

# UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, June 5, 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

John Guignet – Vice Chairman - **ABSENT**

Michael Shafer - Asst. Secretary and Asst. Treasurer - **ABSENT**

## **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 May meeting minutes as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Authority members may comment on the correspondence which they received.

## **CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:**

None

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

The Solicitor's Report dated June 5, 2023, was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

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Attorney Brienza reported that there is a meeting scheduled for Mt. Trexler manor on July 12 to finalize the cost sharing agreement and a time frame for the public meetings to be held in the fall.

Attorney Brienza said that when the new Glen Road project was first proposed to Community Development, they had concerns about the empty lots having access to the private road. The things that will need to be addressed are access for the lots, ownership of the easement and the bill of sale. The plans show a 33' existing private road but it does not indicate who owns it. The plans also show 5 potential lots that could be serviced. An escrow would likely be required for this project.

Attorney Brienza told the Authority that he reviewed the bid for the hauling contract, and everything looks good.

Attorney Brienza noted that a final draft of the sewer lateral inspection ordinance was submitted to Tom Beil on 4/28/23.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Andy Bohl, PE, presented the Engineer's report dated May 31, 2023.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that he had a meeting with the North Branch Interceptor design team in early May and they should be submitting paperwork for part two of the permit by the end of the month.

Mr. Bohl noted that Coopersburg had one exceedance at their meter station on May 1. They did not exceed their Plant allocation this month.

Mr. Bohl indicated that the inspector is working with the contractor to complete the punch list items for Oakhurst.

Mr. Bohl said that electric for the Corporate Parkway project was connected so the pipe should be installed next week. Hopefully this will be up and running by the end of the month. They completed the start-up of the EOne pump.

Mr. Bohl also noted that he is waiting for Brinley to complete the punch list for the pump station. They should be starting phase 3 soon.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that TOA is supposed to be starting repairs on the sewer line sags.

Mr. Bohl said that the sags in the sewer lines at Old Saucon phase 1 still have not been fixed. Phase 2 also has several sags. They were given a copy of the video so they can identify where the sags are that need to be fixed.

Mr. Bohl noted that the Good Shepherd lines were flushed and TV'd and the video has been submitted for his review.

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Mr. Bohl has indicated that the IPP submitted by Saucon Valley Auto Spa cannot be opened or read in the format it was sent. Davin Viegas has been asked several times to resubmit in a different format but has not done so.

Mr. Bohl said that he hopes to start working on the 537 again.

Mr. Bohl said he and Gary Brienza had a meeting with the homeowners regarding the Glen Road project to extend the sewer line down the private road where Community Development is concerned about ownership.

Jack DeMatos asked why the sewer line sags in Old Saucon phase 1 remain unresolved after two years. Andy told him they initially had been looking to Upper Saucon to provide them with a price to continually flush the line but it's almost impossible at this time particularly to predict because there are too many variables and no way to accurately determine what the volume will be when it's built out. They have also changed the plans several times.

Mark Sullivan asked why occupancy permits are being issued if the sewer pipe is unacceptable? Andy told him this would be a question for Community Development and/or Tom Beil. Patrick noted that there will be no way to accurately predict the flow until after the fact, when it's fully built out. At that point it will be too late to fix the sag. Andy then added that the developer just re-submitted plans for phase 2 and 3 and they are looking to make changes again, adding additional residential units.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that there was a significant sewer blockage due to paper towels at the new St. Luke's urgent care and Dermatology building. He spoke with the property manager who told him they have placed signs throughout the building saying not to flush paper towels. This has been an ongoing issue. He could have to issue a NOV on their NPDES permit if the problem persists.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that there was a sewer back up into a home at Old Saucon because the contractor never removed the test ball from the sewer line. It was scheduled to be dug up today. It was the contractor's responsibility to do this. At the contractor's request the sewer department went out to flush and TV the line because the contractor could not find anyone else to do it. The line is 14' deep.

Mr. Lambert said that SCADA is up and running at Spring Valley pump station so it can now be seen remotely.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that Good Shepherd lines are flushed and TV'd.

Mr. Lambert said that Mr. Ohl has requested that the property where the new pump station is to be located be mowed because the grass is high. This property still needs to be surveyed.

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## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mark Sullivan presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported that with interest the balance stands at \$547.81.

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 authorize the Chairman to approve the Coopersburg utility system valuation contract with Keystone Alliance.

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 Monday, July 10, 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 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Karasek  
Secretary