

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE  
TRAPPE TOWN HALL  
JULY 5, 2017

**Council of Trappe Meeting:**

President Fegel called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council members: Nick Newnam, Tonya Pritchett, RD Diefenderfer and Walter Chase were present. Other attendees for the Town: Administrator Braband, Planner Shull, Superintendent Callahan and Attorney Booth. Public Attendees: Bobby & Shirley Quidas, Drake & Elizabeth Ferguson, Nancy Dunn, Don English, Chris Polk – Star Democrat, Bud Reid, Flo Adams, Cheryl Lewis, Ben Diefenderfer, Rose Potter and Andrew Kane.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Diefenderfer seconded the motion. All approved.

**Presentation of Minutes:** Commissioner Chase 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 the USDA loan refinancing is scheduled to close on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and at this time the projected savings to the Town will be over \$300,000.00 over the remaining life of the loans.

**COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT RECORDS**

**Public Works:** Superintendent Callahan read his report that is filed in the records. Superintendent Callahan stated that Mr. Rooter recommends that the sewer lines on Harrison Circle be shot with the camera soon due to all the sand in the lines.

**Planning and Zoning:** Planner Shull stated that the Council has the 2016 annual report which was adopted by the Planning Commission, in their packets for their review. The planning commission met on June 20<sup>th</sup> and had a conversation about a possible annexation.

Planner Shull stated that property maintenance issues are the usual grass notices and rental registrations.

Planner Shull stated that the chairman of the outreach group is Flo Adams. The group held a music in the park event with Spark in da pan on June 3<sup>rd</sup> which was well attended. A movie night was held on June 6<sup>th</sup> which showed the movie Moana. The group is in the process of planning events to coincide with the Turn Talbot Purple events in September that is being done by the Talbot County Sheriff's Department. Flo Adams presented Commissioner Pritchett with a thank you gift for all her help with the smoking cessation grant.

**Communications:**

Commissioner Pritchett thanked the Council for sending her and Administrator Braband to the Summer MML conference in Ocean City. Commissioner Pritchett read her report that is filed in the records. Commissioner Pritchett stated that she has now completed the Academy of Excellence and graduation is in September. The Town of Trappe was once again recognized as a Banner City for 2017.

President Fegel stated that the Town has received a renewal contract to the existing agreement for engineering services for on-call support from GMB. Commissioner Newnam made a motion to renew the engineering agreement with GMB. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y Fegel – Y Pritchett – Y Diefenderfer – Y Chase – Y  
All approved, motion carried.

**Attorney Updates:** Attorney Booth stated that an executive session was held on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at her office to discuss a personnel matter. Attorney Booth requested an executive session tonight for legal advice on a real estate matter in addition to the personnel matter already on the agenda.

**Executive Session:** President Fegel stated that an executive session was also held on June 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss a personnel matter and another held this evening prior to the Council meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

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

President Fegel stated that the Town of Trappe is announcing notice of their intent to apply for Federal Assistance from USDA for construction of a new production well to the Town’s central water system and for the construction of upgrades and/or replacements for 8 sanitary pumping stations.

Utility Service – Service Line Warranty Program –

President Fegel stated that this has been discussed at the last few meetings and asked if there was a motion to approve the marketing agreement with Utility Service. No motion was made.

President Fegel stated that the Town has received 2 applications for the open position on the Planning Commission. An application was received from Don English and from Yvonne Bartolomeo. Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to appoint Yvonne Bartolomeo to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y Fegel – Y Pritchett – Y Diefenderfer – Y Chase – Y  
All approved, motion carried.

#### **Public Questions/Comments:**

Chris Polk – Star Democrat – Ms. Polk asked the Council for a comment regarding Chief Ball’s suspension and investigation by the Maryland State Police. Ms. Polk asked if there still was a police force for Trappe

since the Chief is the only officer. Ms. Polk said that they reached out to Chief Ball and his response via text was that even if he is found not guilty he is still not coming back to work. Attorney Booth stated that the Council will decide what is going to be done with the police department and any decision that is made will be done as part of a public process. Attorney Booth stated that commenting on Chief Ball specifically is not appropriate at this time. Commissioner Chase stated that the Sheriff's Department and the State Police are covering all of the Town's police needs and are capable of doing a good job as well. Ms. Polk asked if the Lakeside developers are still going to pay for the police department. Attorney Booth stated that contracts are in place and they are not dependent upon one individual.

Drake Ferguson asked why the police department signs have been taken down. Administrator Braband stated that was done to direct traffic to the town hall for assistance since no one will be in the police department office. Mr. Ferguson asked when the Town would hear something from the State Police and Attorney Booth stated that the Town does not know.

Rose Potter asked if there would be a public statement to the Town from the Council. Commissioner Pritchett stated that as the Council is legally able to they would do so.

Ben Diefenderfer asked if the engineering firm that the Town just signed a contract with has insurance to cover any mistakes that may be made by them. Attorney Booth replied that yes, GMB has liability insurance to cover the Town.

President Fegel presented Fire Department President Ben Diefenderfer with the Town's 2<sup>nd</sup> half of their annual \$30,000 donation. Fire President Diefenderfer thanked the Town and stated that the Fire Department really appreciates the donation and will use this money to continue to provide a service to the community.

**Announcements:** President Fegel read the announcements.

**Executive Session:** President Fegel stated that an executive session is requested to discuss a personnel matter and to obtain legal advice regarding a real estate matter.

Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:35 pm to discuss a personnel matter and to obtain legal advice regarding a real estate matter. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

At the conclusion of the closed session at 8:28 pm, Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to reconvene the open meeting. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion at 8:28 pm to conclude the meeting. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk