

## **TRAPPE TOWN MEETING**

**April 4, 2007**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Trappe Town Hall**

The 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 March minutes were read and accepted as presented. The Financial Statement for March was also accepted as presented.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: March 7, 2007**

There was an Executive Session on March 7, 2007 at 8:20 p.m., Council members present were Cheryl Lewis, Don English, Norm Fegel and Walter Chase. The meeting was to discuss personnel matters and Planning Commission Appointment.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Police Chief Report:**

Chief Police Ball gave his monthly report of meetings attended, calls and stops made in the town. A report is included in the town minutes listing the amount of stops and assist. Mr. Ball stated that there had been a discussion about mopeds and President Lewis explained that in the State of Maryland you can ride a moped if you have a driver's license and you are not required to wear a helmet. There have been many moped riders out who do not follow the rules and I just felt that we could petition the State to require helmets since this would create a liability to drivers if anyone every was hit.

### **BUDGET REVIEW FOR ENTERPRISE ACCOUNT:**

President Lewis stated that we have just had a public hearing and no one is happy with the rate increase but everyone agreed that we just raise the basic rate \$10.00 per household per month. We will schedule a public hearing and present a new Ordinance.

Barbara Beauchamp asked if the town would compromise and raise the fee \$5.00.

President Lewis explained that this just puts the debt off longer.

Com. Chase felt that the \$10.00 fee would be much better than a 3% increase every year.

Don Haring asked if we had to have and advertise another public hearing since the cost of advertising is so high? President Lewis stated that she typed the ad and sent to Attorney Booth for review, we have to advertise so that the public can see the new rate.

The Ordinance will be 3-2007 with a basic increase rate of \$10.00 with a spread of 40% for water and 60% for sewer to become effective on July 1, 2007. This is what the vote will be for.

Melvin Schwanger asked if we could take a vote tonight?

The unofficial vote is as follows: Mr. Chase asked if we would come back next year and ask for another increase before he voted? We will not have to come back until July 1, 2008. I cannot say whether we will or not it depends on whether or not we have enough money.

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

President Lewis stated that we had a mid year budget review on February 7, 2007 for the Enterprise and the General Budgets. The purpose of a mid year review is to make sure that you are within the budget and if not what you plan to do to correct it. The changes on the general budget have already been discussed and all we need to do now is to have approval from the Council to accept the changes.

The Enterprise Fund was just reallocating the money. These were just reviews and adjustments. There was no change to the income or expenses in either account. The cost of the electric bill increase was also discussed. President Lewis asked if the Council would like to table and bring back next month. Com. English had no problem in coming back with it next month.

### **LEASH FREE DOG PARK**

President Lewis said that the citizens have asked about a Leash Free Dog Park this was sent to the Planning Commission for review. The Planning Commission sent back with a large package of recommendations, they attended other parts and researched and found that you needed at least two acres of property, fences, concrete pads and many other recommendations.

They decided that we do not have any property in Trappe that would be available. The recommendation basically was to look for land in the County since it would involve the County more. Those involved felt that this should belong to the County or the State. President Lewis read the Findings of Fact from the Planning Commission. A copy of the Findings if included in the minutes.

Motion was made by Com. English to send to County Manager and Talbot County Council for review. Motion was seconded by Com. Fegel.

Vote:

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

Com. English volunteered to take the recommendation to the County.

**Town Code:**

Com. English stated Attorney Booth and Mr. Ball had been working with him on the Town Code, which includes property inspections for the town. Com. English delivered the Council copies of the International Property Maintenance Code 2006 which majority of the towns use as a property maintenance code. We would like to use this basis for property inspections and incorporate in the Code as part of inspections to take care of properties that do not meet our inspections. We have asked the Council to review and let us know what we should use or not use. This code is a copy of the international code which deals with property maintenance, owner occupied, single family homes, rentals and vacant buildings.

Attorney Booth stated that we needed direction for the property maintenance code which was outdated in the town code. I should have a draft to you before the next meeting on the rest of the Code. President Lewis asked if anyone had a problem with using this code? Com. English stated that just about everyone is using the International Building Code across the country. We have not used the Boca Code for about three years. This Code is updated about every three years.

Com. Adams agreed to move forward in the direction of the International Building Code. Com. Chase stated that some things he disagreed with such as: someone going on your property to inspect and how the building inspector is appointed.

President Lewis so we will just modify. Attorney Booth is just going to reword where needed and all suggestions or changes will be sent to her.

Com. English said that the County just adopted 2003 and the State adopted 2006, we feel that we should adopt 2006.

**PAT BRIDGES:**

Mrs. Bridges stated that she would be the town’s worst nightmare if they did not pass the code and get rid of the old house that is setting behind her house rotting away.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOSQUITO CONTROL:**

President Lewis presented to the Council a new contract from the State on the yearly Mosquito Control. The bill for 2007-08 will be \$880.00, last year the contract was for \$1,060.00.

Motion was made by Com. Fegel to accept for the year. Motion was seconded by Com. Chase.

Vote:

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

**GRASSCUTTING BIDS:**

K & E requested that before opening the bids would the town please consider a revision in his bid. There was a typical graphical error which read \$480.00 and should have read \$180.00.

- 1. EBJ Services - Wilson ..... \$ 725.00
- 2. Robinson Lawn Care ..... \$ 590.00
- 3. K & E Lawn Care ..... \$ 760.00
- 4. Outdoor Innovation..... \$ 580.00
- 5. Shoreside Services ..... \$ 495.00
- 6. Steve Smith ..... \$ 470.00
- 7. Don’s Lawn Care ..... \$ 425.00
- 8. Beverly Estates – Bill Jackson ..... \$ 300.00
- 9. Glessner ..... \$ 1,025.00

The Council will review the four cheapest bids and check on equipment before awarding the contract.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT:**

Com. English said that Mr. Doug Abbott has been overseeing the wastewater treatment plant as consultant with a license; he has now gone to work for Easton Utilities and will not be able to continue after April. We have looked into contracting someone to take care of this for the town until one of operators gets the proper license. Easton Utilities has sent us an agreement of \$24,000.00 a year. The second bid is for \$60,000.00 a year. President Lewis checked into other companies and they usually run around \$100,000.00. Com. English felt that Mr. Abbott has worked with the town since the plant was upgraded and felt that this would be the best way to go.

Motion was made by Com. Fegel to go with Easton Utilities Proposal.  
Motion was seconded by Com. Chase.

Vote:  
Adams – Y            Lewis – Y            English – Y            Chase – Y            Fegel – Y

**ELECTRICAL PANEL BOX:**

Com. English stated that there was a problem with the electrical panel box which controls the aerators at the wastewater treatment plant. One junction box in the panel has a broken wire which is buried underground. We have gotten prices to replace the wire which would mean putting the wire in conduit; they range from \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00. Com. English was given permission to spend \$3,500.00 for the repair by the Commissioners.

**LIONS CLUB:**

Com. Fegel asked if the Lion’s Club could have permission to have their chicken barbeques on the Bramble Property which would be every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. We would also like to leave the grill there for the summer also. Com. English asked if they would please pick up the siding under the Lion’s Club building which is on the town property.

President Lewis asked that Scott’s Methodist Church and the Lion’s Club check with each other on the dates.

Motion was made by Com. English to permit the use if the siding was picked up.

Motion was seconded by Com. Adams.

Vote:

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

**LAURANN SCHWANINGER:**

Mrs. Schwaninger stated that each month she sees advertising in the newsletter was this permissible for everyone? President Lewis answered yes; you may also advertise your business. We just felt that this was a newsletter stated Ms. Schwaninger. Would you please change the spelling of our church Emanuel.

**DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT:**

President Lewis said that she has two documents that are left over from the Bramble Development Grant CDBG funds require two additional documents that we did not sign. If we had torn down houses that had someone living in them we would have had to find places for them to live. The second letter is basically the same kind. Attorney Booth stated that Mr. Hall explained to her that whenever a town receives any Federal Government funds these letters have to be on file if we ever want to use Federal money again. One describes the requirements for public hearings which the town has properly done and the other as you described when someone lives in a house that you tear down you must furnish a place for them to live which you did not have. I have reviewed and they are properly done. These letters require President Lewis’s signature.

Motion was made by Com. English to sign the letters.

Motion was seconded by Com. Fegel.

Vote:

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

**ANDY HOLLIS:**

Com. Chase stated that we have a letter from Andy Hollis. President Lewis stated that Talbot County is asking if the town would like for the County to do our taxes which they send us every year. President Lewis stated that she felt we would continue to do in-house since when the development comes we will have to do our own taxes.

Laurann Schwaninger asked about the water permit meeting that was held at the Fire House. .

The time has expired for the permit and we do not have a permit yet.

Motion was made by Com. English to go to Executive Session  
Motion was seconded by Com. Fegel – Y

Vote:

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- April 6<sup>th</sup> Town Office Closed for Good Friday
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – Registration Day for Town Election 8:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- April 9<sup>th</sup> Rural Life Museum – Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.
- April 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Fair Plays Vintage Base Ball Club
- April 27<sup>th</sup> Special Trash Pickup
- May 8<sup>th</sup> Town Election
- Little League Opening Day Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>
- 11:00 Little League Opening Day Ceremonies
- 1:00 Little League Game
- 3:45 Home Run Baker Sign Dedication
- 4:00 Fair Plays Vintage Baseball game.

The meeting was adjourned at  
Respectfully submitted:

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Joedy Cecil, Town Clerk

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Approved by: Cheryl Lewis, President