

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE
TRAPPE TOWN HALL
MAY 3, 2017

Council of Trappe Meeting: President Fegel called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council members Rose Potter, Tonya Pritchett and Don English were present. Other attendees for the Town: Administrator Braband, Planner Shull, Chief Ball and Attorney Booth. Public attendees: Nancy Dunn, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Adams, Bobby Crosswell, Nick Newnam, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Metje, Andrew Kane and Chris Polk.

Amendments to the Agenda: Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion. All approved.

Presentation of Minutes: Commissioner English made a motion to approve the May 3, 2017 minutes as presented. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. All approved.

Clerk's Report: Administrator Braband presented the Clerk's report, the general fund and the enterprise fund budgets that are filed in the records.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT RECORDS

Public Safety: Chief Ball read his report that is filed in the records.

Public Works: President Fegel stated that Superintendent Callahan is out on medical leave and Easton Utilities is covering the treatment plant until he returns.

Parks and Recreation: As Commissioner of Parks, Commissioner Potter stated that the Nace's Park dedication was held on April 29th and she received several positive remarks about the park. The park will be fully completed when the fence and the sign are installed. Mr. Walter Chase is working on the sign and the fence will be installed as soon as the parts are received. Commissioner Potter stated that she has purchased 911 numbers and will have them installed. Commissioner Potter asked the Council if they would grant her the authority to oversee the park until completion even if the park isn't finished before her term comes to an end. Commissioner English made a motion to grant Rose Potter the authority to oversee the park until completion. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion. All approved.

Planning and Zoning: Planner Shull stated that no meeting was held in April due to lack of a quorum. The Planning Commission needs to begin working on their annual report which needs to be filed by the end of June.

Economic Development: Planner Shull stated that she attended last month's listening session in Oxford.

Community Activities: Planner Shull stated that the Easter parade and egg hunt were held on April 15th and they both went over very well. Frank Hastings performed in Veteran’s Park which was not very well attended, most likely due to the heat. The community group has activities scheduled through June.

Communications: Nothing to report.

Attorney Updates: Nothing in addition to what is listed on the agenda.

Executive Session: An executive session was held on April 5, 2017 for a personnel matter.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Ordinance 4-2017 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe adopting a General Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, and establishing a tax rate of \$.33 per \$100 of assessed real property value and a tax rate of \$.54 per \$100 on all commercial or business personal property and public utilities; and establishing an annual fee of \$150 per residential household for trash collection services, and also adopting an Enterprise Budget for the Town’s Water and Sewer Operations was read by President Fegel. A public hearing was previously held on April 5, 2017. President Fegel stated that another budget workshop was held on April 10th as a result of the comments received at the public hearing. President Fegel stated that at the budget workshop the Council reworked the budget and was able to reinstate the fire departments donation to \$10,000.00. Commissioner Potter made a motion to adopt Ordinance 4-2017. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

All approved, motion carried.

Ordinance 5-2017 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe, a municipal corporation of the State of Maryland (the “Issuer”), providing for the issuance and sale of an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Two Million Nine Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$2,960,000) of bonds of the Town of Trappe, Maryland, to be known as “The Town of Trappe, Infrastructure Bonds, 2017 Series A” (or by such other or additional designations as required by the community development administration identified herein) (the “Bonds”), to be issued and sold pursuant to the authority of Sections 4-101 through 4-255 of the housing and community development article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, for the purpose of (I) refunding all or a portion of the issuer’s outstanding bonds, known as the Town of Trappe Water System Improvement Bond of 2000; and the Town of Trappe Sewer System Improvement Bonds of 2003, (collectively the “Prior Bonds”), including any redemption or prepayment premiums, and accrued and unpaid interest; (II) funding a portion of a capital reserve fund and (III) paying issuance and other costs related to the bonds; providing that the bonds shall be issued upon the full faith and credit of the issuer; providing for the disbursement of the proceeds of the sale of the bonds and for the levy of annual taxes upon all assessable property within the corporate limits of the issuer for the payment of the principal of and interest on the bonds as they shall respectively mature; providing for the form, tenor, denomination, maturity date or dates and other provisions of the related purposes, including (without limitation) the method of fixing the interest rate or rates to be borne by the bonds, the

Town of Trappe

May 3, 2017

Page 2 of 5

approval, execution and delivery of documents, agreements, certificates and instruments and the making of or providing for the making of representations and covenants concerning the tax status of interest on the bonds was read by President Fegel. Attorney Booth stated that the Town has been working on saving money wherever possible and a possible cost savings has been found for the Town issued loans from 2000 which are currently through USDA. If the Town were to refinance all the USDA debt from 2000 through the Community Development Block Grant there is a possibility to save approximately \$180,000 over the life of the loans. The Town of Trappe would be entered into a large municipal bond issuance which would allow the interest rate to be low and not to exceed 2.4%, currently the interest rate is 4.25%. Attorney Booth stated that in order to take advantage of this state refinance the Town needs to adopt this Ordinance starting with introduction tonight and eligible for adoption in June. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to introduce Ordinance 5-2017. Commissioner English seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Potter – Y Fegel – Y Pritchett – Y Diefenderfer – absent English – Y
All approved, motion carried.

A public hearing will be held on June 7th at 6:55 pm.

Other Business:

President Fegel stated that the Town's public works vehicle was involved in an accident on April 20th and has been declared as a total loss. President Fegel stated that they have been looking for a new vehicle and the easiest thing would be to set an amount not to be exceeded and proceed from there. Commissioner Potter made a motion to authorize the Town Clerk to spend up to \$15,000.00 on a new public works vehicle. Commissioner English seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Potter – Y Fegel – Y Pritchett – Y Diefenderfer – absent English – Y
All approved, motion carried.

President Fegel thanked Bobby Crowell and Commissioner Diefenderfer for cutting the Town's grass free of charge while the Council searches for a new employee.

Town Council Candidate remarks –

Nicholas Newnam – Mr. Newnam stated that he is running for Commissioner and submitted a campaign statement for the Index. Mr. Newnam stated that he would like to see different blood on the Council and feels that a change is needed. Mr. Newnam stated that he spoke with a resident on Howell Point Road for about an hour the other evening and if elected he would like to work on some of the issues.

Don English – Mr. English stated that he also has submitted a campaign statement in the Index. Mr. English stated that he is available for any questions and asks for the residents support and re-elect him.

Norm Fegel – Mr. Fegel stated that he also has submitted a campaign statement in the Index. Mr. Fegel stated that Nick made a good point and younger blood is needed on the Council but experienced people are also needed for guidance. Mr. Fegel asked the residents for their vote and re-elect him.

President Fegel stated that also on the ballot is the question whether or not to remove term limits. Mr. Fegel stated that term limits were put into place approximately 25 years ago and limit a Commissioner to two consecutive terms (a total of 8 years). President Fegel stated that he feels that term limits have run its course and should be removed.

Commissioner Potter stated that this is her last meeting and thanked the Council and residents for giving her this opportunity. Commissioner Potter stated that she has enjoyed her time on the Council and will continue to support Trappe in any way she can. Commissioner Potter stated that she agrees with President Fegel that term limits have run its course and eliminating term limits will help the Town gain experience.

Public Questions/Comments:

Nicholas Newnam – Mr. Newnam asked for clarification on a rumor that he heard about the Town of Oxford offering their water/wastewater services free of charge or at a much lower rate than what Easton Utilities offered. Attorney Booth stated she spoke with Cheryl Lewis of Oxford and Oxford did offer their services but their price was basically the same as Easton Utilities. Easton Utilities is familiar with our plant and processes so it was an easier transition choosing them to cover the plant. Oxford is also going through an upgrade and down in staff but was willing to help if we were in a jam, just not free as the rumor states.

Bobby Croswell – Mr. Croswell stated that he agrees with Commissioner Potter and would like to see term limits removed as they don't work. The idea of term limits getting rid of a Commissioner doesn't truly happen because that Commissioner just has to sit out one election and then can run for office again. Term limits assume that there are people in the Town that are willing to run for office and are qualified to do so. This election there is only 1 new face; the other 3 candidates have previously been on the Council. A Commissioner is actually limited to 4 years on the Council because after those 4 years the Commissioner has to run for re-election and if the residents do not feel the Commissioner has done a good job then the Commissioner will not be elected to another 4 years.

Scott Metje – Mr. Metje stated that he thinks the Town needs to find a different way to get information out to the public because most people just throw the Index away because it comes with the water bill. Administrator Braband stated that the reason it is sent with the water bill is to save money on postage. Mr. Metje asked why the water bill dates vary. Commissioner English stated that it is impossible to read the water meters the same day each month but the meters are read as close to the same date as possible.

Mary Rae Adams – Mrs. Adams stated that she doesn't like the new trash company because they do not pick her trash up the same time each week.

Andrew Kane – Mr. Kane stated that the kids are back on Main Street playing basketball in the road. Chief Ball stated that he has spoken to the kids again regarding this.

Announcements:

Mr. Adams stated that the Rural Life Museum will be holding their annual family and friend's day on Saturday, June 17th.

President Fegel read the announcements.

President Fegel stated that next week is Municipal Clerk's Week.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner English made a motion at 7:52 pm to conclude the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Potter and unanimously approved.

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk

Norm Fegel, Council President