

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2015
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:45 p.m. President Nevin Scholl called to order an Executive Session to discuss legal matters. No vote was necessary.

Council President Nevin Scholl called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of Trappe Borough Council on November 10, 2015 at 7:25 p.m. at Trappe Borough Hall, 525 West Main Street, Trappe, Pennsylvania. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Connie Peck.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council President Scholl announced there would be an Executive Session after the public meeting this evening to discuss legal matters. No vote is expected to be taken.

ROLL CALL: Roll Call was made by the Municipal Secretary.

Those present were:

President Nevin Scholl
Vice President Cathy Johnson
Tammy Liberi
Scott Martin
Phil Ronca
Fred Schuetz
Pat Webster

Also in attendance were:

Mayor Connie Peck
Solicitor David Onorato
Engineer John Sartor
Treasurer John Klink
Borough Manager Robert Umstead

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The members of Council reviewed the minutes of October 6, 2015 meeting of Borough Council. Minor amendments were made. It was determined that future minutes should include the names of the persons representing the Borough and if possible any organization in attendance at any meeting held where Borough business is discussed.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Phil Ronca and seconded by Councilmember Tammy Liberi to accept the Minutes of the October 6, 2015 meeting of Borough Council as amended. Motion approved. 7 – 0

*** See page 9

PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

President Scholl called for public comment. There was none.

WISMER SUB-DIVISION: Matthew Wismer of 96 E. Third Avenue and Thomas Ludgate of Ludgate Engineering Corporation were in attendance to discuss a proposed subdivision. Mr.

Wismer is the owner of Northern Star Farms which consists of 163.63 acres located on E. Third Avenue with frontage also along Betcher Road.

A review letter from the Montgomery County Planning Commission was presented as this farm is presently in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. The Commission approved the sub-division with three conditions which will be met by Mr. Wismer.

A review letter from the Borough Planning Commission was presented. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the sub-division.

A review letter from Gilmore and Associates was presented and discussed. A number of waivers were requested. It was noted that there were minor errors on the plan and that Mr. Wismer and Mr. Ludgate were made aware of these errors. A corrected plan will be presented for review by Gilmore and Associates.

Solicitor Onorato stated that upon receipt of the revised plan and favorable review by Gilmore and Associates, a decision would be prepared and presented at the December 1, 2015 Council meeting for consideration by Borough Council.

On a separate issue relating to Mr. Wismer; the Borough has received a notice from the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety indicating the address for the farm on E. Third Avenue is assigned the number 97 by the Board of Assessment. Mr. Wismer is using number 96 and the Department of Public Safety request this be changed. A brief discussion followed. Mr. Wismer indicated he has been using the same address for years and does not understand the need to change at this time. Fire Chief Brian Long and Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Italia were present and have no objections to Mr. Wismer continuing to use the number 96 provided the number is appropriately displayed at the entrance to the property. Mr. Wismer agreed to this.

On a separate issue relating to Mr. Wismer; a fee of \$10,000 was deposited with the Borough when the subdivision application was submitted. After the reviews have been conducted there is a balance in the Escrow account of \$8,731.64. There will be some additional costs incurred however; the additional costs should not exceed \$2,000. Mr. Wismer requested a refund of \$5,000. A brief discussion followed.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Pat Webster and seconded by Councilmember Fred Schuetz to refund \$5,000 to Mr. Matthew Wismer, the check to be issued at the December 1, 2015 council meeting. Motion approved. 7 – 0

STAFF REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: John Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated November 10, 2015. Check numbers 1094 through 1128 from the Customers Bank General Checking Account and Payroll charges in the amount of \$166,490.69.

Two electronic transfers of funds to PECO from the Customers Bank Liquid Fuels Account were presented in the amount of \$2,638.73.

The Treasurer's Report included check number 1008 to 1009 from the Customers Bank Escrow Fund in the amount of \$6,525.34.

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

A motion was placed by Councilmember Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Tammy Liberi, to make payment of invoices included in the November 10, 2015 Treasurer's Report, check numbers 1094 through 1128 and payroll charges from the Customers Bank General Checking Account in the amount of \$166,490.69. Motion approved. 7-0

A motion was placed by Councilmember Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Fred Schuetz to approve electronic payment of the PECO invoices included in the November 10, 2015 Treasurer's Report from the Customers Bank Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$2,638.73. Motion approved. 7-0

A motion was placed by Councilmember Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Fred Schuetz, to make payment of invoices included in the November 10, 2015 Treasurer's Report, checks numbers 1008 through 1009 from the Customers Bank Escrow Account in the amount of \$6,525.34. Motion approved. 7-0

Borough Manager's Report: Robert Umstead presented the Borough Manager's Report, a copy of which was provided to all and is available for review at Trappe Borough Hall. Mr. Umstead made the following comments:

PENN DOT – A meeting was held on October 14, 2015 to discuss PennDOT's Regional Signal Retiming Initiative. The project team in attendance was David Adams, P.E from the Department of Transportation; Bill Hitchens from Taylor, Wiseman & Taylor, and Jeff L'Amoreau, P.E. from the Drive Engineering Group. Also in attendance were Kristen Norwood, P.E. of Gilmore & Associates, Robert Umstead and Nevin Scholl. The project is intended to study the traffic signal timing in the Borough and determine if retiming any or all of the traffic signals would aid the traffic flow through the Borough. Initial investigation determined that the signals at Trappe Center and Third Avenue may be retimed. The signal at Seventh Avenue is too far away from the other signals to benefit of any synchronization with other lights. A Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the responsibilities of each party is to be forwarded to the Borough by Penn DOT.

TRAPPE VILLAGE – Permits for the replacement of 21 decks have been issued and payment of the appropriate fees has been received. Eighteen of the decks have been completed and received final approval, one deck needs two bolts, and two decks need additional work on the hand railings. A few of the decks need repairs to the stucco exterior of the building.

FUGO PROPRITIES – Mr. Ed Korab representing a development company met with the Borough Manager to discuss the development of the properties located between 1st Avenue and 3rd Avenue off of Clahor Ave. Mr. Korab suggested his company would like to construct between 120 and 140 townhouses which would require a Zoning Variance. The property is presently zoned R-2 which would allow the construction of single family homes. Mr. Korab requested permission to attend the Planning Commission meeting on November 17, 2015 to discuss his proposal.

STEARLY PROPERTY – Discussions between developer Ben Goldthrop and the Borough indicated it may be beneficial to construct a sidewalk from the Stearly Tract to Chestnut Street in Collegetown. This was discussed by the Mr. Umstead and the Borough Manager for Collegetown. Collegetown Borough Council has approved this construction and Mr. Goldthrop has agreed to construct this sidewalk. This agreement could be added to the decision on the current Conditional Use hearing which is pending.

GENERATORS – Quotes for the installation of a generator have been received. Two methods of fueling the generator: propane gas vs natural gas has been included. It was determined to table this matter at this time, pending additional information.

CHERRY AVENUE PHASE II – Estimates were received for the repair of the storm inlets (numbers 207, 208, 209, 212, and 213) and rebuilding inlet number 216 on Cherry Ave. The low estimate was from the Pavement Group in the amount of \$9,250.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Phil Ronca to award the contract to repair storm inlets 207, 208, 209, 212 and 213, and to also rebuild storm inlet number 216 on Cherry Avenue to the Pavement Group at a cost of \$9,250. Motion approved. 7 – 0

MS4 – A reminder was presented concerning proper disposal of certain electronic devices as the improper disposal may result in contamination of the waters of Pennsylvania.

Mayor's Report – The Mayor reported on her attendance at “Walk Montco” sponsored by the County Planning Commission. The agenda covered all areas of “Why Walk”.

The Trappe Tree Lighting will be held on December 2, 2015 at 6:30 at the Speakers House.

Trappe Historical Society Candle Light Tour is scheduled for December 6, 2015 from 4:00 until 8:00.

An Auxiliary Police officer has been requested for both the tree lighting and tour. It was determined that each of the programs is being offered by non-profits and the Auxiliary Police should be provided by the Borough at no cost to the sponsors. It is expected that one officer will be needed for approximately 4 hours for each program.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Pat Webster and seconded by Councilmember Fred Schuetz to provide one Auxiliary Police Officer for the tree lighting and candlelight tour at no cost to the sponsors. Motion approved. 7 - 0

Engineer's Report – John Sartor presented the Engineer's Report dated October 30, 2015, a copy of which was provided to all and is available for review at the Trappe Borough Hall. Mr. Sartor made the follow comments:

Borough Hall Parking Lot – Plans have been completed. He estimates the design fee to be \$8,200 which will include preparation of construction drawings and specifications to be used by the Borough for bidding. Council has directed this project has been put on "hold" for 2015.

Borough Hall Sidewalk Project – This project has been completed.

Borough Line Road Pavement (Route 113 to W. 7th Avenue) – This project is nearing the end of the maintenance period. The maintenance bond expired on 10/31/15. Gilmore has completed the maintenance inspection and have not found any deficiencies that SJM should address. Gilmore recommends that the maintenance bond be returned to SJM.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Scott Martin and seconded by Councilmember Phil Ronca to return the maintenance bond to SJM. Motion approved. 7 - 0

Cherry Avenue Paving Project – The work has been completed. Floyd G. Hersh, Inc. has submitted a payment request in the amount of \$95,277. This is actually less than the original contract awarded which amounted to \$99,987.50. Modifications were made to produce a better finished roadway at a lower cost which was approved by the Borough's engineer.

A discussion ensued as to the timing of the payment; to pay now or hold for December 1, 2015 Council meeting.

A motion was placed by Councilman Scott Martin and seconded by Councilmember Cathy Johnson to authorize payment in the amount of \$95,277 to Floyd G. Hersh, Inc. promptly as opposed to holding the payment for the next Council meeting. Motion approved. 7 – 0.

East 7th Avenue Reconstruction – Construction is completed. It appears the grass and grading are complete and the grass is beginning to grow.

Clahor Avenue Storm Sewer Replacement – Eagle Construction Co. has substantially completed the storm sewer replacement. The final road restoration and minor clean-up has to be completed. This is expected to be completed within the next week.

West First Ave Storm Sewer Extension – Plans have been completed and Gilmore is awaiting confirmation from Solicitor Onorato of the easement to the detention basin at Heritage Park.

West Main Street Sidewalk and Curb Evaluation – John Sartor is to provide the Borough with a copy of the field evaluation that has been completed previously. There was an extended discussion concerning the pros and cons of moving forward with this project.

Solicitor’s Report

Proposed Ordinance No. 432 - Grading and Erosion and Sediment Control – Solicitor Onorato reported that this ordinance has been finalized and previously distributed to Council. Council needs to advertise the consideration of the ordinance and possible adoption.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Scott Martin and seconded by Tammy Liberi to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise the consideration and possible adoption of an ordinance entitled Grading and Erosion and Sediment Control to be held on December 1, 2015. Motion approved. 7 – 0

Old School/New House - Gerald Gorski, John Riebow and their attorney Michael Clement were in attendance and requested final approval of their Sub-division and Land Development Plan. A discussion ensued; the basis of which was the Gilmore & Associates Inc. review letter dated October 16, 2015. Approval of one waiver has been overlooked; the requirement of a plan showing the existing features within 400 feet of the site. An aerial photograph has been provided. Council concurred that the photograph will be sufficient. The representatives indicated that all other comments included in the Gilmore & Assoc. Inc. review letter dated October 16, 2015 will be complied with and a new set of plans will be prepared.

Mr. Clement requested approval final plan approval contingent upon Gilmore & Associates, Inc. review of the new plan submission and that all of the items covered in the previous review letter have been addressed to the satisfaction of Gilmore & Associates Inc. Mr. Clement advised time was of importance and approval sooner than the December 1, 2015 Council meeting was desired. A discussion followed by Council members.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Fred Schuetz and seconded by Councilmember Pat Webster to approve the Final Plan Resolution of Old School/New House upon receipt of revised plans incorporating all of the items included in the Gilmore & Associates, Inc. review letter of October 16, 2015 to Gilmore’s satisfaction. Motion approved. 7 – 0

Conditional Use Hearing – PPG Stearly, LLC A Conditional Use application has been received requesting the addition of two (2) townhomes for a total of thirty-three (33) as shown on the plan last revised July 24, 2015. A hearing date needs to be established.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Scott Martin and seconded by Fred Schuetz to schedule a Conditional Use Hearing for December 1, 2015 upon the application of PPG Stearly, LLC to increase the number of town homes to thirty three and the Borough Manager be authorized to advertise the hearing. Motion approved. 7-0

A motion was placed by Councilmember Phil Ronca and seconded by Councilmen Scott Martin to approve the business reports. Motion approved. 7 - 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative Services: No Report

Communications: Councilmember Pat Webster requested assistance with the newsletter.

Finance & Streets: Council President Scholl announced the 2016 Budget was nearing completion; a few expense items will be forthcoming in the next couple of days. John Klink will finalize the budget and this will be provided to all for review. It is expected that the budget will be on the agenda for the December 1, 2015 Council meeting. The advertisement indicating the budget is available for inspection will be placed. Budget approval is expected at the end of year close-out meeting on December 29, 2015.

Council President Scholl presented total costs for the E. Seventh Ave. Resurfacing project, \$318,898; Clahor Storm Sewer Replacement/Repair project (Eagle Contracting's invoice for replacement not yet received) \$240,708; and Cherry Ave Resurfacing, Phase I, \$109,390.

Parks & Open Space: Councilmember Fred Schuetz reported that 4 community workers were at Rambo Park on October 17 to assist with the fall clean up. There is an indication from Ursinus College that there may be some students interested in volunteering time to assist with maintenance.

Councilmember Fred Schuetz advised that he has had an inquiry concerning the placement of a memorial bench in the park. The estimates cost is \$200 for material and \$100 for assembly. More information will follow.

A brief discussion ensued concerning the MacIlwain/Peck Trail and the documents needed to be signed for the funding of the trail with DCNR Grant that was previously received.

Councilmember Fred Schuetz advised that an inquiry was received concerning the length of the trails located within Rambo Park. One trail is 2300 feet and the second trail is 1400 feet. A map of the trails is available at Borough Hall.

Councilmember Fred Schuetz reported on a meeting with Michael Stokes of the Montgomery County Planning Commission with regards to the site Master Plan for the Main Street Park. The Montgomery County Planning Commission may be able to revise the plan which would enable the Borough to qualify for possible funding with DCNR.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Scott Martin seconded by Councilmember Phil Ronca to authorize Borough Manager Robert Umstead to meet with the Montgomery County Planning Commission to determine how the County can assist the Borough to revise the Master Plan for Main St. Park. Motion approved. 7 – 0

Planning, Zoning & Ordinance: There will be a Planning Commission meeting November 17, 2015

The Planning Commission continues to need a secretary.

Public Works & CTMA: Council Vice President Cathy Johnson presented the Public Works and CTMA Report.

She stated the minutes of the September 15, 2015 meetings of the Collegetville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department and the Collegetville-Trappe Municipal Authority are included in Councilmember's packets. Copies of the minutes are available for all to review at Borough Hall and the CTJPD offices.

Traffic & Safety: Councilmember Scott Martin presented an update on the needs of the Trappe Fire Company to replace the portable radios. The existing radios will function until January 1, 2020, however parts may not be available for that length of time. If the new radios were ordered prior to October 1, 2015 there would have been a \$300 discount. Radios for the EMS are estimated to cost \$114,000 and notes the Ambulance Corp services several areas. Replacement of some of the radios may be placed in the 2016 Budget.

Trappe 300 – The next meeting will be November 18 at Dewees Tavern.

Walkable Community: Councilmember Phil Ronca reported that the committee continues to pursue the idea of a walking trail connecting Oak Road with Hunsberger Woods and the Perkiomen Trail. He presented diagrams and pictures of the possible location of the connector route. Councilmember Phil Ronca is attempting to contact representative of Ursinus College to discuss.

There was a brief discussion concerning handicap curb cuts at the Trappe Center along First Avenue. A letter has been sent to the Trappe Center without results. A call was made to the owners of the Trappe Center and it was reported that an extensive repair project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2016. A copy of the plan will be requested from the owner.

OLD BUSINESS:

Why Do Business in Trappe? The article was revised based upon comments received from various Council members and is now completed. It was determined that the article should be placed on the Borough Website.

NEW BUSINESS: Council President Scholl called for new business.

Solicitor David Onorato advised that a revision to Ordinance No. 326 is necessary to comply with the water termination procedures for persons not paying the sewer and water invoices. Solicitor Onorato's office has prepared the revised ordinance.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Phil Ronca seconded by Councilmember Scott Martin to authorize the advertising of proposed Ordinance No. 431 for a hearing to be conducted at the December 1, 2015 Council meeting and that the ordinance would be considered for adoption immediately following the hearing. Motion approved. 7 – 0

Solicitor David Onorato presented an easement for consideration. The easement would permit the developer of the Stearly property an easement to install a storm water pipe across Borough property between the existing Stearly property and the Collegeville-Trappe Public Works land and connect to an existing storm water pipe.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Cathy Johnson and seconded by Scott Martin to approve the easement and authorize the execution of the easement by Council President Nevin Scholl. Motion approved. 7-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:30 p.m. Council entered into Executive Session to discuss legal issues.

Council reconvened at 11.08 p.m.

A motion was place by Councilmember Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Scott Martin to adjourn at 11:09 p.m. Motion passed. 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

**Robert T. Umstead
Borough Secretary**

*****Check number 1093 was issued to Trappe Fire Company which was for the funds received by the Borough for the Firemen's Relief Association. They are separate and distinct organizations. Check number 1093 was voided and check number 1094 was issued to the Trappe Volunteer Fire Co. Firemen's Relief Assoc. The Treasurer's Report should have actually included check number 1094. The total disbursement does not change.**