

# UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, January 10, 2022

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Chairman Bruce Bush called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:01 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 – participating by phone  
Joaquin (Jack) DeMatos - Vice Chairman  
Ryan Holmes - Secretary  
Mark Sullivan – Treasurer  
Zachary Karasek - Asst. Secretary and Asst. Treasurer

## **STAFF PRESENT:**

Gary A. Brienza, Esquire, Solicitor – participating by phone  
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 Zachary Karasek 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 5, 2022, and the September meeting which will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022. 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 with Jack DeMatos and Zachary Karasek 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)

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Date list was prepared or amended: 1/3/2022, 1/4/2022

Date of letter: 12/7/2020

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Bruce Bush

Subject: Brinley Court Subdivision Final Plan (Phase 1) Sanitary Sewer Video Inspection Review

We reviewed the video from the television inspection of the sewer within subject project. Purpose of the inspection was to determine the current condition of the sewers. The sewers were inspected and videoed on 11/29/21 and 11/30/21 by the Township Staff. See the letter for details. In summary, all segments inspected were found to be in acceptable condition. One segment had small sags but since the sags are minor in nature and depth, no action is needed at this time.

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Date of letter: 12/15/21

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Bruce Bush

Subject: Estates at Saucon Valley Security Release Request 3, 2759 and 3131 Flint Hill Road

We reviewed the requested Letter of Credit Release for sewer improvements. The developer has requested a release of \$148,074.36 for sewer (\$134,613.05 + \$13,461.31 for inspection and construction contingencies). The construction of the sewers was observed by Hanover Engineering. We recommend the Township release the request of \$148,074.36 for sewer improvements for this project.

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Date of letter: 12/17/21

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 and the Response letter dated 12/7/21 from Pennoni Associates, Inc.

The applicant has addressed all our comments from our 11/30/21 review letter.

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Date of letter: 12/28/21

Letter from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Letter sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: 5039 Route 309 Proposed Medical Building, JFD Realty, LLC., Preliminary /Final Land Development Plan

We reviewed the Plan Set for JFD Realty Medical Office Building dated 12/9/21 prepared by Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Proposed building is located at 5055/5039 Route 309 along the northbound lanes of Route 309. The property is currently developed as two single family dwellings on separate parcels. The plans, as submitted, depict a 3615 sq ft Medical Office Building with associated parking and other site improvements. Proposed connection point to the existing collection system is shown and it is proposed to connect to the existing sanitary sewer manhole located along the front of the property.

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The letter then listed 15 comments from Hanover Engineering.

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:**

Jack DeMatos asked Patrick what ever happened with the sag in the sewer line at Old Saucon? He knew Patrick was trying to come up with a maintenance figure, but he feels like it should be repaired instead. Patrick indicated that he is finding it nearly impossible to come up with a cost estimate. As of now there are only about a dozen homes. When it's fully built out with all the homes and commercial properties it's impossible to guess what the flows will be especially since it's unknown at this time who the commercial tenants will be. Andy Bohl noted that it's an 8" line with about a 1" sag and there is another 10" pipe flowing in at a 90-degree angle creating a backflow into the 8" line. Andy also feels they should repair the 300-400' section of the line where the sag is just before it goes into our pump station. Patrick also expressed concern that if the sewer department needs to access this section for back-up, repairs, maintenance, etc., the contractor should be responsible for installing and maintenance of a road because it's located in a wet area near the creek. Our flush/pump truck is too heavy to get to this area without a road. Andy also noted that there was 1 sag initially, but a section of pipe may be moving because now it looks like there may be as many as 3 sags. Bruce Bush said that not only should the developer be responsible for installing and maintaining the road but also obtaining the necessary easement.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

The Solicitor's Report dated January 10, 2022, was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

Solicitor Brienza said that he is still waiting for updates from Attorney Dinkelacker regarding Brinley, SV Crossings and Blue Belle/Weyhill so he can remove them from his list.

Attorney Brienza noted that Oakhurst is 95% complete and force main testing has been done recently. The results were not optimal, but the contractor is working to resolve the issues.

Solicitor Brienza said that Andy is working on completing the bid specs for Corporate Parkway.

Attorney Brienza noted that there have been no recent meetings, and nothing is currently scheduled for Mt. Trexler. He is still working on obtaining easements and awaiting what will hopefully be the final version of the contribution agreement.

Solicitor Brienza said he has still not heard anything from Tom Beil regarding the proposed lateral inspection ordinance that Coopersburg has enacted, and the Authority would like the Township to put in place. He will bring up the issue again with the Township Solicitor to see if he can get this to move along.

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## **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Andrew Bohl, PE, presented Engineer's report dated January 7, 2022.

Mr. Bohl noted that all the pipe is installed for the Oakhurst sewer extension project on the gravity side and has been tested and passed. On the force main side, a hydrostatic test was done and failed. The contractor is looking for a leak.

Mr. Bohl said that a few of the easements for the North Branch interceptor design are being revised as per Mt. Trexler comments. Andy has a meeting scheduled with their Engineer next Friday.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that Coopersburg had no exceedances at their flow meter station last month.

Mr. Bohl said that he sent a tentative project schedule to Patrick Lambert and Tom Beil for the Corporate Parkway project. The project should go out to bid at the end of the month with a bid deadline set for the end of February. He hopes to award the bid at the March meeting.

Mr. Bohl noted that the Brinley pump station is almost complete but doesn't have the electrical connection yet. The contractor asked for approval of a temporary pump around which Andy denied. He said the pump station is so close to completion they should just complete it. The pump station start up is tentatively scheduled for January 24 and January 27 for TOA.

Mr. Bohl indicated that there was a pre-construction meeting held last month with the developer for Good Shepherd and the conservation district. They are looking to break ground in the next week or two.

Mr. Bohl said that he has one motion that needs approval tonight for an additional security release for Estates at Saucon Valley.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that Spring Valley Inn has not provided a complete IPP (including manifests) for 2020 and he's not sure how many years it's been since they have submitted a complete IPP. The Sewer Department was out and took pictures of their grease trap which was full and overflowing into our manhole downstream. Patrick would like to issue a Notice of Violation so he will compose a letter and send it Andy and Gary for review. Spring Valley Inn will have 30 days or less to remediate depending on how bad the grease builds up or they will incur a fine of \$1000/day.

Mr. Lambert noted that there are also grease issues at the Promenade Shops from Fresh Market. They however have manifests and now that they are aware of the problem are working with Patrick to remediate.

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Mr. Lambert said that he has noticed some flow issues on flow meters in place near Alvarez Orthodontics. The Sewer Department will TV and inspect in this area to see if they can locate a specific area of I & I.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Sullivan reported that there were no disbursements this month and with interest the balance stands at \$498.74. The monthly report does not need approval this month.

## **MOTION (S):**

A motion was made and seconded to approve security release request #3 for \$148,074.36 for sanitary sewer improvements at Estates at Saucon Valley subdivision. REF: Hanover Engineering letter dated December 15, 2021.

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.

C. Will table approval of the public comment policy until next meeting when everyone attends in person and to give Zachary Karasek time to review the policy prior to approval.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, February 7, 2022 @ 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 6:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Holmes  
Secretary