

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, December 5, 2022

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 - ABSENT

Mark Sullivan – Treasurer

Zachary Karasek – Secretary

John Guignet - Asst. Secretary and Asst. 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:

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:

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 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: 11/30/22, 12/1/22

Date of email: 11/14/22

Email from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Email to: Bruce Bush

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, December 5, 2022

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Subject: Traditions of America Locust Valley Sanitary Sewer Video Review

We reviewed the video clips from the inspection of the sewer within the subject project. Purpose of the inspection was to determine the current condition of the sewers from Manhole 1125 to Manhole 1164.

The sewers were inspected and videoed on 11/4/22 and 11/7/22 by the Township Staff. The letter then listed 17 comments on the review of the video clips.

The segments were found to be acceptable but many of the segments also had sags that need to be repaired.

The letter also included photos of the sags.

Date of email: 11/15/22

Email from: Patrick Lambert, UST

Email to: David Place, TOA

Subject: TOA Locust Valley Sewer Video Result

This email is in response to the Hanover review letter dated November 14th for the video inspection of the Traditions of America Locust Valley from Manhole 1025 (formerly known as A-4) to Manhole 1064 (formerly known as A-41). There are a few issues indicated by the Hanover letter through the video inspection. The main issues indicated are sags in various locations from 1/4" to 1 1/2'. The main sag being at segment 1154 (formerly known as A-31) to Manhole 1155 (A-32) which is indicated at 1 1/2'.

This sag must be repaired before lines are accepted by Upper Saucon Sewer department. It does not preclude the township from issuing permits. However, a clog or sewer back up at this location will result in recommendation to Upper Saucon Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer to halt the issuance of permits until it is repaired and meets specifications. Waiting to repair this sag may become a hinderance as more homes and laterals are operational. At that time all sewerage must be removed or bypassed until sag is repaired, is inspected by video and meets Upper Saucon sewer specifications.

Date of Email: 11/15/22

Email from: David Place, TOA

Email to: Patrick Lambert, UST

Subject: TOA Locust Valley Sewer Video Results

Understood. I have forwarded Hanover's review letter to Blair so we can get a plan together and make the necessary corrections. We are making this a priority to get resolved.

Date of email: 11/22/22

Email from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Email to: Bruce Bush

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

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4774 Saucon Creek Road

Subject: Brinley Court Subdivision Final Plan (Phase 2) Sanitary Sewer Video Inspection Review

We reviewed the video clips from the inspection of the sewer within the subject project. Purpose of the inspection was to determine the current condition of the recently constructed sewers. The sewers were inspected and videoed on 11/16/22 and 11/17/22 by the Township Staff.

The letter then listed 7 comments. All segments appeared to be in acceptable condition with only one segment having sags.

Date of email: 11/22/22

Email from: Ario Rivera, Land Development Manager, Lennar Philly Metro

Email to: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Subject: Brinley Court Phase 2 Sanitary Sewer Video Inspection

Thank you Andy,

I see from your letter that repairs need to be made by Select Properties/CVA to sewer facilities throughout phase 2 of the community. Also, it appears that all the sewer runs and connections on Clayton Ave that connect the 2 buildings (units 107-113 & 114-119) which are scheduled to close this month are installed with no issue.

As these homes are now complete with settlements scheduled for next week, we are requesting of Upper Saucon Township clearance to connect and close these homes as they are "downstream" of the problem area.

We appreciate your consideration to not delay these buyers from moving forward with closing and moving in. Please let me know if you can accommodate that request. I would be happy to get on a call tomorrow to discuss further if needed.

Date of email: 11/23/22

Email from: Patrick Lambert, UST

Email to: Ario Rivera, Lennar Philly Metro

Subject: Brinley Court Phase 2 Sanitary Sewer Video Inspection

I have no objections for the township on issuing certificates of occupancy for Units 107-113 and 114-119. As per the other locations and the units with lateral issues and sags, as per Hanover dated November 11, 2022, repairs should be made prior to issuing certificates for prevention of sewer backups. Please forward a timeline on when you expect the sewer lines and laterals to be repaired. Once repairs have been made and roads restored to their current condition we will flush and inspect the lines again. Copies of the videos will be forwarded to Andrew Bohl, Hanover, for their review.

Date of email: 11/23/22

Email from: Ario Rivera, Lennar Philly Metro

Email to: Patrick Lambert, UST

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Subject: Brinley Court Phase 2 Sanitary Sewer Video Inspection
Our side will work on getting a repair schedule out to your team ASAP.

Date of email: 11/23/22
Email from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering
Email to: Ario Rivera, Lennar and P. Lambert, UST
Subject: Brinley court Phase 2 Sanitary Sewer Video Inspection

Be advised, our review letter is dated 11/22/22, not 11/11/22. Also, all the laterals which have standing water in them, shall be repaired in case it was not clear from my review letter.

Date of email: 11/28/22
Email from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering
Email to: Patricia Lang, UST
Subject: Stack Storage, LLC., Land Development Plan

We reviewed the Plan dated 6/10/22, last revised 11/11/22; the response letter dated 11/10/22 and the UST Sewage Facilities Planning Module signed and sealed and dated 11/23/22.

We recommend the Planning Module be approved by the USTMA and the USSTA. Two other comments were made on the Plan sheets.

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

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

None

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

The Solicitor’s Report dated December 5, 2022, was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

Attorney Brienza had no new updates this month.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Andy Bohl, PE, presented the Engineer’s report dated December 2, 2022.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that he is still working on the H2O grant for the north branch project.

Mr. Bohl noted that Coopersburg had 4 allocation exceedances this month.

Mr. Bohl indicated that Phase 2 at Old Saucon will need to be videoed.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that he needs one motion tonight for approval of the planning module for the Stack Storage LLC., project.

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Mr. Bohl said that the Corporate Parkway project is now scheduled to begin in January.

Mr. Bohl also noted that in his review of Brinley Phase 2 sewer lines he found 10 laterals that were back pitched. They are currently working to make repairs so the lines can be re-videoed.

Mr. Bohl issued his video review for phase 2 at TOA and found numerous issues with the sewer line.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that he has purchased GIS equipment and the guys had some basic training. They are going to start marking clean-outs, manholes and locations of all other pertinent items.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that National Water Main Cleaning was in last week and re-lined 3 runs. Two on Abbott and Oliver and one on West Valley Road between 309 and Lanark Road. There was an issue on W. Valley because it appears as though the new St. Luke's building is flushing mass quantities of paper towels. This has the potential to cause a major blockage. Patrick did reach out to them but got no response, so he is going to issue a letter to address this.

Mr. Lambert said that he has recently placed security cameras at the Old Bethlehem Pike pump station.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that the contractor for 5325 Saucon Ridge requested the location of the sewer connection be moved. Their request was denied so Bob Blanchfield is working with the contractor to use the approved location and meet Township specs.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that the sewer department found a piece of brass pipe stuck in the pump impeller at Spring Valley pump station. Thankfully the pump seems to operate normally since the piece of brass was removed.

Mr. Lambert said that the property on Jacoby Road that had the sewer back up earlier this year is back on the market and the realtor called for clarification regarding the sewer easement.

Mr. Lambert noted that he is concerned that the Water/Sewer bill for Lutron is incorrect. Since they have a cooling tower, he has requested the formula used to calculate their bill from the Township Finance Manager. He has not received an answer, hopefully when/if he does it will clear up this concern. He wanted the board to be aware of the situation so if anything comes up the Authority isn't blindsided.

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4774 Saucon Creek Road

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mark Sullivan presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported that there were no disbursements this month so with interest the balance stands at \$786.70. The report does need approval.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION (S):

A motion was made and seconded to approve the UST Sewage Facility Planning Module for the Stack Storage LLC., land development project on Old Bethlehem Pike for a total of 1 EDU. Ref: Hanover Engineering's letter dated 11/28/22.

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. Bruce noted that this has been hanging out there since at least 2018. Patrick noted that he has included the sewer tapping fee review in next year budget.

C. Bruce Bush asked Tom Beil for an update on two outstanding matters and Tom indicated that the Township Solicitor was busy with other matters at this time.

D. Coopersburg's Ordinance regarding lateral inspection upon any real estate transfer. (Ref: Coopersburg Ordinance #2021-675, Duly Adopted 3/16/2021).

A letter from Bruce Bush to Tom Beil dated 7/7/22 was hand delivered to the Township on 7/7/22 requesting consideration of implementing an Ordinance regarding the inspection of each improved property connected to the Township's Sanitary Sewer System upon transfer of that property.

E. Acquisition of Borough of Coopersburg sewer lines. A letter was hand delivered to Tom Beil's office on August 3, 2022, requesting permission from the UST BOS to begin discussions regarding the acquisition. At the September meeting Gary reported that he spoke to Tom Beil and that Tom was going add to the 2023 Budget the cost for the study to be conducted by Dave Busch.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Authority Chairman, Bruce Bush announced that his term expires at the end of this year, and he is not seeking re-appointment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, January 9, 2023 @ 6:00 PM at the Water and Sewer Building. This will be the re-organizational meeting.

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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 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Karasek
Secretary

