

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2016
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council President Nevin Scholl called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of Trappe Borough Council December 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Trappe Borough Hall, 525 West Main Street, Trappe, Pennsylvania. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stu Strauss.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council President Scholl announced there will be an Executive Session after the public meeting this evening to discuss legal matters. A vote is not expected after the Executive Session.

Those present were:

President Nevin Scholl
Vice President Cathy Johnson
Tammy Liberi
Phil Ronca
Stu Strauss
Pat Webster

Also present:

Solicitor David Onorato
Treasurer John Klink
Borough Engineer Paul Schmoll
Borough Manager Robert Umstead

Absent:

Scott Martin
Mayor Connie Peck

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the November 1, 2016 regular meeting of Borough Council.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented:

Moved: P. Ronca Seconded: C. Johnson Approved: 5-0
S. Strauss abstained as he was not present at the November 1, 2016 meeting.

CONDITIOINAL USE HEARING / PPG STEARLY, LLC - A decision was expected to be delivered at this meeting. However; Benjamin G. Goldthorp presented a letter requesting the decision be deferred until the January 2017 meeting as he is working on an alternative plan. The deferral was granted.

PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

John Singleton, a member of Boy Scout Troop 715, was present. He is working on his Eagle Scout badge.

STAFF REPORTS:

Engineer's Report: The written Engineer's Report from Paul Schmoll representing Barry Isett Associates (BIA) was presented to all to review. A copy of the report is available at Borough Hall.

Resolution No. 2016-09 was presented authorizing BIA to file for a Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) for possible reconstruction of the intersection of Clahor Avenue and W. Third Avenue (Rt 113).

Motion to authorize BIA to file for a HOP for Clahor Avenue and W. Third Avenue:
Moved: P. Webster **Seconded: C. Johnson** **Approved: 6 – 0**

BIA requested Council to apply for an ECMS Business Partner to become a business partner with PennDot. A discussion ensued concerning the cost if any and what does ECMS stand for. More information is to be presented at the January meeting.

A proposed plan was submitted by BIA at the request of President Scholl for a cross walk to be constructed near Nicholas Drive in the Borough and Cornwallis Way in Perkiomen Township. Since Perkiomen Township will be involved; Borough Manager Umstead was directed to contact the township to discuss.

Rambo Park entrance is substantially complete. Joan Drive repaving is substantially complete.

Borough wide street re-assessment was completed.

Escrow Reduction #6 in the amount of \$25,591.37 has been submitted on behalf of Colonel's Place with the recommendation of BIA it be approved.

Motion to approve Escrow Reduction #6 from Colonel's Place in the amount of \$25,591.37:
Moved: C. Johnson **Seconded: T. Liberi** **Approved: 6-0**

BIA presented a proposal for Engineering Services for Betcher Road Pavement Rehabilitation in conjunction with Perkiomen Township for a cost not to exceed, \$7,500.

Motion to approve Engineering Services for Betcher Road in conjunction with Perkiomen Township for a cost not to exceed, \$7,500:

Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded P. Ronca** **Approved: 6 – 0**

BIA presented a proposal for Engineering Services for Clahor Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation for a cost not to exceed, \$13,500.

Motion to approve Engineering Services for Clahor Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation for a cost not to exceed \$13,500:

Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: C. Johnson** **Approved: 6 - 0**

Treasurer's Report: John Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2016 check numbers 1537 through 1569, plus payroll check 7504 and payroll charges from the Customers Bank General Checking Account in the amount of \$62,658.58.

Treasurer John K link presented the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2016 for the Customers Bank Escrow Fund check numbers 1062 through 1066 in the amount of \$6,908.89.

Treasurer John Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2016 for the Customers Bank Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$2,342.15.

A copy of the Treasurer's Report was provided to all and is available for review at Trappe Borough Hall.

Motion to make payment of invoices included in the November 30, 2016, Treasurer's Report, check numbers 1537 through 1569 plus payroll check 7504 and payroll charges from the Customers Bank General Checking Account in the amount of \$62,658.58:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: T. Liberi

Approved: 6-0

Motion to make payment of invoices included in the November 30, 2016 Treasurer's Report check numbers 1062 through 1066 from the Customers Bank Escrow Fund in the amount of \$6,908.89:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: C. Johnson

Approved: 6-0

Motion to approve electronic payment of the PECO invoices included in the November 30, 2016 Treasurer's Report from Customers Bank Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$2,342.15:

Moved: T. Liberi

Seconded: C. Johnson

Approved: 6-0

Budget 2017 – 2021

Treasurer John Klink and Council President Nevin Scholl presented an in depth explanation of the proposed budget for 2017 through 2021. The highlights were revenues from real estate taxes, real estate transfer tax, earned income tax, local services tax, franchise fees, miscellaneous receipts, and grants. On the expense side, salaries and benefits, legal and engineering fees, fire company contributions, solid waste disposal and highway maintenance.

Motion to approve budgeted 2016 transfer of \$80,000 from General Fund to Municipal Services Fund for future municipal emergency service capital needs:

Moved: P. Ronca

Seconded: C. Johnson

Approved: 6 – 0

Motion to approve transfer of \$250,000 from General Fund to Capital Reserve Fund for future Borough capital needs:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: P. Ronca

Approved: 6 – 0

Motion to approve the advertising that the budget is available for public inspection:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: C. Johnson

Approved: 6 – 0

Motion to increase Auxiliary Police rate of pay from \$14.75 to \$15.00 per hour; increase the charge for Auxiliary Police from \$20.50 to \$21.00 per hour; and increase Treasurer monthly fee from \$969 to \$990 and for work specified in his existing contract from \$60 per hour to \$63.50 per hour all to be effective January 1, 2017.

Moved P. Ronca

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 6- 0

Borough Manager's Report – Keller Williams Realty has submitted a proposal to conduct a 5K run in the Borough sometime in 2017 for the benefit of homeless veterans. This is simply in the planning states and the realty company is asking for the Council thoughts. It was determined this was a good project and Council will consider approval when additional information is available.

PSAB has delivered an update on current legislation HB 1683 (Act 172 of 2016) effecting Volunteer Firefighters and EMS Volunteers has recently been passed and signed by Governor Wolf. Solicitor Onorato distributed additional information on this matter.

A copy of the proposed preamble to the Conditional Use Application was presented. It was determined that additional wording is needed and the preamble was tabled until a future meeting perhaps January.

Written requests have been received from Natural Lands Trust and the Speakers House and a verbal request from Perkiomen Valley Library for funding for 2017.

PIRMA's ballot for Board of Directors has been received and Nevin Scholl's name is on the ballot. The Borough may vote for three Directors. The Borough Manager recommended Betty Anne Moyer having knowledge of her from previous experiences with PSAB. The Borough Manager was directed to vote for Nevin Scholl and Betty Anne Moyer.

Motion for Borough to vote for Nevin Scholl and Betty Anny Moyer for Board of Directors of PIRMA:

Moved: C. Johnson

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 6 – 0

The Borough Manager and Stu Strauss are working on a request for proposals for maintenance for the grounds and beds at Borough Hall, Rambo Park and now the Rambo Park Trail.

DEP has announced the Recycling Grant for 2014 will be \$6,257. The 2013 Grant was \$5,119.

A schedule of meeting dates for Borough Council and the Planning Commission was presented for consideration. It was determined the Close-Out meeting would be held on WEDNESDAY, Dec 27, 2017 in lieu of Tuesday Dec. 26, 2017.

Motion to approve the meeting dates as amended and advertise same:

Moved: P. Ronca

Seconded: T. Liberi

Approved: 6 – 0

A proposal to purchase a plaque to be attached to a rock or bolder of some description was presented, along with a request to approve the purchase and construction of a pergola at the entrance to the Rambo Park Trail. A discussion ensued. The pergola was the concern of a number of Council persons. It was determined that additional information was needed on the pergola.

Motion to authorize the purchase of a plaque, and rock/bolder (prepared for acceptance of the plaque and delivered) not to exceed \$2,000:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 6 - 0

MS4: An article entitled "A New Strategy for the Schuylkill" was distributed to Council.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Peck's report was read. An Eagle Scout Ceremony for Jacob Huller of Troop 87 was held on December 3, 2017. Mayor Peck has secured a plaque for Mr. Huller. The Mayor requested Auxiliary Police be provided for the Christmas Tree lighting on December 7, 2016 for traffic control. Many participants will park at the Trappe Shopping Center and have to cross Main Street. The request time is from 5:30 until 8:30.

Motion to provide one Auxiliary Policeman for traffic control at the Christmas Tree lighting on December 7, 2016 for the hours between 5:30 and 8:30 PM:

Moved: P. Ronca

Seconded: T. Liberi

Approved: 6 – 0

Solicitor's Report: The matter of the Conditional Use Decision has been discussed previously.

Motion to approve the business reports:

Moved: T. Liberi

Seconded: P. Ronca

Approved: 6-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative Services: The Committee will be searching for a Communication Support Person and is in process of preparing a job description.

Communications: No Report

Finance & Streets: No Report

Parks & Open Space: Work is complete on the trail from Main Street to Rambo Park.

Planning, Zoning & Ordinance: No Planning Commission meeting was held in November.

Regional Planning Commission: P. Webster reported a discussion was held at the last meeting concerning medical marijuana. Addition information will be presented at the next meeting. F. Schuetz's term expires on the Regional Planning Commission and a replacement is needed.

Public Works & CTMA: Council Vice President Cathy Johnson presented the Public Works and CTMA Report. The minutes for both were presented. Copies of the minutes were provided to all members of Council and a copy is available for inspection at Borough Hall.

CTMA is not proposing a sewer rate increase in 2017; however a water rate increase is proposed for 2017. Resolution 2016-08 which accepts the recommendation of the CT Joint Public Works Committee for the increase in water rates from \$3.50 per on thousand gallons of water consumed to \$4.10 per one thousand gallons was presented.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2016-08 as presented:

Moved: C. Johnson

Seconded: P. Ronca

An extensive objection to the rate increase was presented by S. Strauss. Reasons for the objection were: the School District and County have both indicated an increase in real estate taxes will occur in 2017, the projects that are contemplated for 2017 should have been completed previously.

A vote was called for on Resolution 2016-08. Approved: 5 – 1 S. Strauss opposed.

Traffic & Safety: Reports of the Trappe Fire Co. and the Trappe Fire Co Ambulance were presented. Copies of both reports are available at Borough Hall for inspection.

Walkable Community: No Report

Technology Platform: P. Ronca indicted the new web site will be up and running on December 8. Any last minute comments should be forwarded to P. Ronca immediately. Effective January

1, 2017 all Councilpersons, the Mayor and Borough Hall Staff will have a new email addresses. These new addresses MUST be used for all Borough Business.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Styer Associates has submitted a proposal to conduct the audit for the Borough for 2016 at a fee of approximately \$6,860. The authorization letter to be signed by President Scholl and returned to Styer Associates was presented.

Motion to approve Styer Associates to perform the 2016 audit at a fee of approximately \$6,860:

Moved: C. Johnson

Seconded: P. Ronca

Approved: 6 - 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:50 p.m. Council entered into Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened at 11:25 p.m.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 p.m.

Moved: P. Ronca

Seconded C. Johnson

Approved: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

**Robert T. Umstead
Borough Secretary**