

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2023  
SPECIAL MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

---

Council President Scott Martin called to order the regular meeting of Trappe Borough Council, held at the Borough Hall at 525 W. Main Street, on March 1st at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Those present were:**

Dave Davis  
Scott Martin  
Mallory Perlin  
Julie Bechtel  
Theresa Pammer  
Mayor Matthew Wismer

**Also present:**

Solicitor Dave Onorato  
Borough Manager Marcus Dolny  
Chief Mike Risell  
Deputy Chief John Bolger  
Fire Company President Rich Schroeter

**Absent:** Tara Hiley, Stu Strauss

Visitors were present

**ACCEPTENCE ADDITIONAL RACP AWARD**

S. Martin announced that through the continued support of our state officials and particularly the efforts of Sen. Shapiro and his staff and the continued focus of B. Greenwood the Borough had received an additional \$2,446,875.00 added to our \$1,000,000.00 RACP Award, bringing the total to \$3,446,875.00 totals the construction of our new Fire Station. And called for a motion to accept the award.

**Motion to accept the addition funding:**

**Moved: J. Bechtel**

**Seconded: M. Perlin**

**Approved: 5/0**

**INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION – NEW TRAPPE FIRE HOUSE**

S. Martin began with opening remarks and accolades to Rep. Joe Webster, Rep. Joe Ciresi, Former Sen. Bob Mensch, Sen. Josh Shapiro, Staffer Mike Vereb, , the late Branden Sisca, the executive board and officers of the fire company, and commendations for the continued efforts by the borough office, Borough Officials, and the Fire Company to work to achieve this goal.

M. Dolny continued with brief remarks regarding the process of working with initial wants and identifying needs. Fully vetting the best professional services and vetting the best methods to move forward. Taking a 14 million dollar project down to a projected 7 million dollar project.

J. Bolger touched on the importance of why it is important to move forward, citing lack of proper cleaning areas and storage, plus the overuse of an outdated structure and the challenges that presents.

Project Manager Austin Dietrich, from Gorski Engineering, presented the proposed design of the building and discussed the process that would take place during construction, expectation is to break ground early June of 2023 with substantial completion by May of 2024 an 11 month window. Demo of the old station would most likely take place in March of 2024.

Lead Architect Laura Cuconati reviewed the layout and design of the building. Explaining that areas were designed to meet immediate needs and with best intention address the future needs of the department as well.

The professional staff and firm of Gorski Engineering not only has a large amount of experience with these projects and Fire Stations, but a number of them surround this local firm as M. Dolny noted: Phoenixville, Gilbertsville, the Two Limerick stations to name a few.

J. Lamont, from the audience, asked if we have accounted for long lead times for equipment especially generators. A. Dietrich noted that they are and have accounted for that in the timeline. S. Martin stated that is an item they are exploring to purchase early.

R. Greenwood, a member of the Fire Company asked about the memorial for the late Chief Sisca. M. Dolny stated that there will be something but felt that should be something the Fire Company decides on their own.

J. Bolger speaking in regard to the layout and possible future use, noted that the bunk rooms could possibly service as areas for those to work remotely but from the station and help with volunteerism as the amenities would be more accommodating. This can help improve response times.

M. Dolny stated that the Borough understands the large investment it is making, and that the efforts of payment for the construction are carefully reviewed. The Borough has taking a loan in the amount of 4.5 million dollars for this project, and is being smart with the repayment. We are happy to have received the grants we have and will continue looking for more funding to offset costs. Currently we are using a Fire Tax to raise funds but another method for possible revenue for the project would be a debt services tax. The key difference is that the tax will automatically cease once that particular note is paid in full.

J. Lamont Asked if the Borough had to match the grant they received and M. Dolny confirmed that yes it is a 50/50 match so roughly the Borough must pay 3.5 Million as well towards the project. However, fundraising, and straight donations can offset that cost.

M. Dolny also noted that there would be continued efforts to acquire other grant awards for costs associated with equipment and outfitting the building for use.

Speaking regarding the proposed design, P. Webster, from the fire company, that it is a specialized building with needs and uses. J. Bolger spoke to the research associated with the residual effects on firefighters and why it was important for these changes. As M. Dolny explained the different zones of risk and the relation to the new layout of the building.

Chief Risell stated that the current fire station is simply not functional as a modern day fire house and does not lead to the future. A community has to provide fire services and with that comes the right equipment and housing.

G. Lawson, Trappe Tax Collector, asked about the methods of communication and how we planned to continue educating and informing the public. M. Dolny said that they would continue the efforts through the web and social media and use newsletters and word of mouth. Currently information has been limited because we want to wait on certainties before sharing information.

Regarding the implementation of a fire tax decreasing donations M. Dolny said that of course it is possible, but with proper education as to the financial burden volunteers pay out of pocket on top giving their time and helping the public understand what their donations contribute to versus what the fire tax is for can help see an increase.

M. Wismer asked if there would be rental opportunities at the new station. M. Dolny stated that no, as part of cost savings in design and construction it was decided that that would not be allowed and there would be no rental hall.

B. Greenwood in closing offered his excitement for this to be coming to the community and the partnership that has grown during the process. He also offered his thanks and recognition to the Borough Manager M. Dolny for the job he is doing and particularly for the role he has played in these efforts.

No additional comments were heard at this time.

**New Business:**

None

**Council adjourned the meeting at 8:36PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Marcus V. Dolny**