

**MINUTES TO THE MEETING OF  
TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

December 30, 2008

The 2008 Close-Out Meeting of Trappe Borough Council was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Fred Schuetz.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Schuetz.

**Roll Call by the Assistant Secretary:** Those present were President Fred Schuetz, Vice President Matt Watson, Nevin Scholl, Catherine Johnson, Lew DiPrete, Paul Edwards and Steve Kurcik. Also in attendance were Engineer John Sartor, Solicitor Dave Onorato, Treasurer Joe Lowe and Manager Tommy Ryan. Mayor Connie Peck and Borough Secretary Pat Katona were excused absences from the meeting.

**Announcement of Executive Session:** President Schuetz announced an Executive Session would be conducted at the conclusion of the public portion of the meeting. President Schuetz noted that matters of litigation and personnel would be discussed at this Executive Session.

**Minutes of the December 9, 2008 Monthly Meeting:** All received a copy of the minutes for the December 9 Monthly Meeting. Mr. Ryan (1) noted a correction to page 2, line 2, so to revise “2009” to “2008”; (2) noted a correction to page 8, line 43 so to revise “received by Ralph Zollers” to “received from Ralph Zollers”; and, (3) stated on page 6, the second bullet point under “Open To The Public” was revised to read “Sandra Smith, West Main Street, addressed traffic concerns at 330 West Main Street, in specific potential conflicts related to vehicles that prematurely enter the turning lane to northbound Route 113. Mr. Ryan stated he would review the matter with PennDOT.”

N. Scholl noted a prepared statement, read by President Schuetz at the December 9 meeting, was attached to said meeting minutes. N. Scholl noted he favors this arrangement, provided the opportunity to append the minutes is afforded to all Members. N. Scholl cited an instance in which a Member was not permitted to append the minutes.

President Schuetz stated his agreement with N. Scholl. President Schuetz cited an instance in which he was not permitted to append the minutes. President Schuetz stated it should be the policy of Council to allow this practice, moving forward.

Solicitor Onorato recommended Members announce their desire to append the minutes with a written statement at the time the statement is read.

N. Scholl motioned to accept the December 9, 2008 Monthly Meeting minutes, as presented and with the above-noted three revisions, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

**Financial Reports (J. Lowe):** All received a copy of Accounts Payable for checks 1301 through 1325, and noted electronic transfers. J. Lowe stated check #1313, in the amount of \$2,020 and payable to Kerns, Pearlstine, Onorato & Hladik, LLP, was voided, and replacement check #1333, in the amount of \$1,990 to same payee, was cut.

J. Lowe presented five (5) additional payables:

- check #1058, in the amount of \$41.23, payable to PECO, for street light service;
- check #1329, in the amount of \$226.00, payable to the USPS, for postage stamps;
- check #1330, in the amount of \$141.44, payable to the Mercury, for legal advertisements;
- check #1331, in the amount of \$2,875.00, payable to B&M Landscaping, for cinder services on Borough Roads; and,
- check #1332, in the amount of \$9,776.07, payable to Gilmore & Associates, for engineering services.

N. Scholl noted four (4) donations approved per the 2009 Budget:

- \$2,000, to the Trappe Historical Society;
- \$1,000, to the Perkiomen Valley Library;
- \$1,000, to Save the Speaker's House; and,
- \$1,000, to Victim Services of Montgomery County.

S. Kurcik inquired as to the proposed payment to Czop/Specter, for engineering services at Rambo Park. Mr. Ryan confirmed the payment was in accordance with the Council-approved Change Order Contract.

N. Scholl motioned to approve payment of bills for the checks, electronic transfers, five (5) additional payables and four (4) donations noted above, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

N. Scholl noted \$163,717 was expended at Rambo Park in 2008, with money paid from the Borough's General Fund. N. Scholl proposed a same amount be transferred from the Borough's Open Space Fund to the Borough's General Fund.

N. Scholl motioned to approve the transfer of \$163,717 from the Borough's Open Space Fund to the Borough's General Fund., second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

N. Scholl noted Council, at the December 9 meeting, had approved a \$36,598 payment on the Volunteer Fire Company's ladder truck loan. N. Scholl noted that, in past years, the Borough had likewise earmarked funds for other Company expenses, including the purchase of firefighting equipment and the planning for a replacement firehouse. Given current economic conditions, N.

Scholl recommended Council transfer an additional \$23,402 from the Borough's General Fund to the Borough's Municipal Capital Fund.

N. Scholl motioned to approve the transfer of \$60,000 from the Borough's General Fund to the Borough's Municipal Capital Fund, which includes (1) the above-noted \$23,402 and (2) the previously-approved a \$36,598 payment on the Volunteer Fire Company's ladder truck loan, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

M. Watson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

### **Manager's Report (T. Ryan)**

Accellent, Waiver of Land Development – Mr. Ryan stated the Applicant was requesting a Waiver of Land Development so to install a concrete pad, measuring approximately five feet by fourteen feet, and a chiller unit at the West Seventh Avenue facility. Mr. Ryan noted the Applicant had provided Members with a project narrative, site plan and equipment drawings.

Darin Hilbert, representative for the Applicant, stated the improvement was needed to replace critical equipment that had recently failed. Mr. Hilbert presented photographs of the proposed location of the concrete pad and chiller, noting both improvements would be screened from neighboring properties by existing vegetation.

N. Scholl motioned to approve Resolution 2008-24, granting the Waiver of Land Development and approving the improvements as presented, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

P. Edwards inquired as to safety issues at the facility's parking areas. Mr. Hilbert cited no incidents during the previous two weeks, but did state six to eight incidents were reported during the previous two months. Mr. Hilbert confirmed the applicant was preparing a permanent lighting plan for the parking area, and Mr. Hilbert noted future security upgrades may include video surveillance.

Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority – Mr. Ryan noted the Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority was pursuing a \$12 million grant to fund a portion of planned interceptor improvements. Mr. Ryan noted the Authority had requested letter of support from municipalities in its service area, the letters of support to be included in the grant application.

C. Johnson noted the estimated improvement cost of \$24 million, and inquired as to the source of the remaining \$12 million. Solicitor Onorato stated the funds had been raised through the issuance of bonds.

N. Scholl motioned to send a letter in support of the grant sought to the Acting Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Eye Designs, Release of Maintenance Security – Mr. Ryan noted the Borough Engineer had completed his review of approved improvements to the West Fifth Avenue facility, and was recommending release of the maintenance security as posted by the Applicant. Mr. Ryan noted the amount to be released totals \$6,200, less that amount required to pay the Borough Engineer’s inspection services.

Mr. Ryan confirmed outstanding escrow matters would not delay release of the maintenance security to the Applicant. Solicitor Onorato stated he sent a letter on this matter to a representative of Turner’s Run two or three weeks earlier, and that no response had been received as of this date.

M. Watson motioned to release the maintenance security to the Applicant, equal to \$6,200 less the amount required to pay the Borough Engineer’s inspection services, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

2009 Fee Schedule – Mr. Ryan presented a draft of the 2009 Fee Schedule. Mr. Ryan requested comments from the Members, so that the schedule can be considered at the January 6 meeting. Mr. Ryan likewise requested that Council direct him to assess all fees within the upcoming 60 days, to ensure fees charged are commensurate to expenses incurred.

C. Johnson noted the Borough requires a permit to replace existing plumbing features, such as sinks and commodes. Solicitor Onorato stated the requirement to permit various improvements is part of a municipality’s overall efforts to promote public health, safety and welfare.

N. Scholl stated he agrees to conduct a fee assessment, and recommended this information be forwarded to the Finance Committee prior to submission to Council. After the Borough fees are calculated to reflect Borough expenses, N. Scholl recommended fee data for other municipalities be compiled, to determine if the Borough fees are comparable with the fees of other communities.

N. Scholl motioned to direct the Borough Manager to assess permit fees per the above and to report findings to the Finance Committee, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Ryan stated he would amend the fee schedule so to highlight new items noted therein, for consideration at the January 6 meeting.

P. Edwards motioned to accept the Manager’s Report, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- There was no public comment.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance (N. Scholl) – There was no report.

Public Works and Recycling (M. Watson) – M. Watson noted a personnel matter would be discussed in Executive Session.

Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority (N. Scholl) – There was no report.

Property, Streets, Traffic & Safety (P. Edwards) – President Schuetz introduced Michelle Monaco, a resident with interest in serving on the Planning Commission.

Planning, Zoning & Open Space (President Schuetz) – President Schuetz noted the Borough received a draft of the Natural Areas Stewardship Report for Rambo Park and Main Street Park, as prepared by the Natural Lands Trust; President Schuetz stated the report would be forwarded to Members for review at the January 6 meeting.

Personnel, Appointments & Ordinances (L. DiPrete) – L. DiPrete noted a personnel matter would be discussed in Executive Session.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- There was no old business to report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- S. Kurcik requested the Borough direct B&M Landscaping to clear piles of salt and cinders from roadways. Mr. Ryan stated he would contact the contractor as to this matter.
- N. Scholl reported an icy condition on East Seventh Avenue.

At 7:55 p.m. Council entered into Executive Session.

At 8:43 p.m. Council adjourned from Executive Session.

L. DiPrete motioned to direct the Borough Manager to provide Gambone Development Company with ten (10) days in which to pay in full the agreed-upon settlement of outstanding review fees for the Silver Leaf Farms Development and, in the event Gambone Development Company fails to make such payment, to authorize Solicitor Onorato to proceed in accordance with the Executive Session discussion, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

C. Johnson motioned to direct the Borough remove the Borough Secretary from the Borough-provided health care, dental and prescription drug plans, and to reimburse the Borough Secretary for premiums paid for a health care plan, dental plan and prescription drug plan to be selected and paid for by the Borough Secretary, provided the monthly premium of the selected plans is less than the monthly premium of the Borough-provided plans, with said reimbursement to cease no later than June 1, 2009, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

M. Watson motioned to accept a labor agreement for the Director of Public Works, as presented, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

C. Johnson motioned to direct the Trappe Borough representatives to the Public Works Committee to work with the Collegeville Borough representatives to same committee, so to develop a Director of Public Works labor agreement that more resembles the managerial status of the position, including the enumeration of goals and objectives and the incorporation of merit-based salary adjustments, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

At 8:50 p.m., there being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by P. Edwards, second by L. DiPrete. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy Ryan  
Borough Manager / Assistant Secretary