

## **COUNCIL OF TRAPPE MINUTES**

**March 3, 2010**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Trappe Town Office**

The regular Council of Trappe Meeting was opened by President Crowell and called to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioners Walter Chase, Richard Dorbin, Norm Fegel and Rose Potter were present.

**Executive Sessions:** February 3, 2010 for legal advice and to consider personnel matter. February 17<sup>th</sup> concerning salaries and benefits of the employees.

**Amendment to the Agenda:** Commissioner Crowell advised that the Council had not voted on the Town Holidays for the year. This was added to the Agenda.

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

**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: Commissioner Chase**

Commissioner Chase was concerned with the snow removal being piled in such large mounds at the intersections, making it very hard to have a clear view.

Commissioner Chase commended Chief Ball for the great job that he was doing, thanking him for his support beyond the call of duty in many cases.

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

#### **Public Works:**

Commissioner Crowell stated that there are many places around town damaged by the snow removal. We will be assessing these damages and waiting to see just how much help we will be getting from FEMA.

The cost of removing the snow for December was \$6,503.60 and \$13,212.55 for February. We budgeted \$2,000.00 for snow removal stated Commissioner Crowell.

#### **Water Tower Inspection: - Robert Crowell**

Commissioner Croswell stated that the water tower was inspected this week and will give a full report at next month's meeting.

**Planning & Zoning: - Norm Fegel**

Commissioner Fegel stated that there will be a Public Hearing on March 17<sup>th</sup> on the Comprehensive Plan and they will also start working on the Adult Business Legislation.

**Parks & Recreation: - Rose Potter**

Commissioner Potter had nothing to report.

Commissioner Croswell stated that the contractor has been given the go ahead to move a section of fence from near the water tower to Nace's park, but is pending on the wet ground.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Home Occupation Permit:**

Commissioner Croswell stated that we have discussed having all the Home Occupation Permits become due at the same time each year as do traders licenses and liquor licenses. The Planning Commission has been reviewing Town Attorney Booth's recommendations and will be giving the Council back their recommendations. Without objection the matter was tabled until next month.

**Deficiencies in Police Headquarters:**

Commissioner Croswell stated that last fall the town had been working on a way to save money and address some of the deficiencies at the Police Headquarters.

We previously advertised for proposals to remodel the town garage for the Police Department and there were five proposals. The proposals ranged from \$ 10,932.00 to \$20,856.00 There was some public opposition to relocating the Department. and a decision was made not to award any of the proposals at that time. The Council then began to look at other options and P.E. Moore and Son offered to rent a larger space in the same building for \$1,100.00 a month.

The question was asked if the Developer would be willing to pay for the additional rent for the Police Department to stay in the Moore Building. Ms. Booth Town Attorney explained that she had talked with Mr. Showalter Attorney for the Developer. They wanted to express their willingness to help the town, but this is not included in the DRRRA. In order to make any changes the town would have to amend the DRRRA introduce an amendment have public hearings and go before the Planning Commission. Ms. Booth said that if the Council felt strongly enough they could try to negotiate, but she felt that this does not appear to be the best time to do so.

The town has also been offered another commercial space on Piney Hill Road and Route 50 for \$1.00 a month and a five year lease. The town would have to pay for any and all renovations. Commissioner Croswell stated that this building is not connected to town sewer. The consensus of the council is that this location would not be acceptable.

Commissioner Croswell stated that the Developer is giving to the town approximately \$150,000.00 a year to fund the Police Department and the Planning Department which is more than we take in a year for property taxes. [The Rocks grant is projected to be about \$160,000 and real estate tax revenue is projected to be about \$186,000]

Commissioner Croswell gave the cost of what it would be to rent or renovate and showed that the cost of renovation estimating it to be approximately \$14,000.00 the town would save approximately \$50,719.20 in a five year period by not renting and \$51,240.00 for a three year period. Commissioner Croswell stated that his main concerns were how the town spends the tax payer's dollars.

Commissioner Fegel stated concerns about reduced visibility at the proposed location.

Commissioner Chase made a motion to relocate the Police Department to the Town office building garage and borrow the money for the renovations and to put out for re-bid.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Potter.

Commissioner Dorbin asked "the motion is that what we are looking for new bids, and will we be moving over here regardless of the bid", and then this will be a done deal if voted on by this motion to the lowest bid.

Ms. Booth explained that we may reject any bid.

Sandy Thomson asked if the new bid comes in at \$25,000.00 you will go with that bid. Commissioner Croswell stated no. There was a brief discussion on using the lowest bid and how the new bids would be handled.

Mr. Thomson said that at the last meeting none of the resident there wanted to renovate and move the Police Department. Why are we revisiting this renovation since the town did not want to renovate?

Commissioner Croswell said that the people who come to the meetings are not representing the town. The town people are represented by the five people that they voted for sitting at this table. There has been a \$350.00 donation for the renovation and many people have voiced their opinion that they would like to have the renovation done. The real issue comes to the \$50,000.00 that we would be saving by doing the renovation. If we continue to rent the only option would be to raise taxes, the council is trying to save the town money.

This discussion continued by asking Chief Ball if he had adequate space located here or at the larger office building. Chief Ball answered we just need adequate space and both would have what is needed.

Commissioners Dorbin felt that we needed to do the math gathering the data numbers re-bid and compare the numbers.

Vote:

Dorbin – N                      Potter – Y                      Crosswell – Y                      Chase – Y                      Fegel – N.

Commissioner Crosswell asked if Attorney Booth should be asked to prepare the resolution needed to borrow the money. Ms. Booth agreed to talk with the bank concerning the loan.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### Employees Holiday Schedule:

Commissioner Crosswell stated that the Council has not yet voted on the Employees Holiday Schedule for the year. The Employees have 14 holidays which are in line with the State. He continued to read the holidays that were listed (copy is filed in the minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Potter to continue to give the Holidays that they are currently receiving.

Motion was seconded by Commission Dorbin.

Vote:

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

#### Budget:

Commissioner Crosswell stated that he is working on the budget and it looks like we can balance. We need to set a workshop date.

**Workshop is set for March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

#### FEMA: - Town Clerk

The Town Clerk stated that there is a possibility now that FEMA will pay for the December snow. The cost of the first snow was \$10,915.07 - \$6,503.50 for removal and \$4,411.57 for repairs. We have resubmitted the figures and are waiting for the meeting to let us know just what we have to do for reimbursements. The last snow removal cost was \$13,212.55 not including any repairs.

#### Grass Cutting Bids:

Commissioner Crosswell stated that it is time to put out bids for the town grass cutting. We will advertise and set the tour to be on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March at 1:00 p.m. The bids are due in the town office by April 7<sup>th</sup> to be opened at the town meeting and all requirements for Insurance Certifications are listed in bid packet. Commissioner Chase felt that we needed to put in the advertisement that an Insurance Certification was needed with the bid.

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**Lakeside DRRA Good faith Review:**

Ms. Booth explained that periodically the DRRA has to be reviewed and a report produced of what has happened to date to verify that everyone is fulfilling their obligation. This will be a Special Meeting that will be open to the public.

**Special Meeting for DRRA Review will be on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**

**Electric Supply Renewal Contract: Constellation Energy**

Commissioner Croswell has reviewed various quotes from electric suppliers to find the cheapest cost for the town's electric. We now have Washington Gas Energy and their renewal contract is for two years at 9.6 cents per kWh. Constellation Energy gave a price of 8.302 cents per kWh for two years, but the contract has to be signed tonight due to rates changing daily.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dorbin to authorize Commissioner Croswell to sign the contract with Constellation Energy tonight.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Potter.

Vote:

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Time begins – spring forward
- Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. – Public Hearing on Resolution 1-2010 (Trappe Comprehensive Plan)
- Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> Trappe Planning Commission Meeting
- Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day Dinner UMC – 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> Trappe Vol. Fire Co. Soup Day

Benediction (Charles Adams)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Joedy Cecil, Clerk

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Approved by: Robert H. Croswell, President

## **Executive Session Summary**

On February 17, 2010, the Council of Trappe unanimously voted to go into executive session at 6:50 p.m. for the purposes of discussing matters pertaining to employee wages and benefits. The executive session was called pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government Article Section 10-508(a). Persons present were Robert Croswell, Richard Dorbin, Walter Chase, Rose Potter, and Norm Fegel. The meeting was held at the Trappe Town Hall. An announcement of the time and place of the meeting was posted at the Trappe Town Office and on the Town web site [www.trappemd.net](http://www.trappemd.net)

The Commissioners approved a salary adjustment for one employee and discussed providing cost of living adjustments and increased benefits to all employees beginning July 01, 2010. No decision was reached regarding benefits. The matter will be taken up again after the budget is presented.

There being no further matters to consider, the executive session was concluded at 7:20 p.m.

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Robert H. Croswell, President