

# UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, August 7, 2023,

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Jack DeMatos 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/Sewer Department office, 4774 Saucon Creek Road, Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County, PA.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joaquim (Jack) DeMatos - Chairman

Mark Sullivan – Treasurer

Zachary Karasek – Secretary - **ABSENT**

John Guignet – Vice Chairman

Michael Shafer - 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:**

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 June meeting minutes as presented.

Motion passed with John Guignet and Mike Shafer abstaining.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Authority members may comment on the correspondence which they received.

## **CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:**

None

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

The Solicitor's Report dated August 7, 2023, was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

Attorney Brienza reported that there was a Mt. Trexler Manor meeting held July 12 to begin scheduling the public information meetings. There will be 3 or 4 Thursday night

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meetings, 1 in September, the remainder in October. There will be a notary present so residents can sign their easement agreements. The contribution agreement is still on hold. Grants must be applied for and that will give a better indication of where things stand financially. Andy Bohl noted that he applied for an H2O grant, but he is not hopeful that any money will be received for this project. Andy will be submitting the NPDES permits for this project in 2-3 weeks.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Andy Bohl, PE, presented the Engineer's report dated August 2, 2023.

Mr. Bohl indicated that the contractor has not completed the punch list items for Oakhurst.

Mr. Bohl said that he needs a motion tonight for the Corporate Parkway project to release funds and for a change order payment. This would be the final payment.

Mr. Bohl also noted that he is still waiting for Brinley to complete the punch list for the pump station.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that TOA still has not addressed the sewer line sags. TOA has asked the Township to write a letter to their contractor (Blair) indicating their need to fix the sewer lines. Andy feels this is not the Townships responsibility, this is between the developer and their contractor. Andy may issue a letter to the Township advising them to hold off on issuing CO's and/or issuing building permits until this issue is resolved.

Mr. Bohl said that the sags in the sewer lines at Old Saucon phase 1 and now also phase 2 still have not been fixed. There is still no way to accurately predict flows when built out therefore no way to give them a cost for a flushing program.

Mr. Bohl noted that he reviewed the planning module for the Route 309 Commerce Center. He expects they will submit plans for approval in the next 2 months. A CAP plan was submitted on 7/28/23.

Mr. Bohl indicated that he reviewed a planning module for Saucon Park. The planning module they submitted is drastically different than what they originally proposed so they are going to make revisions.

Mr. Bohl said that he will add the Vera Cruz sewer extension to the 537.

Mr. Bohl said it is not clear who owns the right-of-way for the Glen Road project. The original drawing only indicates ingress and egress, not utilities. Any extension would only be able to serve 4 of the 5 properties they had wanted to connect.

Mr. Bohl informed the Authority that Coopersburg had 11 exceedances in June and July and 3 of those days they had surcharges.

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## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that Hanover has issued several letters to 1435 Station Avenue regarding their failing septic system. They have made no effort or indication that they plan to address the issue so Hanover has issued a Notice of Violation letter. Patrick noted that the Township could connect them and place a lien on the house.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that there was a sewer back up into a home at 5006 Lanark Road. UGI ran a main under the sewer lateral and broke it. The resident had to hire a plumber to fix it and is now seeking reimbursement from the Township for \$587.50. Tom Beil asked the Authority to approve this for payment.

Mr. Lambert said that the flow meter modules are having some issues.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that the Corporate Center Parkway lift station sewer project is complete so he will monitor it weekly to see how it performs.

Mr. Lambert said that the manhole at Coopersburg Diner was cleaned a month ago and is again full of grease. He is going to meet with Coopersburg on Thursday and ask them to address the issue with the Diner's owner. Patrick will make recommendations.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that he will speak with Jim DeNave regarding the sags in the sewer lines at Old Saucon. Our flush truck only has a reach of 20', their sewer lines are 25'. If we can't reach the lines with our equipment, they will need to purchase equipment for the Township or repair the sags themselves.

Mr. Lambert indicated that the Promenade Shops are adding a 5 Guys Burgers. There is a grease trap in the building which they have agreed to have pumped out monthly.

Mr. Lambert said that he had 4 interviews for the Assistant Director position. He also noted that Scott Miller, the Sewer Foreman has announced his retirement in the beginning of 2024.

Mr. Lambert received a request from PMAA asking that our Authority appoint a voting delegate. It cannot be a board member.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mark Sullivan presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported that with interest the balance stands at \$552.57.

## **MOTION (S):**

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Chairman to approve payment of invoice dated 7/6/23 for \$587.50 to All Valley Rooter and Plumbing for sewer backup repairs made at 5006 Lanark Road.

Motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made and seconded to approve payment application #2 submitted by Doli Construction in the amount of \$99,005.50 which includes the balance of the contract and change order #5 for the Corporate Parkway Sanitary Sewer Project. Ref: Hanover Engineering's email dated 8/1/23.

Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Patrick Lambert as the Authorities voting delegate for PMAA. Ref: PMAA letter dated 7/5/23.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

B. Acquisition of Borough of Coopersburg sewer lines.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be **Tuesday**, September 5, 2023 @ 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 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Karasek  
Secretary