

MINUTES TO THE MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

October 7, 2008

The regularly scheduled meeting of Trappe Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Fred Schuetz.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Peck.

Announcement of Executive Session: President Schuetz announced an Executive Session was conducted prior to the meeting; litigation and personnel matters were discussed. The Executive Session will be continued at the conclusion of the meeting, at which time litigation and personnel matters will be discussed.

Roll Call by the Secretary: Those present were Mayor Connie Peck, 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 Dick Watt, Treasurer Joe Lowe and Manager Tommy Ryan.

Minutes of the Meeting of the September 2, 2008: All received a copy of the meeting minutes for September 2, 2008. N. Scholl stated that, on page 4, it should be noted traffic control at Dr. Hans' Halloween Party will be provided at the expense of Dr. Hans.

N. Scholl motioned to accept the September 2, 2008 Monthly Meeting minutes with the above noted amendment, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 16, 2008: All received a copy of the meeting minutes for the Special Meeting of September 16, 2008. There were no revisions or corrections offered.

S. Kurcik motioned to accept the September 16, 2008 Special Meeting minutes as presented, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Financial Reports (J. Lowe): All received a copy of Accounts Payable for checks 1130 through 1197.

S. Kurcik requested the Borough Engineer clarify and/or provide additional detail for charges noted as "miscellaneous" on invoices. The Borough Engineer stated that he would provide this additional detail.

N. Scholl motioned to approve payment of bills for the checks 1130 through 1197 plus the wire transfers, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Manager’s Report (T. Ryan)

Linda Falco, Montgomery County Health Department: Ms. Falco appeared before Council and spoke to cancer awareness and prevention programs available to Borough residents. Ms. Falco provided the Borough with this information, and Council thanked Ms. Falco for her efforts.

Zoning Hearing Board Application 2008.1 (Dye): Bob Iannuzzi, Esq. appeared before Council on behalf of his client, Gary and Dana Dye. Mr. Iannuzzi reviewed an application submitted to the Zoning Hearing Board seeking variances to construct a detached residential garage at 802 Linden Street. Council reviewed information provided by Mr. Iannuzzi, which included site photographs and letters of support from neighboring property owners.

The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2008.

L. DiPrete motioned to not oppose Zoning Hearing Board Application 2008.1, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Residential Rental Inspection & Licensing Program: Mr. Ryan reviewed a draft of a residential rental inspection and licensing program. The program is modeled after programs established in other municipalities, including Pottstown Borough, Lansdale Borough and West Conshohocken Borough. The program has three parts: (1) the registration of all rental properties; (2) the inspection of rental units; and, (3) an annual census of rental unit tenants. Mr. Ryan noted the Borough presently requires an annual census of rental unit tenants.

Mr. Ryan stated inspections would be required at the time of tenant turn-over, or every three years, whichever occurs first. A rental unit passing inspection would be issued a rental license, and the rental license would be required for the continued occupancy of the unit.

Mr. Ryan confirmed the program would not enact new building codes or property maintenance codes, but rather serve only as a vehicle whereby the Borough may ensure that residential rental units are in compliance with existing codes.

Council reviewed and commented on several components of the proposed program. N. Scholl recommended rental unit owners be provided with thirty (30) days to render non-emergency repairs deemed required by the building inspector. Ambulance Chief Brian Pasquale requested special needs residents be identified per the annual census, so to improve emergency response services for special needs residents.

Mr. Ryan recommended Council direct him to prepare a complete residential rental inspection and licensing program, and to direct the Solicitor to draft the required ordinance.

P. Edwards motioned that the Manager prepare a complete residential rental inspection and licensing program, and that the Solicitor draft the required ordinance, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Laurel Drive & Lilac Circle Reclamation Project: Per the review of the project engineer and Borough Solicitor, it is possible that this project may be completed in two parts, with the HOA contracting separately for the off-street parking area, curbing and apron improvements. Given the nature of the project, the HOA improvements must be completed prior to Borough beginning its improvements. Mr. Ryan provided Council with a list of considerations to be addressed if the project were to proceed in this manner; among the considerations are the HOA's improvements meeting minimum engineering specifications as required by Borough code, improvement inspections, maintenance bonds, and the HOA reimbursing the Borough for design costs incurred to date. Council directed Mr. Ryan to continue working with the HOA in this regard.

Resolution 2008-19 - Green Region Grant Application: Mr. Ryan presented a resolution for \$10,000 in grant funding for the development of passive parkland improvements at Rambo Park.

L. DiPrete motioned to approve enactment of Resolution 2008-19, second by Paul Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

December 2, 2008 Council Meeting Date: Mr. Ryan noted that, due to a schedule conflict, he is unable to attend the Council's December meeting, advertised for December 2. If Council wishes Mr. Ryan to attend the Monthly Meeting in December, the December 2 meeting must be cancelled and a new meeting date advertised.

L. DiPrete motioned to cancel Council's December 2 meeting and to advertise a meeting at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 9, 2008, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Bill Wilfong, Emergency Management Coordinator: Mr. Wilfong appeared before Council and spoke to the Borough's natural hazard litigation plan.

N. Scholl motioned to direct T. Ryan to review this plan with Mr. Wilfong, and to report back to Council at a later meeting, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT (C. Peck): All received a copy of the Mayor's Report.

Eagle Scout Award for James Stormer – Council authorized the commemorative plaque for James to be presented October 25 at his award ceremony.

N. Scholl motioned to authorize the purchase of the plaque, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried.

C. Johnson motioned to accept the Mayor's Report, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

ENGINEER'S REPORT (J. Sartor): All received a copy of the Engineer's Report. There was no further discussion or comments.

L. DiPrete motioned to accept the Engineer's Report as presented, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT (D. Watt): There was no Solicitor's Report for the month. There were no questions for the Borough Solicitor

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Stu Strauss was before Council to thank everyone who participated at the Trappe Community Days this past September and noted it was the most successful event ever.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (N. Scholl): N. Scholl has requested Member comments so to prepare the proposed budget for 2009.

Public Works and Recycling (M. Watson) – There was no report.

CTMA (N. Scholl) – N. Scholl noted that many residents will see an increase in sewer billings; notices regarding the new rates were mailed in June, and rate increases are effective July 1, 2008. N. Scholl noted the Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority is considering providing employees with life-time health care benefits; N. Scholl recommended Council encourage Stu Strauss, the Borough's Authority representative, to oppose this effort.

Property/Streets/Traffic/Safety (P. Edwards) – P. Edwards reviewed monthly reports furnished by the Pennsylvania State Police, Trappe Fire Company and Trappe

Ambulance Corps. P. Edwards reviewed resident concerns regarding speeding on Borough Roads, and stated that the PSTS Committee would continue to monitor this issue. Regarding the intersection at East Seventh Avenue, West Seventh Avenue and West Main Street, P. Edwards noted the Borough Manager and Borough Traffic Engineer were working with PennDOT to improve this signal. P. Edwards noted the PSTS Committee would next meet on October 14th.

Planning/Zoning/Open Space (F. Schuetz) – F. Schuetz reviewed the status of the historic preservation ordinance before the Planning Commission. S. Kurcik discussed the Borough appointing another representative to the Regional Planning Commission.

Personnel/Appointments/Ordinances (L. DiPrete) – L. DiPrete noted the Committee met during the previous month, and information was submitted to the Members, the Mayor, Mr. Ryan and the Borough Solicitor for future consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

- President Schuetz acknowledged a letter from the organization noting that Visiting Nurse Association is operating in a financial loss.

At 9:26 p.m. Council entered into Executive Session. The Secretary exited the meeting at that time.

N. Scholl exited the Executive Session at 11:03 p.m.

At 11:20 p.m. Council adjourned from Executive Session.

M. Watson motioned to direct the Manager to proceed with the Public Works labor agreement in accordance with the direction approved in Executive Session, second by P. Edwards, 5 ayes, 1 nay [S. Kurcik] and 1 member not voting [N. Scholl, absent]. Motion carried 5 – 1.

At 11:21 p.m., there being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by P. Edwards, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Katona
Borough Secretary