

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, March 1, 2021

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 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, 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 change was made under the Superintendent's Report section; should read they have COB water and are connected to our sewer. A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 2021 meeting minutes as amended.

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: 2/24/2021, 2/26/2021

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Date of letter: 2/3/2021

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Estates at Saucon Valley.....Preliminary/Final Plan-----2759 and 3131 Flint Hill Road

We reviewed the Plans for the subject dated 12/13/19. Last revised 12/23/20 prepared by Bohler Engineering related to the 102-lot residential subdivision known as Estates at Saucon Valley located on Flint Hill Road.

Hanover's letter than listed six comments. One comment of interest was that no trees shall be planted within the proposed sewer easements in the Township.

Date of letter: 2/3/2021

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patrick Lambert, UST

Subject: Old Saucon Subdivision Phases 2 & 3 -----Proposed Sewer Modifications

We are in receipt of the response letter from Bohler Engineering to our 11/2/20 review letter. We reviewed the response letter and the Final Subdivision Plans for Old Saucon Subdivision Phase two, dated 11/24/20 last revised 12/18/20.

Hanover than listed 9 comments regarding their review. Of interest is the comment that the developer's engineer stated in their cover letter that the applicant will comply with the requirement to reimburse the Township for any additional equipment that may be needed to service the proposed mains. This is required as the depths of the proposed sanitary sewer mains will be deeper than previously designed and approved. A record note should be applied to the Final Plan stating as such.

Date of letter: 2/4/2021

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patrick Lambert, UST

Subject: Whispering Pines Subdivision-----Sanitary Sewer As-Built Review

We reviewed the Utility As-Built Set dated 9/22/200, last revised 1/11/2021 as prepared by Carroll Engineering Corp.

Hanover's letter than listed the five comments Hanover had following their review.

Date of letter: 2/8/2021

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patrick Lamber, UST

Subject: Whispering Pines Subdivision-----Sanitary Sewer As-Built Review

We reviewed the revised Utility As-Built Plan Set, dated 9/22/2008, last revised 2/5/2021 as prepared by Carroll Engineering Corp. The revised Plan set as submitted addresses the comments within our review letter dated 2/4/2021.

Date of letter: 2/15/2021

Letter from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor (email)

Letter sent to: Bruce Bush

Subject: Serious Cyber Water Tampering Event

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Very interesting. I can tell you that Hellertown Borough ironically has just started a large project to upgrade all the monitoring and cybersecurity plant automation. (Note: This was a reply to Bruce's email of 2/12/21 which forwarded a news release from The Authorities regarding such an event)

Date of letter: 2/16/2021

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

Letter sent to: Gary Brienza, Solicitor

Subject: Mt. Trexler Manor ----- March 6th Meeting

Andy, Tom, and I met after the last meeting. We put together a general outline of terms, which I will put in memo form and circulate. I expect that any meeting with the other side will be their response to those terms. After I get the memo done and out the door, give me a call and we'll discuss.

Date of letter: 2/25/2021

Letter from: Andrew Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Emily Fucci, Township Administrator, Lower Milford Township

Subject: ACT 537 Plan ----- Revision Update 2021

Hanover Engineering is preparing an update to the Act 537 Plan on behalf of UST. The current Plan, dated March 2001, includes provisions to service the Limeport region of Lower Milford Township. Since the 2001 Plan was adopted, it is our understanding Lower Milford has constructed a wastewater treatment plant to service the sewage needs for the Limeport area.

Thus, the proposed revision to the UST Sewage Facilities Plan will exclude Lower Milford Township within the sewage transport and treatment capacity in UST Wastewater Facilities.

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

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

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

Solicitor Brienza said that the Yundt easement has been officially recorded and project can go out to bid.

Attorney Brienza noted that there is another Mt. Trexler meeting scheduled for next Thursday. The layout has been drawn up so that easement acquisitions can begin. The developer will be responsible for costs associated with the acquisitions.

Solicitor Brienza told the Authority that all documents for Saucon Valley Crossings have been prepared but there is an approval needed from the Township to fully execute the documents.

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Solicitor Brienza said that he has not received any updates on the Brinley Development from the Township Solicitor, so the matter remains on hold.

Attorney Brienza noted that Toll Brothers is looking to pay a fee in lieu of moving the easement in the Weyhill/Blue Belle Development.

Attorney Brienza said that the layout revisions for the Corporate Parkway are confirmed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Bohl, PE, presented Engineer's report dated February 26, 2021.

Mr. Bohl noted that the Mt. Trexler connection route going up St. Joseph's Road will be realigned because it was just repaved. He sent an acknowledgement letter to Lower Milford Township that was prompted by this project, informing them that they are being removed from Upper Saucon's Act 537 Plan since they now have their own sewerage facility. The Act 537 from 2001 had UST collecting and conveying the sewage from the Limeport area. March 26 will be the next meeting for this project.

Mr. Bohl said that he has been working on subdivision plans for the Savage property located at the corner of Limeport Pike and Kozy Korner Road where the proposed pump station will be located. He needs to work on acquiring the necessary easements. Preliminary subdivision plans should be complete later this week. All of this has already been included in the Act 537 update that is currently being worked on.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that the Oakhurst Drive sewer project bid opening is 3/3/2021 and hopefully the project can be awarded in April.

Mr. Bohl said that he gave Patrick plans for the Corporate Parkway project for review. He is hoping this could go out to bid in early May.

Mr. Bohl noted that the offsite improvements for Brinley are almost complete. On-site work is scheduled to begin later this month.

Mr. Bohl indicated that construction for TOA Locust Valley should begin in the next month or two.

Mr. Bohl said that the developers for Old Saucon have still not made the necessary repair to the sewer line from Phase 1.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that some IPP's have been received but most were not received by the due date, those that have been received have incomplete or missing information and many others have not been returned. Saucon Valley Auto Spa which had not submitted last year's IPP is saying they did submit, but he has not seen it and Wendy has not received it either. Now their IPP for this year is past due.

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Mr. Bohl noted that the CAP report was submitted on 1/28/2021 and the next one is due by 4/30/2021.

Mr. Bohl updated the Authority on 4895 Majestic Drive, Lot 56 in Blue Ridge West. The builder had run the sewer line under/through a subsurface infiltration bed which was not in the original plans and not approved. People are living there without a CO and no resolution with the builder has been reached.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that to avoid what occurred at 4895 Majestic Drive our sewer inspector should get copies of the plans going forward. However, this contractor never submitted an addendum to the original plans for a change to the sewer connection.

Mr. Lambert noted that he and Ed Rasich had a meeting last Friday with Tim Paashaus and Lawrence Karl from Coopersburg Borough to discuss issues within their sewer system. They have had some high flows recently without any rainfall. All agreed to work together using Upper Saucon's equipment to try and help them locate trouble spots. If small issues are found Upper Saucon could make the repairs and back charge Coopersburg. If larger issues are found Coopersburg would have to hire someone to come in and make the repairs. It was a productive meeting, and they seem willing to work with us to try and reduce I&I.

Mr. Lambert said that TOA Locust Valley began blasting so the Sewer Department will need to be on the look out to make sure this did not cause issues within the system.

Mr. Lambert stated that there have been several calls regarding sewer back-ups/blockages lately. Most of the issues have been roots. A resident from Village Drive had an issue where a fragment of pipe was blocking the sewer lateral and backed-up into his house. There were some other issues which he will explain once he gathers some additional info.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that Andy Bohl is working on SCADA systems for the new TOA Locust Valley/Brinley Court, Corporate Parkway and Kozy Korner systems so everything can be monitored from here in the office.

Mr. Lambert also mentioned that there was a new pump installed at the Country Club Pump Station and the old one was sent out for repair to keep on hand.

Mr. Lambert noted that he would like changes to be made to the Township website. He would like it to be updated to be more user friendly. It should give people instructions on what to do and who to call during evening/weekend hours if an emergency should arise.

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Mr. Lambert said that he received a PA OneCall today for the Valley Manor repair. They have a 3/15/2021 start date and indicate it will take two or three weeks to complete the repair.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that due to the lack of IPP returns and the fact that most that were returned are incomplete the Authority should discuss how they want to proceed. They could issue fines to businesses that either do not return the IPP's or return them incomplete.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sullivan reported that there were no disbursements for the last two months and with interest the balance stands at \$706.77. The quarterly report does need approval.

Motion made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report dated March 1, 2021 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION (S):

A motion was made and seconded to authorize payment of 2021 membership dues for PMAA in the amount of \$200.00.

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.

NEW BUSINESS:

Solicitor Brienza received a copy of an Ordinance from Tim Paashaus that Coopersburg is looking to adopt at an upcoming meeting. It addresses connections to the public sewer system relating to the sale of a property. There would be a lateral inspection prior to the sale of a property which would afford the opportunity to look at sump pump connections as well. Attorney Brienza suggested that Upper Saucon should do the same. He will forward a copy of the proposed Ordinance to Tom Beil indicating that the Authority has discussed it and would like the Township to adopt something similar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, April 5, 2021 @ 6:00 PM at the Water and Sewer Building.

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ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting of the Upper Saucon Municipal Authority was unanimously adjourned at approximately 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Holmes
Secretary

