

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE  
TRAPPE TOWN HALL  
FEBRUARY 7, 2018

**Council of Trappe Meeting:**

President Fegel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council members Nick Newnam, Tonya Pritchett and Walter Chase were present. Other attendees for the Town: Administrator Braband, Superintendent Callahan, Attorney Booth, Sgt. Gadow and Sheriff Gamble from Talbot County Sheriff's Office. Public attendees: Don English, Bobby & Shirley Quidas and Andrew Kane.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Attorney Booth asked to add an executive session for legal advice regarding a possible grant opportunity. Commissioner Newnam made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion. All approved.

**Presentation of Minutes:** Commissioner Newnam made a motion to approve the January 3, 2018 Council minutes as presented. Commissioner Chase 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. Administrator Braband stated that 3 grant applications were submitted to MDE; one for the new well project, one for the pumping stations upgrade project and one for the water line replacement on Main Street project. The Town should hear back from MDE sometime in May.

**COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Talbot County Sheriff's Department:** Sheriff Gamble introduced Sgt. Gadow who is the Town's new liaison as Lt. Green retired after 35 years of service. Sgt. Gadow read the report that is filed in the records.

**Public Works:** Superintendent Callahan read his report that is filed in the records. Superintendent Callahan reported that there was a sewer back up at 3872 Harrison Circle and when the line was camered by Mr. Rooter it was found that a few years ago Delmarva Power's contractors had bored into the sewer line and root intrusion caused the back up. Commissioner Newnam asked if the Town could make Delmarva Power pay for the repair. Superintendent Callahan stated that he even gave copies of his plans to the contractors before they began so they would know where the Town lines are. Attorney Booth stated that she would look into it.

**Planning & Zoning:** Administrator Braband stated that Donna Baynard has resigned from the Planning Commission so the Town is now looking to fill that spot.

**Communications:** President Fegel read the announcement regarding the dedication of the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe.

**Attorney Updates:** Attorney Booth stated that she doesn't have anything additional.

**Executive Session:** No executive session was held on January 3, 2018.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

**Resolution 1-2018** – A Resolution of the Council of Trappe to adopt Tax-Exempt Obligations Issuance Compliance Procedures was read by President Fegel. Attorney Booth stated that the Town will close tomorrow on the interim financing for the new well, this loan with Shore United Bank is considered a tax-exempt bond. In order to have a tax-exempt bond the IRS requires that compliance procedures be adopted to assure that the Town is doing what it is supposed to with the money. Commissioner Chase made a motion to adopt Resolution 1-2018. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y    Fegel – Y            Pritchett – Y    Chase – Y  
Motion approved.

**Other Business:**

Electric Supplier Contract Renewal – President Fegel stated that the Town is up for the electric rate renewal and Administrator Braband was able to get 6 bids for the Town to consider. The best bid is from Source Power & Gas, LLC at 0.05510 per kwh. This is estimated to save the town \$8,300 a year. The new contract is for 31 months. The Town has been under contract for the past 36 months with Source Power & Gas. Attorney Booth stated that bidding out the Town’s electric supplier instead of just using Delmarva Power is the best way for the Town to secure electric at the cheapest rate possible. Commissioner Chase made a motion to approve the 31-month contract with Source Power & Gas. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y    Fegel – Y            Pritchett – Y    Chase – Y  
Motion approved.

**Public Questions/Comments:**

Andrew Kane again voiced his concern regarding the water and sewer rates and how he doesn’t like how high they are. The Council and Attorney Booth again explained the reason for the water and sewer rates.

**Executive Session:**

President Fegel stated that an executive session is requested to obtain legal advice on a possible grant opportunity.

Commissioner Chase made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:31 pm to obtain legal advice on a possible grant opportunity. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

At the conclusion of the closed session at 8:03 pm, Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to reconvene the open meeting. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Attorney Booth stated that she had a discussion with Ray Clarke, Talbot County Engineer and Anne Morse from Talbot County Health Department regarding failing septic systems on properties in town limits on Howell Point Road. Talbot County has grant funds that were given to them by MDE through the Bay Restoration Fund that would allow a failing septic to hook up to Town sewer. There is a potential opportunity to address these septic systems but it may require an amendment to the Talbot County Water and Sewer Plan and funds to install a force main down Howell Point Road. However, Ray Clarke is proposing to see if this is feasible at no cost to the Town by using MDE grant funds, County resources and County provided engineering. The County needs to spend the BRF funds by June 30, 2018 so this is a fast-tracked project. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to allow Attorney Booth and Town Staff to work with Ray Clarke and Talbot County to pursue the extension of the sewer main down Howell Point Road and potentially the connection of these homes. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y    Fegel – Y                  Pritchett – Y    Chase – Y

Motion approved.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Chase made a motion at 8:05 pm to conclude the meeting. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk