

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE
TRAPPE TOWN HALL
FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Council of Trappe Meeting: President Fegel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council members Nick Newnam, Tonya Pritchett, RD Diefenderfer and Walter Chase were present. Other attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Braband, Attorney Booth, Attorney Ryan, Superintendent Callahan, CJ Wood, Scott Getchell from GMB and 1st Sargent Dobson from the Talbot County Sheriff's Office. Public attendees: Don English, Bobby & Shirley Quidas, Brian Schmidt, Edgar Harrison, Johnny Foster and Chris Polk.

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

Presentation of Minutes: Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to approve the 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.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Talbot County Sheriff's Office: 1st Sargent Dobson read the January report that is filed in the records.

Public Works: Superintendent Callahan read his monthly report that is filed in the records. Superintendent Callahan stated that 7 of the major infiltration leak locations on Harrison Circle and around Lakeview have been fixed with an emergency repair by Mr. Rooter. There are 2 additional locations that are still scheduled to be fixed by Mr. Rooter as soon as the equipment comes in. There are 6 additional repairs that are needed on Harrison Court and on Harrison Circle to the pumping station. A quote has been obtained from CES to do the repairs for \$2,250.00 per point repair for a total of \$13,500.00. Superintendent Callahan will continue to monitor the infiltration levels in hopes to delay this repair until after July 1st.

Planning & Zoning: President Fegel stated that the Planning Commission has almost finished the Comp Plan and it will be ready for preliminary presentation soon. The Planning Commission will not meet on February 19th and will hold their next meeting on March 19th.

Communications:

President Fegel stated that he has signed the groundwater discharge permit application for Lakeside. This application was presented to the Council in November for their approval.

President Fegel stated that Senator Andy Harris has sent a replacement American flag for Veteran's Park. This flag once flew at the Capital and will be put up at Veteran's Park soon.

Attorney Updates:

Attorney Booth stated that she is continuing to work with MDE regarding the engineering proposal for the ENR upgrade. The contract was awarded to George, Miles and Buhr to do the study and is 100% grant funded by MDE. As soon as the contract is approved by MDE it will be presented to the Council for consideration of adoption.

Executive session: President Fegel stated that an executive session was held on January 2, 2019 to discuss a personnel matter.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

New Business: None to be brought before the Council

Other Business:

Infrastructure projects with MDE & USDA financing/grants –

President Fegel stated that the Council held a workshop prior to tonight’s Council meeting and came to the consensus to proceed with the pumping station upgrade project due to the current conditions of the pump stations and the rehab that they require. Commissioner Newnam made a motion to accept the USDA loan and grant funding package for the pumping station upgrade project and to proceed with the project. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

President Fegel stated that the Council also discussed during the workshop tonight, the Main Street water line replacement project and the 50% MDE grant funding for that project. The Council decided that while this project is needed the Town is not able to proceed due to lack of funding and the expenses of other ongoing projects. Commissioner Newnam made a motion to decline MDE’s grant funding offer at this time due to lack of funding for the project. Commissioner Diefenderfer seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Rumsey Drive pumping station repair –

President Fegel stated that as a result of tonight’s workshop and the Council making the decision to proceed with the pumping station upgrade project, the Town will not need to proceed with repairing this station at this time as it will be repaired during the whole project. The Town will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments if necessary.

Rt. 565 Sidewalk project –

President Fegel stated that the Town has finally received a letter and plans for the right-of-way requirements for this project. Unfortunately, State Highway is requiring large right-of-way's to be secured from the property owners and requiring the Town to pay for the right-of-way's. The estimated cost to purchase the right-of-way's is \$375,000.00 according to SHA. The Town does not have the funds to be able to purchase the right-of-way's and is unable to proceed with the project at this time. Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to decline the Rt. 565 sidewalk project. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Motion approved

Howell Point Sewer Extension –

Attorney Booth reviewed the project with the Council by stating that the Town was contacted by Talbot County Engineer, Ray Clarke, because the County had some Bay Restoration Funds that they needed to use. Ray Clarke approached the Town with the idea of running a sewer force main down Howell Point Road so those properties in Town limits could connect and majority of the project would be covered by bay restoration funding. The Council voted to proceed with the project and Talbot County amended their water and sewer comp plan to allow for this project and then it was submitted to MDE for construction permits. Ray has just obtained the construction permits and is now ready to put the project out to bid by the County. Ray asked Attorney Booth to ask for approval tonight from the Council to authorize him to secure proposals for the project from the County's contractors. Ray also inquired about the Town's position on the individual grinder pumps. The grinder pumps are approximately \$2,700 and the initial cost of the installation of the grinder pump should be covered by the grant funding. The grinder pumps will be owned by the Town but if there is a problem in the future, they would need to be replaced at the owner's expense so discussion was held at the October Council meeting if a replacement cost would be built into the rate structure for these properties. The grinder pumps have an estimated life span of 10 years. If the Town was to wrap the cost of the replacement into the monthly sewer rate it would cost an additional \$20.00 a month to those property owners who connected to the new force main. Attorney Booth suggested that rather than the Town creating this rate and making the sewer rates go higher, which could be a disincentive to connect to the system, the Town revise the Ordinance to say if the grinder pump needs to be replaced it will be at the owner's expense. Attorney Booth stated that she has talked to Ray about if every house needed their own grinder pump or if more than 1 house could be serviced by the same one. The issue with having more than 1 house on a pump is who pays for the electric, repairs, etc. Attorney Booth stated that the Town is now in the position to have meetings with the property owner's who this affects and invite Ray to those meetings. Commissioner Newnam made a motion to proceed with Ray obtaining proposals from contractors for individual grinder pumps and for his contractors to install the force main and connect the houses. Commissioner Diefenderfer seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Commissioner Chase made a motion for Attorney Booth to bring back the Grinder pump Ordinance without the \$20.00 monthly fee for introduction at the March Council meeting. Commissioner Newnam seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Public Questions/Comments –

Edgar Harrison stated that he would like the Planning Commission to begin working on the Zoning Ordinance because he believes it is confusing to read and he would like the Council's approval to do so. Attorney Booth stated that the Town has grant funding for planning services and she suggests that the Planning Commission continue to use Peter Johnston to review and revise the Zoning Ordinance once the Town's Comp Plan is completed.

Chris Polk from the Star Democrat asked about the permit that the Town signed for Lakeside. Attorney Booth stated that the Council received the groundwater discharge permit application for Lakeside that was requested and approved at the November Council meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Newnam made a motion at 7:43 pm to conclude the meeting. Commissioner Diefenderfer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk