

TOWN MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2008
7:30 p.m.
Trappe Town Hall

The regular Town meeting was opened by President Don English and called to order at 7:31 p.m. Commissioners Danny Adams, Norm Fegel, Walter Chase and Cheryl Lewis were present. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The December minutes were read and accepted as presented. The December financial statement was accepted as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: December 5, 2007.

There was an Executive Session on December 5, 2007 at 8:50 p.m. Council members present were Don English, Cheryl Lewis, Walter Chase and Norm Fegel. The meeting was to discuss personnel issues.

OLD BUSINESS:

Police Chief George Ball – Monthly Report:

Mr. Chase inquired if the Denton Police Department investigation was complete. Chief Ball advised that his involvement with the investigation has concluded. Mrs. Lewis advised Chief Ball that a citizen notified her of recent mailbox destruction in the area of Barber Road.

Curbside Recycling Update

Mrs. Lewis reported on efforts to date of herself and Ann Dorbin to explore fundraising opportunities. Mrs. Lewis asked that the Council consider authorizing Planner, Jennifer Shull, to pursue grants and other fundraising opportunities for the curbside recycling program. She stated that often grant applications require consent from the governing body as part of the application process.

Mr. Fegel motioned & Mr. Chase seconded that Jennifer Shull pursue grants to fund curbside recycling. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Road Issue

President Don English asked the Council to consider contacting the Talbot County Council to request the transfer of Piney Hill Road to the Town of Trappe. This item was discussed previously at the time the adjoining property was being annexed.

Mr. Fegel motioned & Mr. Chase seconded to authorize President Don English to send a letter to the Talbot County Council requesting that Piney Hill Road be turned over to the Town of Trappe. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Talbot Bank Loan Renewal-Resolution 1-2008

President Don English presented a resolution for the Council's consideration that would renew the loan with Talbot Bank that was used to purchase the police vehicle. Mrs. Lewis provided clarification that the loan payment is billed monthly to the developer who is responsible for the payment as agreed upon in the Developer's Rights and Responsibility Agreement previously signed. The developer has the option to pay the loan in full or pay monthly – it is an interest only loan. Mr. Chase asked how much the original loan was. Town attorney, Brynja Booth, advised that the loan was \$35,000.00.

Mrs. Lewis motioned and Mr. Chase seconds the motion to approve Resolution 1-2008 to renew the loan with Talbot Bank for the police vehicle. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Election Issues

President English asked the Council to discuss the information from the Talbot County Election Board that he provided last month for review. He would like to move forward with having the Talbot County Board of Election Supervisors handle the town elections. The Town would pay the Talbot County Board of Election Supervisors for its services. Mr. English stated that he did not have a final cost yet, however, he would share that with the Council when he gets it. Mr. Fegel asked what was paid to the Election Board now. Mr. English stated he was unsure, however, there are four people paid for one day. Mrs. Lewis recommends we go this route. It is professionally, done by a third party, and handled uniformly as opposed to the paper ballots currently used, and hand counted. Mr. English commented that the desire to hire the Talbot County Board of Election Supervisors is in no way intended to disrespect the current Town Election Board. Mrs. Lewis said that she estimated it would cost approximately \$3,000 to get started. As laws get more complicated it is better to be handled by someone whose sole purpose is to handle elections with people who are trained and know just what has to be done and what the law requires. Mr. Chase stated that it becomes the counties responsibility & they would handle any complaints on how elections are handled. Mrs. Lewis to Mr. English, I recommend you pursue it in time for the next election, and inclusion in the next budget.

Mr. English asked if the audience had any questions. There were none. There was a request from the audience that the green ballot box be donated to the museum.

Mr. Chase mentioned he has heard discussion of consolidating polling places. This would be the precincts within the Trappe district.

Lakeview Park Update

Jennifer Shull, Town Planner, provided an update on Lakeview Park. Ms Shull reported that a request for bids had been placed in the Star Democrat last Friday, and a second ad would appear this Friday. The request for bids was broken into smaller segments to allow smaller contractors to participate in the project. To date three contracts have been received requesting additional information or directions to the project site. The work is a result of the Community Parks & Playground grant the Town received for just under \$100,000.00. Mr. Fegel asked if there were construction drawings. Ms Shull responded that there were not. The project is small, and the written specifications should provide enough detail, however, for estimating purposes a local play equipment provider did prepare a simple site plan, and drawings for the play equipment. Mr. Fegel asked about sidewalks. Ms Shull replied that small sections of sidewalk were included in the plan with sidewalk to the street, and a new culvert to cross the ditch included in the design. Ms Shull reported that bids are due at the next Council meeting in February.

GIS Map Update

Jennifer Shull, Town Planner, provided a GIS Mapping Update. Ms Shull contacted Dr. Michael Scott and Lauren McDermott of Salisbury University at the request of Don English. The Town had previously discussed with Dr. Scott the use of his GIS services for Trappe, and had amended last year's budget to include funding for the project which was not to exceed \$5,000.00. Ms Shull reported that a scope of work was received last week and Mr. English confirmed that it is the same as previously agreed to, and that a new project schedule was included. The project will begin in April of this year and conclude with delivery of documents both paper and digital in June 2008. The cost is \$4,900.00. A contract is expected for execution within two weeks. Ms Shull and Mr. English will meet in February with staff of Salisbury University to provide contact information for town engineers, and past consultants who may have material in digital form.

Mrs. Lewis motioned, and Mr. Fegel seconded a motion to proceed with the proposal from Salisbury University to map GIS for Trappe as was proposed & budgeted in 2006. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Old Business

President English called for other old business. There was none. Mr. English yielded to Mr. Charles Adams to give an update on the museum. Mr. Adams reported that letters were sent out soliciting donations, and \$1,200.00 had been received so far. All directors have keys to the Defender House now. Mr. Adams will be meeting with Angela Healy on January 14th at 10 a.m. to work on how to plan/map out future building placement. The museum is looking for more volunteers and all are welcome.

NEW BUSINESS:

Other New Business

Mrs. Ferguson stated that she attended the Talbot County Council meeting yesterday, and they opened with prayer, and she would like the Town Council to consider doing the same. Mrs. Lewis replied that we have a chaplain and allow the chaplain to offer a prayer when he is present. Mrs. Ferguson offered that the Lord's Prayer could be used.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Planning Commission will meet on January 16th at 7:30 p.m. Shortly they will begin updating the Comprehensive Plan.

The Town Office will be closed on January 21st for Martin Luther King Day.

Special Trash pickup will take place on Friday, January 25th-this will include Christmas trees.

President English asked if anyone else had any announcements.

The Trappe United Methodist Church stated that Saturday morning breakfast would start back up this Saturday.

President English announced that the newly appointed Judge Earnest was hoping to attend the Trappe Town Meeting this evening around 8:15 p.m. after another engagement. The public is welcome to wait and greet the Judge if they desire.

Mrs. Ferguson closed with prayer.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Shull, Planner for Joedy Cecil, Clerk

Approved: Don English, President