

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE
JANUARY 5, 2022

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

Agenda: Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the January 5, 2022 agenda as presented. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and all approved.

Minutes: Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the December 1, 2021 Council minutes and the December 21, 2021 workshop minutes as presented.

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 records.

Public Works: Commissioner Diefenderfer stated that the Public Works report is in the Council's binders and filed with the records.

Planning & Zoning: Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Planning Commission did not have a meeting in December.

Communications: Administrator Braband stated that water meters were going to be estimated this month due to the snow. Commissioner Schmidt stated that he would like the Council to consider requiring face masks again. After discussion Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to require face masks to be worn in public meetings if social distancing requirements cannot be met. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and all approved.

Attorney Updates: Attorney Ryan stated that the Talbot County Planning Commission held a hearing on Resolution 313 today which would amend the County's water and sewer comp plan relating to the Lakeside development. The Resolution stated that the Town of Trappe can only have new connections to their existing plant if there are no MDE violations, enforcement actions or consent orders, that Lakeside could only connect their 120 EDUs for a period of 18 months from approval of the Resolution and that Lakeside would have to have their treatment plant constructed within 18 months after receiving approval for their discharge and construction permit from MDE. The Planning Commission found it inconsistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan so the County cannot hold a public hearing on the Resolution unless it is revised.

Executive Session: Commissioner Diefenderfer stated that an executive session was held on December 1, 2021 to obtain legal advice and discuss a personnel matter and an executive session was held on December 21, 2021 to obtain legal advice.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Wastewater Treatment Plant Options -

Attorney Ryan stated that at the Council's request she contacted Rauch Engineering to inquire about what the cost would be to construct Lakeside's plant with an additional 200,000 gallons per day system for the Town of Trappe. Ryan Showalter presented the Council with a conceptual proposal for replacement of the Trappe Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Showalter stated that with a high degree of certainty they believe that this can be accomplished for \$15 million or less. This would include 200,000 gallons of ENR capacity, expansion of Lakeside's plant, the force main back and forth, the associated pumping stations, restoring Maple Ave, necessary building expansions and the reclamation of the Town's current storage lagoons. This would be a pass-through cost so all expenses would be documented, Lakeside would not be making money off this. For every 1 gallon of effluent that is sent from Trappe to Lakeside, 1 gallon would be sent back to be discharged into LaTrappe Creek utilizing the Town's existing discharge permit but the discharge will have been treated to ENR levels. If the Council ultimately chooses this option, Lakeside would commit to moving forward with design, permitting and construction as soon as agreements are in place and a discharge permit is issued for Lakeside's plant. The proposal contemplates that the Town would apply to State and Federal sources for funding but if the Town does not receive the funding to purchase the plant, Lakeside would advance the cost to build it anyway and would be willing to recoup the costs through offsets of fees stated in the DRRRA. This would require an amendment to the DRRRA. Lakeside is also interested in working with the Town to explore the possibility of increasing the volume of water that can be discharged with the Town's point source discharge permit. This would not increase the nutrient load only the volume of water. Bob Rauch stated that the Town can explore other options for their sludge lagoons as well. Another option is to dewater it and then the biomass is mixed with soil and the lagoon is filled in. This would drastically cut the cost to the Town. The Council expressed concern with the Town's ability to receive grant funding for this project but are interested in exploring this option and discussing it with funders. Initial discussions with MDE resulted in the Town receiving up to 70% funding for the conveyance only but additional conversations will be had. The Town is also reaching out to USDA to inquire about funding opportunities in addition to MDE's funding.

Other Business:

Well 6 - Attorney Ryan stated that the Well project is running behind schedule due to Covid affecting the suppliers and the Town's interim financing matures on February 8, 2022 but the project will not be done by then. Shore United has offered to extend the term an additional 120 days at the same interest rate but the Town will have to go through bond counsel for the extension. The cost for bond counsel is \$3,500.00. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to proceed with bond counsel for the extension. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and all approved. The extension materials will be presented to the Council at their February meeting.

Public Questions/Comments:

Bob Rauch – Lakeside will be presenting Phase 1B bond in the amount of \$1,205,818.56 and requesting approval from the Planning Commission at their January 18th meeting. The Town’s engineers have reviewed the bond and approved it. Mr. Rauch is requesting that the Town Council approve the Phase 1B bond tonight, contingent upon the Planning Commission’s approval. This will give Lakeside time to get the bond and not have to wait until the Council’s February 2nd meeting. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve Phase 1B bond contingent upon the Planning Commission’s approval and the proper forms submitted. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and all approved.

Paul Spencer from Windy Hill – Mr. Spencer complimented Lakeside on their Forest Management plan and sees the benefit of Lakeside to the Town. Mr. Spencer requested that the Town continue to consider the forestation areas in Town and all that they have to offer.

Bob Rauch – Mr. Rauch stated that Lakeside wants to put up a Welcome to Trappe sign at the north end of the entrance and would like to know what the Town would like to see. The Planning Commission has received a rendering of what Lakeside has designed but Lakeside would like for the Town to say what they would like to see. Administrator Braband stated that Commissioner Chase has previously worked on a Welcome to Trappe sign and they came up with a rendering and she will send it to Bob. The Planning Commission will be discussing this at their next meeting as well.

Commissioner Schmidt made a motion at 8:52 pm to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and it was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk