

## COUNCIL OF TRAPPE MINUTES

January 6, 2010

7:42 p.m.

Trappe Town Hall

The regular Council of Trappe Meeting was opened by President Croswell and called to order at 7:42 p.m., following a previously announced public hearing. Commissioners Walter Chase, Richard Dorbin, Norm Fegel and Rose Potter were present. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was an Executive Session on December 2, 2009 @ 10:05 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Commissioners present were Robert Croswell, Walter Chase, Richard Dorbin, Rose Potter and Norm Fegel.

### **Signing of Police Aid Mutual Agreement**

The meeting was turned over to Commissioner Chase for the official signing of the Municipal Police MOU. Chief Ball then introduced the guests. Mr. Jimmy Borga, Pat Maxwell, Jim Claire, Pete Dunbar and Tim Kearns of Oxford, McGill Dennis and Michael Brady of St. Michaels, Dave Spencer, Mayor Bob Willey, Scott Patterson, Ellen Grunden and, Steve Elliott of Easton and Mr. Robert Parker of Easton who volunteers his computer skills to the Police Department.

Chief Ball gave a brief description of the Mutual Aid Agreement and explained that this is the first time that the County has ever had a Mutual Aid Agreement. Mr. Scott Patterson, States Attorney, thanked everyone for working together and how much this would benefit the citizens of the Community.

The agreement was signed by George Ball, Police Chief for the Town of Trappe, Jimmy Borga, Police Chief for the Town of Oxford, Peter Dunbar, President of Town of Oxford, Miguel Dennis, Police Chief for St. Michaels, David Spencer, Chief of Easton Police Department, Mayor Bob Willey of Easton, Robert Croswell, President of Trappe, and Michael Brady, President of St. Michaels.

**Presentation of Minutes:** Minutes were approved as amended.

**Financial Report:** The financial report was presented to the Commissioners for review and filed for audit.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Clerks Report: Town Clerk:**

Ms. Cecil gave the monthly financial report (Copy filed with the minutes).

#### **Police Report: Public Safety Commissioner Chase**

Chief Ball gave his report. (Copy filed with the minutes).

#### **Homerun Baker Park:**

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Commissioner Croswell stated that Home Run Baker Park is very dark and hard to see when patrolling. Suggested that we see if the County would put up more street lights and the town absorbs the cost of the lights. We will check on the cost of the electric for the lights and put on the agenda for next month.

**Public Works - WWTP Steve Callahan**

Mr. Callahan's report filed with the minutes.

**Snow Removal Costs: - Town Clerk**

Snow Removal costs were \$6,853.60 and \$150.00 for sidewalks. There were valve covers damaged during the snow removal costing approximately \$ 4,811.47 totaling \$10,915.07 which were submitted to Ray Clark to present to Fema.

**Planning & Zoning – Norm Fegel:**

Commissioner Fegel reported that the patches put over the pot holes on Rumsey Drive have been knocked out by the snow removal. The asphalt was higher than the street so when plowed the asphalt was removed leaving pot holes again.

Commissioner Fegel said that the Planning Commission has forwarded to the Town Council the Comprehensive Plan for introduction.

**Parks & Recreation – Rose Potter:**

Commissioner Potter stated the signs posted on the Nace Hopkins Park have been knocked down, and the property is still being used to park on. The concern is that nothing will stop the parking until a fence is put up since the owners have been advised by letters and personally addressed. This continues to be a problem.

It was suggested by Chief Ball moving a section of chain link fence from near the water tower as a temporary fix.

**Communications Committee:**

We will be preparing a new budget in April and Commissioner Croswell suggested now is the time to contact Commissioners with your concerns and needs for the coming year.

Commissioner Croswell stated that sump pumps cannot be connected to the town sewer drains. We have investigated and know of one, we will be checking closer to see if there are any more.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Water Sewer rates Ordinance 8-2009:**

Commissioner Croswell read Ordinance 8-2009 title:

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF TRAPPE  
ESTABLISHING THE TOWN'S WATER AND SEWER CHARGES, AND

REPEALING ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT WITH THE NEWLY ADOPTED RATES AND CHARGES.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chase to adopt Ordinance 8-2009 and Seconded by Commissioner Dorbin.

Vote:

Dorbin – Y      Potter – Y      Crosswell – Y      Chase – Y      Fegel – Y

The Ordinance was adopted as an Emergency Ordinance to become effective on January 1, 2010.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution 1-2010: -**

Commissioner Crosswell read Resolution 1-2010

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF TRAPPE ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF TRAPPE.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dorbin to introduce Resolution 1-2010. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fegel.

Vote:

Dorbin – Y      Potter – Y      Crosswell – Y      Chase - Y      Fegel – Y

**Public Hearing will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Dorbin to have the public hearing on March 17<sup>th</sup> for the Comprehensive Plan. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Potter. All were in favor.

**Resolution 2-2010 :**

Commissioner Crosswell read:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF TRAPPE AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A PROMISSORY NOTE WITH THE TALBOT BANK IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$33,375.93. THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN USED TO PURCHASE A POLICE VEHICLE FOR THE TOWN OF TRAPPE.

Commissioner Chase asked if any money was being paid on the principal at all. Attorney Booth stated that she had talked with Mr. Showalter [attorney for the developer] and the developer would like to have it extended so they could continue to work on getting their bonds started. The original note was for \$35,000.00. There was a discussion on why the note has lingered for such a period of time. Commissioner Crosswell asked that Attorney Booth consult with Mr. Rocks on just what he would like to pay on the principal each quarter.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dorbin to adopt Resolution 2-2010 with corrections. (Commissioner Crowell noted that the Resolution was called an Ordinance in last section.)

Motion was seconded by Commission Fegel.

Vote:

Dorbin – Y      Potter – Y      Crowell – Y      Chase – Y      Fegel –Y

**Budget - Trappe Fire Company Donation \$15,000.00.**

Commissioner Crowell stated that when we did the updates in the budget we budgeted \$15,000.00 for the Trappe Fire Company; we need to authorize Commissioner Crowell to sign the check for the Fire Company.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chase to authorize Commissioner Crowell to sign the check for the Trappe Fire Company as a donation.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fegel

Vote:

Dorbin – Y      Potter – Y      Crowell – Y      Chase – Y      Fegel – Y

**Charles Adams – Rural Life Museum Christmas Tree Pickup:**

Commissioner Crowell stated that in the new budget we voted to have only a Christmas tree pickup for the Special Trash Collection to save costs for the town.

Mr. Charles Adams sent a letter to the town stating that the Rural Life Museum will collect the Christmas Trees and chip up for mulch on January 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be done by volunteers at no costs to the town. Avon Dixon has verified that they will be covered by their insurance;

Motion was made by Commissioner Fegel to let the Rural Life Museum collect the Christmas trees and chip up for mulch.

Motion was seconded by Commission Potter.

Vote:

Dorbin – Y      Potter – Y      Crowell – Y      Chase – Y      Fegel – Y

Everyone is encouraged to join the Rural Life Museum.

**Letter of Complaint Drainage Problem at Lakeview:**

Commissioner Crowell said that the town received a letter of complaint concerning drainage problems from so much rainfall on the east side of Harrison Circle. The complainant asked that the town install a culvert under the road on Harrison Circle to take the water off that is draining from other yards into the complainants.

Commissioner Crowell explained that it has been an ongoing problem for years. In times past we have cleaned the culverts and ditches so that they will drain.

Mr. Ephraim Diefenderfer was asked to look at the problem and make a recommendation of cost to repair. The estimate is included in the minutes for \$2,400.00 to clean ditches and install a drainage pipe. Commissioner Fegel asked if the drainage ditch was on the homeowner's property or town property. Mr. English asked why the town would pay for a culvert on private driveway that is normally the property owner's responsibility; this would open Pandora's Box. There was a lengthy discussion on this being the property owner's responsibility to have culverts on their driveways and their

ditches cleaned not the towns. It was suggested that letters be sent to people to maintain the ditches in front of their homes.

Commissioner Chase asked Attorney Booth if she would research this for the town?

Everyone agreed.

**Relocate Police Department:**

Commissioner Croswell said that since the citizens did not feel comfortable with moving the police department, there are some issues that still need to be resolved. He felt that this needed to be done in a workshop since some of these are security issues.

**Workshop with Chief Ball is set for February 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Parking Problems Nace's Park:**

The no parking signs are now down and there is continued parking on the property stated Commissioner Croswell. We still have no solution for the problem.

Chief Ball suggested that we relocate the excess chain link fence that we now have around the water tower that was left over from Lakeview Park.

Ms. Harriett Chase suggested getting volunteers together to work on this project. Commissioner Croswell stated that we have had a contractor who volunteered to put the fence down, felt that having volunteers involved would be the solution.

Commissioner Fegel suggested that we go ahead and put the chain link fence up for the time being and let the contractor do it for now.

Commissioner Dorbin suggested that we discuss further with the community and see if we can get some interest to bring back to the Council. Commissioner Potter agreed and would be the contact person.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Town Office will be closed

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. until... Trappe Volunteer Fire Co., Soup Day

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m. Trappe Planning Commission meeting

Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> – Christmas tree collection only (no other bulk trash)

Reverend Hackett gave the benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Joedy Cecil, Clerk

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Approved by: Robert H. Croswell, President