

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 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 and broadcasted via Zoom, on March 3, 2026, at 7:00PM.

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

AGENDA AMENDMENT

M Dolny asked to amend the budget to include a Resolution supporting a Grant Application for funding for the North Penn Interconnect, to be handled under his report.

Motion to allow:

Moved: S. Martin

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION

At the end of the February 3, 2026 General Meeting, Borough Council entered into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. After Borough Council reconvened in the open meeting and the following action was taken:

A Motion was made by B. Ratkiewicz and seconded by S. Strauss to instruct the Borough Solicitor to respond by letter regarding the proposed legislation. The matter passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING WILLIAMS WAY PARKING ORDINANCE AND CONDITIONAL USE FOR 310 LAUREL DRIVE SOLAR INSTALLATION

A motion to open the public hearing at 7:03PM:

Moved: H. Gustafson

Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz

Approved: 7/0

M. Plachta presented an overview and provided exhibits in relation to both matters and opened the floor for comment or discussion. None was made.

A motion to close the public hearing at 7:07PM:

Moved: B. Ratkiewicz

Seconded: S. Martin

Approved: 7/0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the February 3, 2026:

Motion to approve the minutes:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz

Approved: 7/0

PUBLIC FORUM-AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

Borough Engineer:

1. Streets and Sidewalks

Isett has developed plans and bid documents for W 5th Avenue improvements in 2026. Improvements include milling and paving of W 5th Ave between Borough Line Road and W Main Street (Base Bid), the installation of a sidewalk connection between the Firehouse and W Main Street (Alternate 1), and reconstruction of the two ADA ramps at 5th Ave and Main St (Alternate 2). A bidding authorization memo is provided with this report for Council's consideration.

The Borough has also received a PennDOT ARLE grant for \$120,640 to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety at the emergency signalized intersection of W 5th Avenue and W Main Street. Isett can assist with the development of traffic signal plans and facilitation with PennDOT.

All other local roads are planned for maintenance over the next 10 years to improve longevity and reduce long-term costs.

2. MS4 Program

1. MS4 Annual Tasks – Isett continues to coordinate with the Borough on public education and training opportunities before June 30th.

2. Floodplain Mitigation Grant – County specific grant opportunity was announced mid early February for projects that assist with flood mitigation. Isett met with Borough Manager on 2/12 to discuss options. Existing stormwater improvement plan for Neborlea Way to be slightly modified for grant submission. Submission due by May 31, 2026.
3. Borough GIS Mapping – Map and inventory updates anticipated in April for Borough review.

4. RACP Firehouse – Isett Grants Assistance

On February 19, 2026, Trappe Borough’s Manager and the BIA participated in a successful exit conference with the Office of the Budget. Following this meeting, and as confirmed in correspondence dated February 25, 2026, the Office of the Budget has concluded its audit of RACP Grant ME 300-3269. The formal audit report will be issued via email, along with the release of the retained grant funds totaling \$86,170.

5 . Borough of Trappe – Firehouse

No Update

6. 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.

Action was taken on item #1 in the report, bidding the 2026 road project.

A motion to approve going out to bid for the 2026 road project:

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

M. Dolny presented an escrow reduction (#1) for Bronson Circle in the amount of \$102,158.10. Barry Isett has reviewed and approved the release. In additional discussion it was noted that the office had been out to the site and discussed with them mud tracking from the work zone and ensuring that this will be addressed.

A motion to approve the reduction:

Moved: H. Gustafson Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz Approved: 7/0

Treasurer’s Report:

M. Dolny presented the bill list dated February 27, 2026, for two payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit and a complete bills list for checks 2397 – 2423 for payment totaling \$309,301.41. This included previously approved reimbursement of \$83,784.39 of grant funding to Historic Trappe. There was also discussion after the motion to update expenditures for winter related costs including snow and ice removal and road salt.

Motion to pay the bills as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: H. Gustafson

Approved:7/0

M. Dolny presented the Treasurer's Report dated February 27, 2026, for the Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$2,431.55.

A motion to approve bills as listed:

Moved: B. Ratkiewicz

Seconded: H. Gustafson

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny presented the bill list dated February 27, 2026, for check #1094 for the Escrow Fund in the amount of \$4,427.50.

Motion to pay the bills as listed:

Moved: H. Gustafson

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

Following discussion of the state of funding in Borough Accounts the following Motion was made:

Motion to transfer \$1,500,000.00 from Victory General Money Market to PLGIT Prime, and place \$500,000.00 into a 6 Month yield CD:

Moved: H. Gustafson

Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz

Approved:7/0

M. Dolny also provided monthly reports.

Mayor's Report:

H. Blumenthal issued Proclamation 3-2026 Acknowledging Woman's History Month and offered remarks, acknowledging the impact of woman in the past, present and future acknowledging the following invited guests: Meghan McGuffin, Natalie Weeks Rossitto, Missie Hartnett, Yvette Miranda, Officer Michelle Naab, and Lisa Minardi.

Borough Manager's Report:

M. Dolny presented the Conditional Use Application for 310 Laurel Drive for the installation of solar panels, as presented earlier in public hearing.

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Martin

Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny noted that Council members have expressed interest in attending this year PSAB Conference.

Motion to approve expenses as allowed by the Borough Code for the conference:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: H. Gustafson

Approved:7/0

M. Dolny noted that our Trash Contract base bid would expire in June, and we would need to re-bid or exercise the first of three extension years.

Motion to extend the contract by one year:

Moved: B. Ratkiewicz Seconded: S. Martin Approved:7/0

M. Dolny noted that his printer, the office color printer which is at least 12 years old, would need between \$400.00 and \$500.00 worth of maintenance and replacement parts. Purchasing a new one would only be an additional \$200.00 in cost, and he thinks that may make the most sense long term.

Motion to purchase a new color printer:

Moved: H. Gustafson Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz Approved:7/0

M. Dolny noted that the Borough would need to solicit bids for landscaping services in 2026.

M. Dolny presented RESOLUTION 2026-09 designating April as Safe Digging Month

Motion to adopt:

Moved: S. Martin Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz Approved:7/0

M. Dolny presented RESOLUTION 2026-10 grant acknowledgement for funding assistance through the MONTCO 2040 Program. This would be a joint application with Collegeville for \$350,000.00 to assist in the expenses related to the North Penn Water Connection.

Motion to adopt:

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

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

Borough Solicitor:

M. Plachta presented Ordinance 480 amending Chapter 315 Article 3 Sections 315-358 regarding parking restrictions and limitations on Williams Way, as presented earlier in public hearing.

Motion to adopt:

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

Motion to approve professional reports:

Moved: M. Perlin Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz Approved: 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic and Safety:

Reports were provided to Council from Fire and Updates were provided on both Fire and EMS. Specifications for a new engine are expected by end of April, Cornhole Fundraiser is scheduled for mid-March, and the relations with EMS are going strong. M. Dolny noted that there has been nothing but service as usual from the new EMS provider, Friendship Ambulance. S. Martin did ask for clarification in regard to a \$25,000.00 payment to Harleysville stemming from the merger and residual costs and expenses with Trappe Ambulance. It is believed that this matter is resolved with no more financial obligations, legal action has been taken off the table.

Before Continuing on with the Agenda Lisa Minardi was given the floor due to time constraints.

L. Minardi informed Council and those in attendance that Trappe had been featured in the national magazine Antiques. Council Members were presented with a copy of the magazine and the Manager was given one which would remain in the office.

Administrative Services:

L. Cady noted that there was currently a vacancy on the Planning Commission, and the Borough had received two letters of interest. Julie Bechtel and Mark Wallace were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and make a statement to the Council regarding their interest. Following questions from Council members regarding preservation vs. growth and change, knowledge in interpreting and reading plans and codes, and the challenges of handling opposition from applicants and the public, the candidates were highlighted by M. Wallace's technical skills and experience as an architect versus J. Bechtel's history in preservation and practical experience from her time on Council.

Motion to appoint J. Bechtel:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Roll Call Vote as Follows:

S. Strauss – Yes

M. Perlin – Yes

H. Gustafson - No

L. Cady – No

B. Ratkiewicz – No

E. Fabiszewski – No

S. Martin – Yes

Motion fails 3 to 4

Motion to appoint M. Wallace:

Moved: H. Gustafson

Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz

Roll Call Vote as Follows:

S. Strauss – No

M. Perlin – No

H. Gustafson - Yes

L. Cady – Yes

B. Ratkiewicz – Yes

E. Fabiszewski – Yes

S. Martin – No

Motion passes 4 to 3, M. Wallace appointed to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission

Business & Property:

Meeting to be scheduled in upcoming months

Finance Committee:

Items handled under the treasurer's report

Parks & Recreation:

Trappe will hold a joint concert at Water Works Park with Colledgeville featuring The Tyson Mills Band on May 16th.

Public Affairs & Legislation:

B. Ratkiewicz discussed the creation of an Environmental Advisory Committee and a Human Relations Committee. Initial discussion raised concerns over cost and liability if the Borough would get involved. It was requested that we get copies of current County and local ordinances for review before further steps.

Street & Development: NO REPORT

Planning & Zoning: NO REPORT

Regional Planning:

B. Ratkiewicz still reviewing and following up on Perkiomen Flood Mitigation Study, including possible grant options for projects within the Borough.

Public Works:

Did a review for Director Joe Hastings, covered goals and objectives. Noting stream bank restoration projects for 2026. S. Strauss asked about tree and pathway maintenance in Water Works Park, which will be followed up on.

From these discussions and review it was recommended that J. Hastings receive a 4.13% raise retroactive to January 1, 2026.

Motion to approve:

Moved: H. Gustafson

Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz

Approved:7/0

CTMA & Regional Sewer:

S. Strauss noted they re-organized at their last meeting, and regional is already over 40 Edu's of planned connections which should control expenses moving into next year.

Memorial Committee: NO REPORT

Old Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

Council adjourned the meeting at 9:02PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny