

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

April 7, 2009

The regularly scheduled meeting of Trappe Borough Council was called to order at 7:01 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 and Executive Session**: President Schuetz announced there would be an Executive Session to discuss matters of potential litigation and personnel at the conclusion of the public portion of the meeting.

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of March 3, 2009**: All received a copy of the minutes for the March 3, 2009 meeting. C. Johnson noted a revision on page 9, line 36, so to correct the spelling “Kelly”.

N. Scholl motioned to accept the March 3, 2009 Monthly Meeting minutes, with the above-noted correction, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**Financial Reports**: All received a copy of Accounts Payable for checks 1443 to 1485, and noted electronic transfers.

J. Lowe presented as an additional payable:

- check #1486, in the amount of \$250.00, payable to Mark Majardi, for court reporter services.

N. Scholl motioned to approve payment of bills for the checks noted above, and approval of the proposed wire transfers, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

N. Scholl inquired as to a \$9,000.00 payment received from Walbern. Mr. Ryan confirmed this was the open space fee for 167 West Main Street.

N. Scholl noted an increase in earned income tax receipts, from year-to-date 2008 to year-to-date 2009. N. Scholl noted Borough expenditures during this same period were relatively flat.

M. Watson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**Manager's Report:** Mr. Ryan presented the below-noted issues:

Resolution 2009-06: Revisions to the 2009 Fee Schedule – Mr. Ryan provided Members with an overview of proposed revisions to the fee schedule. Mr. Ryan noted the Borough identified costs specific to each permit or application, and established a fee commensurate to the respective cost. Mr. Ryan noted that, overall, the proposed fees recapture approximately 92% of the Borough's anticipated costs.

Mr. Ryan noted the Finance Committee had reviewed the proposed fees as presented, and had recommended Council approve same.

P. Edwards asked why the fees were not calculated to recapture all anticipated costs. Mr. Ryan noted the proposed fees need not recover all anticipated costs due to the public benefits had in a sound permitting and inspection program, which include a decreased need for emergency services and the protection of property values. P. Edwards stated he had concerns with several proposed fees, but was agreeable to adopting the revisions as presented, and revisiting certain fees at a future date.

Mayor Peck inquired as to security deposits for political signs, park rentals and meeting room rentals, and Mr. Ryan confirmed the proposed amount of security deposit for each.

S. Kurcik noted political signs posted on Borough Line Road. Mr. Ryan stated he would follow-up on this matter.

N. Scholl motioned to approve Resolution 2009-06, Revisions to the 2009 Fee Schedule, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Laurel Drive and Lilac Circle – Mr. Ryan noted the Laurel Drive and Lilac Circle homeowners' association was agreeable to re-bidding this project, and Mr. Ryan recommended Council authorize him to advertise the bid.

N. Scholl motioned to approve the advertisement of the Laurel Drive and Lilac Circle reclamation and improvements project, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

227 and 237 East Seventh Avenue – Mr. Ryan recommended Council authorize him to advertise for bids for the storm sewer repair and replacement project.

Mr. Ryan confirmed a portion of the project is situated at 148 Joan Drive.

Mr. Ryan confirmed any improvements made prior to an award of an H2O grant would remain eligible for this funding.

M. Watson motioned to approve the advertisement of the 227 and 237 East Seventh Avenue storm sewer repair and replacement project, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

P. Edwards motioned to accept the Manager's Report, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Peck reported events at which she attended during the prior month.

Mayor Peck noted Auxiliary Police coverage had been requested for (1) an event at the New Covenant Church, scheduled for May 30, and (2) 2009 Trappe Community Day, scheduled for September 12.

Mayor Peck noted April was National Multiple Birth Month.

Mayor Peck noted Limerick Township was collecting cellular telephones for donation to U.S. servicemen deployed overseas.

N. Scholl motioned to provide Auxiliary Police coverage to the New Covenant Church event on May 30, with the New Covenant Church to pay for this service, and to the 2009 Trappe Community Day on September 12, with the Borough to pay for this service, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

S. Kurcik motioned to accept the Mayor's Report, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**Engineer's Report:** All received a copy of the Engineer's Report. There were no questions or comments.

N. Scholl motioned to accept the Engineer's Report as presented, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**Solicitor's Report:** All received a copy of the Solicitor's Report. There were no questions or comments.

N. Scholl motioned to accept the Solicitor's Report as presented, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**Open to the Public:**

- There was no public comment.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Public Works & Recycling (M. Watson) – M. Watson provided Council with a proposal to retire a \$960,000 loan.

M. Watson motioned to authorize the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department to pay the \$960,000 loan as proposed, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority (N. Scholl) – N. Scholl noted the Authority had purchased approximately \$1 million in certificates of deposit, in such amounts and held by several banks, so to ensure FDIC coverage. The approximate yield is two percent.

Property, Streets, Traffic & Safety (P. Edwards) – P. Edwards summarized discussions had at the March 16 meeting of the Property, Streets, Traffic & Safety Committee.

C. Johnson updated the status of proposed lane markings at Betcher Road, East Seventh Avenue and North Borough Line Road.

N. Scholl requested Perkiomen Township be contacted as to replacing the 35 MPH sign located at the Trappe Road approach to the Borough, with a warning sign that announces the oncoming change to a 25 MPH zone. Mr. Ryan stated he would contact the Perkiomen Township Manager as to this matter.

C. Johnson motioned to authorize the installation of lane markings at Betcher Road, East Seventh Avenue and North Borough Line Road, at the locations identified by the Borough's traffic engineer, and at a cost not to exceed \$3,500, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

P. Edwards recommended the Borough disseminate information as to the 2006 International Property Maintenance Code via postings to the website and articles in the newsletter.

Mr. Ryan provided Council with an overview of a capital improvement program for public roadways. The program would provide for longer-term planning and budgeting for the milling and repair of Borough-owned roads, based upon an assessment inventory of current roadway conditions. The Borough Engineer will provide a proposal to conduct an assessment inventory, should Council decide to pursue this program.

P. Edwards reviewed monthly reports issued by the Trappe Volunteer Fire Company and the Pennsylvania State Police.

Brian Long, Trappe Volunteer Fire Company Fire Chief, updated Council as to the ongoing consolidation discussions with the Collegeville Fire Company, noting continued progress is being made to this end.

S. Kurcik noted damaged curb at the intersection of Betcher Road and East Third Avenue. Mr. Ryan stated he would contact the Perkiomen Township Manager as to this matter.

N. Scholl updated Council as to the recently-held regional emergency services meeting in Upper Providence Township. Among this matters discussed was the training of public works employees to serve as volunteer firefighters. Scholl deemed this meeting to be a good first step.

General discussion was had regarding training requirements for volunteer firefighters. Mr. Ryan will provide Council with the current requirements as set forth by the National Incident Management System.

Planning, Zoning & Open Space (President Schuetz) – President Schuetz noted an Eagle Scout project at Water Works Park.

President Schuetz discussed the removal and control of invasive species at Rambo Park; he noted the Natural Lands Trust had addressed this issue in the stewardship plan for the West Fifth Avenue facility. President Schuetz recommended Council authorize a contract for the treatment of invasive species, and the deployment of the Public Works personnel for the cutting of invasive plants, at costs not to exceed \$2,500 and \$900, respectively.

C. Johnson motioned to authorize a contract with RNK Landscaping for the treatment of invasive species at Rambo Park, and at a cost not to exceed \$2,500, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

P. Edwards motioned to authorize the deployment of Public Works personnel for the cutting of invasive plants at Rambo Park, and at a cost not to exceed \$900, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

President Schuetz updated Council as to Rambo Park improvements to be completed in the spring. President Schuetz noted the Open Space Committee is coordinating a clean-up day, tentatively scheduled for April 25 or May 2.

Mr. Ryan provided Council with an overview of the Rambo Park development cost. At this time, the development cost is estimated at \$436,152, which is approximately 6.5% more than the original estimate of \$408,960 prepared in September 2005. Mr. Ryan noted the increase was modest, given the fact the original estimate was prepared more than three years ago, and without the benefit of fully-engineered plans.

Mr. Ryan noted the current estimate includes a \$14,331.14 proposed change order, presented to Council at this evening's meeting. The change order provides for additional grading not included in the project as bid, and for the conversion of a segment of soft path to bituminous

pavement. Mr. Ryan noted the soft paths had suffered notable stormwater erosion during the winter months, and recommended the conversion so to avoid ongoing repair expenses.

N. Scholl motioned to approve the proposed change order, the work to be provided by Environmental Landscape Services, at a cost of \$14,331.14, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

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

### **Old Business**

- There was no Old Business to report.

### **New Business**

- Mr. Ryan provided Members with a draft of the spring newsletter.
- Mr. Ryan noted he was reviewing a proposal to repair a portion of Cherry Avenue.
- President Schuetz noted the upcoming Montgomery County Boroughs Association to be hosted by the boroughs of Collegetown, Trappe and Schwenksville.
- S. Kurcik recommended the Central Perkiomen Valley Regional Planning Commission meeting be advertised on the Borough Hall sign. Mr. Ryan stated he would provide for this.

At 8:37 p.m. Council entered into Executive Session.

At 10:14 p.m. Council adjourned from Executive Session.

M. Watson motioned to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$1,000 for a retirement event in honor of the Borough Secretary, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Mayor Peck noted her attendance at an upcoming Tri-County Area Chamber of Commerce event.

At 10:17 p.m., there being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by P. Edwards, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy Ryan  
Borough Manager / Assistant Secretary