

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2021  
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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Council President Cathy Johnson called to order the regular meeting of Trappe Borough Council, held virtually, on April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

**Those Present Were:**

President Cathy Johnson  
Vice President Scott Martin  
Pat Webster  
Tom Lauterio  
Mallory Perlin  
Stu Strauss  
Mayor Matthew Wismer

**Also Present:**

Manager Marcus Dolny  
Solicitor David Onorato  
Treasurer John Klink  
Engineer Ryan Kern  
Trooper Miree - PSP

Dave Davis Joined the meeting late at 7:58 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the March 2, 2021 regular meeting.

**Motion to approve the minutes:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: S. Martin**

**Approved: 6-0**

**PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Trooper Miree introduced herself and explained her role as the Community Service Officer. She reminded those in attendance that although Trappe is currently seeing low crime numbers; crime can happen everywhere. Lock doors and windows, keep valuables out of sight, and don't invite crime. P. Webster asked what trends are being seen. The biggest area being fraud and identity theft. S. Strauss would like contact information for Trooper Miree available to the public. M. Dolny will see that this is taken care off. S. Martin would like to see public presentations return in the future as were done pre-Covid. Fire Chief Greenwood noted response times are better in assisting with emergency calls. Council thanked the Trooper for her service. Trooper Miree will attend May's meeting if possible.

Aileen Johnson from Montgomery County Library wanted to share that they are open again, but still offering curb side services. Also announced that Karen DeAngelo is the new director. S. Strauss asked if the Book Mobile is still going, it is and rotation of locations can be found on the website or by calling the library.

R. Tyson asked for an update on 71. W 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. – Project is moving forward, with no issues as of now.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

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

P. Schmoll submitted paperwork for Eye Design Escrow Release #3.

**Motion to accept the Certification of Completion for Escrow Reduction #3 in the amount of \$4,744.16:**

**Moved: S. Martin**                                  **Seconded: T. Lauterio**                                  **Approved: 5-1**  
**S. Strauss voting in the negative**

P. Schmoll submitted paperwork for 2021 Roadway Improvements Project. With recommendation to award to the apparent lowest responsible bidder, H & K Group, in the amount of \$223, 870.00.

**Motion to accept the recommendation to award to H&K Group:**

**Moved: S. Martin**                                  **Seconded: P. Webster**                                  **Approved: 6-0**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

John Klink presented the Treasurer’s Report dated March 31, 2021 along with a bill list from, two payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit, and with checks 3266-3295 for payment totaling \$93,382.42.

**A motion to pay bills as listed:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**                                  **Seconded: T. Lauterio**                                  **Approved: 6-0**

John Klink presented the Treasurer Report dated March 31, 2021 for the Customers Bank Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$1,921.75.

**A motion was requested to pay bills as listed:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**                                  **Seconded: P. Webster**                                  **Approved: 6-0**

John Klink presented the Treasurer’s Report dated March 31, 2021 for the Customers Bank Escrow Fund check numbers 1205-1207 in the amount of \$4,343.75.

**A motion was requested to the pay bills as listed:**

**Moved: S. Martin**                                  **Seconded: T. Lauterio**                                  **Approved: 6-0**

**Mayor’s Report:** Mayor Wismer was contacted by a scout in regards to the citizen in community program, will have him reach out to the office. P. Webster suggested the Fire Company as a possible avenue.

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

M. Dolny presented the status of bids for seasonal ground maintenance. The only valid quote was received by Russo Landscaping. Due to the time of the year it was recommended that we continue using their services and not delay award any further.

**A motion was made to accept the quote for various seasonal services as presented:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**                                  **Seconded: P. Webster**                                  **Approved: 7-0**

M. Dolny shared with Council the remediation plan and efforts from Aquaterra Technologies, Inc in reference to a violation from DEP issued to Sonny Cleaners at 130 West Main Street for their review and comment.

M. Dolny spoke briefly of the ARP (American Rescue Plan) ACT. At this time, we know Trappe will receive \$368,283.00 over the next two years paid in equal amounts, required to be expended by the conclusion of 2024. However, other than knowing there will be strict auditing related to these funds, other parameters on how the money can be used are still unclear and we are waiting clarification.

M. Dolny, in response to requests to review the Borough's investment position, invited Zach Werner from Adams and Associates to speak regarding the possibilities of Annuities. The opportunity discussed was a Fixed Annuity with New York Life with a return rate of 1.65%. The rate is fixed guaranteed. New York Life is one of the highest rated insurance companies. It is for a period of 3 years, and the Borough would be able to withdraw 10% per year without penalty. There are surrender charges of 7% if there is more than 10% withdrawn per year. These surrender charges drop off after year 3. At the end of year 3, we will look at rates and either keep the same annuity or switch to another company. You would also have the ability to withdraw all of the money after year 3. There are no annual fees with the product. The Pennsylvania Life & Health Insurance Guarantee Association assists if the insurance company would ever go out of business.

The matter will be sent to the Financial Committee for further discussion on moving forward and a recommendation. Verification from the State and Auditors will be need to determine if this vehicle for investing is permitted.

M. Dolny met with some of the residents from Colonel's Place regarding the markings and proposed restrictions to parking and they have offered a counter proposal. That proposal has been reviewed and cleared for acceptance by Borough Manager, Borough Engineer, Fire Marshall, and Fire Chief. Copies of the plan were circulated for approval to Council and will be kept on file.

**Motion to accept the recommendation to approve the proposed plan:**

**Moved: S. Martin**

**Seconded: P. Webster**

**Approved: 7-0**

M. Dolny informed Council that he met with PennDOT representatives in regards to the 803 W. Main Street property and the proposed future sight of Main Street Park. Access would not be an issue as long as the placement would yield the proper sight lines. PennDOT would rather see us work to eliminate the driveway to the Music School through a shared resource, but three driveways are feasible. After discussing the options in relation to a proposed land swap with the owners of 803 W. Main Street, Council did feel there was a possibility to move forward.

**Motion to pursue the exchange of land with the understanding that all expenses related to the exchange would be covered by the property owner, exchange does not exclude the land development process and is contingent on approval of land development:**

**Moved: S. Martin**

**Seconded: P. Webster**

**Approved: 7-0**

M. Dolny presented Rittenhouse Square Homeowner’s Association Sign Request. They are looking to add a more decorative street signs that meet all the PennDOT specs and regulations at the entrances to the development.

**Motion to approve contingent of acknowledgement for responsibility of cost, responsibility of maintenance and repair, and confirmation of meeting all PennDOT standards:**

**Moved: P. Webster**

**Seconded: S. Strauss**

**Approved: 7-0**

MS4 Handout – Effects of Washing Cars

M. Dolny also submitted the permit report for March.

**Solicitor’s Report:**

D. Onorato requested a brief executive session after the meeting to discuss legal matters.

**Motion to accept staff reports:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: M. Perlin**

**Approved: 7-0**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Traffic and Safety:**

S. Martin reported that the representation from the Fire Company is soliciting additional quotes in relation to professional services for the new building and we are awaiting those responses.

S. Martin updated Council on a joint meeting with neighboring municipalities hosted by Upper Providence to facilitate discussions on possible future shared services and resources.

The Trappe Fire Company report for March was distributed.

S. Martin also acknowledged and thanked Chief B. Greenwood for his services and the services of our volunteers.

Trappe Ambulance reports for January and February and the State Police report for March were distributed.

**Information, Communications, and Technology:**

P. Webster said the municipal map is being processed with a draft copy to be returned for review.

**Ordinance Committee:**

T. Lauterio on behalf of M. Dolny brought to Council’s attention that the Borough has still not adopted the 2015 International Fire Code and its Appendices. And due to recent events, the need for some regulations may be in order.

**Motion to direct D. Onorato and M. Dolny to prepare an ordinance issuing regulations pertaining to burning and adopting the 2015 International Fire Code and Appendices, and advertise for adoption after review:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: S. Martin**

**Approved: 7-0**

**Parks, Recreation, & Open Space:**

S. Strauss and the Borough Manager will meet to address state of parks and future of Main Street Park site.

**Public Works & CTMA:**

Minutes and financial reports from the February 23 meetings were provided. Currently looking into investment opportunities as well.

**Regional Planning:**

D. Davis reported that there was no meeting last month but one is scheduled for April. Proposed development of the property at 395 Greenwood, known as the Renninger Farm Estate which will involve multiple municipalities will be on future agendas.

**New Business:**

S. Martin brought up the status of Trappe Days for 2021 in relation to Covid. S. Strauss stated that with the needed planning it may be best to hold off until 2022 for safety purposes and planning. It was also noted that the 2021 Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled.

**Council adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.**

**EXECTUTIVE SESSION**

**Entered into at 9:01p.m. discussing legal matters with no action taken.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Marcus V. Dolny**