

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE  
TRAPPE TOWN HALL  
JANUARY 2, 2019

**Council of Trappe Meeting:** President Fegel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council members Nick Newnam, Tonya Pritchett and RD Diefenderfer were present. Other attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Braband, Attorney Booth, Attorney Ryan, Corporal Parks from the Talbot County Sheriff's Office. Public attendees: Don English, Bobby & Shirley Quidas, Jill Christopher and Chris Polk.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Commissioner Diefenderfer asked to amend agenda by adding an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion. All approved.

**Presentation of Minutes:** Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion. All approved.

**Clerk's Report:** Administrator Braband presented the Clerk's report, the General Fund and the Enterprise Fund budgets that are filed in the records.

Administrator Braband stated that she has begun to work on the next fiscal year's budget and requested to schedule a budget workshop with the Council. Administrator Braband suggested meeting an hour prior to the next Council meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The Council agreed and the budget workshop was set for February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

### **COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Talbot County Sheriff's Office:** Corporal Parks read the December report that is filed in the records.

**Public Works:** Superintendent Callahan is out sick and is still working on his monthly report. Once the report has been completed it will be emailed to the Council. President Fegel stated that the new Omnisite alarm systems have been installed and are working well. President Fegel stated that Superintendent Callahan has located portions of Harrison Circle where there is a lot of groundwater entering the sewer mains. Superintendent Callahan is having Mr. Rooter come take a look at it and will report their findings.

**Planning & Zoning:** President Fegel stated that the Planning Commission continues to work on the Town's Comprehensive Plan and will meet again on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Communications:**

Commissioner Newnam stated that the tree removal at Lakeview Park was on hold due to the weather.

President Fegel read a letter that was submitted by Rob and Jill Christopher regarding their rental located at 29326 Maple Ave. The house was inspected on July 30<sup>th</sup> and 3 items were found to be deficient. Mr. and Mrs. Christopher are asking for an extension to complete the repairs. Mrs. Christopher stated that their daughter is currently living there. Attorney Booth stated that if a family member is currently living at that location a rental license is not required. Mrs. Christopher was informed by the Council that if she chooses to rent the house out to someone other than family, she will need to comply with the rental

license program and have the deficiencies corrected before renting the house. Mrs. Christopher acknowledged the stipulation and Administrator Braband stated that she would have a written letter sent to her acknowledging the same.

**Executive Session:** President Fegel stated that an executive session was held on December 5, 2018 to discuss a personnel matter.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

None to be brought before the Council

#### **Other Business:**

Infrastructure projects with MDE financing/grants –

President Fegel stated that the Council needs to discuss the two infrastructure projects (Pump Station Replacement/Rehab project and the Main Street Water Line Replacement project) that the Town has received grant funding for and decide which project they would like to move forward with. President Fegel stated that without additional grants to help fund the pump station project he feels that the Town cannot afford to do this project. President Fegel stated that the Town can afford to do the Main Street Water Line Replacement project and that is his recommendation. President Fegel opened it up to the Council for discussion. Commissioner Pritchett stated that she agrees with President Fegel and asked if a motion was needed. Commissioner Newnam asked if Commissioner Pritchett makes a motion to move forward with this project, does that mean that she is making a motion to increase the water bills by \$1.00 a month to cover the cost of the project? Attorney Booth stated that the motion would be to proceed with the Main Street Water Line Replacement project but not for the water bill increase at this time, the increase would be considered when rates are discussed during the budget process. Commissioner Newnam stated that he is concerned that with the increase the Town is starting to make the water bills too expensive and asked if there is any other way to do the projects without the increase. President Fegel stated that the Town doesn't have the funds for the project and an increase is the only way to fund the project. Commissioner Newnam asked what has changed in the last month with the condition of the pumping stations to have the Council choose the water line project over the pumping station project. President Fegel stated that nothing has changed but the pumping station project would increase the sewer bills by \$5.00 a month. President Fegel stated that Superintendent Callahan stated that the pumping stations are functional right now and a couple of them have recently had pumps replaced. Attorney Booth stated that the Council doesn't have to make a decision tonight if they would like to defer the decision until the budget workshop and after additional talks with Superintendent Callahan. The Council decided they would like to table the decision until next month. Administrator Braband stated that if the Council would like anything additional to help them make their decision to please let her know.

**Public Questions/Comments:**

Chris Polk (Star Democrat) asked if the permit that Lakeside requested to have the Town Council sign at the November meeting has been signed yet. President Fegel stated the Town has not received the permit application for their signature yet.

**Executive Session:** An executive session is requested to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Newnam made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:23 pm. Commissioner Diefenderfer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

At the conclusion of the closed session at 7:31 pm, Commissioner Newnam made a motion to reconvene the open meeting. Commissioner Diefenderfer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Newnam made a motion at 7:31 pm to conclude the meeting. Commissioner Diefenderfer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk