

MINUTES TO THE MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

July 7, 2009

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 President Schuetz.

Announcement of Executive Session: President Schuetz announced an Executive Session to discuss matters of litigation, personnel and land acquisition at the conclusion of the public portion of the meeting.

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

Minutes of the Meeting of June 2, 2009: All received a copy of the minutes for the June 2, 2009 meeting.

N. Scholl motioned to accept the June 2, 2009 Monthly Meeting minutes as presented, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Financial Reports: All received a copy of Accounts Payable for checks 1571 to 1613.

Treasurer Lowe presented as additional payables:

- check #1614, in the amount of \$30,099.00, payable to Allied Waste, for July waste removal services;
- check #1615, in the amount of \$84.00, payable to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, for UCC fee quarterly remittal;
- check #1616, in the amount of \$31.74, payable to Tommy Ryan, for reimbursement – tax collector closet rail & box
- check #1617, in the amount of \$129.49, payable to Lowes, for furnace filters, distance wheel and parking stakes;
- check #1618, in the amount of \$83.32, payable to the Mercury, for legal advertisement; and,
- check #1619, in the amount of \$200.00, payable to the Lakeside Inn, for a deposit to the annual Borough Association dinner.

N. Scholl motioned to approve payment of the bills as presented, including the above-noted additional payables, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

S. Kurcik motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

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

DPJP Coins & Collectables (766 West Main Street) – The Applicant seeks to expand hours of operation for a retail use, a coin and collectables shop, located on the first floor of the building at 766 West Main Street. Mr. Ryan noted a 2003 Conditional Use Decision restricts hours of operation of a retail use at this location, and permits the amendment of said hours upon written approval of Borough Council.

David Piergrossi, Applicant and shop owner, provided an overview of his business, including an estimated number of daily customers. Mr. Piergrossi provided site photographs that show eight (8) off-street parking spaces, not including garage parking spaces.

Mr. Ryan confirmed the number of off-street spaces at the site satisfy the Zoning Ordinance parking requirements, for both the existing first floor retail use and a second floor office use.

S. Kurcik motioned to expand permitted hours of operation to (a) 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on Monday to Friday, and (b) 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday, conditioned upon (1) the retail use being limited to the first floor of the building situate at 766 West Main Street, (2) Borough Council retaining the right to revisit off-street parking at this location in the event Trappe Borough deems additional parking to be required, and (3) all other conditions enumerated in the Conditional Use Decision dated April 1, 2003, and to direct the Borough Manager to memorialize said decision in writing, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Amending the Zoning Ordinance as to Contractor Registrations (Act 132) – Per prior discussion, Mr. Ryan presented an ordinance to require certain home improvement contractors to furnish valid Pennsylvania-issued contractor registration numbers on building and zoning permit applications. Mr. Ryan noted the ordinance had been duly advertised for consideration at this evening’s meeting.

N. Scholl motioned to approve Ordinance 410, so to require home improvement contractors subject to Act 132 to furnish valid Pennsylvania-issued contractor registration numbers on building and zoning permit applications, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Amending the Zoning Ordinance as to Political Signs – Per prior discussion, Mr. Ryan presented an ordinance to (1) delete posting time limitations for temporary political signs, and (2) authorize the Zoning Officer to remove certain illegally posted temporary political signs, with the prior consent of the owner of the property upon which said signs are posted. Mr. Ryan noted the ordinance had been duly advertised for consideration at this evening’s meeting.

S. Kurcik motioned to approve Ordinance 411, to delete posting time limitations for temporary political signs, and to authorize the removal of certain illegally posted temporary political signs, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Stu Strauss commented on sign enforcement practices and policy.

N. Scholl noted the adopted Ordinance seeks equal treatment for all posters of temporary political signs.

Amending the Fee Schedule – As Ordinance 411 deleted posting time limitations for temporary political signs, Mr. Ryan recommended the Fee Schedule be revised so to delete the security deposit required for said signs.

N. Scholl motioned to approve Resolution 2009-13, amending the Fee Schedule so to delete the requirement to post a security deposit for temporary political signs, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

227 & 237 East Seventh Avenue bid award – Mr. Ryan noted the low and responsible bid for the East Seventh Avenue storm sewer project was submitted by Accu-Grade Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$21,500.00. Mr. Ryan recommended Council award said bid to this bidder.

L. DiPrete motioned to award the East Seventh Avenue storm sewer project to Accu-Grade Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$21,500.00, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

MS4 announcement – As part of the Borough's ongoing efforts to protect and preserve our community's watershed, Mr. Ryan recommended residents use biodegradable and environmental friendly cleaners to wash their vehicles. Mr. Ryan likewise recommended vehicles be washed on grass or gravel, as these surfaces act as filters to the water table, or at a car wash that recycles water.

Act 32 – Mr. Ryan provided an overview of legislation to require the near county-wide consolidation of earned income tax collection. General discussion was had regarding the legislation, including the appointment of delegates and alternate delegates to the Tax Collection Committee and the tax collection implementation schedule.

As to the previously discussed option of appointing a single delegate to represent the Perkiomen Valley School District and its member municipalities, the consensus of Council was to appoint a delegate to serve on behalf of Trappe Borough only at this time.

N. Scholl motioned to approve Resolution 2009-14, appointing Borough Manager Tommy Ryan to serve as Trappe Borough Delegate to the Montgomery County Tax Collection Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2009, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

S. Kurcik motioned to accept the Manager's Report, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

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

Engineer's Report: All received a copy of the Engineer's Report. N. Scholl inquired as to the Laurel Drive and Lilac Circle reclamation project. Engineer Sartor confirmed a start date on or about July 9. Engineer Sartor noted the project will be phased.

N. Scholl inquired as to the status of the HOA's second payment to the Borough. Mr. Ryan stated this payment had not been received. Mr. Ryan noted he was discussing this matter with the HOA. Solicitor Onorato recommended discussion continue in Executive Session.

N. Scholl motioned to accept the Engineer's Report as presented, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

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

L. DiPrete motioned to accept the Solicitor's Report, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Open to the Public:

- Bill Zerillo requested Borough support for a sidewalk sale to be held by the businesses of the Trappe Shopping Center. In specific Mr. Zerillo requested the Borough have a presence at this event, and to provide financial support to the event; the event is scheduled for August 29 and 30. General discussion was had regarding the Borough providing financial support to this and like events, and the consensus of Council was to not provide funding. Council, however, was agreeable to the Borough attending this event, and was agreeable to promoting this event on the Borough website.

President Schuetz stated he is agreeable to meeting with the shopping center's business owners as to various issues at this property.

Mr. Ryan confirmed a sidewalk sale is permitted under ordinance, as the shopping center sidewalks are not situated within the right-of-way. Mr. Ryan confirmed (1) goods could not be located in parking areas, and (2) a portion of the sidewalk need remain open for pedestrian access.

Committee Reports:

Finance (N. Scholl) – President Schuetz inquired as to the Committee’s consideration of an independent auditor. N. Scholl noted the Committee would review this matter in the coming months. N. Scholl noted an auditor has been invited to meet with the Committee in August.

Mr. Ryan provided an overview of the procedure to create the position of independent auditor.

Public Works & Recycling (M. Watson) – Stu Strauss stated the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department has assumed responsibility for, and will be the party billed for, the Water Works Park electric line previously billed to the Grange.

Mr. Ryan was asked to follow-up on the electric box locks. Mr. Kurcik requested the auxiliary electric panel be installed on the day prior to Trappe Community Day. Mr. Ryan will likewise follow-up on this matter.

Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority (N. Scholl) – N. Scholl reviewed financial information for the Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority and the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department for the years 2207 and 2008, per conducted audit.

Property, Streets, Traffic & Safety (P. Edwards) – N. Scholl inquired as to the status of lane markings at Betcher Road, East Seventh Avenue and North Borough Line Road. Mr. Ryan has asked the contractor to provide a service date.

Brian Long noted the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department repaired the two fire hydrants at the Pine Woods Apartment complex within 48 hours of the recent fire that destroyed one unit and damaged a second unit.

Kathleen MacDowell inquired as to fire hydrant inspections in Carriage Ridge and other communities. Mr. Ryan will speak to the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department as to this matter. N. Scholl requested this matter remain on the agenda for upcoming meetings, until satisfactorily addressed.

Planning, Zoning & Open Space (President Schuetz) – President Schuetz presented a proposal submitted by Progressive Products, in the amount of \$51,712.00, for playground equipment at Rambo Park. President Schuetz confirmed this equipment is available through COSTARS, the statewide bidding network.

N. Scholl thanked President Schuetz for his efforts to date as to the development of Rambo Park. N. Scholl questioned whether the Borough should install playground equipment at Rambo Park, noting that, subsequent to the Rambo Park grant application to DCNR, playground equipment had been installed at Water Works Park and Borough Hall Park. N. Scholl likewise noted playground equipment is available at South Elementary School, and playground equipment is presently proposed at Main Street Park.

N. Scholl inquired as to per capita or like standards for the provision of playground equipment. President Schuetz stated he was unable to locate such standards.

President Schuetz noted the Borough's Open Space Plan calls for playground equipment in each quadrant of the Borough – the quadrants defined by West Main Street and Third Avenue.

President Schuetz stated playground equipment proposals had been provided to all Councilpersons, Open Space Committee Members and others for several months. President Schuetz noted the DCNR grant application included \$60,000.00 for playground equipment.

S. Kurcik noted his opposition to installing playground equipment at Rambo Park. S. Kurcik believes the playground equipment will detract from this passive facility. S. Kurcik also expressed concern with the playground equipment replacement cost.

L. DiPrete recommended the decision be tabled until the August 4 meeting, at which time it may be considered by all Members. N. Scholl recommended the Borough search for per capita or like standards for the provision of playground equipment.

President Schuetz presented two proposals and one estimate for concrete work at, and the installation of, the pavilion at Rambo Park:

- Halteman Brothers \$10,698.00
- Buzz Burger \$11,200.00
- Collegetown-Trappe Joint Public Works Department \$12,000.00 (estimate)

N. Scholl motioned to accept the proposal of Halteman Brothers, in the amount of \$10,698.00, for concrete work at, and the installation of, the pavilion at Rambo Park, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

N. Scholl recommended the concrete be tested. The consensus of Council was to test the concrete. Engineer Sartor will forward a proposal for this service to Mr. Ryan.

President Schuetz inquired as to the Borough providing financial support to Eagle Scout projects situated at properties not owned by the Borough. The consensus of Council was to not provide financial support for Eagle Scout projects of this variety.

Personnel, Appointments & Ordinances (L. DiPrete) – L. DiPrete noted the Committee was reviewing draft goals and objectives for the Borough's Administrative Assistant.

S. Kurcik noted his support for the proposed amendments to the Central Perkiomen Valley Regional Comprehensive Plan, to be considered by Council at a public hearing on August 4.

S. Kurcik thanked the many generous contributors to the retirement event for Borough Secretary Pat Katona, including Engineer Sartor, Solicitor Kerns, President Schuetz, Mayor Peck and the Trappe Tavern.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

New Business

- Mr. Ryan provided an overview of Pennsylvania House Bill 1500, as to proposed fees assessed to municipalities that employ Pennsylvania State Police for full-time or part-time patrol services.

At 9:10 p.m. Council entered into Executive Session.

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

At 10:14 p.m., there being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by L. DiPrete, second by S. Kurcik, all ayes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy Ryan
Borough Manager / Borough Secretary