

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Tuesday, October 3, 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

Mark Sullivan – Treasurer

Zachary Karasek – Secretary

John Guignet - Asst. Secretary and Asst. 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:

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 September 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: 9/29/22

Date of letter: 8/19/22

Letter from: Patrick Lambert, UST

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Certified Letters sent to: High Hotels, LTD; Saucon Valley Auto Spa; Upper Saucon Social Quarters

Subject: Notice of Violation – Grease Trap and Industrial Pretreatment Program

The letter notified each firm that we cannot determine whether their grease trap is functioning and maintained according to Ordinance 154.

The letter states that an accurate Industrial Pretreatment Program Form has not been received.

Upon receipt of this Notice of Violation the firm receiving this letter has 30 days to submit the required IPP Form for 2021 and correct any violations. If the firm fails to abide by this deadline, a fine up to \$1,000.00 per day may be imposed if not along with potential loss of sewer service.

(See the letters for more details)

Date of Report: 9/1/22

Report from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Report issued to: USTMA

Subject: Vera Cruz Sanitary Sewer Extension Opinion of Probable Construction Costs

The report consisted of two options which included estimates of cost and sketches.

Option one – Total Estimated Cost of Construction - \$532,128.00

Option two – Total Estimated Cost of Construction - \$191,700.00

(See actual Proposals for more details)

Date of email: 9/23/22

Email from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Email sent to: Patricia Lang, UST

Subject: Brookline Estates Residential Subdivision Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan, Sanitary Sewer Review

We reviewed the Plan dated 8/3/22 as 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 which consists of 38 single family lots with 2 open space lots.

Proposed subdivision is located outside the Sewer Service Area as outlined in the Township's Act 537 Plan Revision.

Plan indicates that the subdivision is to be serviced by public sewer. If the subdivision is serviced by public sewer, it would be located in the Gun Club Road/Blue Church Road drainage area, within the South Branch Interceptor drainage area. The Township currently has a CAP filed with the PADEP for the South Branch Interceptor.

The letter then listed 8 comments by Hanover Engineering regarding the project.

Date of email: 9/19/22

Email from: Brian Grant, Select Properties, Inc.

Email sent to: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Subject: Brinley Court Offsite Improvements (Security Release #1)

Our site contractor has completed the restoration of the offsite water and sewer easement for the Brinley Court Phase 1 Offsite Project. Attached photos of the recent

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work. On behalf of Lennar, we'd ask that Hanover release the remaining items F.1 and F.19 noted in the June 28th letter.

Date of email: 9/19/22

Email from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Email sent to: Brian Grant, Select Properties Inc.

Subject: Brinley Court Offsite Improvements (Security Release #1)

I will have our Construction Observer schedule a site visit this week to confirm the improvements have been completed to the Township's satisfaction.

Date of email: 9/19/22

Email from: P. Lang, UST

Email sent to: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Subject: Brinley Court Offsite Improvements (Security Release #1)

The owner of the property on which a portion of this easement is located is especially concerned about whether appropriate topsoil was added so that the grass will grow back. His claim is that when they dug the trench, they unearthed clay soils that were left on the top when the trench was filled in. I know the cost estimate included the cost of topsoil but, that doesn't mean they actually provided any.

Just want to make sure we do not release the funds until there is some evidence that the disturbed area has been restored to its prior condition.

Date of email: 9/19/22

Email from: A. Bohl, Hanover Engineering

Email sent to: P. Lang, UST

Subject: Brinley Court Offsite Improvements (Security Release #1)

I just spoke with Mike Kast about the property owner's concerns, and we will make sure the restoration is completed properly.

Date of email: 9/28/22

Email from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor

Email sent to: T. Paashaus, Coopersburg Borough

Subject: Update

An update for you ---- Tom Beil indicated that the study to be done by Dave Busch related to the possible acquisition of the Coopersburg lines by UST will be included as a budget item for 2023. Assuming it passes, I would believe the study could be commenced early in the new year.

Date of email: 9/28/22

Email from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor

Email sent to: Dave Busch, Keystone-Alliance

Subject: USTMA / Coopersburg Line Acquisition Cost Analysis

The Township Manager is willing to proceed with your proposal for the cost analysis of the Coopersburg lines as detailed in your prior emails. From a procedural standpoint,

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he would like to include it in the budget for 2023. Assuming the budget passes, with that item included, we should be in position to proceed early in the new year.

Date of email: 9/28/22

Email from: Gary Brienza, Solicitor

Email sent to: Tom Beil, UST

Subject: Lateral Ordinance

I have confirmed with A. Bohl, that our current and draft 537 does not contain any language which would restrict the adoption of a lateral inspection ordinance. Additionally, with no prior approval from DEP is necessary, Andy does agree/ would prefer to attach the ordinance, upon adoption of same, as an appendix to the current draft plan. Assuming we are good to proceed, I will coordinate with Tom D. to commence drafting the ordinance. Please confirm.

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

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor's Report dated October 3, 2022, was presented by Bruce Bush.

Solicitor Brienza's report indicates that there are no significant updates since last month.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andy Bohl, PE, presented the Engineer's report dated September 30, 2022.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that he did one plan review this month for the Yamnicky (Brookline Estates) property.

Mr. Bohl said a meeting for Mt. Trexler Manor was held on 9/22/22. They will be seeking an H2O grant for this project. Patrick mentioned that two other roads (Green Lane and Mountain Drive) should be added to this project, if possible.

Mr. Bohl noted that the contractor for the Corporate Parkway project is still waiting for the lift station. They are hoping to start this project in a few weeks.

Mr. Bohl indicated that he is going to reach out to the contractor for the Oakhurst sewer extension project and ask that they finalize this project so we can issue final payment and get this off the books before 2023.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that it was discovered that the force main in the easement going from Brinley to TOA had a cracked pipe that was leaking. A couple of weeks ago they restored this easement and drove a dump truck over the pipe that was not properly bedded. Andy feels this is what likely caused the crack. The developer fixed the pipe

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today and will be required to clean up and test the lines to make sure there are no additional cracks.

Mr. Bohl said that the pipe sag issues at Old Saucon remains unresolved.

Mr. Bohl also noted that Estates at Saucon Valley will need chimney seals before they do the final paving.

Mr. Bohl needs Good Shepherd to submit their IPP.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that all IPP's have been returned. Next year he's not going to wait as long to send NOV letters so hopefully we can receive them in a timelier manor closer to the actual deadline they are given.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that the route 145 sewer extension was discussed with Tom Beil along with the expense involved to connect eight possible homes.

Mr. Lambert said that he would like to re-sample the grease at the 800 building in the Promenade.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that most problems with the flow meters are resolved except at 645 over off Mill Road and Domarray.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that he had to contact Christian Harding from DEP about the sewer spill from the cracked sewer pipe at Brinley. We are required to fill out a report and return to DEP, the developer must clean the swale of all debris.

Mr. Lambert said that he is looking to update both Spring Valley and Old Bethlehem Pike SCADA systems so that they can be viewed on-line.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that the transfer switch was broken at Old Bethlehem Pike pump station which didn't allow the main power to come on. That has been replaced so there was only one day when the station had to run on the generator.

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 \$782.78. The report does not need approval.

MOTION (S):

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.

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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:

Bruce Bush mentioned that the PMAA is holding a regional meeting in Hellertown on October 18, 2022. If anyone is interested, see him for details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, November 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 6:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Karasek
Secretary