

MINUTES TO THE MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

December 1, 2009

The regularly scheduled meeting of Trappe Borough Council was called to order at 7:04 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 to discuss matters of litigation and land acquisition was held prior to this evening's meeting. A vote on neither matter is expected this evening.

Roll Call by the Borough Secretary: Those present were President Fred Schuetz, Lew DiPrete, Catherine Johnson, Steve Kurcik, Nevin Scholl and Mayor Connie Peck. Also in attendance were Solicitor Dave Onorato, Engineer MaryLou Lowrie, Treasurer Joe Lowe and Manager Tommy Ryan. Vice President Matt Watson and Paul Edwards were absent.

Minutes of the Meetings of November 4, 2009 and November 10, 2009: All received a copy of the minutes for the November 4, 2009 and November 10, 2009 meetings.

L. DiPrete motioned to accept the November 4, 2009 and November 10, 2009 meeting minutes as presented, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Open to the Public for Non-Agenda Items:

- Kathleen McDowell thanked Borough Council Member Steve Kurcik for his hard work and efforts on behalf of the community.
- Stu Strauss commented upon safety issues regarding the installation of curb-cuts along West Main Street. Mr. Ryan confirmed these improvements were a PennDOT project, and situated in the right-of-way of a state-owned road.

Financial Reports: All received a copy of Accounts Payable for checks 1845 to 1883, and noted electronic transfers. There were no additional payables.

J. Lowe noted a correction to a November 13 receipt in the amount of \$4,764.81. In specific, J. Lowe noted this amount is not a fine, but rather constitutes the final payment on the Turner escrow account, and escrow deposits for two developments.

S. Kurcik inquired as to check #1861, payment for a handicap curb cut. Mr. Ryan noted this was situated directly across from the recently installed trail head at Rambo Park, West Fifth Avenue. President Schuetz noted this improvement was not required to be bid. President Schuetz stated he asked two contractors to provide a quote for this work, and one contractor had submitted a proposal. S. Kurcik noted the contractor selected is related to a member of the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department; S. Kurcik stated he does not favor such contracts to be let until all Members can review and vote on same. C. Johnson stated she likewise prefers that Council had been consulted prior to the onset of this project. Both C. Johnson and S. Kurcik recommended President Schuetz e-mail Council on similar matters in the future.

N. Scholl motioned to approve payment of the bills and the electronic transfers as presented, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

S. Kurcik motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

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

Public Hearing: CUA 2009-4, Mirabile (430 West Main Street) – Mr. Ryan provided an overview of a conditional use application submitted as to the property at 430 West Main Street. The Applicant seeks to establish a restaurant use in the shopping complex adjacent to the Trappe Tavern. Mr. Ryan noted the proposed use is permitted as a conditional use in the Village Commercial Zoning District.

Solicitor Onorato opened the Public Hearing.

A transcript of the proceedings was taken by a court reporter.

C. Johnson motioned to close testimony, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

S. Kurcik motioned to grant conditional use approval of a restaurant use at 430 West Main Street, pursuant to the hearing testimony as presented and the conditions as discussed, and subject to the Borough Solicitor drafting a Conditional Use Order, with said Order subject to the approval of Council at a subsequent public meeting, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

2010 – 2014 Budget – Mr. Ryan presented the 2010 – 2014 budget, revised to include comments from the December 10 Special Meeting, and year-to-date financials. N. Scholl distributed a fund summary for 2010 to 2014.

The consensus of Council was to make the following revisions to the budget:

1. include an annual \$20,000.00 expenditure for sidewalk and curb improvements to the Capital Roadway Improvement Fund;
2. include a \$35,000.00 expenditure in 2011 for a loan payment on a Trappe Volunteer Fire Company ladder truck to the Municipal Services Fund;
3. delete \$50,000.00 expenditures in 2011 and 2012 for engineering to Main Street Park in the Operating Budget – Engineering Fees & Expenses; and,
4. amend the narrative in Operating Budget – Salary & Benefits to correct the amount of the monthly stipend for the Borough Treasurer (\$1,100.00) .

C. Johnson asked if the budget was available for public inspection. Mr. Ryan confirmed the budget was available at Borough Hall for public inspection.

2010 Meeting Dates – Mr. Ryan presented a calendar of potential meeting dates for Borough Council and the Planning Commission in 2010. The consensus of Council was to advertise the following meeting dates:

Borough Council

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| • January 4 | • July 6 |
| • February 2 | • August 3 |
| • March 2 | • September 7 |
| • April 6 | • October 5 |
| • May 4 | • November 9 |
| • June 1 | • December 7 |

Planning Commission

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| • January 19 | • July 20 |
| • February 16 | • August 17 |
| • March 16 | • September 21 |
| • April 20 | • October 19 |
| • May 19 | • November 16 |
| • June 15 | • December 21 |

N. Scholl motioned to direct the Borough Manager to advertise the above-noted meeting dates, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

MS4 announcement – As part of the Borough’s ongoing efforts to protect and preserve our community’s watershed, Mr. Ryan noted stormwater management information that is distributed to developers in the Borough.

233 West Seventh Avenue – Nextel lease addendum – Mr. Ryan presented Council with a proposed addendum to the current Nextel lease for telecommunications equipment at the West

Seventh Avenue water tower. The agreement had been revised per Member comment at the November 10 meeting; Mr. Ryan noted the agreement is ready for execution.

S. Kurcik motioned to execute the addendum to the Nextel lease agreement as presented, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

proposed amendments to the Borough Code – Mr. Ryan commented on the following three proposed amendments to the Borough Code.

1. Mr. Ryan noted less than clear language as to the parking of boats, recreational vehicles and trailers on public roads. After general discussion, the consensus of Council was to amend §315.27 so to allow these vehicles to be parked on a public road, provided the vehicle (a) is parked at the frontage of a property owned by the owner of the vehicle, and (b) is permitted for one continuous period per calendar year, with said period not to exceed thirty (30) days.
2. Mr. Ryan noted conflicting language as to the spacing of street trees. After general discussion, the consensus of Council was to amend §295.26 so to allow street trees to be planted at intervals not to exceed forty feet (40’).
3. Mr. Ryan noted that, with the adoption of Ordinance 406, language as to curb stops was inadvertently deleted from the Code. The consensus of Council was to amend §295.10 so to restore this language.

S. Kurcik motioned to direct the Borough Manager to draft an Ordinance as to the above-noted amendments, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

snow removal & equipment rental contract – Mr. Ryan presented Council with a summary of the low bid received for snow removal services in Trappe Borough and Collegetown Borough, for a sixteen (16) month term beginning December 1, 2009 and ending on March 31, 2011. Mr. Ryan stated the low and responsible bidder was B&M Landscaping.

Mr. Ryan noted the equipment and labor rates as bid were the same as those rates in the expiring contract, which is also with B&M Landscaping.

S. Kurcik motioned to execute a contract for snow removal services with B&M Landscaping, as presented and for a sixteen (16) month term beginning December 1, 2009 and ending on March 31, 2011, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Mr. Ryan presented Council with a summary of the low bid received for roadway equipment rental services in Trappe Borough and Collegetown Borough, for a sixteen (16) month term beginning December 1, 2009 and ending on March 31, 2011. Mr. Ryan stated the low and responsible bidder was Scavello.

Mr. Ryan noted that, overall, the equipment and labor rates as bid were significantly lower than those rates in the expiring contract, which is held by B&M Landscaping.

C. Johnson motioned to execute a contract for roadway equipment rental services with Scavello, as presented and for a sixteen (16) month term beginning December 1, 2009 and ending on March 31, 2011, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Peck commented on various happenings in 2009, which included a very successful Trappe Community Day and improvements to Rambo Park. Mayor Peck wished a happy and healthy holiday season to all.

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

Solicitor's Report: There was no Solicitor's Report.

S. Kurcik motioned to approve the reports as presented by the Borough Manager, Mayor Peck, Borough Engineer and Borough Solicitor, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Open to the Public for Non-Agenda Items:

- There was no comment.

Committee Reports:

Finance (N. Scholl) – N. Scholl noted two proposals had been received as to previously-discussed independent audit services. The Committee will review the proposals in the coming weeks, and this service will be discussed at Council's meeting in January.

Stu Strauss inquired as to the period to be audited. President Schuetz stated the auditor would review financials for the calendar year 2007. Mr. Strauss recommended the Borough likewise review financials for the calendar years 2008 and 2009.

Treasurer Lowe stated he has not noted anything amiss in the 2007 financials he has reviewed to date.

N. Scholl noted he and Treasurer Lowe will review the status of the Borough's certificates of deposit so to determine if the portfolio interest yield can be increased.

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

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

Property, Streets, Traffic & Safety (P. Edwards) – N. Scholl noted the Committee did not meet in November.

N. Scholl provided Council with an update as to the merger efforts of the Trappe Volunteer Fire Company and the Collegeville Volunteer Fire Company.

Brian Long, Trappe Volunteer Fire Company Fire Chief, noted the merger committee had reviewed proposals submitted by three consultants, and had accepted a proposal submitted by E. Van Reiker, AICP. This consultant will work with the companies to assess the short and long-term goals and needs of the organizations. Mr. Long noted the cost of this study will be equally shared by the fire companies, Collegeville Borough and Trappe Borough.

N. Scholl motioned to approve the Borough contribute twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost of the above-noted study, up to \$5,000.00, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

N. Scholl recommended contact be made with elected officials in Upper Providence Township so to gauge this community's projected emergency service needs.

Planning, Zoning & Open Space (President Schuetz) – President Schuetz noted vacancies on the Trappe Borough Planning Commission and on the Central Perkiomen Valley Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Ryan will post a request for volunteers on the Borough website and in the winter edition of the *Trappe Borough Post*.

President Schuetz summarized improvements to be completed prior to the end of the Rambo Park grant period on December 31, 2009.

Mr. Ryan noted that, as of this date, the projected total cost of this project is \$417,000.00, which is less than two percent over that originally budgeted in 2005. Mr. Ryan noted that, as the original budget was established without the benefit of hard engineering, delivering the project with a less than two percent increase above the projected cost is an impressive accomplishment.

Personnel, Appointments & Ordinances (L. DiPrete) – L. DiPrete noted vacancies on the Trappe Borough Planning Commission and on the Central Perkiomen Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business:

- N. Scholl noted Mr. Ryan had distributed proposed revisions to the 2010 Fee Schedule to the Finance Committee, and asked Mr. Ryan to distribute same to all Members, with information pertaining to the costs associated with sidewalk permits.

- N. Scholl noted the independent audit for the Trappe Volunteer Fire Company for 2008 was available for review at Borough Hall.

At 9:25 p.m., there being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by N. Scholl, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy Ryan
Borough Manager / Borough Secretary