

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2015
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council President Nevin Scholl called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of Trappe Borough Council on October 6, 2015 at 7:00 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

PECO Grant – PECO representative Suzanne Ryan attended the meeting and presented the Borough with a check in the amount of \$7,500. The check was awarded as a part of the PECO Green Region Grant Program. The grant monies will be used for the Rambo Park – Main Street Connection (known as the Peck/MacIlwain Connection). Twenty one local municipalities and nonprofits received \$160,000 in funding through the PECO Green Region Program in an effort to support environmental initiatives across southeastern Pennsylvania.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The members of Council reviewed the minutes of September 1, 2015 meeting of Borough Council. Minor amendments were made.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Phil Ronca and seconded by Councilmember Tammy Liberi to accept the Minutes of the September 1, 2015 Meeting of Borough Council as amended. Motion approved. 7 – 0

PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

President Scholl called for public comment.

Mike Ricci, 33 Clahor Avenue presented information concerning his driveway which he claims was damaged by water escaping from the storm sewer pipe leading from Clahor Avenue to the basin located off of Zvarick Road. After an extensive presentation, Solicitor David Onorato advised Mr. Ricci to secure a written estimate of the damages and present the same to Council.

Jill Ryan of 63 College Avenue requested information on the status of the required rental inspections for this property. A brief explanation of the Borough's requirements concerning the rental inspection program was provided. Ms. Ryan was advised that previous inspection reports are available for inspection under the "Right to Know" law. She may request these records or come to the Borough Hall to inspect the previous records. Current inspection reports are not available at this time.

OLD SCHOOL NEW HOUSE

Mr. Gerald Gorski, developer, and his attorney, Michael J. Clement were present and presented the plans for the development of the former Collegeville-Trappe High School located at 29 East First Avenue. The plans were the same plans as previously presented. Mr Gorski is requested approval of the preliminary plans.

Resolution 2015-10 was presented as prepared by Solicitor Onorato which requires the determination of the amount of the fee in lieu of open space. Discussions between Solicitor Onorato's office, Gilmore & Associates and Mr. Gorski's office have been ongoing. The amount of the fee is to be determined prior to the resolution being adopted and once agreed upon; Borough Council would be polled for their approval.

In addition; five waivers are requested.

1. SALDO Section 295-8B(5)(e) to allow the cul-de-sac to exceed 500 feet in length. The Proposed cul-de-sac is 822.30 feet.

A motion was placed by Vice President Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Fred Schuetz to approve the waiver of SALDO 295-8B(5)(e) to permit the cul-de-sac to be 822.30 feet in length. Motion approved. 7-0

2. SALDO Section 295-9B to allow Belgium block curbing in lieu of concrete curbing, along the entire length of the new roadway, inclusive of the cul-de-sac bulb and the island which constitutes Parcel "A".

A motion was placed by Vice President Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Pat Webster, to approve the waiver of SALDO Section 295-9B to permit the use of Belgium blocks curbing in lieu of concrete curbing along the entire length of the new roadway, inclusive of the cul-de-sac bulb and the island which constitutes Parcel "A". Motion approved. 7-0

3. SALDO Section 295-25 to allow the removal of vegetation without replacement that is five feet or closer to the existing building, dying, dead or consists of native and non-native ornamental landscaping that has not been maintained.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Scott Martin and seconded by Councilmember Phil Ronca, to approve the waiver of SALDO Section 295-25 to allow the removal of vegetation without replacement that is five feet or closer to the existing building, dying, dead or consists of native and non-native ornamental landscaping that has not been maintained. Motion approved. 7-0

4. SALDO Section 295-29 to allow the application to eliminate the requirement for the dedication of a municipal well area within the subject premises.

A motion was placed by Vice President Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Pat Webster to approve the waiver of SALDO 295-29 to permit the applicant to eliminate the requirement for dedication of a municipal well area within the subject premises. Motion approved. 7-0

5. SALDO Section 295-10E(2) to permit the applicant a waiver to eliminate the requirement of installation of concrete curbing around the parking spaces for the condominium units in the existing building. Concrete wheel stops are to be installed at these spaces. Furthermore, no concrete curbing is proposed at the existing driveway except for the radii at the intersection of the new roadway.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Pat Webster and seconded by Vice President Cathy Johnson, to approve the waiver of SALDO Section 295-10E(2) to eliminate the requirement of installation of concrete curbing around the parking spaces for the condominium units in the existing building. Concrete wheel stops are to be installed at these spaces. Furthermore, no concrete curbing is proposed at the existing driveway except for the radii at the intersection with the new roadway. Motion approved. 7-0

A discussion ensued as to the conditions of the sidewalks and curbs along First Avenue. Mr. Gorki agreed to replace the curb and sidewalk on an as needed basis as a condition of approval of Resolution 2015-10.

A motion was placed by Vice President Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Pat Webster to approve Resolution 2015-10 upon determination of the amount of the fee in lieu for the open space contribution approved by Borough Council and otherwise as presented. Motion approved. 7-0

STAFF REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: John Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated October 6, 2015. Check numbers 1065 through 1092 from the Customers Bank General Checking Account and Payroll charges in the amount of \$91,519.71.

Two electronic transfers of funds to PECO from the Customers Bank Liquid Fuels Account were presented in the amount of \$2,596.73.

The Treasurer's Report included check number 1005 to 1007 from the Customers Bank Escrow Fund in the amount of \$5,858.23.

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 Vice President Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Scott Martin, to make payment of invoices included in the October 6, 2015 Treasurer's Report, check numbers 1065 through 1092 and payroll charges from the Customers Bank General Checking Account in the amount of \$91,519.71. Motion approved. 7-0

A motion was placed by Vice President Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Tammy Liberi to approve electronic payment of the PECO invoices included in the October 6, 2015 Treasurer's Report from the Customers Bank Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$2,593.73. Motion approved. 7-0

A motion was placed by Councilmember Tammy Liberi and seconded by Councilmember Phil Ronca, to make payment of invoices included in the October 6, 2015 Treasurer's Report, checks numbers 1005 through 1007 from the Customers Bank Escrow Account in the amount of \$5,858.23. 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:

Generators – Estimates are being secured. There may be a need to upgrade the gas service to Borough Hall as the current service is not sufficient to power a generator. Alternative power of propane may be an option. PECO is to prepare a cost to upgrade the gas service.

Clahor Avenue – The project is ongoing and should be completed by the end of October.

Cherry Avenue – Phase I milling and overlay is to begin the week of October 19, 2015. Phase II, repair of the storm sewer inlets will be completed by year end, estimates are being secured. The seal coating will be delayed until the spring of 2016.

Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Audit – The audit has been completed for 2014. All funds were received, accounted for and expended in accordance with Penn Dot rules and regulations.

PNC Bank – All accounts should be closed without any additional charges by the middle of October.

Resolution 2015-11 was introduced which appoints Styer & Associates as auditor for the Borough for 2016 at a cost of \$6,600.

A motion was place by Councilmember Scott Martin and seconded by Vice President Cathy Johnson, to approve Resolution 2015-11 which appoints Styer & Associates as auditor for the Borough for 2016 at a cost of \$6,600. Motion approved. 7-0

Joint Borough Maintenance Agreement – A revised joint maintenance agreement with Colledgeville Borough that amends the June 2, 1993 agreement for “street repair, snow removal and the maintenance of street lights and any costs thereto” for the Sunset Development was presented and reviewed.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Pat Webster and seconded by Vice President Cathy Johnson to approve the revised joint maintenance agreement with Collegetown Borough, amending the June 2, 1993 maintenance agreement, for the Sunset Development for storm sewer repairs. Motion approved. 7-0

Wisner/Northern Star Farms Subdivision – The reviews have been completed, a number of waivers have been requested. These waivers will be forwarded to Council and Matthew Wisner and placed on the agenda for discussion at the November 10, 2015 Council meeting.

MS4 – An MS4 statement was presented concerning the DEP’s website. Their site provides a biweekly newsletter, calendar of events and information about the Speakers Bureau.

Mayor’s Report - Trappe Community Day went well; the weather cooperated until approximately 4:15 pm. The expenses to date equal \$9,255 with income at \$8,375 or a shortage of \$880. Additional income is expected. Mayor Peck spoke with Boy Scout Matthew Rightenburg on the Constitution and what it means to be a citizen, as a part of his badge requirement. She also signed an affidavit form for Jacob Huller from Boy Scout Troop 87 to register his Eagle Scout project.

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

Borough Hall Parking Lot – Plans have been completed. We estimate the design fee to be \$8,200 which will include preparation of construction drawings and specifications to be used by the Borough for bidding.

Borough Hall Sidewalk Project – This project has been completed.

Cherry Avenue Paving Project – Work should be completed by the end of October.

East 7th Avenue Reconstruction – Construction is substantially completed.

Clahor Avenue Storm Sewer Repair and Relining Projects – Preconstruction meetings for both projects were held on September 14, 2015. Both projects should begin by mid-October and be completed by the end of October or early November.

Floodplain Ordinance – A review has been completed. Based on Montgomery County Planning Commission’s advice, the Borough’s 2013 draft ordinance is generally consistent with Federal regulations. Some minor items require clarification. We are currently working with the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor to resolve these minor discrepancies.

Stearly Tract – The pre-construction meeting was held on September 30, 2015 with representatives of the Borough, the Developer and the Contractor. The Developer was informed that no construction may commence until signed, sealed and recorded plans have been received and all other regulatory agency approvals have been received.

West 1st Avenue Storm Sewer Extension Project – The final design plan has been completed. The metes and bounds for the required easement were provided to the Borough Solicitor and the Opinion of Probable Construction Cost was provided to the Borough Manager.

West Main Street Sidewalk and Curb Evaluations – We have completed our cost estimate to evaluate the existing sidewalk and curb conditions. We estimate the cost to perform a field evaluation and prepare a marked up plan of suggested proposed repairs/improvements to be \$5,500. Our quote was provided to the Borough Manager.

Solicitor's Report – The Solicitor reported he had a number of items to discuss in Executive Session. No vote is expected at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Trappe Village – Solicitor Onorato sent a letter to the attorney for Trappe Village commending him on the application to replace 21 of the 25 decks and encourages them to apply for the rental inspection permits as is required by the Borough Code.

Borough Wireless Communication Facilities Ordinance – A draft ordinance is being prepared. A copy will be distributed in the near future.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative Services: A curb replacement and repair cost and reimbursement policy was presented. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning how to determine the cost to be levied upon property owners now and in the future. Several options were discussed.

A motion was placed by Vice President Cathy Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Scott Martin to charge the residents along East Seventh Avenue for the driveway depressions installed as a part of the rebuilding of East Seventh Avenue this year - a sum of one thousand dollars (\$1000) and that future replacement costs to be determined at a later time. Motion approved. 7-0

Communications: No report

Finance & Streets: No report

Parks & Open Space: Councilmember Fred Schuetz reported that the Borough has previously received a DCED grant of \$38,000 and the grant received this evening from PECO for \$7,500 and the Borough's commitment of \$10,000 totals \$55,000 towards the construction of the Peck/McIlwain connection from Main Street to Rambo Park. Mr. Schuetz requested that the balance of the expected construction cost of approximately \$70,000 could be withdrawn from the Open Space Fund. This fund will realize a \$18,000 donation from the Stearly tract and an

unknown amount from the Old School New House Development. The estimated design cost is expected to be \$6,000.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Fred Schuetz and seconded by Phil Ronca to authorize the design of the Peck/MacIlwain Trail from Main Street to Rambo Park at a cost not to exceed \$6,000 and that the construction of the trail be planned for in 2016 with funds budgeted in the 2016 Open Space Budget. Motion approved. 7-0

Councilmember Fred Schuetz further reported that he intends to meet with representatives of the Montgomery County Planning Commission to determine if the Borough's Master Plan for Main Street Park should be revised in order to qualify for future grants. Also the reps will be asked to review the Main Street Park which was last assessed in 1998 for accessibility.

Mr. Schuetz advised Council that he intends to seek Community Workers from the District Attorney's Office to complete landscaping around Rambo Park and the Borough Hall. This is expected to be done on October 17, 2015.

Mr. Schuetz reported that the playground inspection and maintenance program required by the Borough's insurance carrier has been completed. Some maintenance still needs to be completed at Rambo Park and this is expected to be completed in the near future by the equipment manufacturer.

A request has been received from the Natural Lands Trust for a contribution of \$250 for the Borough's municipal membership. Natural Lands Trust works toward preserving open space and also is a major supporter of grants acquisitions.

Planning, Zoning & Ordinance: The subject of a Bamboo Ordinance was introduced. It was determined by the majority of Council not to consider this subject at this time.

Sign Ordinance – This matter will be delayed until a future date, to be determined.

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 August 18, 2015 meetings of the Collegeville-Trappe Joint Public Works Department and the Collegeville-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.

There was no discussion concerning the subject of a loan to the Collegeville Fire Company for a new building at this meeting.

Traffic & Safety: Councilmember Scott Martin introduced the subject of Fire and Ambulance Company's need for new portable radios. At the present time, ten (10) new radios are necessary

at a cost of approximately \$42,000 and the need exists for several more radios. The County may be offering a no interest loan from the proceeds of a bond issue in the near future. The total cost of all new radios for the fire and ambulance companies may be \$250,000. A grant is being applied for to offset a portion of this cost.

Walkable Community: Councilmember Phil Ronca reported that the committee continues to seek information concerning the portion of land at the end of Oak Road and if it is made available to the public it would provide pedestrian access to Hunsberger Farm and eventually the Perkiomen Trail. Efforts to obtain this information should be continued.

Also a brief discussion concerning handicap curb cuts at the Trappe Center along First Avenue was held. A letter has been sent to the Trappe Center, without results. A follow up letter should be sent.

It was also suggested by Councilmember Phil Ronca that a friendly letter should be sent to all Main Street property owners regarding the need to keep their curbs and sidewalks in good repair according to the Borough's ordinances.

OLD BUSINESS: Council President Nevin Scholl called for any old business. The Public Works and CTMA cash flow projections were presented and reviewed by Mr. Scholl.

The ARLE Grant has been delayed due to the budget impasse in Harrisburg. Plan B for LED streetlights may include issuing a joint bond and then loaning the funds to participating municipalities. A decision is expected by mid-February.

NEW BUSINESS: Council President Scholl called for any new business. A letter of resignation was received from John Rykaczewski tendering his resignation from the Borough Zoning Hearing Board.

A motion was placed by Vice President Cathy Johnson and seconded by Phil Ronca to accept the resignation with regrets. Motion approved. 7-0

A vacancy now exists on the Zoning Hearing Board and anyone interested in serving should let their interest be known to any member of Council.

During the budget preparations, the Budget Committee determined that the 2016 road projects should tentatively include Joan Drive and Linden Drive. Subject to a review of the road conditions by the Borough Manager and Engineer, it was further determined by the Budget Committee that the storm sewers beneath the roadways should be videotaped prior to the rebuilding process.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Nevin Scholl and seconded by Phil Ronca that the Borough Manager should seek quotes to videotape the storm sewers beneath Joan Drive and Linden Drive and present for approval at a future Council meeting. Motion approved. 7-0

Council President Nevin Scholl requested authorization to attend a storm water management seminar presented by the PA Rural Water Association on October 27, 2015 at a cost of \$85.

A motion was placed by Councilmember Fred Schuetz and seconded by Phil Ronca to authorize Council President Nevin Scholl to attend the storm water management seminar presented by the PA Rural Water Association on October 27, 2015 at a cost of \$85. Motion passed. 7-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:40 p.m. Council entered into Executive Session to discuss legal issues.

Council reconvened at 10:59 p.m.

A motion was place by Councilmember Tammy Liberi and seconded by Councilmember Phil Ronca to adjourn at 10:59 p.m. Motion passed. 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

**Robert T. Umstead
Borough Secretary**