

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2011

7:30 P.M.

TRAPPE TOWN HALL

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The regular meeting of the Council of Trappe was called to order by President Croswell at 7:36 p.m. Commissioners Walter Chase, Richard Dorbin, Norm Fegel and Rose Potter were present. Commissioner Fegel led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendment to the Agenda: Agenda approved as submitted.

Presentation of the Minutes: Motion by Commissioner Potter to accept the minutes of the March 2nd meeting. Commissioner Dorbin seconded the motion. There were no objections.

Financial Statement: Financial statement has been submitted and filed for audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Clerk's Report: Town Planner, Jennifer Shull, filled in for Clerk Joedy Cecil, and read Mrs. Cecil's report. General fund net income (\$-25,016.54) Enterprise fund net income (\$-22,244.30). Water bills billed for month of March \$39,041.29; outstanding water bills \$16,712.52.

Public Safety: Commissioner Chase deferred to Chief Ball. Chief Ball gave his monthly report, and noted that Lowest Price Gas made a \$100 donation to the police department. He also noted that the contract with RedSpeed has been executed, and RedSpeed has filed permit requests with State Highway for erection of signs. President Croswell noted that the monthly police report is posted on line at the town website. Chief Ball requested a donation of pottery and a town book as door prizes for the Police Chiefs Assoc meeting at MML. Commissioner Fegel suggested the town support the donation. All Commissioners were in agreement.

Public Works: President Croswell referred to report submitted by operator Steve Callahan. Commissioner Dorbin referred to item #3 on the report, and requested that Mr. Callahan contact the contractor and ask him to revisit the work on the ditch. Chief Ball reported that a water line was damaged at the Shore Stop by a Perdue Truck. The repair was made, and Perdue contacted to make restitution for the damages.

Planning: Commissioner Fegel stated that the planning commission had a few administrative tasks to address this month.

Parks: Commissioner Potter reported that work on Lakeview Park had been completed, and that she was focusing efforts on Nace's Park. A committee has been formed of Thurman Bryan, Dottie Dyott, Michael Sullivan, Commissioner Potter, and Town Planner Shull to review and coordinate ideas for the park. President Croswell suggested the committee review the minutes from several years ago regarding development of the park.

Communications: President Croswell reported that Joe Thomas had called the town office on Wednesday, and spoke to Mrs. Cecil. It was his understanding that the benefit spaghetti dinner for Mr. Thomas raised approximately \$4,200 and fed more than 300 people. Ms Shull added that Mr. Thomas is awaiting further surgery, and seemed to be doing as expected given his injuries.

Attorney Update: Brynja Booth stated she had no updates at this time.

2011 Election Updates: President Croswell noted that no one was present from the Town Election Board, however, if anyone had questions regarding the election or voting there was information on the town website under the Election 2011 link. The primary election will take place on Tuesday, April 12th which will eliminate two of the eight candidates. The general election will be May 10th.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Board of Appeals Appointment: President Croswell stated that the State has notified the town that all members of the Board of Appeals have completed and passed the state certification requirement. An opening does not exist on the Board of Appeals at this time.

John Salmon Proclamation: The town received a request to honor a native son of Trappe, John Salmon, on the occasion of his retirement from State service. A congratulatory proclamation was issued on behalf of the Council.

Ordinance #05-2011: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF TRAPPE ADOPTING A GENERAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2011 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2012, AND ESTABLISHING A TAX RATE OF \$.29 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED REAL PROPERTY VALUE AND A TAX RATE OF \$.54 PER \$100 ON ALL COMMERCIAL OR BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES; AND ALSO ADOPTING AN ENTERPRISE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN'S WATER AND SEWER OPERATIONS.

President Croswell read the ordinance title into the record, and stated that a workshop was held on the proposed budget on March 16th at the town hall. There will be a public hearing on the ordinance at 7:00 p.m. on May 4th prior to the regular Council meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Fegel to introduce Ordinance #05-2011. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

President Croswell stated that a supplemental budget ordinance may be necessary in August.

Repair Diamond Street: President Croswell directed the Commissioners to the information in their packets regarding the culvert at the end of Diamond Street. The culvert provides emergency access to the rear of Home Run Baker Park. The storm drain at the culvert is damaged and needs repair. The Town’s engineer, Jerry Adams, made a recommendation to remove a portion of the culvert in consultation with President Croswell and Cindy Meekins of Talbot Co Parks and Recreation. R.S. & J. Excavation has provided a proposal of \$2,600.00 to make the recommended repair. Ephraim Diefenderfer and Eddie Moore were also requested to submit proposals which have not been received.

Motion by Commissioner Fegel to accept the repair recommendation of the Town Engineer, Jerry Adams. Commissioner Dorbin seconded the motion. Discussion about the motion. President Croswell expressed concern that the other contractors may not have had adequate time to submit a proposal. He did not take issue with the quality of work previously performed by R.S. & J. for the town. Commissioner Fegel withdrew his motion and entered a new motion. The second motion was to accept the repair recommendation of Town Engineer, Jerry Adams, and the repair proposal of R.S. & J. Excavation in the amount of \$2,600.00.

Commissioner Dorbin seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Town Code Amendment Question: President Croswell led discussion on what, if anything, could be done to stagger the payment of the water/sewer allocation/capacity charge of \$12,470 to encourage local spec builders to build in Trappe. Questions included: could payment on a portion be deferred from issuance of building permit to issuance of occupancy permit; which developers/builders would this option be available to; should it be limited to those building on less than six lots; what are the legal implications if payment is not made as agreed. Town Attorney Booth stated she had a list of area water and sewer connection fees from other research, and that Trappe’s fees were in the mid range. She also has experience with spec builders declaring bankruptcy, and collecting funds due which she will share as the discussion moves forward. Suggestions from residents in attendance included setting a sunset provision on any deferred payment; marketing the fact that Trappe’s connection fees are lower than other towns; and noting that builders only pay interest during construction and the interest on the \$12,470 connection/capacity charge is minor compared to the overall construction loan costs. The Commissioners agreed to continue discussion on the issue.

Annual Employee Recognition Dinner: President Croswell reported town staff have determined that Thursday, May 19th was a potential date for the annual dinner. Pricing, menu and location were discussed. It was noted that last year's affair was very nice but not well attended.

Motion by Commissioner Fegel to accept the date of May 19th and the location of Portside Restaurant.

Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

BENEDICTION: In the absence of clergy & without objection President Croswell offered a benediction.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sat. April 9th Chicken Dinner at Scott's UM Church to benefit Joe Thomas

Tue. April 12th Town primary election

Mon. April 18th Deadline for items included in the May issue of *The Index*

Tue. April 19th 7:30 p.m. Trappe Planning Commission meeting

Wed. April 20th 4:00 p.m. Trappe Vol. Fire Co. Soup Day

Fri. April 22nd Good Friday – Town Office Closed

Good Friday Cross Walk beginning at WMES at noon

Sat. April 23rd 1:30 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt Trappe United Methodist Church

Fri. April 29th Bulk Trash collection. Pay pickup fee at Town Office by April 26th. Forms at www.trappemd.net

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer A. Shull, Town Planner

Approved: Robert Croswell, President