

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REORGANIZATION MEETING

January 7, 2008

At 7:00 PM, Mayor Peck administered the Oath of Office to newly elected council members Lew DiPrete, Paul Edwards, Fred Schuetz and Matt Watson. After the Oath of Office, the gentlemen took their seat with Council.

Call to Order – Mayor Peck called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led Mayor Peck.

Roll Call by the Secretary – Those present were Mayor Peck, Lew DiPrete, Paul Edwards, Cathy Johnson, Steve Kurcik, Nevin Scholl, Fred Schuetz and Matt Watson. Also in attendance were Solicitor Bob Kerns and Manager Chuck Sardo.

**Call for Nominations of Council President** – Mayor Peck called for nominations for the President of Council.

M. Watson nominated F. Schuetz – 4 aye votes by M. Watson,  
L. DiPrete, P. Edwards and F. Schuetz

S. Kurcik nominated N. Scholl - 3 aye votes by S. Kurcik, C.  
Johnson and N. Scholl

Four aye votes for F. Schuetz, 3 aye votes for N. Scholl. F. Schuetz was declared Council President.

**Vice President** - Mayor Peck turned the gavel over to President Schuetz who called for nominations for Vice President.

C. Johnson nominated N. Scholl – 3 aye votes by C. Johnson  
S. Kurcik and N. Scholl

L. DiPrete nominated M. Watson – 4 aye votes by L. DiPrete,  
P. Edwards, F. Schuetz and M. Watson

Three aye votes for N. Scholl, 4 aye votes for M. Watson. M. Watson was declared Council Vice President.

**President Pro Tempore** - President Schuetz called for nominations for President Pro Tempore

S. Kurcik nominated N. Scholl – 3 aye votes by C. Johnson,  
S. Kurcik and N. Scholl

M. Watson nominated L. DiPrete – 4 aye votes by M. Watson,  
F. Schuetz, P. Edwards and L. DiPrete

Three aye votes for N. Scholl, 4 aye votes for L. DiPrete, L. DiPrete was declared President pro Tempore.

The following appointments were called for by President Schuetz:

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**Vacancy Board**

M. Watson nominated Robert Manley: there were no other nominations.  
Four aye votes for Robert Manley to serve on the Vacancy Board by L.  
DiPrete, P. Edwards, F. Schuetz and M. Watson.  
Three nay votes by C. Johnson, S. Kurcik and N. Scholl.  
R. Manley was appointed to a one year term to serve on the Vacancy Board.

**Solicitor**

S. Kurcik nominated Kerns Pearlstine Onorato and Hladik; there were no  
other nominations, second by M. Watson, all ayes, 7 - 0.

**Treasurer**

M. Watson nominated Joseph Lowe, there were four aye votes  
by L. DiPrete, P. Edwards, F. Schuetz and M. Watson  
N. Scholl nominated John Klink, there were three votes by  
C. Johnson, S. Kurcik and N. Scholl.  
Joseph Lowe was appointed Treasurer.

**Engineer**

M. Watson nominated Gilmore and Associates – four aye votes  
by L. DiPrete, P. Edwards, F. Schuetz, M. Watson  
C. Johnson nominated Czop/Specter – three aye votes by  
C. Johnson, S. Kurcik and N. Scholl  
Gilmore and Associates was appointed Borough Engineer.

**Building Inspector** – Council unanimously appointed Sal Capizzi as  
Building Inspector.

**Plumbing Inspector**

M. Watson nominated Gilmore and Associates as Plumbing  
Inspector.  
There were 4 aye votes by L. DiPrete, P. Edwards, F. Schuetz and  
M. Watson, three nay votes by C. Johnson, S. Kurcik, N. Scholl.  
Gilmore and Associates appointed Plumbing Inspectors.

**Fire Marshal**

M. Watson nominated Mike Italia for the position of Fire  
Marshal, there were no other nominations. All aye votes. 7 – 0  
Mike Italia appointed as Fire Marshal.

**Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor**

M. Watson nominated Robert Brant and Associates, no other nominations.  
There were four aye votes for Brant and Associates by L. DiPrete,  
P. Edwards, F. Schuetz and M. Watson.  
Three nay votes by C. Johnson, S. Kurcik and N. Scholl  
Brant and Associates were appointed as the zoning hearing board Solicitor.

**Zoning Hearing Board Member**

Cathy Kelemen was unanimously appointed to the Zoning  
Hearing Board for a three year term.

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**Regional Planning Commission**

S. Kurcik was unanimously appointed to the Regional Planning Commission for a two year term. The Planning Commission will be requested to recommend a representative for a one year term.

**Planning Commission**

Howard Lownes was unanimously appointed to a four year term on Trappe Borough Planning Commission.

**Standing Committee Appointments**

**Finance Committee**

Nevin Scholl – Chairman  
Steve Kurcik  
Lew DiPrete

**Public Works and Recycling**

Matt Watson, Chairman  
Cathy Johnson  
P. Edwards

**Property/Streets/Traffic and Safety**

Paul Edwards, Chairman  
Cathy Johnson  
Nevin Scholl

**Planning/Zoning and Open Space**

Matt Watson, Chairman  
Steve Kurcik  
Lew DiPrete

**Personnel and Appointments**

Lew DiPrete, Chairman  
Paul Edwards  
Nevin Scholl

**Other Appointments**

**CTMA** – This body does not represent a Standing Committee of the Borough. Municipal Authority appointments of five (5) year terms were made in previous years:

Nevin Scholl  
Steve Kurcik  
Stu Strauss

**Minutes of December 27, 2007 Close Out Meeting**

Everyone received a copy of the Minutes of December 27, 2008. There was clarification by N. Scholl on page 2 regarding the affirmation of S. Kurcik to CTMA/PW Committee and CTMA term extension.

N. Scholl motioned to accept the Minutes as presented, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

President Schuetz announced there would be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the regular meeting.

**Accrual Method of Accounting** – N. Scholl followed up from the December 27, 2007 closeout meeting and the recommendation to switch to the accrual method of accounting

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for year 2008. It was stressed it is important to begin the new system beginning January 2008 and not lapse over into February.

N. Scholl motioned to change the method of accounting to the accrual basis, second by C. Johnson. There was discussion and in light of the change of treasurers, if not going to accrual immediately, it is best to have the new treasurer gather information until the time of the switch to accrual.

The Solicitor advised the motion should be tabled to be voted upon in February.

President Schuetz stated the Treasurer will be instructed to accumulate information to enable a transition to the accrual method of accounting if this method is adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

N. Scholl stated, for the record, that the change in the position of treasurer was not in any way related to the performance of former treasurer, John Klink.

Work Sessions – Manager Chuck Sardo asked Council to consider having work sessions, if and when necessary, prior to the Council meetings. This would be announced publicly and would not need to be advertised. There was discussion.

S. Kurcik motioned that Council approve work sessions, if and when needed, prior to Council meetings, such sessions not to start before 6:00 PM. Conditional Use hearings take precedence, second by M. Watson all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

E-Mail Addresses – Chuck would like to see all Council members and the Mayor have an e-mail address through the Borough via the website. The public can contact members and respond through the web site – e-mails will be forwarded – presentation to be made at the February meeting.

Approval of Bills of the December 27, 2007 Closeout Meeting - Everyone received a copy of the bills through Friday, January 4, 2008 in the amount of \$38,544.66. The bill from Solicitor Kerns office in the amount of \$5,260 was reduced in the amount of \$800 realizing a corrected amount of \$4,460.00.

N. Scholl motioned to pay the bills as presented including the Kerns' bill in the amount of \$4,460.00 second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Before moving away from the financials, Nevin advised that he had emailed a summary of the final numbers for 2007 for a consolidated basis of all funds. We have a surplus of \$45,000.

Ordinance No. 402 – In 2007 legislation was enacted by the State to change the name of the tax entitled Emergency and Municipal Services Tax to Local Services Tax. This is not a new tax but a re-naming of the Borough's existing tax to conform to the new legislation. Council needs to approve advertisement of the Ordinance No. 402 so that it may be acted upon at the February meeting.

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L. DiPrete motioned to advertise the Ordinance No. 402, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Laurel Drive.

N. Scholl inquired as to the status of Laurel Drive. The previous Borough Engineer, Czop/Specter has done quite a bit of work to advance the project. Nevin suggested we continue this project with Czop/Specter so we can continue on a tight schedule to completion of this street repair project. He said Czop/Specter worked very closely with the homeowners and himself to get the project moving with completion expected in 2008.

Another alternative would be to have Czop/Specter complete the design and then have the new Borough Engineer oversee through bidding and construction.

President Schuetz felt there would be a benefit of continuing for one engineer to oversee the project from start to finish.

S. Kurcik motioned to have Czop/Specter finish the entire project of Laurel Drive from design through construction, second by N. Scholl, all ayes, and one nay vote by M. Watson. Motion carried 6 – 1.

The same question was brought up with regard to Rambo Park. President Schuetz advised that Czop/Specter was well into the design of this Park with completion expected by May. President Schuetz said he has been working very closely with Jeff Amerine of Czop/Specter on this project. It was his recommendation that Czop/Specter be retained through design and construction of this project. The original design Request For Proposal included the provision for bidding and construction oversight. Czop/Specter is also continuing with preparation of a sub-division plan for a small piece of land that the Pongras family is willing to donate to the Borough as a part of Rambo Park.

N. Scholl motioned to have Czop/Specter continue with responsibility for design and construction oversight of Rambo Park, including sub-division matters for the Pongras donation, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stu Strauss – Council recognized Mr. Strauss who made comments regarding the new appointments. He also made reference to a proposed development by Strategic Realty for the former middle school Trappe building. President Schuetz commented that resident opinions expressed at several public hearings on this site suggested the site did not lend itself to the 88 units proposed. It is on record that the Borough, in 2006, advised the Perkiomen Valley School Board in writing of interest in maintaining the character of the building and as much of the open land as possible. This is not to say there will be no zoning changes. It is the responsibility of Council to determine what is the best use of the site. We will look to the Planning Commission for recommendations.

The Solicitor advised that all zoning issues will be reviewed by the Regional Planning Commission as well as the Montgomery County Planning Commission. .

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Sam Mancuso – Council heard comments from Mr. Mancuso regarding the agenda, possible website information, and storage of items in Trappe Village. Council thanked him for his input.

President Schuetz read a letter to set the tone for the new Council in that there will be cooperation and that this Council is looking forward to the challenges and working for the residents of the Borough of Trappe.

The public meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM and Council retired into Executive Session.

At 9:30 PM Council returned from Executive Session. No action taken on matters of discussion related to personnel issues.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM on motion by N. Scholl, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Katona  
Secretary