homewood Suites.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that the Sewer Department found that the grease trap at the Coopersburg Diner is overflowing into a manhole so he will need to meet with the owner about having it pumped. The videotaping and point repairs in Coopersburg continue and several issues have been identified such as sags, leaking manholes, broken laterals, etc. UST will help them fix what we can, but some issues will require Coopersburg to hire someone to fix the problems. Most of our I&I is coming from Coopersburg. Many of their manholes have (4) 1" holes in the manhole lid. Andy Bohl mentioned that on June 11-12 Coopersburg flows were 1 – 1 ½ million gallons. Their allocation is ½ million gallons. Their average MGD on dry weather days is around 250-300K. The Plant averaged around 1.5MGD in June. Coopersburg contributed, on average for June, around 1/2MGD. Andy also noted that Coopersburg does not have an IPP program. Even though all the businesses located in Coopersburg contribute to the UST system they are not held to the same requirements and standards as most of the UST businesses. It was also mentioned that the Authority has had many of the same conversations on the agenda since the early 2000's and here we are 20 years later still having those same conversations, still with no backing for resolutions of any sort. The Authority feels that consistent regulations and enforcement would be very beneficial in working to correct some of these issues.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sullivan reported that there was one disbursement this month for printing expenses incurred by the Chairman, so with interest, the balance stands at \$497.86. The report does not need approval this month.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report for July 6, 2021, as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

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.

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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.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, August 2, 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 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Holmes
Secretary