

Trappe Town Council
September 3, 2025

President Newnam called the public hearing to order at 5:55 pm. Council members Brian Schmidt, Michael Sullivan, Rose Potter and Walter Chase were present. Other attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Erin Braband, Superintendent Shawn Lane and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

Ordinance 5-2025 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe to amend Section 14 of the Trappe Town Code titled “Water and Sewer”, to prohibit private potable and non-potable wells in Town, except under certain circumstances was read by President Newnam. No public comment was received. Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to close the public hearing at 5:56 pm. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

President Newnam called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Agenda: Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes: Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve August 6, 2025 minutes as presented. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Clerk’s Report: Administrator Braband read the Clerk’s report that is filed with the records along with the General Fund Budget and the Enterprise Fund Budget.

Public Works Report: Superintendent Lane read the monthly report that is filed with the records.

Public Safety: Sgt. Aita presented the monthly police report that is filed with the records. The grant funds will run out sometime during the month of September so patrols will be decreased. The Sheriff’s Office has applied for a new grant and if awarded it will not be available until October.

Planning & Zoning: Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Planning Commission did not meet in August.

Communications: President Newnam announced that the Town received notification that the final grant award for Home Run Baker for \$190,000.00 through MD Department of Natural Resources was approved.

Attorney Updates: No update

Executive Session: President Newnam stated that an executive session was held on August 6, 2025 to discuss a personnel matter.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Ordinance 5-2025: An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe to amend Section 14 of the Trappe Town Code titled “Water and Sewer”, to prohibit private potable and non-potable wells in Town, except under certain circumstances was read by President Newnam. A public hearing was held this evening with no public comment received. Commissioner Potter made a motion to adopt Ordinance 5-2025. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Schmidt – Y Sullivan – Y Newnam – Y Potter – Y Chase – Y

Motion approved.

Ordinance 6-2025: An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe to amend Section 13.6 of the Trappe Town Code titled “Regulation of the Placement of Refuse and Other Waste for Collection, to establish regulations for the placement of refuse or waste receptacles within the Town of Trappe was read by President Newnam. Commissioner Potter made a motion to introduce Ordinance 6-2025. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Schmidt – N Sullivan – Y Newnam – Y Potter – Y Chase – Y

Motion approved by vote of 4-1

A public hearing will be held on October 1, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Nace’s Day: Mr. Brown from Scott’s United Methodist Church announced that the 158th Annual Nace’s Day will be held on November 1st with a rain date of November 8th. Mr. Brown requested that Maple Ave and Main St be closed for the parade at 1 pm and for Main St from Mulliken Lane to the red light remain closed until 4 pm due to the activities in the area. Mr. Brown requested to use Veteran’s Park for parking and Nace’s Park for activities. Sgt. Aita stated the Sheriff’s Department will handle the road closures and President Newnam stated that the fire department will supply the barriers. The Council unanimously approved all of Mr. Brown’s requests and offered the Town’s support in any way possible.

Lakeside – Piney Hill Road complaint: James Cook provided documentation in response to a complaint that was received regarding Lakeside and Piney Hill Road properties. The complainant voiced concerns over the lack of screening between the development and the backyard of those living on Piney Hill Road. Mr. Cook stated that the proposed trees along that area are to be planted when the first house is under construction and proposed moving them from the north side of the swale to the south side of the swale so they are closer to the

Piney Hill residents. Mr. Cook provided information on the swale and the minimum 50' buffer at that location. President Newnam requested that in addition to the trees which will grow tall and not provide the barrier that the residents are looking for, that perhaps shrubbery and native grasses be planted as well. Mr. Cook stated that he is going to work with Richard Allison from the Planning Commission to come up with the best trees to be planted and would take the shrubbery and grass into consideration when doing so. The Council was satisfied with the developer's response to the complaint and gave permission for Lakeside to move forward with their plan.

Lakeside – Water improvement projects update: Mr. Cook stated that Somerset Well should be on location and starting Well 4R on September 15th. Once the well is in production, Mr. Cook will provide production numbers to the Council for their review and to help determine the additional capacity. Mr. Cook stated that they have received the first round of comments back from MDE in reference to the water tower and Lakeside's wells and plan to resubmit plans on September 9th. MDE determined that the Matawan Aquifer and the Piney Point Aquifer can be blended to help reduce the fluoride level from the Matawan Aquifer. Mr. Cook stated that they are expecting approval for the Lakeside wells in December and will then begin the bidding and construction process.

Code Enforcement: Administrator Braband explained how the Town previously handled code enforcement violations. The Town is now back to full staffing so public works will locate violations, take pictures for documentation and provide the information to the office staff to issue letters and handle follow up.

Public Questions: None

Executive Session: President Newnam stated an executive session is requested to obtain legal advice. Commissioner Chase made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:53 pm. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Chase made a motion to reopen the regular meeting at 7:17 pm. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Braband, Town Administrator