

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2026  
RE-ORGANIZATION  
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

M. Dolny called to order the Re-organization Meeting of Trappe Borough Council on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 7:00PM at Trappe Borough Hall, 525 West Main Street, Trappe, Pennsylvania and viewed on live stream followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Honorable Melissa Sterling administered the Oath of Office to: Mayor Heather Blumenthal; Council members: Liz Cady, Eric Fabiszewski, Heather Gustafson, and Benjamin Ratkiewicz. The Council members took their seats at the Council table.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Those present were:**

Liz Cady  
Heather Gustafson  
Eric Fabiszewski  
Scott Martin  
Benjamin Ratkiewicz  
Mallory Perlin  
Stu Strauss  
Mayor Heather Blumenthal

**Also present:**

Borough Manager Marcus Dolny

Visitors as listed were in attendance

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Mayor Heather Blumenthal opened nominations for Council President.

B. Ratkiewicz nominated Liz Cady for Council President, L. Cady accepted.

M. Perlin nominated Scott Martin for Council President, S. Martin declined

S. Strauss nominated Heather Gustafson for Council President, H. Gustafson accepted.

E. Fabiszewski nominated Ben Ratkiewicz for Council President, B. Ratkiewicz accepted.

Hearing no other nominations,

**Motion to close nominations:**

**Moved: B. Ratkiewicz**

**Seconded: S. Strauss**

**Approved: 7/0**

**In the matter of Liz Cady for Council President:**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**B. Ratkiewicz: Yes**

**S. Strauss: No**

**H. Gustafson: No**

**M. Perlin: No**

**L. Cady: Yes**

**S. Martin: No**

**E. Fabiszewski: Yes**

**Fails: 3 to 4**

**In the matter of Heather Gustafson for Council President:**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**B. Ratkiewicz: No**

**S. Strauss: Yes**

**H. Gustafson: Yes**

**M. Perlin: No**

**L. Cady: No**

**S. Martin: Yes**

**E. Fabiszewski: No**

**Fails: 3 to 4**

**In the matter of Ben Ratkiewicz for Council President:**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**B. Ratkiewicz: Yes**

**S. Strauss: No**

**H. Gustafson: No**

**M. Perlin: No**

**L. Cady: Yes**

**S. Martin: No**

**E. Fabiszewski: Yes**

**Fails: 3 to 4**

With no successful vote the floor was opened for further comment and discussion, some highlights as follows: S. Strauss noted his support for Heather Gustafson, reflecting how she handles herself in meetings and noting that she was the top vote earner. B. Ratkiewicz spoke that his priority was that every one work cohesively for everyone in the community and delivery results to everyone in the community. H. Gustafson stated simply that she wanted what was best for the Borough. L. Cady agreed with her fellow Council Members, noting that we all have strengths and weakness to which we can approve upon, but together we can lead with knowledge, experience, and fidelity. With a temperament that reflects the Borough's residents and feels that is what she can bring with her leadership.

A second round of voting for the nominations

**In the matter of Liz Cady for Council President:**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**B. Ratkiewicz: Yes**

**S. Strauss: No**

**H. Gustafson: No**

**M. Perlin: Yes**

**L. Cady: Yes**

**S. Martin: No**

**E. Fabiszewski: Yes**

**Motion passes 4 to 3, Liz Cady elected as Council President.**

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Liz Cady took his seat as Council President and opened nominations for Council Vice President.

E. Fabiszewski nominated Ben Ratkiewicz for Council Vice President, B. Ratkiewicz accepted.

S. Strauss nominated Heather Gustafson for Council Vice President, H. Gustafson declined.

Hearing no other nominations,

**Motion to close nominations:**

**Moved: S. Martin**

**Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz**

**Approved: 7/0**

**Motion elect Ben Ratkiewicz as Council Vice President:**

**Approved: 7/0**

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L. Cady opened nominations for President Pro-Tem.

B. Ratkiewicz nominated Eric Fabiszewski for President Pro-Tem, E. Fabiszewski accepted.

S. Strauss nominated Scott Martin for President Pro-Tem, S. Martin accepted.

S. Strauss stated that typically this position is held with the sitting member with the most experience and tenure.

Hearing no other nominations,

**Motion to close nominations:**

**Moved: B. Ratkiewicz**

**Seconded: H. Gustafson**

**Approved: 7/0**

**Motion to elect Eric Fabiszewski as President Pro-Tem:**

**Approved: 4/3 – (M. Perlin, S. Strauss, and S. Martin voting in the negative)**

L. Cady took a moment to thank and commend former Council Members: Dave Davis, Julie Bechtel, Theresa Pammer, Erin Wismer, and Mayor Matthew Wismer for their service and commitment to the Community. She also offered thanks and praise to S. Martin for his leadership during his tenure as President.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-1 appointing a Manager/Secretary:**

**Moved: S. Strauss                      Seconded: S. Martin                      Approved: 7/0**

**Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-2 appointing a Treasurer:**

**Moved: S. Strauss                      Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz                      Approved: 7/0**

**Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-3 appointing Kilkenny Law as Legal Representation:**

**Moved: B. Ratkiewicz                      Seconded: H. Gustafson**

Noted Discussion, S. Strauss wanted to know if an alternate could be named. M. Dolny stated that he prepared a Resolution as instructed but the particulars and action rest with Council. Stu noted that Dave Onorato has served the community well and doesn't see the reason to make a change, said he should have at least been considered, it was his firm that secured the community two million dollars towards PFAS remediation. S. Martin was concerned with possible conflicts if we were to go to Kilkenny Law as they also represent several neighboring communities. M. Dolny says the Council has the ability seek other representation if they feel there is a conflict.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>B. Ratkiewicz: Yes</b>	<b>S. Strauss: No</b>
<b>H. Gustafson: Yes</b>	<b>M. Perlin: No</b>
<b>L. Cady: Yes</b>	<b>S. Martin: No</b>
<b>E. Fabiszewski: Yes</b>	

**Motion passes 4 to 3**

**Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2024-4 appointing Barry Isett as the Engineering Firm:**

**Moved: S. Strauss                      Seconded: H. Gustafson                      Approved: 7/0**

**Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2024-5 recognizing Victory Bank as a financial institution of the Borough and designating roles and authorities:**

**Moved: S. Strauss                      Seconded: E. Fabiszewski                      Approved: 6/1**  
**M. Perlin voting in the negative**

**Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2024-6 recognizing PLGIT as a financial institution of the Borough and designating roles and authorities:**

**Moved: B. Ratkiewicz                      Seconded: S. Martin                      Approved: 6/1**  
**M. Perlin voting in the negative**

L. Cady presented the following appointments effective January 2, 2024, current roster to be included with the minutes. Discussion was held in regards to possible appointments and the selection and disbursement of positions. S. Strauss noted that he felt it was important to have multiple elected Council Members on the joint public works committee.

**\*Auditors:** Styer & Associates

**\*Primary Emergency Services:**

- Fire - Trappe Volunteer Fire Company
- EMS - Friendship Ambulance
- Police – Pennsylvania State Police

**Committees:**

- Traffic and Safety
  - Eric Fabiszewski - Chairperson
  - Scott Martin
  - Mallory Perlin
  
- Administrative Services
  - Liz Cady – Chairperson
  
- Business and Property
  - Stu Strauss – Chairperson
  
- Finance
  - Heather Gustafson – Chairperson
  - Eric Fabiszewski

- Parks and Recreation
  - Liz Cady – Chairperson
  - Eric Fabiszewski
  - Heather Blumenthal (Mayor)
  
- Public Affairs and Legislation
  - Ben Ratkiewicz – Chairperson
  - Liz Cady
  
- Streets and Development
  - Eric Fabiszewski – Chairperson
  - Ben Ratkiewicz
  
- Planning and Zoning
  - Ben Ratkiewicz – Chairperson
  - Eric Fabiszewski
  
- Regional Planning
  - Ben Ratkiewicz
  
- \*Collegeville Trappe Joint Public Works
  - Heather Gustafson – Chairperson Term Expires: 12/31/26
  - Darryl Borelli Term Expires: 12/31/26
  - Elisabeta Blandin Term Expires: 12/31/26
  
- \*Collegeville Trappe Municipal Authority (CTMA)
  - Mallory Perlin Term Expires: 12/31/28
  - Stu Strauss Term Expires: 12/31/27
  - Darryl Borelli Term Expires: 12/31/26
  
- \*Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority
  - Stu Strauss Term Expires: 12/31/30
  
- Memorial Committee
  - S. Martin – Chairperson
  - Liz Cady

