MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 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 May 5, 2026, at 7:00PM.

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

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

Absent: None

Also in Attendance:
Visitors as recorded

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the April 7, 2026, meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes:
Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 6/0**
S. Martin Abstained due to not being present

PUBLIC FORUM-AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

Borough Engineer:

1. Streets and Sidewalks

A.H. Cornell & Son, Inc. was awarded the West 5th Avenue Improvements Contract. The overall value of the contract is $301,591.10. It includes 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). Isett will coordinate a Pre-

Construction Meeting with Cornell and the Borough in May. Work is anticipated to occur between mid-June and mid-August.

The Borough has 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 once the Grant Agreement is fully executed.

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 are being modified for grant submission. Submission due by May 31, 2026.

3. Borough GIS Mapping – Isett to review draft MS4 report and draft BMP location map and storm piping inventory with Borough Manager in June.

3. Borough of Trappe – Firehouse

No Update

4. 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.

M. Dolny presented RESOLUTION 2026-14 Funding acknowledgement and designation of officials for an application to FMP Grant Program.

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-14:
Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 7/0**

M. Dolny presented ESCROW Reductions #10 & #11, a final ESCROW Release for 803 W. Main Street releasing the Escrow and final amount of $51,794.31
Motion to approve:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz **Seconded: H. Gustafson** **Approved: 7/0**

M. Dolny presented ESCROW Reductions #2, for Bronson Circle LLC in the amount of $384,849.32
Motion to approve:
Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: H. Gustafson** **Approved: 7/0**

Treasurer's Report:

J. Klink presented the bill list dated April 30, 2026, for two payrolls, direct charges, and a complete bills list for checks 2454 – 2472 for payment totaling $222,780.36 and a second run for checks 2473-2476 totaling $5,492.72.

Motion to pay the bills as listed:
Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 7/0**

Motion to pay the bills run as noted:
Moved: H. Gustafson **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 7/0**

J. Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2026, for the Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of $2,433.77.

A motion to approve bills as listed:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz **Seconded: M. Perlin** **Approved: 7/0**

J. Klink presented the bill list dated April 30, 2026, for checks 1098 for the Escrow Fund in the amount of $8,263.75

Motion to pay the bills as listed:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz **Seconded: S. Strauss** **Approved: 7/0**

J. Klink also provided monthly reports.

Mayor's Report:

H. Blumenthal recognized Jewish American and Asian Pacific Heritage Month. Met with Pennsylvania State Trooper Lt. Falcon and toured the barracks. Officiated her first marriage ceremony, spoke at the Bataan Memorial March, and met with a number of community businesses and organizations. Took part in the dedication of Speakers House here in Trappe and spoke at the event. During her report she recognized Councilwoman Mallory Perlin for her service with Emergency Services and noted upcoming events in Trappe and for Trappe residents. Noted that it was Nurses Week and recognized Councilwoman H. Gustafson. She also took time to recognize the student leaders of Perkiomen Valley High School Best Buddies Program, recognized as National Unified Banner School and Pennsylvania's Chapter of the Year. Students -Madeleine, Avery, and Dara were present and were recognized for the chapter's achievements and success of raising over $5,800 for the program.

Borough Manager's Report:

M. Dolny presented the landscaping quotes and made the recommendation for Minger Family Landscaping at $21,500.

Motion to approve awarding to Minger:
Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: S. Martin** **Approved: 7/0**

M. Dolny request for Permit to Serve Alcohol by Troubles End Brewing on behalf of Collegeville for their Community Day.

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

M. Dolny asked Council for authorization for an emergency repair, a storm sewer line collapsed running from Main Street to the basin impacting two properties. Bartlett has been contacted to make the repairs before the sink hole gets worse or property is threatened.

Motion to approve the repairs:
Moved: S. Martin **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 7/0**

M. Dolny gave Council an update on issues relating to work outside of permitted hours on the Boxwood Housing Development

M. Dolny noted that Councilman B. Ratkiewicz requested to fly the POW Flag during the month of May. Currently although the State does permit the American Flag, State Flag, and POW Flag to be flown at municipal locations, he has adhered to only flying the American Flag.

B. Ratkiewicz wants to recognize and pay respects to Veterans, stated that if appropriate we can fly on the same pole, but if not look at budgeting to add future flag poles.

S. Strauss does this open requests to fly other flags beyond these three. B. Rakiewicz feels that is something that the Council can discuss in the future.

H. Gustafson would like to see the State Flag.

M. Perlin is concerned that this will create reviews of other flags in the future and would prefer to fly only the American Flag.

M. Dolny restated that The American, State and POW are approved by the state to fly outside of municipal buildings and recommends that focus stay on those three only.

M. Perlin asked if we were to fly the POW flag would that be a trigger to anyone and noted that the VFW already fly one. Would they have an objection?

Motion to fly the POW/MIA Flag for the Month of May with approval from VFW Leadership:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz Seconded: S. Martin Approved:7/0

M. Dolny presented RESOLUTION 2026-13 the destruction of certain tax records in accordance with the Records Retention Manual

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-13:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz Seconded: E. Fabiszewski Approved: 6/0

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

Borough Solicitor:

M. Plachta gave a brief update on the HRC stating he had a call scheduled this week with the County. B. Ratkiewicz took this time to speak on the matter, and complied notes on the background on HRCs, the legislation that has led to them, and ideal examples that he'd like to see us mirror. These notes will be kept on the official record. There was further discussion including how the Borough of Carlisle has structured their HRC, concern over exposure to litigation, and discussion as to if there was need to be involved directly with these matters. It was also noted that the County has not really started activity yet with their HRC, and they have not taken complaints at this time.
M. Plachta noted again that if Trappe created an HRC it can be set up, however the Borough would choose to do so, from acting as an arbitration mechanism, to having stronger enforcement powers, and/or serving as a community resource for information and outreach. Again, it can be designed how the Borough wishes and M. Plachta did note that no elected members would be able to sit on this Commission.
B. Ratkiewicz did note that there are educational resources through state available to these representative members.
One of the discussion points was should arbitration be used, both parties would have to agree to that action, M. Dolny stated that there would need to be a written acknowledgement. S. Martin was concerned about the public's perception as information could become public and may not be accurate and feared there could be defamation claims.
M. Dolny stated he would get fully copies of Carlisle's Ordinance and speak to them in regard to their experiences and see if the PHRC could come speak to our board.
Council members who have not voiced questions or opinions regarding the matter were asked their position, it was only noted further that there was a desire to have more information.

Motion to approve professional reports:
Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: E. Fabiszewski Approved: 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic and Safety:

Chief McCarraher spoke at the beginning of the meeting thanking the Council for their support as they officially signed paperwork for new apparatus, an E-One Cyclone Rescue- Pumper Aluminum Body at a cost of $1,176,000.00. The sentiment was echoed by numerous members of Council and our Mayor as the importance of this moving forward for the safety of our community.

Administrative Services: NO REPORT

Business & Property:

Meeting was held April 21st, and we will work on creating a Community Banner for America 250.

Finance Committee:

Funds in PLGIT have been moved to higher interest baring accounts, and H. Gustafson noted that the office is working on closing out ESCROWs that are no longer needed or close to completion.

Parks & Recreation:

Just a reminder that the Borough of Trappe will be holding a joint concert at Water Works Park with Collegeville on May 16th and that the annual Memorial Day Parade would be happening again on Memorial Day.

Public Affairs & Legislation:

B. Ratkiewicz discussed the HRC during the Solicitor's Report earlier in the meeting.

Street & Development:

Williams Way was now reopened following a Gas line repair.

Planning & Zoning:
M. Dolny gave an update on the zoning amendment, focusing on the Institutional Government District, Stormwater Regulations, and Data Center Protocols.

Regional Planning: NO REPORT

Public Works:

Reports from last meeting were provided, all members of the Public Works Board attended training last month. The Board is working on updates to the bylaws and noted that the sub-financing committee has met twice in regard to financing the NPWA connection.

H. Gustafson will meet with State and Federal Representatives

S. Strauss spoke on the possibility of CTMA handling the borrowing for the NPWA Connection with an agreement for repayment.

CTMA & Regional Sewer:

Reports from the last meeting were provided.

Memorial Committee:

Nominees are being reviewed

Old Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

Council adjourned the meeting at 8:47PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny