

**COUNCIL OF TRAPPE**  
**MAY 4, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**TRAPPE TOWN HALL**

**Public Hearing**

The public hearing of the Council of Trappe to hear comments on Ordinance 5-2011 was called to order by President Croswell at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Walter Chase, Richard Dorbin, Norm Fegel and Rose Potter were present. Also present at the hearing were: Shirley and Bobby Quidas, Don English, Mary Rae and Charles Adams.

President Croswell read aloud Ordinance 5-2011. 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 stated that the budget was posted on line for review. There are two items that have been changed. The first is we received word from the Maryland Municipal League that the State of Maryland has approved restoring \$10,000 to \$12,000 to our Highway User Revenue. The bill has been approved awaiting the Governor's signature.

The Enterprise side has an addition for a possible building permit to be issued that will give an increase of \$12,470.00 for a new hookup connection which we have included in the budget.

The General Fund is balanced taking no money from the contingency fund. We anticipate that the current fiscal year will end with a surplus due to the local income tax revenue came in higher than anticipated and snow removal funds being left over. We will probably have a supplemental budget later in the year to allocate the surplus finds.

President Croswell gave a brief description of savings that has been done at the wastewater treatment plant to save money by making some costly repairs.

There were no comments from the public.

The public hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

## **COUNCIL OF TRAPPE MINUTES**

May 4, 2011

7:30 p.m.

### **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

The regular business meeting of the Trappe Town Council was called to order by President Croswell at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Potter led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Amendment to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**Presentation of the Minutes:** Commissioner Chase made a motion that the April 6, 2011 minutes be approved as presented. Commissioner Dorbin seconded the motion and all agreed.

**Financial Statement:** Financial statement has been submitted for review.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Clerk's Report: Town Clerk**

Mrs. Cecil certified the results of the election which are included in the minutes. She reported a beginning balance in the general fund of \$1,479.26 and the ending balance was \$28,655.18. The net income was \$-5,283.11. The enterprise fund beginning balance was \$1,740.48 and the ending balance was \$15,228.38 with the net income being \$8,461.40. Outstanding water bills were \$20,937.78.

#### **Police Report: Commissioner Chase:**

Chief George Ball gave his report on the RedSpeed update and stated that he had met with the State Highway Administration and they were doing a traffic survey from Old Trappe Road in town limits to Main Street. They said that it would take approximately 30 days before they could get their report completed. This is the main bus route and the State felt that there would be no problem having the RedSpeed in that area, but route 50 would be off limits for the time being. Chief Ball continued to give his monthly report, suggesting that the town look into the ordinance for peddlers; there had been an incident which he felt might merit the review of the ordinance. President Croswell asked Attorney Booth to look at our ordinance to see if we need to make any changes.

Chief Ball also mentioned skateboarding in the town. Commissioner Chase suggested that he Law Enforcement Update-Chief Ball stated that 67 officers were killed which is up 18% increase from last year and a 65% increase from being shot and traffic incidents were down, this is nationwide.

Commissioner Chase acknowledged two certificates for Chief Ball Maryland Municipal Police Training Commission training of 18 hours in service credit. Hazards workshop with six hours on April 6, 2011 where he received two awards. President Crowell commended Chief Ball on his accomplishments.

**WWTP Report filed with the minutes:**

President Crowell explained that the starter on the generator at the south Main Street pumping station has been taken care of and was now working. The drainage issue on Diamond Street has been corrected by R S & J Excavating (Ronnie Wilson) had taken out the falling apart catch basin and corrected the problems as recommended by Town Engineer Jerry Adams.

**Planning & Zoning: Commissioner Fegel:**

Commissioner Fegel stated that the Planning Board was looking at possibly developing some guidelines for temporary storage receptacles.

**Parks and Recreation: Commissioner Potter:**

Commissioner Potter gave her report of inspections on the parks which are filed with the minutes. Commissioner Potter requested that all concerns of the parks be directed to her. Commissioner Potter stated that the Committee that was organized for Nace's Park was implied to be illegal. Commissioner Potter asked Ms. Booth if an ad hoc committee could be organized legally for a specific task and once the task completed the committee would then be dissolved and her question is whether or not this would be legal. Commissioner Potter also stated that Linda Wilson was added to the committee from last month.

Commissioner Potter said that some months ago a grant was applied for from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Community parks and playground equipment. Today a letter was received stating that there was a possibility that we could receive the grant of \$20,000.00 which would enable us to be able to purchase a gazebo for the Trappe Veterans Memorial Park.

Attorney Booth stated the council can create advisory committees on many issues. They should make recommendations to the council because ultimately the council is the one who has the budget constraint with the ability to approve or disapprove. Ms. Booth said that an advisory committee is fine and she would review more thoroughly the question concerning the ad hoc committee's meetings and the open meeting law.

President Crowell stated that the things that need to be done at Home Run Baker Park will need to be done by the County because the town has nothing to do with this park. The no parking sign from Nace's Park has been removed and we are still having problems with a truck being parked in the park and unloading lawn mowers. We have ordered replacement signs and additional signs for people to clean up after their dogs.

**Attorney Updates: Brynja Booth:**

There were no updates.

**Update on Mr. Joe Thomas:**

Mr. Thomas’s sister Diane gave a brief report on Mr. Thomas’s condition. Mr. Thomas is doing great and will be having surgery again on Thursday. Clerk Joedy Cecil thanked the town for their support of the spaghetti dinner given for Mr. Thomas. Joyce White also thanked everyone for the support of the Scott’s chicken dinner.

**Communications**

President Crowell stated that there will be an organizational meeting for the new Council on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 p.m. required by the charter. The selection of a President and Vice President will be made at this meeting. New Council members will take over and be sworn in at the June 1<sup>st</sup>. meeting.

**BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

**Ordinance 5-2011 Budget 2011-2012:**

President Crowell explained that we have just had a public hearing on Ordinance 5-2011 to adopt a Budget for year 2011-2012. President Crowell read the ordinance. There were no additional comments.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fegel to adopt Ordinance 5-2011. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dorbin.

Vote:

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

**Resolution 6-2011**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF TRAPPE ADOPTING THE 2010 TALBOT COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AS THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF TRAPPE.**

Ms. Booth explained that Talbot County has a lengthy hazard mitigation plan. The Federal Law “FEMA” organization requires that any jurisdiction receiving Federal Funds must have a hazard mitigation plan. Most of this plan is about flood plain areas which Oxford and St. Michaels have but this also applies to Tornados, hurricanes etc. Talbot County has put this plan together with input from other various jurisdictions. It was presented to each municipality with a requirement that they each adopt it in order to be recognized by FEMA. Ms. Booth has reviewed and changed some language in the adopting resolution proposed by the County. There is very little about Trappe but it is required that the town must have a plan; this would cost the town a whole lot less than having to prepare a new plan. The resolution tonight was prepared for consideration, should in the future the town decide to amend or adopt another resolution it could be done.

Commissioner Chase had several questions about the wording in the plan. Ms. Booth explained that we could send back a list of corrections that we would like, but there is a ton of things that do not apply to the Town.

Commissioner Croswell asked that Ms. Booth read the resolution with the change that was made: The Town of Trappe hereby adopts the 2010 TALBOT COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Trappe (“Hazard Mitigation Plan”), except that in the event of any inconsistency between the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Trappe Comprehensive Plan, adopted in April, 2010, the provisions of the Trappe Comprehensive Plan shall control.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fegel to adopt Resolution 6-2011 Talbot County Hazard Mitigation Plan as the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Trappe.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chase.

Vote:

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

**Water Sewer Hookups Small Builders:**

President Croswell stated that there has been a request from a small builder that the cost being so high on new construction maybe it would be beneficial for small builders not to pay the hookup fees until construction was completed water hooked up and ready to be used. Whether this would encourage people to build in the town now or not we do not know. This is for consideration since it may come up again in later months. President Croswell asked if there are there any comments on the topic. There were none.

**Election Hours:**

President Croswell said that the Charter states that the poles are to be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the elections unless otherwise approved by Council. Traditionally we have had the election from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dorbin that the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. be approved.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fegel

Vote:

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

**Abandoned Vehicle Permit Extension:**

Heather Michelle Lohry of Unit # 23 Lovers Lane has asked for an extension of an abandoned vehicle permit. She needs additional repairs to the car and will take longer than anticipated to. Commissioner Croswell looked at the car and felt that it was not an old junk car and saw no hazard. She would like an additional 60 days.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fegel to approve. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dorbin.

Vote:

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

**Board Vacancies:**

Council Minutes

May 4, 2011

Page 5 of 6

There are a number of boards that are expiring this month. Current board members are eligible for reappointment. Persons interested in being appointed or reappointed should submit a letter of interest by next month. Those currently serving will continue to serve until replaced.

Commissioner Crowell thanked Norm Fegel for his 8 years of service on the Council. This is his last meeting due to the term limits stated President Crowell and everyone applauded.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chase to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fegel. All were in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> Trappe General Election 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Trappe Town Hall
- Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. Public hearing Talbot Co. Property Tax increase for Trappe – Bradley meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot Co. Court House.
- Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. – St. Paul’s Pre-School *Rainbow of Colors* art show & reg. for Sept. season
- Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Trappe Areas Artists’ Tour begins at Mitchum’s Café
- Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting 7:30 p.m. (if needed)
- Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. until sold out – Trappe Vol. Fire Co. Pit Beef Sale
- Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> organizational meeting of the Council of Trappe 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon – Deadline for items to be placed on the agenda for the June Council Mtg.
- Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> Town Office closed for Memorial Day.
- Wednesday – Saturday June 22, 23, 24, & 25 – Trappe Annual Family Fun Days

**BENEDICTION**

The benediction was given by Mr. Charles Adams and the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joedy Cecil, Clerk

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Approved: Robert Crowell, President

**COUNCIL OF TRAPPE**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**May 23, 2011**

The Council of Trappe convened an executive session on May 23, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. at the Trappe Town Hall for an organizational meeting as required by the Charter of the Town of Trappe. The persons present were: commissioners Chase, Croswell, Potter, commissioner elect Moore, and Town Attorney Booth. Commissioner Dorbin was unable to attend.

There being no further matters to consider in executive session, the executive session was concluded at 8:30 p.m.



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Robert H. Croswell