

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2023  
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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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 October 3rd at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Those present were:**

Scott Martin  
Dave Davis  
Stu Strauss  
Mayor Matthew Wismer (Late Arrival 7:04PM)  
Mallory Perlin  
Julie Bechtel  
Theresa Pammer  
Erin Wismer (Late Arrival 7:04PM)

**Also present:**

Solicitor Dave Onorato  
Borough Manager Marcus Dolny  
Engineer Ryan Kern

**Absent:** None

**Also in Attendance:**

Visitors and representation from local emergency services

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – POSSIBLE LITIGATION**

S. Martin informed the audience that there would be a brief executive session following the meeting, with possible action.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the September 5, 2023 regular meeting:

**Motion to approve the minutes:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: M. Perlin**

**Approved: 6/0**

**2022 AUDIT REVIEW**

Representatives from Styer and Associates presented the findings of the 2022 Financial Audit of Borough. The Borough remains in a strong financial position. The entire Audit is available to review at the Borough Office and will be placed online.

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

Michelle Witman asked for an update regarding FUGO, at this time M. Dolny stated they are still working towards Approval from the County and issuance of a NPDES permit.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

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

R. Kern presented Hidden Hollows Escrow Reduction Request #9 in the amount of \$24,115.50.

**Motion to approve:**

**Moved: M. Perlin                      Seconded: J. Bechtel                      Approved: 7/0**

R. Kern and M. Dolny presented the update on the 56<sup>th</sup> W. 7<sup>th</sup> subdivision and land development. The Applicants have gone before Planning Commission and in relation to their fee in lieu of for open space are interested in possible stormwater work in Rambo Park. In order to fully explore they are looking for permission to conduct percolation testing and surveying. Planning Commission recommends allowing them access. S. Strauss did mention and hopes they will take into account existing storm water issues as well.

**Motion to allow access with a hold harmless and sketch plan of the test area:**

**Moved: S. Strauss                      Seconded: T. Pammer                      Approved: 7/0**

**Treasurer's Report:**

M. Dolny presented the Treasurer's Report dated September 29, 2023 along with a bill list for two payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit and checks 1489-1522 for payment totaling \$318,895.71. D. Davis asked about advertising costs, and E. Wismer asked about the frequency of the Fire Donation.

**Motion to pay the bills as listed:**

**Moved: S. Strauss                      Seconded: M. Perlin                      Approved: 7/0**

M. Dolny presented the Treasurer's Report dated September 29, 2023 for the Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$2,134.34

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

**Moved: J. Bechtel                      Seconded: E. Wismer                      Approved: 7/0**

M. Dolny presented the Treasurer's Report dated September 29, 2023 for the Escrow Fund checks number 1037 in the amount of \$6,297.50.

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

**Moved: J. Bechtel                      Seconded: M. Perlin                      Approved: 7/0**

M. Dolny presented the Council all reports for the month of September.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Wismer offered his thanks to Scott Martin, Amy Martin, Mallory Perlin, Julie Bechtel, Kim Godshall, and Marcus Dolny for another great Trappe Day.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

M. Dolny spoke to Council regarding a traffic study conducted by Perkiomen and there consideration of placing speed tables on Betcher Road. After reviewing the findings of the study, the board does not feel speed tables are the correct measure. Lack of reportable accidents in the area, and proposed concentrated placement led the board to suggest permanent placement of a speed sign or possibly road markings. M. Dolny will relay the opinion to the Board in Perkiomen.

M. Dolny presented the Council with a proposal to conduct a traffic study in the area of Cherry Ave. at the cost of \$7,500.00.

**Motion to approve:**

**Moved: M. Perlin                      Seconded: J. Bechtel                      Approved: 7/0**

M. Dolny presented council with a quote for a Solar Powered Speed Sign at the cost of \$5,857.46

**Motion to approve:**

**Moved: S. Strauss                      Seconded: D. Davis                      Approved: 5/2**  
**D. Davis and M. Perlin voting in the negative**

M. Dolny stated there will be a second meeting for discussion of the budget, it was decided to be held on Monday October 30, 2023 at 7:00PM.

M. Dolny also notified Council about Colledgeville's Halloween parade and if there is any interest in participating to let him know.

M. Dolny gave Council a copy of the Permit Report.

**Borough Solicitor: No Report**

**Motion to accept professional reports as presented:**

**Moved: S. Strauss                      Seconded: M. Perlin                      Approved: 7/0**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Traffic and Safety:**

Fire and EMS reports were given to Council for review. NPDES Permit is expected this week for the Firehouse with construction to begin shortly after.

**Administrative Services: No Report**

**Business, Property & Parks: No Report**

**Finance Committee: No report**

**Recreation:**

M. Perlin noted Trappe Day was a success with the expected date for 2024 to be September 28th.

**Public Affairs & Legislation: No Report**

**Street & Development: No Report**

**Planning & Zoning: No Report**

**Regional Planning:**

Continuing to collect survey responses and working to inventory parks, open space, and historical inclusion.

**Public Works & CTMA:**

Council representation noted the Collegeville representatives are looking to raise water and sewer rates in direct relation to options that were shared in regards to PFAS chemicals and the removal of them from the water system.

Study presented three viable options, do nothing, take corrective measures in house, or out source our water service to North Penn Water. S. Strauss said that there is a lot of discuss due to the belief they would be able to get Grants, but ultimately the Borough's would be responsible for the costs. He believes more testing and more frequent testing should be done before a decision is made. E. Wismer stated that we should look into same sample being tested at multiple labs for comparison. M. Wismer asked what would Joe Hasting's job be if we connect to North Penn Water, which was unclear at this time. S. Strauss said that he feels corrective measures in house should be looked at before any other options.

M. Witman asked if the web could be used to pole the community, but M. Dolny noted that the results would be inconclusive due to a lack of control parameters. F. Schautz asked if North Penn has the capacity to service Trappe, which at this time it is reported that they do.

**Motion was made to convey the official position of the Borough of Trappe, by the appointed board members of Public Works, that at this time they Borough of Trappe supports further and more testing and the efforts to modify and install corrective measures on our own wells as needed, and not to explore the option to connect to North Penn Water any further:**

**Moved: J. Bechtel**

**Seconded: M. Perlin**

**Approved: 7/0**

**Regional Sewer:**

Generator to be delivered in December

**Memorial Committee: No Report**

**Old Business:**

Collegeville has pledged to commit up to \$40,000 in the 2024 budget year for the repairs needed at the Clahor Street basin.

**New Business:**

None

**Council Entered into Executive Session at 8:35PM until 8:50PM regarding possible litigation: the following action was taken:**

**Motion to authorize D. Onorato to notify PRDS Properties that the Borough intends to formally vote on the current Subdivision and Land Development Application for FUGO on or after the conclusion of 90 days granted notice:**

**Moved: J. Bechtel**

**Seconded: S. Strauss**

**Approved: 7/0**

**Council adjourned the meeting at 8:52PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Marcus V. Dolny**