

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2022

Council of Trappe Meeting: President Newnam called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council members Brian Schmidt, Tonya Pritchett and Walter Chase were present. Attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Erin Braband and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

Agenda: Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the February 2, 2022 agenda as presented. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and all approved.

Minutes: Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the January 5, 2022 Council 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. Administrator Braband asked the Council for approval to open a new Insured Cash Sweep account to deposit the sewer capacity fee money that the Town has received from Lakeside and other new connections. Commissioner Schmidt motion to open the new Insured Cash Sweep account. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and all approved.

Public Works: President Newnam stated that the Public Works report is in the Council's binders and filed with the records.

Planning & Zoning: Commissioner Schmidt stated that Sandy Thomson has purchased the old cannery property on Lovers Lane and is requesting to be annexed into Town. The Planning Commission is working through this process with Mr. Thomson and it will come in front of the Town Council when appropriate. Commissioner Schmidt stated that Elizabeth Ferguson asked about having an Airbnb however the Zoning Ordinance does not have any regulations for this so the Planning Commission is considering changing the Zoning Ordinance to reflect this use. Commissioner Schmidt stated that Marty Doty requested to have a recreational storage business at their property on Ocean Gateway. The Zoning Ordinance does not permit this, even as a special exception in the C2 district. The Planning Commission is discussing doing a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow this as special exception. Commissioner Schmidt stated that Lakeside received bond approval for Phase 1B and received final plat approval for Phase 1B. Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Planning Commission reviewed the Welcome to Trappe sign that Lakeside has offered to design and install free of charge. The Planning Commission is in agreeance with the design and Rauch Engineering will design a concept plan for approval.

Communications: Commissioner Schmidt stated that he attended the quarterly County/Municipality meeting and they discussed a Talbot County Accountability Board for Police but Trappe did not receive an invitation to this meeting. Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Rural Life Museum is looking for members and Board of Director members. Commissioner Schmidt asked if the Council would consider moving the monthly Council meeting to 6:00 pm. The Council stated that they would think about it and discuss it at the March Council meeting.

Attorney Updates: Attorney Ryan stated that she sent letters on behalf of the Town opposing Resolution 308 and Resolution 313 to the Talbot County Council.

Executive Session: President Newnam stated that no executive session was held on January 5, 2022.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Well 6 – Attorney Ryan stated that the Well project is delayed due to Covid affecting the suppliers and the Town’s interim financing expires on 2/8/22 so a loan extension is needed. Shore United has offered to extend the loan to August 8, 2022 at the same interest rate. Commissioner Chase made a motion to approve the Second Note Modification Agreement and the Second Supplemental Arbitrage and Tax Certificate. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y Schmidt – Y Pritchett – Y Chase – Y Diefenderfer – absent

Motion approved.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Options – Attorney Ryan stated that she and Administrator Braband met with USDA and they are willing to fund what MDE won’t but the majority of the funding will be by loan and not grant. MDE will not fund the upgrade of Trappe’s plant if the upgrade is the train at Lakeside. They will only fund the conveyance and they will only fund that if Lakeside is operational and meeting ENR standards. MDE will not even review and consider connecting Trappe’s existing plant to Lakeside’s plant until Lakeside is up and running. MDE would rather that Trappe decommission their existing plant and rebuild a plant at the existing site then to build a plant that connects to Lakeside’s plant. They consider this option as funding a new plant and they will only consider moving a location of a plant if there is some other environmental need, which the Town does not have. After discussing the options, Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to move forward with submitting the PER to MDE, selecting the Wave Oxidation plant on Trappe’s existing site with sludge removal and mechanical dewatering as the preferred and most cost-effective option. The PER submittal will also include Greenfield and White Marsh pumping stations. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y Schmidt – Y Pritchett – Y Chase – Y Diefenderfer – absent

Motion approved.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds -

President Newnam asked the Council if they would be willing to set aside \$20,000 to give grants to the Town’s non-profits. There would be an application process and the Council would review all the applications and select the amount to be awarded to each non-profit. Commissioner Chase made a motion to set aside \$20,000 from the Town’s ARPA funds to award to local non-profits. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y Schmidt – Y Pritchett – Y Chase – Y Diefenderfer – absent

Motion approved.

Administrator Braband will make an application with a due date of March 18th. The applications will be reviewed by the Council at their April 6th meeting in executive session and awarded to the recipients at the May 4th Council meeting. The final rule has come out and construction of publicly owned treatment works is listed as one of the eligible projects so the Town can use the remaining funds for the treatment plant upgrade if they wish to do so.

Trash Contract -

Administrator Braband presented the request for proposal and the general specifications and conditions for the Town's trash services. The trash contract currently expires September 30, 2022 but it would be beneficial to bid the service out early in order to get the costs back before the new tax bills are sent out. The County must receive the Town's tax rate and trash fee before May 15th to be included on the tax bill. Administrator Braband reviewed the proposed changes to the trash contract and they include changing the start date to July 1st or earlier if requested, changing the size/limit of trash collected to 1 96-gallon can instead of 3 30-gallon cans or 6 trash bags and requiring annual proof of general liability and worker's compensation insurance. Administrator Braband also stated that the proposal has been changed to give the trash company an opportunity to bid on supplying trash cans to the Town residents if that is something that they can do. All bids need to be returned by March 15, 2022 at 3:00 and will be opened March 16th at 9:00. The bids will be reviewed at the April 6th Council meeting. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to put the trash contract out to bid with the proposed changes. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion. All approved.

Other Business: None

Public Questions/Comments: None

Executive Session: An executive session is requested to obtain legal advice. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:09 pm. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion.

At the conclusion of the closed session at 8:34 pm, the open meeting was reconvened.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Schmidt made a motion at 8:34 pm to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and it was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk