

# UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, October 2, 2023,

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Jack DeMatos called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:03 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 September meeting minutes as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Authority members may comment on the correspondence which they received.

## **CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:**

Jack DeMatos asked about the September 25 letter regarding the Oakhurst Drive punch list. There is a manhole that keeps filling with water. The contractor needs to pump it out so we can inspect it. It's infiltration, not leakage.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

The Solicitor's Report dated October 2, 2023, was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

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Attorney Brienza reported that the punch list items for Weyhill/Blue Belle have not been completed.

Attorney Brienza said that the first meeting for the North Branch sewer extension is being held this Thursday. A walk-through session was held last week, and another will be held tomorrow. The presentation seems to take approximately 20-30 minutes and then they are allowing 1 ½ hours for questions and comments. Each session will be for about 10 residents. The first meeting will be for St. Joseph's Road residents.

Attorney Brienza said that the Glen Road escrow agreement has been prepared and finalized and was sent to the Developer, Attorney and Engineer.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Andy Bohl, PE, presented the Engineer's report dated September 29, 2023.

Mr. Bohl indicated that he submitted plans to the conservation district #4 for the North Branch NPDES permit. Also, PennDOT HOP permits have been submitted. Chapter 105 encroachment permits were submitted to DEP. Andy is hoping to submit the part 2 permits for the pump station and sewer extension by the end of the week.

Mr. Bohl said that the contractor for the Oakhurst sewer extension should have their final payment request submitted in time for approval at next month's meeting.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that TOA still has not addressed the sewer line sags. He will meet with Patrick out at TOA and Brinley to do a walk-through and check on their punch list items. Andy is going to issue a letter to Trish and Tom Beil asking to hold off issuing further building permits and/or CO's until the sewer lines are fixed.

Mr. Bohl said that the sags in the sewer lines at Old Saucon phase 1 and now also phase 2 also still have not been fixed. The developer had a meeting with Hanover to discuss Phase 3. Andy asked that the sewer line issues be part of the discussion. Flushing program parameters are not able to be determined at this time.

Mr. Bohl noted that he issued a review letter on September 7 regarding the planning module for the DeSales welcome center.

Mr. Bohl indicated that he needs a motion tonight to approve the UST Sewage Planning module application for Saucon Park.

Mr. Bohl said that he sent out a friendly reminder last week to all IPP accounts that IPP's will be due in the first quarter of 2024.

Mr. Bohl said that he issued a review letter in August regarding the proposed truck terminals, but he has not heard from them since.

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Mr. Bohl informed the Authority that Coopersburg had no exceedances at their flow meter this month but exceeded their plant allocation on 11 days.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that he went to a PMAA conference and while there, met with Dave Busch.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that he received the key for the new Corporate Parkway pump station.

Mr. Lambert said that there was an issue at the Bittersweet culvert pipe replacement for the Roads Department which Dirt Works was doing. They were coming within 12" of our sewer main which was encased in concrete. The contractor wanted to jack hammer to chip away the concrete. They were told they could not because the pipe is terra cotta and would break.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that he is in the process of finalizing upgrades for the Country Club pump station.

Mr. Lambert said that the PMAA conference highlight was Act 12 regarding the sale of public water and wastewater systems. The PMAA is strongly opposed to this idea.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that the new Assistant Director, Jonathan Barron, started today. He will be at the November meeting.

Mr. Lambert indicated that he needs to hire 3 more employees. He had another resignation last week in the Water Department. At the PMAA conference there was discussion on staffing shortages being a widespread issue in the industry.

Jack DeMatos asked Mr. Lambert if there was any update on the grease issue at Coopersburg Diner? Patrick said that the sewer guys were going back out next week. Then they will have 3 months of data and pictures to discuss with Coopersburg.

## **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 \$557.60.

## **MOTION (S):**

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the Upper Saucon Township Sewage Facilities Planning Module for Saucon Parke @ East Valley mixed use development project. Ref: Hanover Engineering's email dated 9/20/23.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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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:**

Jack DeMatos announced that he received the tentative Authority meeting schedule for 2024 which lists all meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month @ 6pm except holidays and the reorganization meeting in January.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be **Monday**, November 6, 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 6:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Karasek  
Secretary