

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE MINUTES

February 3, 2010

7:31 p.m.

Trappe Town Hall

The regular Council of Trappe Meeting was opened by President Crowell and called to order at 7:31, following a previously announced workshop to review deficiencies at the police headquarters.

Commissioners Walter Chase, Richard Dorbin, Norm Fegel and Rose Potter were present.

Presentation of Minutes: Minutes were approved as presented for the Special Meeting on January 6th and the regular town minutes.

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

Commissioner Chase asked Chief Ball for his report. (Copy filed with the minutes).

Public Works: Steve Callahan

(Copy filed with the minutes)

Snow Storm:

Commissioner Crowell stated that we had applied to FEMA for some help with the snow storm which cost \$5,000.00 more than budgeted. The State of Maryland turned down Talbot County's request, and we will not receive any FEMA money.

Planning & Zoning: Norm Fegel

Commissioner Fegel stated that there will be a joint Public Hearing on March 17th at the Trappe Fire Company with the town Planning Commission for a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan.

Parks & Recreation: Rose Potter

Commissioner Potter stated that she makes periodic visits to Nace Hopkins Park and asked if anyone was aware of any needs there to please contact her.

Communications Committee:

Commissioner Crowell said that Rural Life Museum picked up Christmas trees for the town at no charge. The Rural Life Museum is soliciting patrons and Commissioner Crowell suggested that the Town become a patron for the cost of \$100.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fegel to become a patron member for \$100.00.
Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chase.

Vote:

Dorbin – Y Potter – Y Croswell – Y Chase – Y Fegel – Y

OLD BUSINESS:

Police Department Deficiencies:

Commissioner Croswell stated that we have just had a public hearing concerning the Police Headquarters. We have two options to choose from the first is to move next door to a bigger office in the Moore's building for additional rent of \$500.00 per month. The second option was to remodel the garage as previously discussed.

Commissioner Chase addressed the safety issues that were involved where Chief Ball now is and felt that we needed to address as soon as possible. It was suggested that Rocks might help with the additional rent. Commissioner Chase felt that without a grant from Rocks the second option would be the best way to go. Commissioner Potter agreed.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson stated that Rocks might not be the only possibility for a grant. Commissioners Croswell suggested the Ms. Shull, Town Planner look for grant funding.

Mrs. Booth Town Attorney stated that she would talk with Rocks and get back to the Council next month and felt that we might need to put out for bids again.

Commissioner Croswell stated that the lowest bidder would extend his price until January; it was suggested to make sure that he will guarantee that amount.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dorbin to have Ms. Booth discuss with the Developer (Rocks) the financial alternative with their input as soon as possible.
Motion seconded by Commissioner Fegel.

Vote:

Dorbin-Y Potter – Y Croswell – Y Chase – Y Fegel – Y

Storm Water drainage problems at Lakeview:

Ms. Booth stated that she had looked at the problem on January 25th where the water was standing in the yards after the heavy rain. The lack of culverts was not the issue but the elevation. The town without spending a lot of money for engineering has the option to maintain the ditches around Lakeview. This would help to solve the problems that they are having with the drainage.

There was a lengthy discussion on the problem that has existed there for many years. Commissioner Potter felt that if we took care of this area we would have to be prepared to take care of the many areas that are having this problem in the town. Ms. Booth suggested that we have a general policy that if it is a town ditch the town would have to

clean. Commissioner Potter agreed that we need a policy that all the areas in town would fall under. Commissioner Croswell will have this area in question cleaned.

Streetlights at Home Run Baker Park:

Commissioner Croswell stated that it was suggested to have a street light put in at Home Run Baker Park to help take care of some of the vandalism there. If the County would install the town would pay the electricity for the flood lights. The cost of this would be approximately \$20.00 per light per month. The Council agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget:

Commissioner Croswell stated that we will be working on the new budget for the year. It appears that the new water and sewer rates are going to give the revenue needed as anticipated.

Commissioner Croswell said that we will be presenting line items for major expenses in the town budget if anyone feels that there are needs in any area please let the Council know.

Employee Benefits:

Commissioner Croswell said that he would like to set a workshop to review the employee benefits for the coming year. The budget will be presented in April.

Workshop is set for February 17th at 6:45 p.m. Closed meeting for Personnel issues.

Home Occupation Permits Requirements.

Commissioner Croswell explained there have been some issues with the Home Occupational Permits

Ms. Booth said that the town now has two classifications Type I and Type II, Type I is where residents use their home as a place or work; with no employees or customers that come to the site. Type II permits both employees and customers coming to the site. The recommendation would be to consider removing the Type I. Since this will be a revision to the Zoning Ordinance, Ms. Booth recommended that it be deferred to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fegel to refer to the Planning Commission for their recommendation. Motion was seconded by Commission Dorbin.

Vote:

Dorbin – Y Potter – Y Croswell – Y Chase – Y Fegel – Y

Commissioner Croswell recommended all fees would become due the same time and only a one time fee.

Temporary Fence at Nace Hopkins Park:

Commissioner Croswell said that we have received bids to take the chain link fence down from the water tower and put up as a temporary fence at Nace Hopkins Park.

The bids were as follows:

Diefenderfer Excavating \$1,600.00

R S & J Excavation, Inc. for \$2,250.00

Motion was made by Commissioner Fegel to take the lowest bid.
Motion was seconded by Commission Chase.

Vote:

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

A motion was made to go into executive session at the conclusion of the regular meeting to obtain legal advice and to discuss a personnel matter.

Vote:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

February 15th Presidents' Day – Town Office and TCPS closed
February 17th 7:30 p.m. Trappe Planning Commission Meeting
March 17th Public Hearing on Resolution 1-2010 (Trappe Comprehensive Plan)

Benediction – (Town Chaplain, Rev. Hackett, Scotts UMC)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joedy Cecil, Clerk

Approved by: Robert H. Crosswell, President

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:55 p.m. The executive session took place at the Town office. Persons in attendance were Richard Dorbin, Rose Potter, Robert Crosswell, Walter Chase, Norm Fegel and Brynja Booth. The executive session was called pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government Article Section 10-508(a). The purpose of the meeting and topics of discussion were to obtain legal advice from the Town Attorney on a permit matter, and to discuss and obtain legal advice on a personnel matter. No action was taken. The Council simply discussed these matters and obtained legal advice from Council. The executive session concluded at 10:05 p.m.

At the conclusion of the executive session, the Commissioners reconvened the open meeting at 10:05 p.m. A motion was made by Norm Fegel to authorize the President of the Council to sign a letter to MDE advising MDE of its decision to surrender the construction permit for the Lakeside wastewater treatment plant, and to notify Talbot County of that decision, which was seconded by Walter Chase. The motion was unanimously passed 5-0. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Approved by: Robert H. Croswell, President

UNCERTIFIED
COPY