

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 4, 2022

Council of Trappe Meeting: President Newnam called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Council members Tonya Pritchett and Brian Schmidt were present. Attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Erin Braband and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

Agenda: Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the May 4, 2022 agenda as presented. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and all approved.

Minutes: Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the April 6, 2022 minutes as presented. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and 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 records.

Public Works: President Newnam stated that the public works report is in the Council's binders and filed with the records. Administrator Braband stated that Superintendent Callahan is requesting Council approval to order a hydromatic 7.5 hp pump to have as a spare for the Town's pumping stations. The last pump was just installed and no spares remain. The cost for this pump is \$8,683.52 plus freight and the lead time for delivery is 7-10 weeks. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to authorize the purchase of the spare pump as requested. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and all approved.

Communications: President Newnam stated that Ben Diefenderfer's term on the Planning Commission is set to expire this month and Ben is requesting that the Council reappoint him for another term. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to reappoint Ben Diefenderfer to the Planning Commission for another 5-year term. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and all approved.

Attorney Updates: Attorney Ryan stated that the County Council voted to deny Resolution 327 by a 3-2 vote. At this time there is no pending County legislation for Lakeside.

Executive Session: An executive session was held on April 6, 2022 to discuss a personnel matter.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

ARPA Mini-Grant for Non-Profits Awards – President Newnam stated that the Town set aside \$20,000 of the funds that the Town has received from the American Rescue Plan Act to help local non-profits that have experienced a financial impact due to COVID-19 and at the Council's April 6th Council meeting the Council set the award amounts. Tonight, representatives from the selected Non-Profits are here to receive their awards. The Council rewards are as follows:

Easton Day Care Center (White Marsh site) received \$1,500

The Rural Life Museum received \$2,000

The Trappe Fire Company received \$2,500

The Trappe Lions Club received \$3,500

The Neighborhood Service Center received \$3,500

St. Paul's Episcopal Church received \$3,500

Scott's United Methodist Church received \$3,500

MD Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) – Administrator Braband stated that the State has started a low-income household water assistance program that residents can apply to and request funds to help pay their water/sewer bills. There is a Memorandum of Agreement that is between the Town of Trappe and the Maryland Department of Human Services that has been reviewed by Attorney Ryan and is eligible for approval. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to authorize President Newnam to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for this program so the Town residents can take advantage of the help. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and all approved.

Easton Utilities Franchise Agreement – Attorney Ryan stated that Easton Utilities has presented a Franchise Agreement that would allow them to provide cable and internet service to the Town of Trappe. This agreement is not exclusive but would give the residents another option for their service. The Town currently has a franchise agreement with Breezeline (Atlantic Broadband) that is also up for renewal. Easton Utilities franchise agreement is for 15 years and may be renewed for an additional 5 years. The franchise fee is 2% of the annual gross revenue generated from customers in Trappe. This is the same amount as Breezeline. Easton Utilities is offering to provide service free of charge to the Town Office, Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Well Treatment Center. Commissioner Schmidt asked if the Town could ask Easton Utilities to also provide service free of charge to the fire department and to the Lakeside treatment plant once the Town assumes ownership. The Council asked Attorney Ryan to get clarification on Section 4.02 – leased commercial access. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the Easton Utilities Franchise Agreement with the condition that the fire department and the Lakeside treatment plant receive service free of charge. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and all approved.

Lakeside DRRRA Good Faith Review - Attorney Ryan stated that she has not received documentation for this yet and requested to table the matter until the next Council meeting. Council approved.

Ordinance 2-2022 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe adopting a General Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, and establishing a tax rate of \$.33 per \$100 of assessed real property value and a tax rate of \$.54 per \$100 on all commercial or business personal property and public utilities; and establishing an annual fee of \$182.00 per residential household for trash collection services, and also adopting an Enterprise Budget for the Town’s Water and Sewer operations was read by President Newnam. Commissioner Schmidt stated his concerns over the Town not raising the water and sewer usage rates and his fear that the Town will only move backwards again by not doing so. The Town has made significant progress on their financial position and to not raise the water and sewer rates when all of the Town’s expenses are increasing is not good business sense. The Town has taken on additional debt with the new well that is near completion and the pumping station rehab/replacement project that is currently in the design phase. The Town is also facing the possibility of incurring additional debt with the ENR upgrade to the treatment plant. The requested increase is \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons and would only cost each household an estimated \$4.00 a month, depending on their usage. With no additional Council comment, Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2-2022. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y Schmidt – Y Pritchett – Y
Motion approved

A public hearing for Ordinance 2-2022 will be set for 5:50 pm on June 1, 2022.

Other Business –

President Newnam stated that he would like the Council to revisit the current chicken ordinance. Currently chickens are only permitted by special exception which can only be given by the Board of Appeals and there is a \$300 fee to go in front of the Board of Appeals. President Newnam stated that he has had residents ask him about changing this ordinance so they can have a few chickens and produce their own eggs. President Newnam stated that he would like to see the special exception requirement removed, the number of chickens allowed increased from 4 to possibly 12 and for the chicken coop to have the same setback requirements as other minor accessory structures in Town. After discussion, Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to ask the Planning Commission to review the chicken ordinance and consider the Council's recommendations. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion and it was approved. The Planning Commission will review the chicken ordinance at their May 17th meeting and submit something back to the Council.

Public Questions/Comments - None

Executive Session – No executive session is requested.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Pritchett made a motion at 6:45 pm to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Administrator/Clerk