

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Tuesday, September 7, 2021

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Chairman Bruce Bush called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:02 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 - ABSENT

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 August 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion passed unanimously with Mark Sullivan abstaining.

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: 8/25/2021, 8/28/21, 8/31/21, 9/1/21

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Date of letter: 8/10/2021

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering (email)

Letter sent to: Bruce Bush

Subject: Old Saucon Phase One (offsite sanitary sewer inspection)

(Attached) is a copy of our latest review letter dated 8/10/2021 for the offsite sanitary sewer main for the connection to the Authority's existing collection system to Manhole 1015 for the Old Saucon Subdivision Project. The sewer (line) in question still has deficiencies.

The problem is the line still has sags. The developer and/or their contractor shall eliminate the existing deficiencies within the line from Manhole 1015 to the existing Manhole to the satisfaction of the Township prior to the acceptance by the Township.

Date of letter: 8/10/2021

Letter from: James M. DeNave, PH&C (Land Development Services) (email)

Letter sent to: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Subject: Old Saucon Phase One (sanitary sewer inspection)

Thank you for providing this letter (letter dated 8/10/21 to Bruce Bush). However, I think I speak for everyone on this email distribution list when I say that we will all be happy when this issue is behind us. The contractor and owner went to significant efforts to fix the sags previously identified by your office (letter dated June 24, 2021), which included two days in the field with operators, laborers, pumps, equipment, etc, to make sure the job was done correctly (not including the mobilization and demobilization needed for all the equipment). The corrective work performed was witnessed by your office and after the sags were removed, the exposed sewer pipe was confirmed to be a consistent, positively pitched slope. Actually, there were many people present on site throughout the duration of the corrective work to witness that the sags were removed so we didn't have to go through this again: including myself, Township employees and Township consultants.

Your latest letter now identifies three sections that "shall be repaired". I understand it is not your job to offer a suggestion as to how they be repaired, but since we already performed the corrective work, and now there is an additional sag identified in your review letter, I'd like to meet with Township staff/ reps to figure out our options.

Also, you state that the section where the pipe connects to the downstream MH "appears to be back pitched". Both the 10-inch pipe and 8-inch pipe connect to manhole 1015. I believe the video you watched shows flow entering the 8-inch pipe, from the 10-inch pipe at the manhole. After reviewing the Gannett Fleming offsite sewer extension design, it appears that there will always be a backwater condition in this section of 8-inch pipe. That doesn't necessarily mean the 8-inch pipe is back pitched.

As you all know, this offsite sewer issue is linked to the recording of Old Saucon Phase 2 and needs to get resolved immediately. So, like I mentioned above, I'd like to meet with Bruce, Township staff, whoever, to discuss our options in order to get this resolved.

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Date of letter: 8/10/2021

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: James DeNave, PH & C and Travis Bult, Dirt Works

Subject: Old Saucon Subdivision Phase One ----- Sanitary Sewer Observations

We have been on site to observe the activities related to the construction of the sewer improvements since the project started, as well as recent attempts to repair the sewer from Manhole 1015 to the tie into the Township's collection as we have observed the following issues:

1. Wooden covers are not acceptable and metal covers must be installed on 5 manholes
2. Manhole 1042 does not have plug in the downstream invert.
3. Manhole 1026 does not have a frame and cover installed.

When the Township flushed and videoed the pipe segment from Manhole 1015 to the existing collection system it was observed to have a significant amount of debris such as dirt, gravel and related items in the collection system. There should not be any construction materials within the sewer lines in this subdivision. In addition, if the proper manhole covers were installed on Manholes 1015 to 1019, a frame and cover installed on Manhole 1026 and the plugs were installed where indicated above the debris discovered during the flushing activities would not have been in the lines.

We request these items be addressed immediately. We understand there has been a shortage of building materials of late, however, the manholes listed above have been installed for at least 15 months.

Date of letter: 8/11/2021

Letter from: Tom Dinkelacker, Norris McLaughlin (email)

Letter sent to: Jim Denave, PH&C

Subject: Old Saucon Phase One

Thank you, Jim. I will review this at our end and see where go on this.

(This email was in response to an email from Jim Denave to A. Bohl dated 8/10/2021)

Date of letter: 8/11/2021

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Aldi Site Improvement Project

We reviewed the Site Improvement Project dated 3/16/21, last revised 6/24/21 and the response letter dated 7/2/21 from Dynamic Engineering Consultant.

It is proposed for construction of a 62,843 SF addition to the building and a stand-alone truck driver's restroom building.

Applicant shall provide the sanitary sewer flow for the proposed building addition and truck driver's restroom building; submit a UST Sewage Facilities Planning Module Application; should the flows exceed 800 gpd of additional wastewater flows a PADEP Planning Module Application shall be submitted; shall submit an UST Industrial Pretreatment Permit. Utility note shall be revised to indicate a minimum cover of 4 feet is required for all sanitary sewer pipe and the existing grease interceptor shall be shown and labeled.

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Date of letter: 8/13/2021
Letter from: Tom Dinkelacker, Norris McLaughlin (email)
Letter sent to: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering and others
Subject: Adli's Sanitary sewer letter
I have forwarded the letter, dated 8/11/21, to Atty Fitzpatrick

Date of letter: 8/26/21
Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering
Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST
Subject: Wawa Food Market and McDonald's Restaurant
We reviewed the Response letter to our dated 7/20/21 and the proposed Amended Final Land Development Plans, dated 8/11/17 with the last revision dated 8/12/21 and the Gravity Grease Interceptor Calculation Sheet dated 8/12/21. We have no further comments.

Date of letter: 8/30/21
Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering
Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST
Subject: Strawberry Hill Subdivision Sketch Plan
We reviewed the Sketch Plan dated 8/6/21 prepared by Gilmore and Associates, Inc. The subdivision is located at the end of Red Oak Drive. The plan depicts a residential subdivision consisting of 22 single family homes with one open space lot. The plan indicates the subdivision proposes to use public sewers.
It should be noted the Township currently has a Corrective Action Plan filed with the PADEP South Branch Interceptor. No proposed connection point to the existing collection system is provided on the sketch plan. However, there is an existing sanitary sewer easement and sanitary sewer main located within the project limits.
The applicant shall provide the projected sewer flow to confirm capacity available within the collection system and at the treatment plant.
Applicant shall submit an UST Sewage Facilities Planning Module Application.
Applicant shall submit a PADEP Planning Module Application for the subdivision.

Date of letter: 8/30/21
Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering
Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST
Subject: Yamnicky Residential Subdivision
We reviewed the Yamnicky Property – Concept Plan dated 8/6/21 prepared by Gilmore and Associates, Inc.
Proposed subdivision is located at the end of Woodcrest Drive and Chestnut Hill Road. The Plan as submitted depicts a residential subdivision consisting of 36 single family lots with 3 open space lots.
The Plan indicates the subdivision to be served by public sewer. It would be in the Gun Club Road/Blue Church Road subdrainage area which is located in the South Branch

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Interceptor area. The Township currently has a Corrective Action Plan filed with the PADEP South Branch Interceptor.

Applicant shall provide projected sewer flows, an UST Sewage Facilities Planning Module and a PADEP Planning Module Application.

Date of letter: 8/31/21

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: DeSales University ----- Medical Studies Building ---- Sketch Plan

We reviewed the Sketch Plan for Medical Studies Building, dated 8/5/21, prepared by Barry Isett and Associates, Inc.

Proposed project is located on the campus of DeSales University south of the Priscilla Payne Hurd Science Building. The plan set depicts a land development project which consists of one 26,000 SF building with 3 stories and total floor area of 78,000 SF with a possible future addition to the proposed building. The project proposes to connect to the existing sanitary sewer collection system owned and maintained by the University. The letter then listed 10 comments (see letter for the comments).

Date of letter: 9/1/21

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

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

We reviewed the Plan dated 4/7/21, last revised 8/12/21, Response letter from Pennoni Associates, Inc and the Grease Interceptor Sizing Calculations dated 8/11/21 prepared by Highland Associates.

Applicant has submitted an UST Industrial Pretreatment Program Wastewater Discharge Application for the project, and it is under review.

The letter then listed 6 comments (see letter for details).

***** end of correspondence for September

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

Ryan Holmes asked if there is a resolution on the sags in the sewer line at Old Saucon? Andy Bohl responded that they would like to do a "flushing program" in lieu of any further action to correct the sags. Andy noted he is not in favor of this because the Township will ultimately be on the hook for all future costs. How often flushing would have to be done and the exact costs will be unpredictable until all phases of the development are complete.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No Solicitor's Report was presented.

Mark Sullivan asked if anyone had an update on the status of the Executive Parkway project. He thought since the proposed line was re-routed there were no easements or approvals necessary but now appears as though one will be needed from Olympus.

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Andy Bohl replied that is only because that's where the nearest transformer is located that we will need to connect to, but he does not foresee a problem.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Bohl, PE, presented the Engineer's report dated September 2, 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 said that last month Coopersburg had one exceedance at their meter on August 23 and that their meter station surcharged.

Mr. Bohl noted that the plans have been submitted to the Township for the Ohl subdivision. This should be on the agenda for the next BOS meeting.

Mr. Bohl said that there are still sag issues in the sewer lines at Old Saucon.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that Estates at Saucon Valley has started sanitary sewer improvements.

Mr. Bohl said that plans for Good Shepard have been reviewed and he has issued a response letter. They have been advised to move the location of the proposed grease trap.

Mr. Bohl indicated that there was a meeting held between the Township and Mt. Trexler Manor regarding the contribution agreement. They are committing around 1 million dollars to the project.

Mr. Bohl indicated that he had a meeting with the Brinley Court developer, and it doesn't look like they will be pursuing the pump around. They should have their power in place before the CO's get issued. They will probably start looking for CO's around December. The pump station should be functional, minus the electric by the end of this month.

Mr. Bohl informed the Authority that after reviewing the flow meter data after Ida there were several manholes that surcharged.

Mr. Bohl noted that he received four new submissions for review. 1 from Southern Lehigh for an addition to the High School, 1 from DeSales for a new 26,000sf, 3 story medical studies building, 1 is a 36-lot subdivision (Yamnicky) between Beverly Hills Road and Chestnut Hill Road, which is outside our service area, but they are proposing connecting to public utilities and 1 is a proposed 22-lot subdivision (Strawberry Fields) off Blue Church Road.

Mr. Bohl said that he is still missing a few IPP's.

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Jack DeMatos asked Andy if the sags at Old Saucon are new or if they're the same ones we've been trying to get them to fix? Andy indicated they are the same ones they attempted to fix but they were not successful. The pipe is 12-15' deep which is deeper than what our Sewer Department is equipped to work on. He feels they should be held responsible to remediate. There are 3 areas of concern where the pipe looks to be backpitched at the last manhole before it enters the pump station. The sags are all ¾-1" sags. This will be a maintenance issue and it will be hard to say how much this section will back-up once the entire development is built out.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert noted that during the last storm, down below Copperhead there were three incidents where it looks like someone was pumping something into the sewer system. Flows went from 500-600 GPM to 900-1000GPM. Unfortunately, during Ida those manholes were under water, so he'll have to keep monitoring.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that Bob Blanchfield has been up at Majestic Drive to observe 2 grinder pump installs.

Mr. Lambert said that the storm events on 8/17 and 8/21 had manhole MH17 (down off Spring Valley) peaking at 4000GPM.

Mr. Lambert said there was a right-to-know request submitted for manhole at Friedens Lane and Camp Meeting Road.

Mr. Lambert noted that the lines at Weyhill Estates were video'd at the contractor's request due to a sink hole. While videoing the Sewer Foreman noticed a lot of clear water entering the system. He wants to video out there again after the next storm to see if there are any sump pumps tied into the system.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that he asked Tom Beil if he would move forward with the ordinance similar to Coopersburg's and Tom said no because the Township Solicitor is too busy. The Authority Board instructed Patrick to keep asking!

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mark Sullivan reported that there were no disbursements this month and with interest, the balance stands at \$498.15. The report does need approval this month.

MOTION (S):

A motion was made and seconded to approve the quarterly Treasurer's Report as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Unconnected Sewer Analysis

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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 noted that with the few minor tweaks made, the Authority is in compliance with the new Sunshine Act.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, October 4, 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 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Holmes
Secretary