

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE  
TRAPPE TOWN HALL  
MARCH 2, 2016

**Public Hearing – 6:45 pm**

President Fegel opened the public hearing for Ordinance 1-2016 at 6:45 pm. President Fegel read Ordinance 1-2016 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe amending the Town’s design and construction standards relating to water meters, lines and related appurtenances for residential fire suppression service. Planner Shull stated that some of the public was confused by the title of the Ordinance and thought they had a choice in regards to installing a sprinkler system. Planner Shull stated that she clarified the Ordinance with them and the residents were fine. No further public comment was given and the public hearing was closed at 6:47 pm.

**Council of Trappe Meeting:**

President Fegel called the regular meeting of the Council of Trappe to order at 7:00 pm. Council members Rose Potter, Tonya Pritchett, RD Diefenderfer and Don English were present.

Other attendees: Cheryl Lewis, Christine Routzahn, Christina Bramble, Richard Potter – President of the Talbot County NAACP and supporters, Attorney Booth, Chief Ball, Superintendent Callahan, Planner Shull and Clerk Braband.

**Amendments to Agenda:**

Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner English seconded the motion. All approved.

**Presentation of Minutes:**

Commissioner English made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. All approved.

**Clerk’s Report:**

Clerk Braband presented the Clerk’s report that is filed in the records. Clerk Braband also presented the current budgets for both the general and the enterprise funds.

**Special Guest Presentation – Mr. Richard Potter, President of Talbot County NAACP**

Commissioner Potter introduced Mr. Potter to the Council. Mr. Potter addressed the Council in regards to the Talbot Boys statue that sits on the courthouse lawn. Mr. Potter stated that in July 2015 the Talbot County branch of the NAACP met with the Talbot County Council to present their stance on the Talbot Boys statue as well as recommendations for the relocation of the statue. In September 2015 the organization known as the Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity held a community conversation about the Talbot Boys statue to hear the community’s thoughts on the statue. In October 2015 the Talbot County Council had another meeting in which the Council heard from members and non-members of the County on the issue of relocating the statue. In November 2015 at the regularly scheduled Talbot County Council meeting Council President Pack read a letter stating that it was the Council’s decision to not move the statue from the courthouse lawn. In December 2015 the Talbot County branch of the

NAACP filed a Maryland Public Information Act request to the County Council for all documents both written and electronic in reference to the Talbot Boys statue. In January 2016 the Talbot County branch of the NAACP sent a similar timeline as is being read tonight to the ACLU of Maryland to review in terms of a violation of the Open Meetings Act. In February 2016 the NAACP and the ACLU filed an official complaint to the Maryland Open Meetings Compliance board on how the Talbot County Council made its decision to allow the Talbot Boys statue to remain on the courthouse lawn. Mr. Potter stated that as the Talbot County NAACP moves forward they are soliciting the Town of Trappe's help to make the community a better place for all citizens. Mr. Potter stated that it is not NAACP's intention to erase history or destroy the Talbot Boys statue; however it is their purpose to address issues of inequality and wrong doing. Mr. Potter asks the Town of Trappe Council to publically endorse the efforts of the Talbot County NAACP to relocate the Talbot Boys statue to a more appropriate setting and to commission a group of people who can reasonably discuss the creation of a new statue that is inclusive of both the Union and the Confederate soldiers which will ultimately tell the story of the Civil War when it comes to Talbot County. President Fegel thanked Mr. Potter for the presentation and stated that the Council will discuss this at a later meeting.

### **COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Public Safety** – Chief Ball read his monthly report that is filed in the records. Chief Ball reported that the coordinator for the community service program at the Detention Center has stated that the Town will now begin to receive people on a regular basis to complete their required service hours.

**Public Works** – Superintendent Callahan read his monthly report that is filed in the records. President Fegel stated that an estimate from Southern Corrosion to replace the vent on top of the water tower was received and the estimate is \$5,250.00. Superintendent Callahan stated that he is trying to obtain other estimates as well.

**Planning & Zoning** – Planner Shull stated that the Planning Commission met last month. The planning commission started to review the comp plan to see if any changes are needed.

The Trappe Community outreach team held a dinner last month and Sheriff Gamble was the speaker. This event went over very well. The team is also planning an Easter bonnet parade which will be held on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> after the Easter Egg hunt that the Trappe United Methodist Church holds. The team is also looking into doing bus trips, continuing the luminaries at Christmas time and other ideas.

**Parks & Recreation** – As Commissioner of Parks, Commissioner Potter stated that the Town will start to clean up the parks soon.

**Economic Development** – Commissioner Pritchett stated that she had nothing to report.

**Communications** – Clerk Braband stated that the new website went live today and asked for the Council to look it over and send any suggestions they may have.

**Attorney updates** – Attorney Booth stated that the Council met in executive session from 6:15 to 6:42 to obtain legal advice. Attorney Booth stated that as a result of the legal advice the Council expressed interest in reinstating the residential rental housing license and inspection program that was adopted in

2011 and is currently in the Town Code in Section 12. The Town has not been enforcing this program and Attorney Booth asked the Council for direction as to whether they would like to re-institute what is already on the books. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to re-visit the program and come up with a fee schedule for the program. Commissioner Diefenderfer seconded the motion. No discussion held.

VOTE:

Potter – Y      Fegel – Y      Pritchett – Y      Diefenderfer – Y      English – Y

All approved, motion carried.

Attorney Booth stated that she recommends that a letter be sent to all the property owners that would be affected but a fee schedule is not in place yet so she proposes to bring a Resolution to the next meeting to establish the fee schedule and then send the letters out.

Attorney Booth requested to reconvene in closed session to obtain legal advice after tonight's meeting.

**Executive session** – An executive session was held on February 3, 2016 to obtain legal advice and discuss a contract as well as an executive session tonight to obtain legal advice.

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

Ordinance 1-2016 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe amending the Town's design and construction standards relating to water meters, lines and related appurtenances for residential fire suppression services was read by President Fegel. A public hearing for Ordinance 1-2016 was held tonight at 6:45 pm. Commissioner English made a motion to approve Ordinance 1-2016. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. No discussion held.

VOTE:

Potter – Y      Fegel – Y      Pritchett – Y      Diefenderfer – Y      English – Y

All approved, motion carried.

**Other Business** – Chief Ball stated that he received a call from Mr. Williams from the State VFW Association and he was informed that he was selected as the State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Chief Ball stated that his name has been submitted to the National level now. A presentation will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> in Taneytown.

**Announcements** – President Fegel read the announcements.

**Executive session** – President Fegel stated that the Council will reconvene in executive session to obtain legal advice.

Commissioner English made a motion to close the regular meeting and open the executive session to obtain legal advice at 7:27 pm. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. No discussion held. All approved, motion carried.

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At the conclusion of the closed session at 7:42 pm, Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to reconvene the open meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner English and unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Potter made a motion at 7:42 pm to conclude the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Pritchett and unanimously approved.

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Erin Braband, Town Clerk

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Norm Fegel, President