

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, October 4, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Chairman Bruce Bush called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:15 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 - **ABSENT**
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 September 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Authority members may comment on the correspondence packets or the "Summary" which they received.

NOTE: (1) This is a summary of the correspondence prepared by the Chairman. Details must be obtained by reading the actual correspondence. (2) The documents listed below may apply to both the USTMA and the USSTA

Date list was prepared or amended: 9/23/21

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Date of letter: 9/2/21

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan.....Proposed Building Addition.....Southern Lehigh High School

We reviewed the Plan dated 7/13/21 Prepared by Cowan Associates, Inc.

Proposed building is located on the High School campus and is a building addition to the southeast portion of the High School.

Bohl then listed 12 comments regarding his review.

Date of letter: 9/21/21

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Saucon Creek Office Park.....Lot 6

We reviewed the proposed land development of Lot 6 located on West Drive in UST.

The subdivision projected sanitary sewer allocation was accepted in 2006 by the USTMA and the USSTA with a total of 9750 gallons per day for the subdivision.

The projected sewer flows for Lot 6 within the subdivision was calculated to be 4800 gallons per day. The system has the capacity to convey and treat the sewage from Lot 6 within the Saucon Creek Office Park of 4800 gallons per day.

Date of letter: 9/22/21

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: P. Lang, UST

Subject: Saucon Creek Office Park --- Lot 6

I misinterpreted Ott Consultant's calculations as sanitary sewer flows....they are projected water flows. Thus, I have revised my letter I issued yesterday for the correct projected sanitary sewer flows for Lot 6, which is 6164 gallons per day, not 4800 gallons per day.

The sewer system has the capacity to convey and treat the projected sewage from Lot 6 within the Saucon Creek Office Park of 6164 gallons per day.

Date of letter: 9/23/21

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Bruce Bush

Subject: Lanark III.....5321 and 5341 West Valley Road and 5415 and 5445 Lanark Road.....Security Request Release 1

We reviewed the requested Letter of Credit Release for sanitary sewer improvements.

The developer has requested a release of \$19,035.56 for the sanitary sewer (\$17,305.96 plus \$1730.60 for inspection and construction contingencies). The construction of the sewer installation was observed by Hanover Engineering.

We recommend the Township release the request of \$19,036.56 for sewer improvements. The Authorities should review this request at their next meeting and forward their recommendation to the Township.

***** end of correspondence for October

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CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor's Report dated October 4, 2021 was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

Solicitor Brienza said that Saucon Valley Crossings is still not complete. When Attorney Dinkelacker changed firms, he lost all the related documents, so Attorney Brienza sent him copies of everything. Hopefully this can be wrapped up soon.

Solicitor Brienza requested documentation from Attorney Dinkelacker stating the fee-in-lieu for Weyhill/Bluebell was paid and in place because he has not seen anything.

Solicitor Brienza stated that Olympus still has not executed the agreement for the easement and he's not sure why. It's a straightforward agreement and no modifications are necessary.

Solicitor Brienza indicated that he is waiting for Attorney Dinkelacker to draft a cost sharing agreement for Mt. Trexler. Tom Beil has indicated that he is not available to meet on this matter until after budget season so this will have to proceed without his input, likely until early 2022.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

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

Mr. Bohl said that the North Branch preliminary design is moving forward and being tweaked as needed.

Mr. Bohl said that last month Coopersburg had two exceedances at their meter on September 1st and 2nd. In September they exceeded their allocation at the Plant, 14 days.

Mr. Bohl noted that the Oakhurst sewer extension has begun with the low-pressure portion.

Mr. Bohl said that he is still waiting for the Easement Agreement from Olympus. They are holding up the finalization of plans and the spec book.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that he needs the planning module approval tonight for the addition at Liberty Bell Elementary School.

Mr. Bohl said that the developer at Old Saucon is still pursuing a flushing program, which Patrick Lambert will discuss in more detail.

Mr. Bohl indicated that earth moving, and sanitary sewer improvements have begun at Estates at Saucon Valley. There is also an existing manhole that shifted when they

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went to tie-in, and they have offered to replace the manhole with a new one so there is not an issue going forward.

Mr. Bohl indicated that electrical work at Brinley should begin in October.

Mr. Bohl informed the Authority that the Lanark 3 project is complete, and the developer will be looking for an additional letter of credit release.

Mr. Bohl noted that two planning modules were issued by DEP, one for WaWa on August 24, 2021, and one for Good Shepherd on September 28, 2021.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert noted that he is concerned about letting the developer at Old Saucon get away with a flushing program instead of fixing the sewer line sags the way they should be, due to the unknown re-occurring costs to the Township, especially when the project is fully developed. There is no accurate way to predict a cost with all the unknowns. He is going to send the sewer department out again to video the line and see how much debris is in the line with only the 10 to 15 homes currently using the line. He will then try and put either a weekly, monthly or quarterly flushing cost estimate together.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that lines were videoed in Weyhill Estates after sinkholes opened and that the lines looked to be in good shape.

Mr. Lambert said that the entire sewer line was replaced at 2475 Tennis Court and that everything looked good.

Mr. Lambert said Saucon Valley Country Club flows have been at around 19K gallons, about ½ of what they had been recently. No one from the Country Club has said whether they found a leak or anything else they might have done to get the flow down.

Mr. Lambert noted that the Flint Hill manhole repair should be done soon and there is a meeting tomorrow regarding the water and sewer lines for the Estates at Saucon Valley development.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mark Sullivan reported that there were no disbursements this month, so the balance stands at \$498.30. The report does not need approval this month.

MOTION (S):

A motion was made and seconded to release the Letter of Credit for the Lanark III development in the sum of \$19,036.56. REF: Hanover Engineering letter dated September 23, 2021.

Motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made and seconded to approve the Planning Module for the building addition at Liberty Bell Elementary School. REF: Hanover Engineering letter dated September 29, 2021.

Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There is no progress on any of the unfinished business. These items are waiting to be addressed by Tom Beil and the Board of Supervisors.

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 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:

Bruce Bush asked whether all residents that could be served by the new sewer line that was run on Station Avenue near Spring Valley Inn, did in-fact connect. Patrick Lambert said he was not sure because this was before he was hired but that he would check and could let Bruce know at the next meeting.

Patrick Lambert told the Authority members that he put a copy of the preliminary budget out tonight for members to review if they wished. The budget still needs approval from the Board of Supervisors. He noted that in his budget requests the utility billing software was denied even though many residents have been asking for additional payment options. Currently, Upper Saucon Township is one of the last remaining utilities to only offer cash or check payment options. Patrick would like the Township to offer more up-to-date payment options as his department fields more and more inquiries about this. The Authority members agreed that no one uses cash or checks anymore and that most people pay on-line in one form or another and they feel eventually residents will begin to demand other options.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, November 1, 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 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Holmes
Secretary

