MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 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 April 7, 2026, at 7:00PM.

Those present were:
Liz Cady
Ben Ratkiewicz
Stu Strauss
Eric Fabiszewski
Heather Gustafson
Mallory Perlin
Mayor Heather Blumenthal

Also present:
Borough Manager Marcus Dolny
Engineer Paul Schmoll
Solicitor Mark Plachta
John Klink

Absent: Scott Martin

Also in Attendance:
Visitors as recorded

NORTH PENN WATER PRESENTATION

Public Works Director Joe Hastings and Matthew Boggs, Entech, on behalf of Collegeville Trappe Joint Public Works appeared before Council to discuss the State of the Wells and offer background of Forever Chemicals in the water and the impact on our community. M. Boggs stated that Entech performed the initial study that yielded multiple options. Treating individual wells, either using activated carbon or ionic exchange. This could lead to other issues with property size and zoning the cost for these options are 26 to 29 million dollars estimated.

Creating a centralized treatment location has two possible areas, the lower cost option being 21 million dollars, the other 31.2 million dollars.

The other option would be water supplied from an outside source, although basic discussions were had to look at Aqua and American Water they were never really an option, the most logical and recommended solution is an interconnect with North Pann Water at a cost of 10 million dollars.

Pennvest will only finance the lowest cost option, and we would be a bulk system customer with North Penn Water. Based on questions asked, it was clarified that existing well will go into reserve but remain permitted for the future. That there is a schedule in place and we currently are on schedule to meet deadlines. Future concerns, like microplastics, are already being addressed by North Penn Water, and North Penn is currently and will remain a non-profit entity.

PUBLIC FORUM-AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Public Comment was taken following the presentation, but none was made in relation.

Dave Davis spoke before Council about the consideration of creating Human Relation Committee. He feels it discourages neighborliness and it would not serve this community as intended. Opening opportunities for frivolous claims and worries if we can promise impartial review without bias, would the commission be bipartisan.

M. Perlin did note that she was concerned as well based on the current make-up of committees.

A. Johnson from Perkiomen Valley Library reported record circulation and updates on ongoing renovations. Reminding the Council and those in attendance, that there were still limited operational hours out of the Schwenksville Borough Office Building. Looking for locations to host programming and working on the summer Parks Storytime schedule.

With no further comments and no comments received regarding the connection to North Penn Water.

Motion to approve the intention of a interconnect with North Penn Water and to have Bulk Water Supplied to our Community:
Moved: H. Gustafson **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 6/0**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the March 3, 2026 meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes:
Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 6/0**

STAFF REPORTS:

Borough Engineer:

1. **Streets and Sidewalks**

   Bids were received on March 31st, 2026, for the W 5th Avenue Roadway Improvements Project. Improvements include milling and paving of W 5th Ave (Base Bid), a sidewalk connection between the Firehouse and W Main Street (Alternate 1), and replacing two (2) ADA ramps at W 5th Avenue and Main St (Alternate 2). A Bid Summary is attached 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.

Motion to approve awarding A.H Cornell and Son, Inc. the lowest responsible bidder at $301,591.10, providing all bonding and documentation is received as requested through vetting:

Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 6/0**

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

The formal audit report was issued via email on March 2, 2026. Office of Budge released the retained grant funds totaling $86,170 to Trappe Borough the week of March 23rd. The RCAP grant is closed.

5 . 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.

Treasurer's Report:

J. Klink presented the bill list dated March 31, 2026, for two payrolls and a complete bills list for checks 2424 – 2453 for payment totaling $145,209.96.

Motion to pay the bills as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 6/0**

A motion to approve check #2454 for $450.00 to Every Dey Cleaning:

Moved: H. Gustafson **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 6/0**

J. Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2026, for the Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of $2,431.89.

A motion to approve bills as listed:
Moved: H. Gustafson Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz Approved: 6/0

J. Klink presented the bill list dated March 31, 2026, for checks 1095-1097 for the Escrow Fund in the amount of $12,884.16.

Motion to pay the bills as listed:
Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz Approved: 6/0

J. Klink also provided monthly reports.

Mayor's Report:

H. Blumenthal spoke about her attendance at past events, and noted a few events upcoming, focusing on those in relation to Historic Trappe. This include the dedication of the Speaker's House, Saturday April 11, 2026.

Borough Manager's Report:

M. Dolny presented RESOLUTION 2026-11 allowing for the closure of Main Street for this year's Memorial Day Parade.

Motion to approve:
Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz Approved: 6/0

M. Dolny presented RESOLUTION 2026-12 Final Plan Approval for 181 W. 7th Avenue.

Motion to approve:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz Seconded: H. Gustafson Approved:6/0

M. Dolny presented RESOLUTION 2026-13 Grant Funding for Shade Sail at Sisca Community Park and Garden.

Motion to approve:
Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz Approved: 6/0

M. Dolny noted that he had found a tent for purchase from American Tent and would be looking to jointly purchase with Collegeville and Perkiomen Chamber of Commerce costing each entity about $2000.00, less then the cost to rent for one year.

M. Dolny also updated Council on Landscaping bids and expects to award next month.

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

Borough Solicitor: NO REPORT

Motion to approve professional reports:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz Seconded: E. Fabiszewski Approved: 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic and Safety:

A proposal was reviewed for the purchase of new Fire Apparatus, an E-One Cyclone Rescue-Pumper Aluminum Body at a cost of $1,176,000.00. There were a number of options but ultimately settled on this model based on cost, customization to meet needs, qualities, and turn around time. Placing the order provides a delivery date 34 to 36 months out.
E. Fabiszewski along with the Fire chief outlined the improvements from the old truck to the new, M. Perlin did not that she had some concerns about some recent issues with some E-Ones but would not be against the order. M. Dolny outlined how payments and financing could be handled. In the worst-case scenario, an increase of .35 mil for the Emergency Services Tax over two years would be needed, but with grants and other options it would be possible to avoid or lessen that. It was also noted that even with the additional tax we would still be under the original funding plan for the new building and future equipment presented in 2022.

A motion to approve placing the order and partnering to purchase:
Moved: H. Gustafson Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz Approved: 4/0
S. Strauss, M. Perlin abstaining due to direct involvement with Trappe Fire Company

Administrative Services: NO REPORT

Business & Property:

Meeting April 21, 2026 at 5:30PM

Finance Committee:

H. Gustafson met with G. Lawson to get a tax collection overview.

Parks & Recreation: NO REPORT

Public Affairs & Legislation:

B. Ratkiewicz discussed the creation of the Human Relations Committee, noting it had been recommended that the next step to see how this committee could possibly serve the community and be a benefit to the County would be having the two solicitors discuss. The County had asked for this. The Human Relations Committee should supplement the County and not just be done with no reasoning or benefit. Also noting after D. Davis's comments earlier in the evening, that outline and lay out the qualifications for ideal candidates to serve on the committee or commission would be a priority.
S. Strauss referenced impartiality as well but noted that he didn't think this was needed and an overreach of local government. Stating that our focus and efforts should be elsewhere and allow the State and County to handle these matters.
M. Perlin asked if the solicitor would be involved and if there was something missing from the County's law and efforts.
It was noted that the solicitor can be involved but does not have to be, it would be based on how it was constructed.
B. Ratkiewicz felt it can be constructed to be a benefit and supplement the County's efforts. Noting that this can be done and still focus on other areas without a drop off.
H. Blumenthal, based on earlier comments, asked D. Davis if he felt there was Racism in Trappe which he answered he did not feel there was.

Motion allow our solicitor the opportunity to meet with the County Solicitor to discuss design and how this could be beneficial not to exceed $250.00:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz Seconded: H. Gustafson Approved:5/1
S. Strauss voting in the negative.

Street & Development: NO REPORT

Planning & Zoning:
Zoning update is in the works, a focus of these matters being addressing Data Centers

Regional Planning: NO REPORT

Public Works:

Reports from last meeting were provided

CTMA & Regional Sewer:

Reports from the last meeting were provided, investment and operations on track for the year

Memorial Committee:

Currently there are two nominees, nominations will close end of April.

Old Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

Council adjourned the meeting at 9:02PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny