

## MINUTES TO THE MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

February 2, 2010

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 would not be conducted at this evening's meeting.

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of December 21, 2009:** All received a copy of the minutes for the December 29, 2009 Close-Out Meeting, the January 4, 2010 Reorganization Meeting and the January 4, 2010 Monthly Meeting.

As to the January 4, 2010 Monthly Meeting minutes, Mr. Ryan noted the following three revisions:

1. the fund transfers noted on page 2, line 8 should be amended so to mirror the transfers listed on the fund summary prepared by N. Scholl, dated January 3, 2010;
2. page 5, line 37 should be revised to read "*N. Scholl asked if the Ambulance Corps loan from the Trappe Volunteer Fire Company...*"; and,
3. page 5, line 41 should be revised to read: "*President Schuetz noted the Park and Recreation Group...*".

N. Scholl motioned to approve the minutes for the December 29, 2009 Close-Out Meeting, the January 4, 2010 Reorganization Meeting and the January 4, 2010 Monthly Meeting, with the above-noted three revisions, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

### **Open to the Public for Non-Agenda Items:**

- Bob Swartley, Pacer Lane, commented on recent improvements made to the West Seventh Avenue water tower, in specific the installation of additional telecommunication facilities. Mr. Swartley inquired as to the process of notifying neighboring property

owners prior to the commencement of said improvements. M. Watson and Solicitor Onorato provided a summary of the review and approval of improvements at this site; it was noted that much of this review and approval falls to the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department. M. Watson stated he will contact the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department to ensure neighboring property owners are notified prior to the commencement of future site improvements.

- An Elio Circle resident expressed concern with his rental unit. Solicitor Onorato noted the Montgomery County Health Department should be contacted as to any health issue.
- Council recognized Cooper Martin, Eagle Scout, in attendance at this evening's meeting.

**Financial Reports:** All received a copy of the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2010, which included checks #1950 to #1996, inclusive. There were no additional payables.

N. Scholl motioned to approve payment of the bills included in the January 31, 2010 Treasurer's Report, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

M. Watson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by T. Patrick, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

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

**Ordinance 415 – Amendments to the Code of Ordinances** – Mr. Ryan presented an Ordinance as to (1) permitted parking of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers on public streets, (2) the spacing of street trees, and (3) the installation of parking area wheel stops. Mr. Ryan noted the Ordinance has been advertised for consideration at this evening's meeting, per Council's direction at the January 4 meeting.

President Schuetz inquired as to the permitted parking of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers on public streets fronted by land owned by a homeowners' association. Mr. Ryan confirmed that, in such instances, homeowners' association approval would be required to park recreational vehicles, boats and trailers at these locations.

P. Edwards asked if the Ordinance should be tabled so to consider potential restrictions on the location of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers on private property. The consensus of Council was to separately address this issue, and to consider the Ordinance as presented.

N. Scholl motioned to approve Ordinance 415, as to (1) permitted parking of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers on public streets, (2) the spacing of street trees, and (3) the installation of parking area wheel stops, second by T. Patrick, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**MS4 announcement** – As part of the Borough's ongoing efforts to protect and preserve our community's watershed, Mr. Ryan noted that archived seminars as to the detection of illegal

discharges to the storm sewer system are available at the United States Environmental Protection Agency website.

Recreational vehicle, boat and trailer storage restrictions – Per Council’s discussion at the January 4 meeting, Mr. Ryan provided Members with examples of municipal ordinances restricting the location of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers on private property. In addition, P. Edwards distributed photographs of recreational vehicles and trailers parked on properties in a neighboring municipality.

C. Johnson asked if neighboring municipalities have enacted these restrictions. Mr. Ryan noted he found no such restrictions when reviewing the codes for Collegeville Borough, Upper Providence Township and Perkiomen Township.

N. Scholl inquired as to this restriction being addressed in the declarations for homeowners’ association. Mr. Ryan will review the declarations on file, and provide Members with his findings at the March meeting.

P. Edwards stated he considers the restrictions enacted by East Whiteland Township to be sensible; in specific, this municipality allows up to two recreational vehicles, boats and/or trailers per property, requires these vehicles to be parked in a side or rear yard only, and mandates these vehicles to be situated no closer than ten feet to a property line. P. Edwards stated a similar restriction would help to keep Trappe Borough a more attractive place to live.

T. Patrick asked if the location of recreational vehicles on private property was a widespread problem, or limited to certain properties. P. Edwards noted this was not a problem at most Borough properties.

C. Johnson stated she does not believe the location of recreational vehicles on private property to be a widespread problem, deserving of Borough restriction. Instead, C. Johnson prefers this matter to be addressed through individual homeowners’ associations.

C. Johnson noted some properties, including townhomes, do not have accessible side and/or rear yards. P. Edwards noted that, in these instances, a property owner can sell the vehicle, arrange for off-site storage, or locate the vehicle in another municipality.

Discussion on this matter will continue at the March 2 meeting.

**Mayor’s Report:** President Schuetz noted the Mayor’s mother recently underwent surgery, and he wished her well in her recovery. President Schuetz noted the Mayor will officiate a Valentine’s Day wedding.

**Engineer’s Report:** All received a copy of the Engineer’s Report. There were no questions for Engineer Sartor.

**Solicitor's Report:** There was no Solicitor's Report. There were no questions for Solicitor Onorato.

**Open to the Public for Non-Agenda Items:** There was no comment.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance (N. Scholl)** – N. Scholl is reviewing if the fire truck loan can be retired early, so to save interest. He will report his findings to Council at a future meeting.

N. Scholl recommended the Borough invest up to \$250,000.00 in a certificate of deposit with Quakertown National Bank, with said certificate of deposit up to a fifteen-month term and payable at a rate of 1.75%.

M. Watson motioned to direct the Treasurer to purchase a \$250,000.00 certificate of deposit with Quakertown National Bank, with said certificate of deposit up to a fifteen-month term and payable at a rate of 1.75%, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**Public Works & Recycling (M. Watson)** – M. Watson noted meetings of the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department will be conducted at Trappe Borough Hall in 2010.

M. Watson inquired if Council wished to sponsor a shred program at Borough Hall at a cost of \$275.00. The consensus of Council was to sponsor this program. Mr. Ryan will schedule the event for late April or early May, and Mr. Ryan will promote the event in the spring newsletter.

**Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority (President Schuetz)** – There was no report.

**Streets, Traffic & Safety (P. Edwards)** – P. Edwards noted the Committee will schedule additional SpeedSentry studies in the coming weeks. P. Edwards likewise noted the Committee was continuing its review of potential sidewalk linkages.

P. Edwards inquired as to the widening of Borough Line Road so to permit the construction of an on-road trail, or to install sidewalks at this frontage. Mr. Ryan stated this was possible, but noted that land acquisition costs, coupled with the relocation of several utility poles, would make for a very costly project.

P. Edwards inquired as to the ability of the Borough to increase certain permit fees for the purpose of funding sidewalk and other improvements. Solicitor Onorato noted the Borough was restricted as to the assessment of permit fees, and Solicitor Onorato stated he will issue a written opinion on this matter.

P. Edwards noted the Committee will next meet on February 18.

Planning, Zoning & Open Space (President Schuetz) – President Schuetz provided an update as to Rambo Park activities.

President Schuetz noted the Park & Recreation group will next meet on February 3.

P. Edwards and C. Johnson thanked President Schuetz for his hard work and efforts as to Rambo Park. President Schuetz thanked the Rambo, Pollarine and Pongras families for their generous donations to this project.

President Schuetz proposed a secondary identification sign for Rambo Park.

N. Scholl motioned to approve the purchase of a secondary identification sign for Rambo Park, at a cost of \$350.00, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Personnel, Appointments & Ordinances (L. DiPrete) – There was no report.

**Old Business:** There was no new business.

**New Business:**

- President Schuetz noted Mayor Peck wished to thank the Trappe Ambulance Corps for their kind assistance in response to her mother's fall.
- M. Watson stated he has mailed requests for proposals for independent auditor services.
- Mr. Ryan provided Council with a proposed scope of service for a West Main Street planning study. Mr. Ryan noted the study aims to develop a consensus as to future redevelopment efforts along the corridor, and to provide planning options and recommendations based upon this consensus. Mr. Ryan recommended he be directed to obtain a proposal for the study from E. Van Reiker, AICP, a Montgomery County based planning consultant who has directed similar studies for other municipalities. Council so directed Mr. Ryan.

At 8:50 p.m., there being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by M. Watson, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy Ryan  
Borough Manager / Borough Secretary