

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, February 6, 2023,

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Jack DeMatos called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:01 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
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:

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January meeting minutes as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Authority members may comment on the correspondence which they received.

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

Jack DeMatos asked Andy Bohl about the expansion for Copperhead that is discussed in his correspondence. Andy stated that DEP lost the paperwork regarding the Copperhead expansion that is already complete, so the DEP asked him to resubmit. It is not for a new project.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor's Report dated February 6, 2023, was presented by Solicitor Brienza.

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Attorney Brienza reported that closing for the Ohl easement took place last week and it needs to be executed by the Chairman to complete the process. The cost sharing agreement with Mt. Trexler is in review. Pricing for the project was figured over a year ago so the Township would like to make some revisions. The agreement at this point has Mt. Trexler contributing \$1 million and the Township contributing \$4 million. Gary would like the Township to have a clause stating that the Township would not proceed if the cost estimates come back too high when it finally goes out to bid. Meetings with the residents would not take place until the cost sharing agreement is in place and initial costs are paid. Potentially there will be 4 meetings scheduled with 10 sets of residents per meeting. There would be an additional meeting held for those who were unable to attend their originally scheduled meeting. This project has the potential to connect another 60-80 homes to the collection system.

Solicitor Brienza noted that he discussed the sewer lateral inspection ordinance with Township Attorney and was surprised to find UST has no re-sale co/inspection ordinance in place especially given how many older homes are located within the Township. This might be what is needed to trigger the inspections to take place.

Attorney Brienza informed the Authority that he has requested the developer for Blue Ridge West provide confirmation that the sewer lines for both phases of construction are located where they say are, pay required fees and sign the legal documents that should have been signed back in 2010 and 2012. Both phases of the sewer were not approved, dedicated nor do they contain appropriate easements. Once they have completed these items the lines could then be dedicated.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andy Bohl, PE, presented the Engineer's report dated February 3, 2023.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that he spoke with Engineers for Mt. Trexler Manor, and they are working on getting construction plans submitted to DEP for permits by 3/31/23. Plot plans and easement descriptions have been sent to Attorney Dinkelacker for approximately 38 of the easements. The portion of the project that was added for the Green Lane area is currently being surveyed.

Mr. Bohl noted that Coopersburg had 2 exceedances at their meter station on January 25 & 26. They exceeded their allocation at the Plant 25 times during the month. Their daily flows averaged around 691,000.

Mr. Bohl indicated that he is still waiting for the contractor of the Oakhurst project to submit some final paperwork for Andy to review.

Mr. Bohl told the Authority that the contractor at Brinley has completed the punch list items for the pump station.

Mr. Bohl said that the contractor for the Corporate Parkway project installed the low-pressure main, lift station and electrical and should be finished by the end of the month.

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They had a setback with PPL connecting the electrical because the Township had an outstanding invoice with PPL which has since been resolved. He has one recommendation for payment tonight for payment application #1. Doli has also submitted a time extension request for an additional month. They were originally supposed to be finished by mid-February.

Mr. Bohl also noted that the developer for Old Saucon has sent him the revised layout for phases 3 and 4. Andy has asked for several changes in his review letter.

Mr. Bohl said the IPP's were sent out January 13 and so far Wendy has received 3.

Mr. Bohl noted that the Chapter 94 questionnaire was mailed out.

Mr. Bohl has a request to release \$221,000.00 for TOA.

Mr. Bohl needs the updated planning module for Saucon Creek Office Park signed tonight. The original subdivision was approved back in 2005 or earlier and the building proposed for lot 4 is larger than what was approved back then. It will increase the GPD by about 2000 gallons.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that Wendy received a call from Mrs. Van Vliet of 1425 Station Avenue. Her neighbor has a failing septic. Patrick is trying to arrange a meeting with Chris Taylor (SEO) to go out and take a look and decide how to address the situation. Mrs. Van Vliet says it's affecting her property and the creek also runs through the properties towards the back.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that the department purchased a new type of sewer inspection camera. It's on a long pole that you can stick down inside a manhole, so an employee doesn't have to climb down inside. It can go 400' up a sewer main.

Mr. Lambert said that during the rain event two weeks ago the flow data indicated high flows in numerous areas. Price Avenue was one area in which they found clear water entering the system from several laterals. MH 415 went from 351 GPM to 1188 during the storm.

Mr. Lambert informed the Authority that the sewer department noticed lamp hole covers missing in Sunset and Ackerman's as well as Blue Ridge West.

Mr. Lambert told the Authority that two out of three IPP's returned had missing or incorrect information.

Mr. Lambert said that the SCADA systems are almost up and running at Spring Valley and Old Bethlehem Pike pump stations that will enable the stations to be monitored remotely.

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Newly elected board member, Mike Shafer asked Patrick why clear water coming into the system is an issue? Patrick explained that clear water is I&I and it ends up having to be treated at the Plant which adds unnecessary operating costs. Clear water is usually coming from sump pumps, roof drains or root intrusion and this is why the sewer lateral inspection would be so beneficial. The current Plant is only rated for 2.5 million.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mark Sullivan presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported that there was one disbursement this month to the former Chairman for \$54.39 so with interest the balance stands at \$737.71.

MOTION (S):

A motion was made and seconded to approve a release of the letter of credit to TOA Locust Valley for sanitary sewer improvements in the sum of \$221,678.91. Ref: Hanover Engineering's letter dated 1/17/23.

Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Chairman to sign the UST Sewage Planning Module for the revision of Lot 4 in Saucon Creek Office Park. Ref: Hanover Engineering's letter dated 1/20/23.

Motion passed with Zachary Karasek abstaining.

A motion was made and seconded to approve a release of the letter of credit to Doli Construction for sanitary sewer improvements at the Corporate Center Parkway in the sum of \$93,154.50. Ref: Hanover Engineering's letter dated 1/30/23.

Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Chairman to execute the sanitary sewer easement agreement between Lloyd Ohl and UST Sewage Treatment and Municipal Authority's related to the North Branch Interceptor sewer extension project.

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:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, March 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 6:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Karasek
Secretary

