

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, September 3, 2024, 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 and Sewer Department office building, 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
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 – **ABSENT**
Patrick Lambert, Director of Water and Sewer Resources
Jonathan Barron, UST Asst. Director of Water and Sewer Resources

VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Miller 5350 Old Bethlehem Pike
David Busch Keystone Alliance Consulting, Inc.

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 members of the Authority.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Millers came in front of the board to ask about running a sewer line up to their house, due to the future of their failing septic system. After speaking with Patrick Lambert and Andy Bohl, the Millers are pursuing alternatives. Mr. Bohl commented they could potentially connect to SB-19. This would be a gravity line which will benefit other neighbors up the hill as well. Patrick Lambert questioned if the Miller's had spoken to other residents, and they had not. Various options were discussed by Patrick Lambert and Andy Bohl. Mr. Bohl also suggested that they contact Engineering Surveyor firms. Mr. DeMatos recommended to the Millers that they continue to investigate their options.

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from August 2024, as amended.

The motion was passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Authority members may comment on the correspondence packets or the "Summary" which they received.

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CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Brienza presented his September report.

Mount Trexler Manor – There are continuing efforts to obtain remaining easements. The final letters were sent this week by Attorney Dinkelacker.

Kay Warehouse – The developer's Attorney information was obtained. The letter to the owner will be sent.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andy Bohl, PE, presented his September Engineer's report.

North Branch – Thirty (30) easement agreements have been secured. Seven (7) are pending on restoration agreement, and three to four (3-4) are unresponsive. Revised documents will be resubmitted to LCCD technical review on or before September 12, 2024.

Oakhurst – Project has been completed, the maintenance bond was provided and accepted by the Township. The Township has released the final payment to the contractor.

Coopersburg – One exceedance at the meter station from August 1 through August 28, 2024. There were 2 days that the Borough exceeded their allocation at the WWTP from August 1 through August 28, 2024.

TOA Locust Valley – Patrick Lambert and Andy Bohl met with the contractor on site discussing the sags. The contractor agreed to fix one or two of the sewer mains. Mr. Lambert will video those repairs. There is a water main leak as well. The remaining sags will be fixed sometime this fall. No paving can be done until the lines are fixed.

Old Saucon – Phase 1 still has an issue with one sag.

Phase 2 – Manhole 1037 is now functioning properly and will continue to be monitored.

Saucon Parke at East Valley - A Tuskes Mixed-Use Development will be resubmitting plans with significant design changes for water sewer.

Embree Sketch Plan - A Hospital and Medical building at the intersection of Passer Road, Rt. 309 and Main St. has been proposed west of Wawa. A review letter was issued in July.

Act 537 – The draft should be done this week.

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Sewer Lateral lines, inspections and replacements - 6325 Blue Belle has an issue. Working with Bob Blanchfield Inspector to get the Inspection report on this. The video shows a sag of 25 feet filled with water.

3150 Bittersweet has sewer lateral break on the customer's side and our side. Working with Snyder Environmental to locate where the break is to replace. The homeowner will take care of their end.

Grease Traps – On August 26 the sewer plant became inundated with a lot of grease from previous night, which is killing bugs at the plant. This is under investigation.

The Promenade Grease traps have been emptied and are still being monitored with no issues. Coopersburg Diner has been working fine.

Pump stations – There are issues at Old Bethlehem Pike. Brookside Court and Locust Valley developers have been informed about the issues on these pump stations to be resolved before taking over.

Sewer Mains – Snyder Environmental Services will complete 1200 linear feet of lining for sewer main by the Promenade for a cost of approximately \$68,000.

Hiring is still underway for 2-3 crew members.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mark Sullivan reported there were no disbursements. The current balance is \$380.73.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Motion passed unanimously.

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.

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's budget.

C. Coopersburg Sewer Evaluation – Mr. David Busch attended the meeting to answer questions regarding purchasing the Coopersburg Sewer system. Mr. Busch stated that the methods used were based on the Income Based Methodology (how much will the system produce) and the Asset Based Methodology (examining the value and value). The factors for both methods included customer rates, revenue, and liabilities. The Board needs more information on the pending repairs that need to be done. Mr.

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, September 3, 2024, 4774 Saucon Creek Road

Lambert and Mr. Bohl are in the process of viewing videos pending suitable equipment to do so. The information will be presented to Tom Beil.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday October 7, 2024 @ 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 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Karasek
Secretary