

MINUTES TO THE MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

March 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 pertaining to litigation and personnel matters would be conducted at the conclusion of the public portion of this evening's meeting. President Schuetz noted a vote was expected on a matter of litigation.

Roll Call by the Borough Secretary: Those present were President Fred Schuetz, Vice President Matt Watson, Lew DiPrete, 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. Mayor Connie Peck was absent.

Minutes of the Meeting of February 2, 2010: All received a copy of the minutes for the February 2, 2010 Monthly Meeting.

Mr. Ryan noted the following two revisions:

1. page 2, line 11 should be amended so to read "*Council recognized Cooper Martin...; and,*
2. page 5, line 7 should be revised to read: "*President Schuetz thanked the Rambo, Pollarine and Pongras families...* ".

N. Scholl motioned to approve the minutes for the February 2, 2010 Monthly Meeting, with the above-noted two revisions, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

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

Financial Reports: All received a copy of the Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2010, which included checks #1998 to #2041, inclusive. There were no additional payables.

J. Lowe noted the purchase of a \$244,000.00 certificate of deposit from Quakertown National Bank.

N. Scholl motioned to approve payment of the bills included in the February 28, 2010 Treasurer's Report, and electronic transfer, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

M. Watson inquired as to budgeted snow and salt expenses. Mr. Ryan noted the 2010 budget included \$97,000.00 for snow removal and the purchase of salt, and that as of this evening's meeting approximately \$85,000.00 has been expended.

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

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

Resolution 2010-03: Rambo Park, Acceptance of Grant Terms & Conditions – Mr. Ryan presented a Resolution to accept the terms and conditions of the Montgomery County Green Fields/ Green Towns grant program. Mr. Ryan noted the Borough was required to adopt the Resolution so to receive final reimbursement for the County share of the Rambo Park development project.

T. Patrick motioned to approve Resolution 2010-03, a Resolution accepting the terms and conditions of a Montgomery County Open Space Grant to fund the development of Rambo Park, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

MS4 announcement – As part of the Borough's ongoing efforts to protect and preserve our community's watershed, Mr. Ryan noted several tips for the proper maintenance of on-lot septic systems, which include regular inspection and pumping.

Recreational vehicle, boat and trailer storage restrictions – Per Council's direction at the February 2 meeting, Mr. Ryan provided Members with copies of that portion of homeowner association declarations pertaining to the location of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers in several developments in the Borough.

N. Scholl inquired as to the enforcement of declaration provisions. Solicitor Onorato noted that homeowner associations and individual association member property owners may enforce these provisions, either through an internal process or at the Court of Common Pleas.

M. Watson noted declarations presently encompass approximately 65% of residential properties in the Borough. M. Watson stated his support to enacting like restrictions on the location of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers at the balance of the Borough's residential properties.

C. Johnson stated she does not favor the proposed restrictions on the location of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers. C. Johnson stated she does not believe this issue should be subject to Borough regulation. C. Johnson noted residents may have purchased homes in developments without such restrictions for this very reason.

P. Edwards noted residents with the ability to enforce a declaration or deed restriction may not do so due to fear of reprisals. P. Edwards stated he believes the proposed restrictions will increase property values, and will make for a better community.

C. Johnson re-stated her opposition to the proposed restrictions.

M. Watson noted his experience as a real estate agent, when attempting to market a property that is adjacent to an unsightly property.

Brian Long stated his opposition to the proposed restrictions.

M. Watson motioned to direct the Borough Manager to draft an ordinance restricting the location of recreational vehicles, boats and trailer on private property, for review at the April 6 meeting, second by P. Edwards:

President Schuetz	YES	N. Scholl	NO
Vice President Watson	YES	C. Johnson	NO
L. DiPrete	YES		
P. Edwards	YES		
T. Patrick	YES		

The motion carried, 5 ayes to 2 nays.

Planning Commission blog – Mr. Ryan presented a request from the Planning Commission to create a blog. Mr. Ryan requested Council comment and direction on this matter.

C. Johnson noted the Planning Commission’s concern that residents can not participate in public discussions if unable to attend meetings conducted on weekday evenings. C. Johnson stated the Planning Commission is agreeable to a blog that is not interactive, provided the blog allows residents to directly connect to Borough staff and/or elected officials.

T. Patrick stated his opposition to Borough sponsorship of an interactive blog or any internet-based forum that permits anonymous postings. T. Patrick cited concerns with inappropriate postings, and with the effort required to monitor and delete inappropriate postings. T. Patrick noted Facebook may be an option to consider, given the requirement that Facebook users must register to join this community.

C. Johnson stated she is agreeable to creating a Facebook account. There was general discussion regarding the establishment of a Facebook account, and the consensus of Council was to explore this possibility. It was agreed that C. Johnson and T. Patrick will explore the creation of a Facebook, Twitter or similar account for the Borough.

Solicitor Onorato recommended the Borough establish a policy to manage information posted to the internet. Solicitor Onorato cited concern that this forum not morph into a political endeavor.

West Main Street Vision Study – Mr. Ryan presented a proposal for the West Main Street Vision Study, as submitted by E. Van Rieker, AICP. The proposal mirrors the scope of study presented at the February 2 meeting; the proposal cost is \$12,500.

C. Johnson recommended the consultant be flexible as to meeting days, so to give the public an additional opportunity to participate in public discussion. Mr. Ryan stated he will arrange for a flexible meeting date, if an alternate meeting date is needed.

N. Scholl stated he would prefer to receive more than one quote for this work. Mr. Ryan noted he could request proposals from other planners, but having worked with both Mr. Rieker and other planners, he believes the former is best qualified to direct this important project. In addition, Mr. Ryan noted Mr. Reiker has worked as a consultant to both local governments and land developers, and as a result his “finished product” is more likely to be a document that is agreeable to the two major parties in a redevelopment effort.

N. Scholl recommended the Borough survey all residents, and not the 150-resident sample noted in the proposal. The consensus of Council was to survey all Borough residents, and Mr. Ryan will see to this.

P. Edwards motioned to approve the proposal for the West Main Street Vision Study, submitted by E. Van Reiker and dated February 8, 2010, in the amount of \$12,500.00, second by T. Patrick, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Mayor’s Report: President Schuetz read the Mayor’s report, which included an update on planning efforts for Trappe Community Day 2010, scheduled for Saturday, September 11, and the presentation of an Eagle Scout Award to Howard Benensky.

C. Johnson asked if Council was agreeable to providing recognition to young women who attain the Girl Scouts Gold Award. The consensus of Council was to provide this recognition.

Engineer’s Report: All received a copy of the Engineer’s Report.

M. Watson inquired as to the trip generation report for the Weber land development. Engineer Sartor confirmed this report assessed the estimated traffic generated by the proposed revision.

Solicitor’s Report: There was no Solicitor’s Report. Solicitor Onorato noted he would address a matter of litigation in Executive Session.

P. Edwards motioned to approve the Manager’s Report, Mayor’s Report, Engineer’s Report and Solicitor’s Report as presented, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

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

Committee Reports:

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

Public Works & Recycling (M. Watson) – M. Watson noted the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department is updating its capital improvement project list. M. Watson noted the Department is likewise investigating meter reader upgrades.

Collegeville-Trappe Municipal Authority (W. Bryant) – On behalf of William Bryant, President Schuetz noted sewer rates will increase ten percent effective April 1, 2010; a letter notifying residents of this increase is now being prepared for mailing.

Streets, Traffic & Safety (P. Edwards) – P. Edwards noted the Committee is reviewing additional locations for lane markings. P. Edwards likewise noted the Committee is reviewing potential sidewalk projects, but noted the likely top three locations as: (1) West Fifth Avenue, between the Rittenhouse development and the Rosewood development, (2) College Avenue, in the vicinity of East First Avenue, and (3) Borough Line Road, between West Seventh Avenue and Meadowview Drive.

P. Edwards noted the status of House Bill 1500, and encouraged all area municipalities sans municipal police personnel to consider a feasibility study for regional police services. P. Edwards reviewed monthly reports submitted by the Trappe Volunteer Fire Company and the Pennsylvania State Police.

Brian Long, Fire Chief for the Trappe Volunteer Fire Company, thanked both the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department and B&M Landscaping for their snow removal efforts throughout the previous weeks. Mr. Long noted he is reviewing fire hydrant marker options, so to better locate hydrants that may be covered with snow. Mr. Long provided an update of the ongoing merger talks with the Collegeville Fire Company.

Planning, Zoning & Ordinances (C. Johnson) – C. Johnson noted the Planning Commission was reviewing ways to improve communications with Borough residents; she will relay discussions had at this evening's meeting to the Planning Commission at that group's meeting on March 16.

Property & Open Space (C. Johnson) – President Schuetz noted potential planting projects at Rambo Park.

Personnel, Appointments & Ordinances (L. DiPrete) – L. DiPrete noted the Personnel Committee was preparing the Borough Manager's performance review for the previous 12 months.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

- Mr. Ryan reported Collegeville Borough has requested to make reimbursement of earned income taxes, in the amount previously agreed upon by the affected parties, to Trappe Borough in early May. Mr. Ryan recommended Council authorize the timing of this payment, expected to be received on or before May 7.

T. Patrick motioned to authorize the reimbursement of earned income taxes by Collegeville Borough to Trappe Borough, in the amount previously agreed upon by the affected parties, to be received by Trappe Borough in May, second by C. Johnson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

- Mr. Ryan noted he will be serving on jury duty for the next two days.
- Mr. Ryan reviewed the standing agreement between Trappe Borough and Upper Providence Township as to the maintenance of Borough Line Road and North Borough Line Road. In keeping with the Borough’s ongoing efforts to update agreements for the maintenance of “boundary roads”, Mr. Ryan recommended Council authorize notice be sent to Upper Providence Township, providing the required six-month notice to terminate the standing agreement.

P. Edwards motioned to authorize the termination of the maintenance agreement for Borough Line Road and North Borough Line Road with Upper Providence Township, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

- Mr. Long commented on upcoming road closures in Upper Providence Township.

At 9:05 p.m. Council entered into Executive Session.

At 9:42 p.m. Council adjourned from Executive Session.

T. Patrick motioned to authorize the preparation and execution of the tri-party agreement, as discussed in Executive Session, second by M. Waston, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

At 9:43 p.m., there being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by M. Watson, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy Ryan.
Borough Manager / Borough Secretary.