

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 19, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**Koppel Fire Hall**

**PRESENT**

Mayor – Athena Pangikas-Miller  
President – Tom Sobona  
Vice President - Jeff Dengler  
Suzanne Broge  
Susan Krawchyk  
Anna Marie Plavecsky  
Brett Plavecsky

Joe Budicak – Solicitor

Police Chief Warren and Sergeant Squicquero

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Dave Plavecsky, Carol Shirilla, Joanne Smith, Josh Konecheck, Rich Serge, Kristen Johnson-EADS, Tracy Frampton-EADS, Cindy Chartrand, Alan Chartrand, David Seidl, Clayton Pieri, Devon Price, Skye Cider, Jonathan Runkles, Nicole Ridenar, Dave Alters, Patty Palamone

**MOTIONS**

- A motion was made to accept the February 20th council meeting minutes. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to approve the bills for the Fire Department although no report was given. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to appoint Rich Serge as council member to replace Chuck Bevington. Rich has been involved in many fundraising events for the community. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to advertise for bids for Phase 1 of the storm sewer project. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to go into an executive session after the meeting. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made after the executive session to authorize our solicitor to contact Richardson Inspection Services to pursue civil remedies for a property in Koppel. All in favor and all approved.

**We would like to sincerely thank the following people for their donations and/or help with the Easter Egg Hunt – Jesse Berkebile, Suzanne Broge, Cindy Chartrand, Rich Serge, Ryan Bertolo, Sam Hildman, Anna-Marie Plavecsky, our Police Department, our Fire Department and the Beaver Falls Fire Department.**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

- Sergeant Squicquero asked whether old ordinances can be removed. Solicitor Budicak stated they still have to stay in the system for historical record. If not applicable, just ignore them. Some old ones that could still be relevant have outdated fine amounts listed. In that case, depending on the ordinance, an amendment or a resolution would have to be created for that ordinance to become current.
- Discussed a disorderly conduct and a noise ordinance.

**POLICE REPORT**

- Trac reports are still not printing out correctly.
- The firearms instructor course was given to about 14 officers.
- Councilman Dengler asked if a trailer parked on the bend at the end of town was legal. It also blocks the view.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- Fire Chief Seidl from the Beaver Falls fire department presented information about the possible consolidation of fire departments. This consolidation would allow for a better response time. Small fire departments are having a hard time getting volunteers. Fire equipment and trucks are getting extremely expensive and EMS turnaround time is also getting longer and longer. There is a DCED study which outlined pulling resources, stream-lining responses, better training so the stated issues can improve. The consolidated fire companies would be called The Fire District. Each area will not lose control of their fire company – there will be a board of directors for each area. Another big advantage is being awarded grants – some different kinds of grants were discussed. This could possibly benefit homeowners with lower insurance payments. Councilman Dengler asked that a 5-year cost analysis be provided.
- An accurate and transparent account of what the costs are for the fire department, such as utilities, insurance, etc. is needed for a period of time. This allows them to present each borough with the cost to continue the departments.

## **SOLICITOR REPORT**

- The contract with Tenaris/Police still has not been finalized.
- The solicitor asked to look at the Union contracts to review them before finalization.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- See General Discussion

## **MAINTENANCE REPORT**

- Rick and Councilman Plevcesky picked up the bathrooms that will be installed permanently at the ballfield.
- Rick is requesting a part-time helper for the summer.
- Discussion of what signs to put up to stop trucks from getting to the wrong end of town and not being able to turn around. One problem is that their GPS takes them that way.
- The quality of the curbs that were done by PAW was discussed. They appear to be chipped and broken.

## **ENGINEERS REPORT**

- Tracy Frampton of EADS reviewed the grants that Koppel was awarded for the storm water sewer project. There will be a Phase 1 and Phase 2.
- Tracy questioned whether council wants to reapply for the Greenway Trails park grant. Discussion for reapplying for the CDBG grant was discussed.
- Kristen Johnson spoke and asked for a motion to advertise for bids for the Phase 1 project.

## **GUESTS**

- Cindy and Alan Chartrand discussed their trolley food truck. They will be launching April 1. Menus were handed out for the first two weeks. Going forward the menu will change daily. Hours are 5 AM to 2 PM.
- They are hosting a motorcycle run on August 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be food and a band. More information to follow.
- Cindy will also be making cookies for the Easter Egg Hunt.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- Rich Serge was sworn in by the Mayor as the newly appointed councilmember.
- A Notice to Proceed has been signed and forwarded to Fryer Excavation for the demolition of the building at 5437 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Final details were discussed for the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt.
- President Sobona brought up the suggestion to spend \$15,000 to install a fence and crushed rock for the ballfield so that little league teams in the area can use it. Council members asked for a more detailed proposal for discussion at the next meeting.
- The possibility of getting a loan to start the playground was discussed. Many ideas were presented.
- There were 5 flags donated by Chuck Bevington and it was discussed on how to display them and the cost of the poles.
- Josh Konecheck and the Mayor want to have an event on May 11<sup>th</sup> for the planting of trees along the fence between Tenaris and the ballfield. More details to follow.
- Our Zoning Board Solicitor is retiring so we need to look for a new one.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:26 PM after the Executive Session**