

MINUTES TO THE MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

February 3, 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: President Schuetz announced there would not be an Executive Session conducted 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, Lew DiPrete, Paul Edwards and Steve Kurcik. Also in attendance were Engineer John Sartor, Treasurer Joe Lowe and Manager Tommy Ryan. Solicitor Bob Kerns arrived at 7:16 p.m.; Borough Secretary Pat Katona was an excused absence from the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of January 6, 2009: All received a copy of the meeting minutes for January 6, 2009. Mr. Scholl noted a revision to page 3, line 34, so to revise the motion to revise the fee schedule to denote the Borough Manager will forward an assessment of the balance of fees to the Finance Committee, for Committee review and comment to Council.

N. Scholl motioned to accept the January 6, 2009 Monthly Meeting minutes, as presented and with the above-noted revision, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Financial Reports (J. Lowe): All received a copy of Accounts Payable for checks 1342 to 1393, and noted electronic transfers. J. Lowe noted check #1394 was payable to T-Mobile, for payment of a partial month of service.

J. Lowe presented as additional payables:

- check #1395, in the amount of \$125.00, payable to Rita O’Vary, for Trappe Days pony rides;
- check #1396, in the amount of \$188.00, payable to Patricia Katona, for health care reimbursement for February 2009;
- check #1397, in the amount of \$55.00, payable to Dave Smith, for animal control services for January 2009;
- check #1398, in the amount of \$30,099.00, payable to Allied Waste, for waste removal services for February 2009;

- check #1399, in the amount of \$161.48, payable to Print Copy Design Solutions, for business cards; and,
- check #1400, in the amount of \$1,990.00, payable to Kerns, Pearlstine, Onorato & Hladik, LLP, for legal services for January 2009.

N. Scholl motioned to approve payment of bills for the checks noted above, and approval of the proposed wire transfers, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

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

Manager's Report (Mr. Ryan)

TSK Realty – Conditional Use Application 2008.3 – Mr. Ryan presented a Conditional Use Order, as prepared by Solicitor Onorato, in accordance to the decision rendered at the January 6, 2009 hearing on the conditional use application submitted by TSK Realty.

M. Watson motioned to execute the Conditional Use Order as presented, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Electronic Access Licensing Agreement, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – Mr. Ryan presented an agreement to provide the Borough with electronic access to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation; the agreement allows for the electronic submission of engineered plans, permit applications, various reports, grant proposals and like information.

N. Scholl motioned to approve Resolution 2009-2, authorizing the Borough to execute an Electronic Access Licensing Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Commonwealth Financing Authority H2O Grant – Mr. Ryan presented a resolution to authorize the submission of a grant application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority H2O Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects Grant Program. Mr. Ryan noted the application included an upgrade to the public water supply SCADA system, the development of two public water wells, and the repair of a storm sewer line on East Seventh Avenue. Mr. Ryan noted the project cost and requested grant amount totaled \$852,450 and \$568,300, respectively.

C. Johnson motioned to approve Resolution 2009-3, authorizing the Borough to submit a grant application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority H2O Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects Grant Program, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Accellent – Release of Escrow – Mr. Ryan requested Council authorize the release of escrowed funds, as submitted by Accellent for two (2) Waiver of Land Development applications, minus all expenses paid and all expenses to be invoiced in February.

M. Watson motioned to approve the release of the escrow for Accellent, minus all expenses paid and all expenses to be invoiced in February, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

190 Clahor Avenue – Release of Escrow – Mr. Ryan requested Council authorize the release of escrowed funds, as submitted by the Owner of 190 Clahor Avenue for site improvements pertaining to the development of the property, minus all expenses paid and all expenses to be invoiced in February.

S. Kurcik motioned to approve the release of the escrow for 190 Clahor Avenue, minus all expenses paid and all expenses to be invoiced in February, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

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

MAYOR’S REPORT (C. Peck): Mayor Peck reported on:

- a meeting with the Perkiomen Valley School District as to the future use of the Trappe School, East First Avenue and College Avenue;
- a meeting with area officials as to current and future development trends in region;
- the receipt of a thank you note from the Trappe Historical Society, for the Borough’s annual donation; and,
- participation and volunteer opportunities to be had in this year’s Montgomery County Senior Games, scheduled for May 11 to May 15.

S. Kurcik motioned to accept the Mayor’s Report, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

ENGINEER’S REPORT (Engineer Sartor): 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 7 – 0.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT (Solicitor Onorato): All received a copy of the Solicitor’s Report. There were no questions or comments.

L. DiPrete motioned to accept the Solicitor’s Report as presented, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- There was no public comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (N. Scholl) – N. Scholl distributed an updated public funding comparison for the Trappe Volunteer Fire Company, relative to contributions made by Trappe Borough and Upper Providence Township, for the period 1998 to 2008. N. Scholl noted that while funding received from Upper Providence had increased to \$19,300 in 2008 from \$8,500 in 2007, Trappe Borough's contribution per primary call remains approximately ten times Upper Providence's contribution per primary call, calculated at \$2,454 and \$244, respectively.

N. Scholl motioned to express Council's unquestioned total support of Trappe Volunteer Fire Company's efforts to date to address personnel, funding and facility issues by engaging in possible merger discussions with the Collegeville Fire Company, and to further commend the Trappe Fire Company for their proactive stance taken to date, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Brian Long noted the Collegeville Fire Company is scheduled to meet on February 9. Mr. Long stated he is hopeful discussions between the Trappe Volunteer Fire Company and the Collegeville Fire Company will progress, and continue to be productive, in the days to come.

General discuss was had regarding a possible location for a new fire house.

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

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

President Schuetz announced the resignation of M. Watson from the Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority effective February 3, 2009. President Schuetz noted a replacement to this post would be considered during the Personnel, Appointments & Ordinances Committee report.

L. DiPrete motioned to accept the resignation of M. Watson from the Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority effective February 3, 2009, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Property, Streets, Traffic & Safety (P. Edwards) – Mr. Ryan presented a summary of issues, as prepared by P. Edwards, including traffic calming measures under consideration at East Seventh Avenue, North Borough Line Road and Betcher Road.

Mr. Ryan confirmed he had yet to be contacted by his counterparts in Upper Providence Township and Perkiomen Township as to traffic committee contacts in each community.

Discussion was had regarding the above-noted traffic calming measures. S. Kurcik recommended lane markings be positioned at or near street lights, to improve marking visibility. N. Scholl read a petition circulated among Betcher Road residents, expressing support of the

Borough's traffic calming efforts and encouraging Perkiomen Township to join in this effort. Mr. Ryan noted a contractor-quoted installation price of \$350 per marking per lane.

Engineer Sartor identified possible locations of lane markings at East Seventh Avenue and Betcher Road. Engineer Sartor stated his office could review and propose markings at both roadways, and at North Borough Line Road. Engineer Sartor offered traffic engineer attendance at the next meeting of the Property, Streets, Traffic & Safety Committee, at no charge to the Borough.

M. Watson motioned to proceed with lane marking installation efforts at Betcher Road, East Seventh Avenue and North Borough Line Road, with a recommendation for lane marking locations to be made by the traffic engineer and to be reviewed by the Property, Streets, Traffic & Safety Committee, with a recommendation to be made by the Property, Streets, Traffic & Safety Committee to Borough Council, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Ryan presented monthly reports prepared by the Pennsylvania State Police and the Trappe Volunteer Fire Company.

Mr. Ryan stated he would request the Pennsylvania State Police to provide the incident report for a recent incident at the former Trappe School, East First Avenue and College Avenue.

Planning, Zoning & Open Space (President Schuetz) – S. Kurcik had no report as to the Central Perkiomen Valley Regional Planning Committee.

President Schuetz requested additional comment and recommendations as to the draft stewardship report for Rambo Park and Main Street Park, as prepared by the Natural Lands Trust. There were no additional comments or recommendations.

Personnel, Appointments & Ordinances (L. DiPrete) – L. DiPrete noted the Committee is reviewing the Borough Manager's performance during the past year. L. DiPrete noted the Committee will also establish goals and objectives for Borough personnel for the upcoming year.

President Schuetz called for nominations to appoint a Trappe representative to serve on the Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of M. Watson.

L. DiPrete nominated Thomas Haley. N. Scholl nominated S. Kurcik.

President Schuetz called for other names to be considered for nomination. There were none.

M. Watson motioned to close nominations, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

L. DiPrete motioned for a vote to appoint Thomas Haley to the Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of M. Watson, for a term to expire on December 31, 2012.

President Schuetz	YES	N. Scholl	NO
Vice President Watson	YES	C. Johnson	NO
L. DiPrete	YES	S. Kurcik	NO
P. Edwards	YES		

The motion passed, 4 ayes to 3 nays, and Thomas Haley was appointed to the Colledgeville-Trappe Municipal Authority, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of M. Watson, for a term to expire on December 31, 2012.

C. Johnson stated she would have preferred to have received information on Mr. Haley in advance of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Ryan stated Doris Turner had responded to Solicitor’s Onorato’s letter regarding the escrow error previously reviewed by Council. Ms. Turner proposed to repay the amount due to the Borough, \$6,200, in payments not less than \$500 per month, and with all monies due to the Borough to be paid on or before December 31, 2009.

P. Edwards motioned to direct the Borough Manager to accept the terms of repayment as presented by Doris Turner, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor Peck provided an update on planning efforts for Trappe Days. Mayor Peck noted volunteers are needed for the annual event, to be held on Saturday, September 12. S. Kurcik noted the Trappe Days Committee was considering additional musical acts and other performers.
- N. Scholl noted a letter he recently distributed to Regency Knoll homeowners. The letter pertained to smoke detectors that were required to be replaced in 2003. N. Scholl encouraged all to review smoke detectors as to their recommended replacement dates.
- N. Scholl motioned to direct the Borough Manager to prepare, for consideration at the March 3 Council meeting, a draft application for the Montgomery County Open Space funds to be used for the engineering design and Phase I construction of Main Street Park, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- Mr. Ryan commented on the Borough’s audit procedures. Mr. Ryan noted the Borough employed three elected auditors who, pursuant to the Borough Code, certify and file an Annual Audit and Financial Report to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and to the Office of the Prothonotary for Montgomery County. Mr. Ryan noted that, in the alternate, the Borough Code permitted Council to appoint an independent auditor, empowered to prepare, certify and file the same audit and report.

Mr. Ryan noted an Ordinance, adopted by a minimum two-thirds majority, is required to establish the position of independent auditor. Mr. Ryan further noted that upon the enactment of said Ordinance the auditing powers of elected auditors are extinguished, and the elected auditors remain in their position until the expiration of their term, at which time the position itself is extinguished.

Solicitor Kerns noted many municipalities trended in the employment of independent auditors for a variety of reasons. Solicitor Kerns stated many municipalities struggle to identify residents willing to serve as elected auditors, and Solicitor Kerns noted many residents with accounting experience “shy away” from these elected positions due to professional liability and exposure concerns.

Solicitor Kerns noted one of the disadvantages of utilizing an independent auditor – that being cost. Mr. Ryan stated Collegeville Borough paid approximately \$12,000 for that community’s most recent audit. N. Scholl noted the most recent audits prepared for the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department and the Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority cost approximately \$5,500 per entity.

Council consensus was for the matter to be directed to the Finance Committee, for review and consideration.

- Mr. Ryan requested Council direct him to obtain proposals to re-key Borough Hall.

N. Scholl motioned to direct the Borough Manager to obtain proposals to re-key Borough Hall, and to present said proposals to Council, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

At 8:44 p.m., there being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by M. Watson, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy Ryan
Borough Manager / Assistant Secretary