

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE  
AUGUST 4, 2021

**Council of Trappe Meeting:** President Newnam called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council members RD Diefenderfer, Tonya Pritchett and Walter Chase were present. Attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Erin Braband and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

**Agenda:** Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to approve the August 4, 2021 agenda as presented. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion. All approved.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to approve the July 7, 2021 Council minutes as presented. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion. All approved.

**Clerk's Report:** Administrator Braband stated that the Clerk's report, the General Fund and the Enterprise Fund budgets are in the Council's binders and filed with the reports.

**Public Works Report:** President Newnam read Superintendent Callahan's report that is filed in the records.

**Planning & Zoning:** Edgar Harrison stated that the Planning Commission reviewed the amendments to the DRRA and found them to be consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission gave a favorable recommendation and referred the DRRA back to the Town Council.

**Communications:** Town Administrator Braband stated that the MDE public hearing for Lakeside's discharge permit will be held virtually on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm and the instructions on how to attend have been provided.

Town Administrator Braband stated that Greg Haley submitted a dispute regarding a missed town rental inspection charge of \$100.00 (\$50 per apt). Mr. Haley states that he never received the letter scheduling the inspection. The Town is charged this fee by MDIA who completes the inspection. After discussion the Council decided that Mr. Haley was still required to pay the \$100 for the missed inspections.

**Attorney Updates:** None

**ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

**New Business:**

Ordinance 9-2021 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe approving and adopting the first amendment to the Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement by and between the Town of Trappe and Trappe East Business Holdings Trust was read by President Newnam. Attorney Ryan stated the Council considered the first amendment to the DRRA at their last meeting and it was sent to the Planning Commission for their review. The Planning Commission reviewed the amendment and found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and are recommending that the Town Council adopt it. Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to introduce Ordinance 9-2021 and to set the Ordinance for a public hearing on October 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y    Diefenderfer – Y                  Pritchett – Y    Chase – Y

Motion approved

MDE Construction Permit Applications – Attorney Ryan stated that 3 sewer construction permit applications have been submitted for the Lakeside Development. The first one is for the force main from pumping station #1 to the Lakeside WWTP, the second one is for the Lakeside WWTP and the third one is for the wastewater treatment plant Phase 1 connection. In the past the Town has approved permit applications contingent upon GMB’s review and approval of construction plans. Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to approve the 3 construction permit applications contingent upon GMB’s review and approval of the construction plans. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y    Diefenderfer – Y                  Pritchett – Y    Chase – Y

Motion approved

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – Administrator Braband stated that the Town has received their final award amount for the American Rescue Plan. The Town of Trappe will receive \$985,259.49 of which 50% (\$492,629.75) has already been received. The Federal Government is still deciding what these funds can be used for. Administrator Braband asked for permission to open a new bank account to transfer these funds from the General account so funds do not get intertwined. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to authorize Administrator Braband to open a new checking account for the American Rescue Plan funds. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Talbot County Planning Commission Questions Submitted – Attorney Ryan stated that she received the questions from the Talbot County Planning Commission and they are requesting a response by August 13, 2021. Attorney Ryan suggested that the Council handle this as a Public Information Request and respond with documentation that is responsive to their questions. Attorney Ryan stated that the Planning Commission is only supposed to determine whether they had all the accurate information and whether it was portrayed to them accurately when they considered Resolution 281. The requested documentation will be forwarded to the Planning Commission prior to their August 13<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Other Business:**

Wastewater Treatment Plant PER – Attorney Ryan stated that the Town has received the PER and amendment from GMB and the award letter from MDE. The Town needs to submit plans and specs to MDE by December 1, 2021. Attorney Ryan suggested that the Council consider what direction they want to go and meet with GMB to discuss their options. Administrator Braband will schedule a workshop with GMB. The Council will be ready to discuss and make a decision at their October meeting.

**Public Questions/Comments** – Mr. Kane complained about his water bill and water rates.

**Executive Session** – An executive session was requested to obtain legal advice. Commissioner

Diefenderfer made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:37 pm. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion.

At the conclusion of the closed session at 8:10 pm the open meeting was reconvened.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion at 8:10 pm to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk