

Trappe Town Council  
February 4, 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 Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Chase made a motion to approve the January 7, 2026 Workshop and Council minutes as presented. Commissioner Potter 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 Enterprise Budget.

Administrator Braband announced that the Town received notification that they have been awarded a grant from the Fiscal Year 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending fund in the amount of \$1,149,000 for the ENR Upgrade.

Administrator Braband presented the Council with a proposal from Comfort Plus to replace the existing heat/air condition system in both the Council room and the Administrator's office with a multi-zone ductless mini-split system. The proposal is for \$16,985.96. The broken existing systems are both over 20 years old and beyond repair. The Town has spent a little over \$2,000 just in the last 2 weeks trying to repair them and provide heat for these rooms. Administrator Braband stated that there is interest earned money remaining in the ARPA fund account if the Council wished to pull the funds for this expense from there. After reviewing the proposal, Commissioner Chase made a motion to approve Comfort Plus's proposal for the new heat/air condition system and to use interest earned funds from the ARPA account to pay for it. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. President Newnam requested that the Town look into other companies for any future maintenance contracts.

**Public Works:** Superintendent Lane read the monthly report that is filed with the records. President Newnam requested that the Town have a conversation regarding landscaping around the new pumping stations, specifically Rumsey Drive. Superintendent Lane presented the Council with a quote to purchase a snow blower and a commercial salt spreader. The quote for both items is \$6,456.45. At this time the Town has to subcontract out salt spreading. President Newnam requested that Superintendent Lane get additional quotes from other companies and get a quote to purchase a second snowplow for the other Town truck.

**Public Safety:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Aita read the monthly report that is filed with the records.

**Planning & Zoning:** Administrator Braband stated that no meeting was held due to a lack of a quorum.

**Attorney Updates:** Attorney Ryan stated that closing on the USDA loans for the pumping station project is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Executive session:** No executive session was held on January 7, 2026.

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

**Pumping Station Upgrade/Rehabilitation – Loan Resolution RUS Bulletin 1780-27 in the amount of \$1,141,000.00** – President Newnam read the title and Attorney Ryan stated that the Council has already approved the undertaking of these loans with Ordinance 5-2024 however this Resolution is required to close the USDA loan. President Newnam made a motion to approve Loan Resolution RUS Bulletin 1780-27 in the amount of \$1,141,000.00. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Pumping Station Upgrade/Rehabilitation – Loan Resolution RUS Bulletin 1780-27 in the amount of \$1,376,000.00** – President Newnam read the title and Attorney Ryan stated that this Resolution is the same as the other one except for the amount. President Newnam made a motion to approve Loan Resolution RUS Bulletin 1780-27 in the amount of \$1,376,000.00. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Farms Lane Residents:** Tish Blessing stated that she and her neighbors that are also in attendance are concerned over activity that is taking place on Mr. Morrison’s property on Lovers Lane. They are concerned about the trees being cut down, the road is blocked by construction equipment during school hours and there are people roaming the property after dark. Mrs. Blessing stated that they are parking in front of her house, blocking her driveway, blocking access to a fire hydrant and creating ruts in her driveway when they turn around. Matt Dunn stated that he was told that they are putting storage units on the property and that is why they are clearing the woods. Attorney Ryan stated that Mr. Morrison came to the Planning Commission about 2 years ago with the idea of subdividing the property but nothing ever came of it. The Town has not received any documentation regarding that property and Mr. Morrison’s plan for it. Sgt. Aita asked Mrs. Blessing to call the police when the road is being blocked, when her driveway is blocked or if they are uncomfortable about people walking around on the property after dark. The Sheriff’s department is happy to come down and address any issues that they can. President Newnam stated that the Town would look into the work being done, any possible violations and if permits are needed for what is being done.

**Public Questions/Comments:**

David Billings, Harrison Court – Mr. Billings stated that his neighbor is starting his dump truck at 2 am and letting it run which is a violation of the Town’s noise ordinance. Mr. Billings also stated that this truck violates the weight limits signs that are posted on some of the Town’s streets. Attorney Ryan stated that the Town will send a letter to the violator and look into the decibel level set by State law. The Town will respond back to Mr. Billings with their findings.

John Evans – Harrison Circle – Mr. Evans stated that he is having the same issue with this neighbor and that the exhaust on the truck has been modified. The Town will respond back to Mr. Evans with their findings as well.

**Executive Session** – President Newnam stated that an executive session is requested to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Chase made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:48 pm. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Chase made a motion to reopen the regular meeting at 7:20 pm. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Chase made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Braband, Town Administrator