

UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Meeting Held Monday, May 6, 2024,

4774 Saucon Creek Road

Jack DeMatos called to order the regular meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Authority at approximately 6:09 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 **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
Jonathan Barron, UST Asst. Director of Water and Sewer Resources

VISITORS:

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:

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

The motion was passed unanimously.

It was noted that in the March minutes it stated that the minutes were unanimously approved with Mark Sullivan and Jack DeMatos abstaining. However, this was carried over from the February minutes and should be struck from the March minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

CORRESPONDENCE COMMENTS:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

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Solicitor Brienza presented his May report.

Mount Trexler Manor – The Township Manager provided comments on the draft of the Contribution Agreement. One of the difficult easements has a recent failing system notification. Patrick Lambert and Patrick Leonard are aware. This may have an impact on their willingness to sign their easement agreement.

Kay Warehouse – Solicitor Brienza was authorized by the Board to proceed with easement acquisition by condemnation. The final number of acquisitions was to be addressed at the April meeting of the Board of Supervisors, but it was removed from their agenda. This is on hold until the special counsel that the township hired concludes if this can be done relating to highway easements. This determination will be presented to the Board of Supervisors during the May meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

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

North Branch – so far twenty (20) easement agreements have been secured for the project. Andy will meet with them this week.

Oakhurst – The change orders are being reviewed and will be addressed at the next meeting.

Coopersburg – There were three (3) exceedances at the flow meter April 1 through May 1. 16 days they exceeded their allocation. The Well depths are back to normal.

Brinley Court – Waiting for easement documents from developer to finish the pump station dedication. Also, continuing with Phase 3, should be built out by the end of the year.

TOA Locust Valley – Waiting to complete sewer repairs.

Old Saucon – Phase 1 sags have not been fixed yet. Phase 2 Manhole 1037 repair is complete. Phases 3 & 4 have been submitted. Phase 3 was to be commercial. Now all Phases are submitted for revisions to be reviewed due to it being residential townhomes and apartments, not commercial.

Brookside Estates – A motion is being made to sign the planning module for a subdivision.

309 Commerce Center Project – Received planning module last month.

The South Branch CAP Plan was sent out on April 30, 2024.

Act 537 – Andy met with Patrick and Jonathan and anticipate completion in the next 2 weeks.

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Oakhurst Drive – A motion is being made to sign the planning module for 1923 Oakhurst Drive which will consist of 3 residential units and converting from septic to public sewer.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Brienza added to Mr. Lambert's report that Lutron received a letter last month and promptly responded and has been received. Patrick added that all the IPP's have been received.

It was also reported that the Sewer lateral inspection and replacement at New Street went well. Changes were made to the online instructions due to various issues with the quality of the video inspections.

Patrick and Jonathan met with Tim Paashaus regarding the 2 grease traps at the Coopersburg Diner. The manhole will again be vacuumed out because it was still full. Jack DeMatos added that the dishwasher temperature should be considered. This was discovered at another location and could be a solution.

Patrick still has unanswered questions regarding the Brinley Court pump station. The pump is not being maintained, the generator has a leak, etc. Patrick has sent an email to the parties involved that it is not acceptable, and he will not accept dedication.

Sewer mains at Oakhurst and Bittersweet are being videoed due to problems.

Patrick and Jonathan were out with ART for Lunch and Learn. They don't just coat manholes anymore they also coat clarifiers, water tanks, and roofs. Patrick is going to request a couple of quotes from them.

Changed two manholes at Wedgewood Golf Course that were bad.

All IPP's are in, not correct but all have been submitted. For many we still received invoices instead of manifests. We'll have to focus on that next year.

There are shops and restaurants going in at the Promenade. Grease traps are being taken care of there as expected.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mark reported there were no disbursements. The current balance is \$373.85.

MOTION (S):

1. A motion made and seconded to recommend the endorsement of the PADEP Planning Module by the Township for the Brookside Estates Residential Subdivision for a total of six (6) EDUs per Hanover Engineering letter dated April 22, 2024.

Motion passed unanimously.

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2. A motion was made and seconded to recommend the endorsement by the USTMA and USTTA Chairman of the Upper Saucon Township Sewage Facilities Planning Module for 1923 Oakhurst Drive for a total of three (3) EDUs per Hanover Engineering letter dated April 30, 2024

Motion passed unanimously.

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. Bruce Bush asked Tom Beil for an update on two outstanding matters and Tom indicated that the Township Solicitor was busy with other matters at this time.

D. Jack asked Gary about the Coopersburg acquisition. Gary told him the cost of the study was included in the 2023 budget so he will speak with Tom Beil about getting a signed contract for Mr. Busch so this can proceed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be Monday, June 3, 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 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Karasek
Secretary