

Trappe Town Council
May 6, 2026

President Newnam called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Council members Michael Sullivan, Rose Potter and Walter Chase were present. Other attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Erin Braband, Superintendent Shawn Lane and Asst. Town Attorney Jennifer Dindinger.

Agenda: Commissioner Chase 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 the April 1, 2026 Council Meeting and April 1, 2026 Council Workshop Minutes as submitted. 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 and the Enterprise Fund Budget.

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

Public Safety: Lt. Dobson read the Public Safety report that is filed with the records.

Planning & Zoning: No meeting in April. Commissioner Sullivan reported on a tour that he took on April 16th & 17th to various locations.

Communications: President Newnam stated that the Town Election is scheduled for May 13th from 9 am to 6 pm.

Attorney Updates: None

Executive Session: President Newnam stated that an executive session was held on April 1, 2026 to discuss a personnel matter.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Ordinance 1-2026 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe adopting a General Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, and establishing a tax rate of \$.33 per \$100 of assessed real property value and a tax rate of \$.75 per \$100 on all commercial or business personal property and public utilities; and establishing an annual fee of \$189.80 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 Chase made a motion to introduce Ordinance 1-2026. President Newnam seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Motion approved

A public hearing will be held for Ordinance 1-2026 on June 3, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Grass Cutting/Landscaping Bids – President Newnam stated that the Town received 1 bid from Distinctive Landscaping in response to the grass cutting/landscaping needs of the Town. The bid amount was \$42,334.00 if the contractor supplied the mulch and flowers or \$41,694.00 if the Town supplied those items. After discussion President Newnam made a motion to not award the bid at this time but to have the Town employees continue to handle these responsibilities. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Motion approved

President Newnam asked the Distinctive Landscaping rep if he would be interested in modifying the bid to be based on an as needed basis and to break down the costs for each item. The representative stated that he would do so and send it over to the Town.

Planning Commission Member Reappointment Request – President Newnam stated that Bobby Quidas' term on the Planning Commission expires this month and Mr. Quidas has asked to be reappointed to another 5 year term. President Newnam made a motion to reappoint Bobby Quidas to the Planning Commission for another 5 year term. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Motion approved

Commissioner Sullivan stated that he would like to step down from the Planning Commission and just remain on the Town Council. President Newnam stated that the Council has received a letter of interest from Mark Courtney and after discussion President Newnam made a motion to postpone appointing another member to the Planning Commission until the June 3rd Council meeting to gauge the interest of other possible candidates. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion.

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VOTE:

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

Motion approved

Lakeside Well 4R & Water Tower – James Cook stated that Well 4R received substantial completion on March 14, 2026 and a Certificate of Potability on April 14, 2026. GMB has provided a letter stating that Well 4R is operational and performing as intended and provides the Town with an additional 96 EDUs. James Cook stated that Rauch has responded to MDE and GMB second round of comments for the water tower and well on Piney Hill Road. If no additional comments are made after this review, MDE will issue the permit and the project will go out to bid. The completion of the water tower is estimated to be 12-20 months. James Cook also provided an update on the tree screening on Silver Lake and stated that it is planned to be done in the fall and will be complete before the houses being built in that location are done.

Public comments –

Dan Deakins – Mr. Deakins stated that he highly recommends Mark Courtney to the Planning Commission as he is very concerned with the environment and highly qualified. Mr. Deakins stated that as a town resident and candidate in the Special Election, he has received complaints from other residents about the speeding issues in Town. Mr. Deakins stated that he has talked with Sheriff Gamble and he offers his support to the Town and is open to continued discussions with the Town.

John Farwell – Mr. Farwell stated that he is also a candidate in the Special Election and while speaking with residents they have also voiced their concerns over the speeding issues and some have said they are willing to have the speed trailer in their yard.

Executive Session: No executive session requested

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Potter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk