

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2026
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council President Liz Cady called to order the regular meeting of Trappe Borough Council, held at the Borough Hall at 525 W. Main Street, on January 6, 2026, at 7:03PM.

Those present were:

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

Also present:

Borough Manager Marcus Dolny
Engineer Paul Schmoll
Solicitor Mark Plachta

Absent:

Also in Attendance:

Visitors as recorded

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the December 2, 2025, regular meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: S. Martin

Approved: 7/0

PUBLIC FORUM-AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

M. Stromel asked if the Council can look into making Recycling weekly during the next Trash & Recycling Contract.

G. Howell asked if there would be consideration to replace the sign for the Fire Company and if there were future plans for modifying Rambo Park. M. Dolny stated the sign is currently being reviewed and parks are ongoing.

S. Salamone asked for an update on reviewing Williams Way Parking, which is ongoing.

B. Swartley asked our newly elected Council Members what their initial agenda is, L. Cady and B. Ratkiewicz both echoed an importance to get to know all in the community and serving their needs. Action that doesn't serve the community is action that shouldn't be taken.

M. Stromel and M. Whitman spoke about Police Services and options, M. Dolny stated that this is something that's review is ongoing.

STAFF REPORTS:

Borough Engineer:

1. Streets and Sidewalks

Isett can support the Borough in securing a contract for roadway maintenance, guided by the 10-Year Roadway Improvements and Maintenance Report. W 5th Avenue is scheduled for milling and paving in 2026. All other local roads are scheduled for maintenance over the next 10 years to improve longevity and reduce long-term costs.

The Borough's 2-year concrete contract with Drumheller Construction has ended. Isett will review with the Borough this month to discuss securing a concrete contract.

2. MS4 Program

Reviews and comments from DEP on annual reports will be delayed due to the shutdown. No communication with DEP at this time.
Isett scheduling quarterly MS4 meeting with the Borough to review on-going initiatives, and permit items for 2026.

3. Sisca Community Park and Garden Phase

DCNR has reviewed and closed out the project. Isett and the Borough are researching options for possible grant opportunities to provide additional shading for the park.

5. RACP Firehouse – Isett Grants Assistance

Awaiting team member from the Risk & Compliance Unit to reach out to conduct a close out audit, expecting Risk & Compliance Unit to reach out by the end of the month.

6. Borough of Trappe – Firehouse

No Update

7. Perkiomen Flood Study Updates

Isett reviewed and provided comments to HRG for an undersized and impacted drainage culvert on West 3rd Avenue. This is the only Flood Study location located within the Borough. Once the planning report is approved and issued, the Flood Study locations will open the Municipalities for grant funding opportunities to conduct the mitigation improvements.

S. Strauss asked for an update on winter road treatment programs, M. Dolny stated that they are reviewing and monitoring.

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: B. Ratkiewicz

Approved: 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic and Safety:

We were introduced to newly elected Chief Sean McCarragher and provided reports for the Fire Company.

M. Dolny noted the successful transition to EMS services being provided by Friendship Ambulance, a service that will now include membership for all Trappe Residents.

Administrative Services: NO REPORT

Business & Property: NO REPORT

Finance Committee: NO REPORT

Parks & Recreation:

L. Cady noted we would be looking at offering shared programming with Collegetown.

Public Affairs & Legislation:

B. Ratkiewicz discussed his expectations for this committee and noted that we would be looking to broadcast future meetings.

Motion to authorize the manager to work with the solicitor to prepare a broadcasting policy and obtain cost estimates for needed equipment:

Moved: B. Ratkiewicz

Seconded: E. Fabiszewski

Approved: 7/0

Street & Development: NO REPORT

Planning & Zoning:

B. Ratkiewicz stated there is an importance to coordinating with neighboring communities and managing a regional approach. With the blessing of the Council, it will be explored to create an intermunicipal planning commission between Trappe, Collegetown, and Upper Providence.

Regional Planning: NO REPORT

Public Works:

H. Gustafson spoke about the current construct of the water department, the issues we're facing with forever chemicals, State and Federal expectations, and the reason for a possible rate increase.

The Primary options are connecting to North Penn Water, Filtering our own Wells, or a hybrid method of the two. Currently we have received roughly two million dollars from a class action lawsuit secured by the Borough's former solicitor.

S. Strauss noted this matter has been ongoing for a few years and will be addressed over the next few years but doesn't know if we should go to the proposed 40% rate increase.

B. Ratkiewicz any rate increase is a hardship as costs of living keep going up. If you keep rates the same for decades eventually it hits hard. We are on the clock now and need to do our part to be competitive when submitting for grants and funding.

S. Martin noted that he still had a lot of questions, believes we will be in a difficult position for grant funding because we are an affluent area. Although, he may be in the minority but why not just join North Penn Water, let them take it all and exit the water business.

Comments were taken from the audience in summary focusing on how additional funds would be used, how the current number was reached, design of the system, and current technologies versus future methodology. Sentiment was that we can't keep pushing the issue down the road and that action needs to happen with a proper and tempered approach.

A motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-07 to Increase water Rates:

Moved: H. Gustafson

Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz

Roll Call Vote:

B. Ratkiewicz: Yes

S. Strauss: No

H. Gustafson: Yes

M. Perlin: No

L. Cady: Yes

S. Martin: No

E. Fabiszewski: Yes

Motion passes 4 to 3

CTMA & Regional Sewer: NO REPORT

Memorial Committee: NO REPORT

Old Business:

- **Williams Way Parking**

New Business: NONE

Council adjourned the meeting at 8:58PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny