

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2006

7:30 p.m.

Trappe Town Hall

The regular Town meeting was opened by President Cheryl Lewis and called to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioners Danny Adams, Walter Chase, Don English and Norm Fegel were present. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The May minutes were read and accepted as presented. The May financial statement was accepted as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: June 7, 2006 at 7:10 p.m.

There was an executive session on June 7, 2006 at 7:10 pm. Council members present were Cheryl Lewis, Don English, Walter Chase, Danny Adams and Norm Fegel. The meeting was to discuss the reappointment of Board Members for the Town.

OLD BUSINESS:

LAKESIDE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT:

President Lewis stated that the town has just had a public hearing on May 24th on Resolution 2-2006, Lakeside Special Taxing District. The Resolution has been presented with some additions from the town attorney. Attorney Booth stated that we have talked with the Town's Bond Council and there was one change in exhibit II which is the letter of intent. The changes were in the language making it clear that the town will have no financial liability in the Special Tax District. The resolution just sets up the district not the tax explained Attorney Booth.

Motion was made by Com. Chase to adopt Resolution 2-2006 Special Taxing District for Lakeside. Motion was seconded by Com. Adams.

Vote:

Adams – Y Lewis – Y English – Y Chase – Y Fegel – Y

Ms. Laurann Schwaninger asked about the tax that is to cover the building of the new town hall. President Lewis explained that the tax is to cover all infrastructures including the town hall. This tax is paid by the citizens when they move into their development. Ms. Schwaninger said that she thought the developer was paying for everything. President Lewis stated the developer is just passing on the cost to the people that buy the homes in the development. The burden is placed on to the developer not the residents of the town.

Attorney Booth sated that this will 35 million dollars in the Bank. The money for the development will come from this account. This money will be spent for all infrastructures as completed.

President Lewis said that this was one of the reasons that the town went with the special taxing to insure that the cost of the infrastructure would be there.

ORDINANCE 5-2006 BUDGET.

The new proposed budget and the adjusted budget were introduced at last month's meeting. President Lewis explained the adjusted budget is first and then the new proposed budget for the year. There were no changes to the adjusted budget since the last meeting. The adjusted budget shows that we made \$36,000.00 which will go into the savings account, to be spent in the new budget. This increase came from the new homes that we now have in the town. The adjustments were explained by President Lewis.

Motion was made by Com. English to adopt Ordinance 5-2006 Budget for the fiscal year of 2006-07 as presented.

Motion was seconded by Com. Fegel. There were no comments.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

President Lewis read:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF TRAPPE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2007, AND ESTABLISHING A TAX RATE OF \$.30 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED REAL PROPERTY VALUE AND A TAX RATE OF \$.54 PER \$100 ON ALL COMMERCIAL BUSINESS, PERSONAL PROPERTY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES.

President Lewis explained that we will not raise the real estate tax, commercial business, personal property or public utility rate. It will remain the same as last year.

Com. English said that at the Public Hearing we discussed the \$5,000.00 that we have designated to go to the Sheriff's Department. My recommendation was that we donate the money this year to the schools for lap top computers instead. Com. Chase did not feel that we should take this away from the Sheriff's Dept. and would feel comfortable giving to both.

President Lewis felt that we could donate to both the school and the Sheriff's Dept. It was noted by the Star Democrat that our budget is one of the smallest and we give the most to our Fire Company according to our small budget. We would like to continue as a Town to show support to the school and Sheriff's Dept.

Com. Chase felt that it would be a disgrace to not give to the Sheriff's Department.

He had no problem giving to both. Com. Adams agreed. This will be the only change to the general budget stated President Lewis.

President Lewis then stated that \$50,000.00 will be set aside if Mr. Hall is successful in getting a grant for Bramble's. We may need more money but for now we have this amount set aside.

Motion to adopt the Ordinance 5-2006 Budget with the changes recommended. Motion was seconded by Com. Chase.

Vote:

Adams – Y Lewis – Y Chase – Y English – Y Fegel – Y

Enterprise Budget:

President Lewis presented and explained the adjusted Enterprise Budget for the previous year and the proposed budget for this year with a few additions and corrections. Copies of the budgets are in the town minutes. There were no comments on the budgets.

Motion was made by Com. English to adopt the Enterprise Fund Budget with adjustments. Motion was seconded by Com. Adams.

Vote:

Adams – Y Lewis – Y English – Y Chase – Y Fegel – Y

ORDINANCE 4-2006 - REVISED SUB DIVISION REGULATIONS

President Lewis read Ordinance 4-2006:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF TRAPPE REVISING THE SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS INCLUDING DEFINITIONS, TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE.

President Lewis said that on May 24, 2006 the Planning Commission and the Council had a joint meeting on the subdivision regulations and these were changes recommended by our attorney. We have already had a public hearing and the changes were discussed at the meeting there were no comments from the public. Attorney Booth stated that this will make the ordinance consistent with the Zoning Regulations to make sure that our ordinances match.

Motion was made by Com. English to adopt Ordinance 4-2006. Motion was seconded by Com. Adams.

Vote:

Adams – Y Lewis – Y English – Y Chase – Y Fegel – Y

ANGELA HEALEY – ARCHITECT FOR THE NEW TOWN BUILDING:

Ms. Healey presented her fine tuned renderings of the new town building for the town to review and see some of the changes. She wanted the Town to think about the ground breaking ceremony for the new town office building. She made a suggestion that we place a small compartment in the side of the building to place documents in a compartment like a small capsule. Articles may be placed in the capsule with the intention of being opened at an anniversary date or 50 years from now. President Lewis asked the citizens to raise their hands as to whether or not they liked the idea of the capsule. Everyone including the Council agreed with the idea. This will be 10x16 container stated Angela Healey. President Lewis suggested a Christmas Ornament sold by the Historical Society with a tomato and Defender Packing on the ornament.

The next issue was on the weather vane, what everyone would like to have on the top of the building. One suggestion was the partridge or the town seal with the partridge, or an attack eagle. The discussion continued on what the citizens would like to see on the building and there were mixed feelings.

The color of the building and materials to be used will be discussed in the July meeting. There will be copper on the small roofs and arch shingles on the main part of the roof. President Lewis continued to discuss what the inside of the building would contain. She said that the second floor would have a full room finished off upstairs with heating and air, elevator and a spiral stairway to the bell tower where the clock will be. We will have rental space on the second floor for a group gathering or maybe Boy Scouts, etc. This will leave the old town building for a possible police department or whatever we decide. Everyone agreed upon the presentation of the new building and proposals.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Lewis asked that since the July meeting is July 5th could we change to July 12th. It was agreed upon to have the July meeting on the 12th.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

President Lewis stated that there are several board members whose appointments have expired. Everyone agreed that Mr. Bobby Quidas continue as Planning Board member, Mr. Tom Maddox and Jeff Beever continue on the Boca Appeals Board and Mary Taylor to continue on the Ethics Board. The Council agreed to reinstate these members.

President Lewis asked if anyone was interested in being on any of these boards there will be some openings in 2007. Please let us know if interested.

She also recommended that we add a committee to the boards, making a Newsletter Committee, continuing to have Ms. Dorbin and herself on the committee since they have been doing the newsletter for several years. President Lewis also felt that the Commissioner in charge of Administration who is an elected commissioner be the chairperson who oversees this committee. The recommendation was that they should receive \$200.00 a year just like other boards. Com. Chase asked if President Lewis would be paid for this also. She stated that no she would not, but whoever replaced her would be paid.

Com. Chase made a motion to approve this committee and motion was seconded by Com. English.

Vote: The vote was unanimous.

President Lewis also recommend that the Town Dinners Committee of which Nancy Dunn was chairperson also be included and continue with Nancy as Chairperson.

MICHAEL SCOTT – SALISBURY STATE UNIVERSITY – GIS MAPPING

Mr. Hall introduced Dr. Michael Scott from Salisbury State University to discuss the benefits of Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping with the Town Council. Dr. Scott suggested that his department could use student interns to develop a comprehensive mapping of Trappe’s infrastructure including digitalizing the existing Town features and the new infrastructure associated with the new development. He added that the cost would be about \$5,000 to get a good start on Trappe’s mapping especially since much of Trappe’s property parcels have already been digitalized by Talbot County and there will be new high quality aerial photographs available by the end of the year. He added that Frank Hall already understands GIS and he would be a benefit to getting the system up and running for Trappe. Finally, Dr. Scott showed examples of his other work for small Towns including Oxford, Denton, and Vienna. Attorney Booth supported Dr. Scott’s proposal since she has seen the benefits to the Town of Denton.

The Town Council agreed to include in the general budget \$5,000.00 for GIS mapping.

Motion was made by Com. Chase to put \$5,000.00 in the Planning Dept. General Budget for GIS Mapping.

Motion was seconded by Com. English

Vote:

Adams – Y Lewis – Y English – Y Chase – Y Fegel – Y

CRIME IN TRAPPE:

Laurann Schwaninger said that someone had broken in to their store and done quite a bit of damage with golf carts, on their buildings and equipment. She was very concerned whether or not anyone had seen anything.

Mrs. Harris on Main Street had also had her windows shot out with a BB gun.

Nancy Dunn stated that the United Methodist Church had made \$1,800.00 on the Strawberry Festival in spite of the rain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

June 12, 2006 – Rural Life Museum Meeting 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

June 14, 2006 – Pit Beef Sandwiches – 11:00 a.m. until sold out

June 21, 2006 – Planning & Zoning Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joedy Cecil, Town Clerk

Approved by: Cheryl Lewis, President