

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
February 5, 2008

Prior to calling the meeting to order, President Schuetz announced that an Executive Session had preceded the regularly scheduled Council meeting the purpose of which was to discuss legal matters. No decisions were made.

President Schuetz called the regularly scheduled Council meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mayor Peck

Roll Call by the Secretary: Those present were Mayor Peck, President Fred Schuetz, Vice President Matt Watson, Paul Edwards, Cathy Johnson, Steve Kurcik, Nevin Scholl and Lew DiPrete Also in attendance were Solicitor Bob Kerns, Engineer John Sartor, Treasurer Joe Lowe and Manager Al Herrmann.

President Schuetz called for a moment of silence for Chuck Sardo, former manager, deceased January 21, 2008.

Minutes of the Meeting of January 7, 2008 – Everyone received a copy of the January 7, 2008 meeting minutes. Prior to Council voting on approval of the Minutes, S. Kurcik asked to include a statement he had made with regard to the change of borough engineer. Mr. Kerns advised that only typographic corrections could be made to Minutes. They could not be added to. If a Council member wished, a statement could be made later in the meeting. There were no amendments or corrections to the Minutes.

N. Scholl motioned to accept the Minutes as approved, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Dr. Edwin Coyle, Perkiomen Valley School District Superintendent – Dr. Coyle, Acting Superintendent, was before Council to present several issues that are before the School board. The district is actively searching for a Superintendent. Because student enrollment at some of the Schools exceeds capacity, they are considering redistricting various school boundaries. Dr. Coyle advised that the Trappe building is no longer on the market. The developer, Strategic Realty, chose not to continue to seek extensions of the Agreement of Sale. The District is now considering all options for use of the building and site for school purposes. With regard to the oil tank on site, Dr. Coyle stated that at the time the building was converted from oil to gas the oil was removed and the tank filled with water to ensure it would not float. All environmental regulations will be followed when remediation or renovation work is started. Council and the public then had an opportunity to present questions to Dr. Coyle. He advised that a District Task Force will be formed to consider issues and options. President Schuetz thanked him for taking time to visit with the Borough.

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Financial Reports – J. Lowe

Everyone received a copy of the Accounts Payable as reviewed by Treasurer J. Lowe. There were additional bills as follows:

John Klink (Treasurer's payroll)	\$1210.00
Clouser Productions (Trappe Days)	\$ 500.00
Connie Peck (reimbursement)	\$ 63.94

N. Scholl motioned to approve payment of the bills, including the additional bills, second by L. DiPrete, one nay vote by M. Watson, the remainder of Council all ayes. Motion carried 6 – 1

There was discussion regarding a computer update and having all accounts in-house/on site on a Quickbooks program. C. Johnson and N. Scholl asked for costs for the update; both indicated they were not against the idea, only wanting the facts. It was suggested to continue with the existing software and revisit the issue after receiving more information and cost facts. An estimate of cost for a Quickbooks upgrade was \$300.

There were comments regarding the change to accrual from the cash basis of reporting. Mr. Lowe indicated reporting cash on a month to month basis is the most practical as far a keeping books; accrual for annual reporting. Mr. Scholl indicated he would like to have Mr. Lowe prepare for what the adjustment would be as of the beginning of 2008 as we would have a sense of the magnitude of it. This is being done both ways. (no formal action taken at this time)

Treasurers Reports – J. Lowe

Everyone received a copy of the Financial Reports. There were no questions or amendments

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

MANAGER'S REPORT

President Schuetz confirmed the details of the Manager's Agreement to be signed for Mr. Herrmann at \$70.00 per hour as agreed upon in a discussion in an emergency executive session held January 22, 2008. .

M. Watson motioned to accept the Manager's Agreement and letter, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried.

Nevin indicated part of the discussion was to put the terms in writing indicating the restrictions so it is plain and we do not have a Gilmore employee supervising Gilmore and Associates as to what project would be undertaken. It was agreed to have Solicitor Kerns put in writing as to what their authority was, or was not. This to be presented to Gilmore for acceptance. .

L. DiPrete motioned to have Gilmore and Associates work be approved by the Council President and not the Manager except for emergency situations, the President

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assigns work, second by C. Johnson, 6 ayes votes, one nay vote by P. Edwards. Motion carried 6 – 1.

Sovereign Bank Corporate Resolution – Council adopted the Corporate Authorization Resolution for Sovereign Bank for the endorsement of checks and orders for payment of money and withdrawal of funds on deposit with Sovereign Bank.

M. Watson motioned to adopt the Resolution, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Manager's Search – A. Herrmann stated that he had the manager vacancy listed on the website of the Montgomery County and Bucks County Consortium of Communities. These are the leading communities in the area with over 40 municipalities. He has received four applications to date. Councilman L. DiPrete's committee will review the applications at a later date when more are received.

Ka Boom – Water Works Park Application – There is potential for grant funding through KaBOOM Outreach in the amount of \$40,000 for playground equipment at Water Works Park. The Agreement requires a \$7500 local match. There was discussion regarding the participation of Collegeville sharing in the program as Collegeville and Trappe co-share responsibilities for the Park. President Schuetz stated that KaBOOM will be a topic of discussion at Collegeville's meeting tomorrow night. If given favorable consideration by the KaBOOM Foundation, the Borough would be responsible for providing \$7,500 to be applied toward purchase of equipment. It was suggested that the amount could be met with business contributions. Solicitor Kerns spoke very highly of a program such as this in Upper Gwynedd and offered to provide \$500 in support. This offer will be graciously accepted if the grant awarded to the Borough.

N. Scholl motioned to approve the contract with KaBOOM depending on a statement of support from Collegeville agreeing to their participation in the amount of \$3,750.00 should Trappe be unable to obtain the required full amount of \$7,500, second by M. Watson, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

L. DiPrete motioned to accept the Manager's Report, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – J. Sartor (copy of Report on file in Borough office) Everyone received a copy of the Engineer's Report.

Czop (167 W. Main Street) Land Development – this will be on the Planning Commission agenda next week.

EPA Stormwater Series – Regarding the Webcast series, copies of the EPA Webcast outline are available for anyone that is interested in participating in NPDES Stormwater Best Management Practices broadcast.

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

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT – B. Kerns (copy of Report on file in Borough office)
Ordinance No. 402 – This Ordinance amends and restates Ordinance No 387 changing the name of the Ordinance to Local Services Tax from Emergency Municipal Services Tax.

M. Watson motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 402 as amended, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

M. Watson motioned to accept the Solicitor's Report, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion passed 7 – 0.

MAYOR'S REPORT – C. Peck (copy of Report on file in borough office)
Everyone received a copy of the Mayor's Report as reviewed for Council.

S. Kurcik motioned to accept the report as presented, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Russ Henze, 421 Melchior Place was before Council with regard to a Main Street program and his encouragement for Council to join with Collegetown's Economic Development Corporation. Main Street Manager in Collegetown is Jenny Simons. Mr. Henze encouraged Council to consider Main Street as a corridor in cooperation with Collegetown. Al suggested we capitalize on historic aspects of the Borough. President Schuetz offered to initiate contact with Collegetown representatives.

Stu Strauss – Stu will again Chair the Trappe Days Committee 2008 and was before Council advising of the dates for 2008 Trappe Days, September 13, rain date September 20, 2008. Committee members will be meeting at Borough Hall the first Monday of every month and anyone interested in volunteering is welcome help and participate.

Additional items presented included status of the CTMA organization and the Public Works pension Plan reimbursement from Collegetown to the Public Works, and detention basin items that he feels must be corrected before he assumes maintenance responsibilities. Mr. Kerns reported that documentation on file suggests that Borough responsibility is limited to only crown vetch establishment on a slope and crack repair on concrete low flow channel. The Gambone Organization had provided funding in the amount of \$5,000 for this work. Mr. Kerns stated that basin mowing is not the responsibility of the Borough. Dedication of the basin is not to be made to the Borough. Mr. Kerns will provide Council with the direction on this matter prior to the next meeting.

Sherron Trio presented a question related to a fence encroachment on the property at 6 North Borough Line Road. Mr. Kerns advised that this would be a private issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – N. Scholl

Nevin received a letter from Sovereign Bank stating our funds are secure for 2008.

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An 11 page e-mail was received summarizing financial statement now current – will be e-mailed to J. Durrell for the website.

PECO Credit is expected in the amount of approximately \$2100, Nevin to be advised when it arrives.

Public Works/Recycling – M. Watson

Matt advised of a presentation comparing water rates in the area.

CTMA - Nevin advised of significant increases in treatment charges to the tune of approximately \$210,000 by the regional authority. The current income stream is approximately \$550,000. No rate increases approved at present. Are looking at possible rate increases as well as cost savings opportunities and allocation of costs between CTMA and Public Works.

Property and Streets – P. Edwards reviewed the Pennsylvania State Police Report.

Traffic Committee will resume meeting on a regular basis; date to be established.

Laurel and Lilac Drive – Nevin provided an update on the status of the project.

Pavement samples were taken. The Home Owners Association has not met. Attempts to meet with the HOA President have been difficult, contact made with Vice President Paul Benensky and scheduled meeting with him, project moving along.

Planning and Zoning/Open Space – M. Watson

Matt advised there was no Committee meeting this past month.

Rambo Park – President Schuetz stated that an application for grant funding for tree planting has been made. There are trees that need to come down, price quotes to include removal of trees and brush, 30 trees of various sizes, to include chipping, routing stumps and hauling wood away, recommended they be removed now. The low bid was Strouse Landscaping at \$9,534.

M. Watson motioned to accept the Strouse proposal with a not to exceed figure of \$10,000, second by N. Scholl, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Main Street Park – there was discussion regarding the status of the Main Street Park; the site master plan is near completion. Council will need to make a decision regarding application for grant funding from the county for development. The application deadline is April 1, 2008. President Schuetz reported that he had a brief meeting with the hair salon owners with regard to their interest in selling to the Borough. They were requested to consider this and get back to the Borough. County funding could be used for purchase but this could not be accomplished within the deadline for application.

Personnel/Appointments/Ordinances – L. DiPrete – Lew advised that manager letters of interest are being received.

Labor & Industry Inspections – A letter was received from the State Department of Labor and Industry regarding required inspections being done by other than State Certified Inspectors. There was discussion regarding use of Gilmore and Associates to provide necessary inspection services by State Certified inspectors.

M. Watson motioned to contract with Gilmore and Associates for building inspection services, second by L. DiPrete, all ayes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

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CTMA Appointment – By Memorandum dated January 29, 2008, the Solicitor’s office advised that the December appointment of Steve Kurcik to a five year term commencing on January 1, 2008 was an invalid appointment. Mr. Kerns advised that this is a complicated issue in that the CTMA Bylaws are at variance with the Municipal Authorities in Pennsylvania Laws. He explained that the Municipal authority act was amended in 1978 to prevent a ‘lame duck’ municipal governing body from making appointments to authority boards for terms about to expire before a newly elected governing body takes office on the first Monday of January. The Kurcik appointment was declared invalid.

President Schuetz called for nominations for the vacant five year term on the CTMA Board to run from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2012.

N. Scholl motioned to appoint S. Kurcik, second by C. Johnson, three aye votes by N. Scholl, S. Kurcik, C. Johnson; four nay votes by L. DiPrete, P. Edwards, M. Watson and President Schuetz. Motion failed 4 – 3.

L. DiPrete motioned to appoint M. Watson, second by P. Edwards, four aye votes by L. DiPrete, P. Edwards, M. Watson and President Schuetz; two nay votes by C. Johnson, N. Scholl, one abstention by SI Kurcik. Motion carried 4 – 2 - 1, M. Watson will serve on the CTMA Board for the five year term ending December 31, 2012. .

OLD BUSINESS – None noted.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Kurcik – Steve commented with regard to Gilmore and Associates. He felt it was a mistake by Council to go back to Gilmore and Associates. He stated that in the past the Borough has been over billed; we had to pay our attorney to dispute the final bill from Gilmore. He further stated that at the time Czop/Specter was appointed, he suggested doing a committee search for a new engineer, and it should be done now. President Schuetz stated that the Gilmore appointment would stand.

Sam Mancuso – made some general comments with regard to Main Street and other issues. President Schuetz advised those in attendance who wished to make suggestions to Council to make those recommendations in writing so they could be given consideration before the meeting.

With no other business to come before Council the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM on motion of L. DiPrete, second by P. Edwards, all ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Katona
Secretary

