

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2020
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council President Cathy Johnson called to order the regular meeting of Trappe Borough Council, held virtually, on September 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

There will be an executive session after the meeting.

Those Present Were:

President Cathy Johnson
Dave Davis
Tom Lauterio
Mallory Perlin
Stu Strauss
Pat Webster
Mayor Matthew Wismer

Also Present:

Manager Tamara Twardowski
Solicitor David Onorato
Treasure John Klink
Engineer Ryan Kern

Absent: Vice President Scott Martin

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the August 4, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented:

Moved: P Webster

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 6-0

Presentation by State Representative Joe Ciresi – Representative Ciresi was present to honor the late Phil Ronca for his time and dedication to the community and the time that he served as a Borough Council member. He also thanked Phil’s family for supporting Phil in his role as he knows that it can be quite time consuming. Sarah Calvin, from the Representative’s office, read a proclamation issued by the House of Representatives honoring Phil for his service. Phil’s wife and children expressed their appreciation for this recognition and expressed Phil’s love for the Borough and his delight in being able to serve the community.

PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Aileen Johnson – Perkiomen Valley Area Library announced that the Schwenksville Library has completed the renovations. The library is still doing fundraising for the renovations as the project was over budget due to deficiencies found during the renovations. The library is currently open for limited walk-ins with extensive rules and restrictions and also offers curbside service. The library is a donation point for the Red Cross.

D. Perlin – 116 Joan Drive – asked about EIT collections and what revenue projections are. J. Klink stated that through August the EIT revenues have been consistent with expectations and budget projections. We are at 74% of budget at 2/3 of the way through the year. August is

traditionally a high month. T. Twardowski advised that they are and will continue to monitor the EIT revenue. The Montgomery County Consortium of Managers also had a subcommittee of finance directors and has done some preliminary calculations and also assessed risk factors based on demographics and Trappe Borough was a low risk.

Mr. Mike Ricci and Mr. Scott Martin from Clahor Avenue were present and spoke regarding an issue with a stormwater easement that straddles their property. The property owners are not interested in signing a settlement agreement; however, they are looking for a resolution with the issue of settlement along the easement. The situation was caused by the storm sewer pipe replacement in 2015/16 and the property owners feel that this is a Borough problem and needs to be corrected by the Borough.

T. Twardowski shared a letter from Jill Ryan at 63 College Avenue. She believes the complaint is that Ms. Ryan is not being serviced by the State Police. T. Twardowski has reached out the Lieutenant at the State Police to see if she can get any further information, and will report to Council what she find out. B. Greenwood advised that she could be referred to the Belmont barracks which is the headquarters for the Skippack barracks.

Public Hearing for Comcast Franchise Renewal – C. Johnson opened the public hearing at 7:38 and explained the purpose of the public hearing. She then opened the floor for questions or comments.

- P. Webster expressed that she felt the Borough should take this opportunity to try renegotiate and maximize how the franchise fees are calculated as many people are not utilizing the television aspects of cable but rather using data/bandwidth.
- S. Strauss asked how the Borough is ensuring that it is getting credit for Borough residents as an audit a few years back showed we weren't. T. Twardowski advised she can re-look at that situation.

As there were no further comments or questions the hearing was closed at 7:47

STAFF REPORTS:

Borough Engineer: A copy of the written report is on file at the Borough Office.

R. Kern advised that the W. First Avenue paving project is complete and BIA has approved an invoice from Innovative Construction Inc. The original invoice is for \$122,942.00; however, they are recommending withholding \$1,000 .00 for damage that was done to a curb during the milling process. Innovative had a subcontractor that was supposed to perform the repair but it has not yet been done. T. Twardowski reported that the payment had been processed in the original amount so she can hold the check until the repair is completed or we could void the check, issue one for \$1,000.00 less and then release the final payment. Council was agreeable to approving payment and having the office hold the check until the repair is done.

Motion to authorize payment to Innovative Construction Inc. in the amount of \$122,942.70 contingent upon curb repair being completed:

Motion: P. Webster

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 6-0

R. Kern reported that a dye test was performed on Monday August 31st at Eye Design. There was no evidence that the basin is not functioning properly. There was no evidence that there was

exfiltration of the dye underneath the outfall structure. A written report will be issued by BIA stating that in his opinion the basin is functioning as designed and as intended. P. Webster asked multiple questions to clarify whether or not additional water is being sent to the neighboring property. She asked whether there should be a connection into another inlet across the street. He responded not in his opinion. S. Strauss asked if the amount of water being directed to the neighboring property was reviewed during land development. R. Kern responded that the applicant has to show that the water that the property is receiving after development is the same or less that what it was receiving prior to the development. However, there has been more rain over the last few years, which would show the appearance of “more water”, which does not mean that it is coming from the Eye Design development.

Treasurer’s Report: John Klink presented the Treasurer’s Report dated August 28, 2020 along with a bill list with checks 3060 - 3085, two payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit totaling \$ 254,749.85.

A motion to pay bills as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: T. Lauterio

Approved: 6-0

John Klink presented the Treasurer Report dated August 28, 2020 for the Customers Bank Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$1,923.73.

A motion was requested to pay bills as listed:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 6-0

John Klink presented the Treasurer’s Report dated August 28, 2020 for the Customers Bank Escrow Fund check numbers 1174-1176 in the amount of \$2,608.50.

A motion was requested to the pay bills as listed:

Moved: T. Lauterio

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 6-0

Motion to authorize John Klink to spend up to 40 hours working on the 2021 budget:

Motion: S. Strauss

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 6-0

Mayor’s Report: The mayor reported that he has been busy the last few months farming and thanked Council for their patience with his meeting attendance.

Borough Manager’s Report: A written copy of the report is on file at the Borough Office.

Report items

Shredding Event: T. Twardowski reported that Representative Ciresi’s office would like to partner with Trappe Borough to hold a shredding event at Borough Hall on October 4th.

T. Twardowski will reach out to the neighbor to see if we can utilize his driveway to exit traffic on to Main Street and have all traffic coming into the event use the Borough Hall driveway. She asked for authorization to have an auxiliary police officer available to help with traffic control.

Motion to authorize an auxiliary officer for the shredding event for approximately 3 hours on October 4, 2020:

Motion: P. Webster

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 6-0

An MS4 education handout titled “Why Stormwater is a Problem” was distributed.

The permit report for August was provided.

Solicitor’s Report:

Ordinance Amending Chapter 315 was reviewed by Solicitor Onorato. This will update the areas of “no parking” to include Colonel’s Place along the inbound side and through the bulb of the cul-de-sac, along with updating the Ordinance to be in sync with signage posted through the Borough. There was brief discussion as to whether the pedestrian crossing at Rambo Park at 5th Avenue should be added. Staff will confirm prior to advertising.

Motion to authorize the advertising of this ordinance:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: T. Lauterio

Approved: 6-0

The Solicitor also worked on a draft amending the Parking Enforcement Section to include multiple parking enforcement officers and also amending the fines and penalties. That draft will be included in next month’s packet for consideration and discussion.

Motion to accept staff reports as presented:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: .M. Perlin

Approved: 6-0

Traffic and Safety:

Chief Greenwood presented the Fire Company Report for August. The State Police report for August was also presented. Copies of all reports are available at Borough Hall for inspection. S. Strauss reported that the committee had met with the Borough Manager and a Financial Advisor from Concord Public Finance and were given some information on types of borrowing along how much the Borough could finance and how that would affect the budget in the future. Based on Trappe’s assessment, one mil is roughly equal to \$247,000.00 S. Strauss said that the Borough may need to look at implementing a fire tax, T. Twardowski provided Council with revenue numbers for different percentages. The Committee will look to have a recommendation for Council at the next meeting.

Administrative Services: C. Johnson has a personnel matter for executive session.

Planning Commission:

Draft minutes of the August 18 meeting were presented. The plans that were discussed included:
395 E 7th Avenue
W. 7th Tract Rezoning
71 W. 3rd Avenue

Public Works & CTMA:

C. Johnson reported on the August meeting and provided copies of minutes and financial reports.

T-Mobile Lease Agreement

Motion to approve the T. Mobile Lease agreement:

Moved: T. Lauterio

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 6-0

Police Services Agreement – this agreement was tabled as the committee is awaiting further information from Collegeville as they may want reimbursed if there is an increase to their liability insurance.

Council recessed to executive session at 10:04 p.m.

Council reconvened at 10:46 p.m.

Motion to increase Borough Manager Salary by 5% effective retroactively to the first pay period in May.

Motion: S. Strauss

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tamara D. Twardowski
Borough Secretary**