

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Koppel Borough Municipal Office**

PRESENT

Barbara Gioffre, President
Jeffrey Dengler
Suzanne Broge
Frank Pisano
Chuck Bevington
Tom Sobona
Carrie DeSanzo
Joe Budcak, Solicitor

ABSENT

Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor
Jon Barron, Engineer

GUESTS PRESENT

Brett Plavecsky, Dave Plavecsky, Anna Marie Plavecsky, Tim Brewer, Carol Shirilla, Joann Smith, Jim Krawchyk, Susan Krawchyk, and Richard York of SA Recycling

Motions

- A motion to approve the meeting minutes held on January 17 and February 7, 2023. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion to pay bills from the General Fund. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion to pay the bills from the Koppel Fire Department. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made for Eric Squicquero to serve as Emergency Management Coordinator for Koppel Borough. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion to approve a police department cell phone bundled to the hot spot currently being paid for an additional \$30 per month. The total cost for both is \$90 per month. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to approve Barbara Gioffre's attendance at the PSAB Conference in Hershey with \$500 approved for room and registration. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to apply for the DCED grant Greenways, Trails and Recreation. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to delete inactive garbage accounts. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion to approve \$300 for spending on an Easter Egg Hunt in the Borough. All in favor and all approved.

Police – Zoning

Eric Squicquero, Code Enforcement met with the State Police Fire Marshall and had a conference call with the head code enforcement for Hermitage Borough regarding a building in the Borough on 5th Avenue that is in deterioration. In that conversation it was made known that if a certified letter were to be sent to the building owner indicating the building condition and the danger of collapse, it would alleviate the Borough of some liability and should the building collapse could make the Borough liable for injury. The solicitor indicated that the property is not owned by the Borough and the responsibility of the Borough is to notify the property owner of the condition. A letter was sent to the owner by the Solicitor asking for entry into the building. There was no response from the letter.

Police Report

Chief Warren asked if the power was on for residents. A pole fell onto lines and caused the electric to go out. A discussion in the police department was for police coverage at night and the idea of having Officer Squicquero "on call" to answer calls when a Koppel Police Officer was not on duty rather than having the PA State Police answer the calls. It will be further reviewed and discussed at a later meeting of how to implement this plan. A request for a cell phone to be used by the department police and was approved. A request to approve the purchase of lights on the police car for side visibility for safety at the cost of \$650 + installation for \$125 purchased from the BC Commissioner's Grant. This was

tabled for further discussion until all information on cost to purchase and the amount left in the grant fund is obtained. Officer Eric Squicquero was made the Koppel Emergency Management Coordinator at this meeting.

Fire Department Report

Tim Brewer expressed his disappointment in the lack of support received from the Borough Council. There will be another soup sale on March 18th and again in April. Tim is thinking about having a breakfast.

Maintenance Report

Devon Price reported that he would like to begin ordering gravel especially since the weather will be warming up soon. A question was asked about the millings and their use on the alleys and Devon suggested that the millings have brick in the mix and could not be used.

Solicitor's Report

Mayor's Report

Athena Miller-Pangikas invited Rich Yorke, General Manager from SA Recycling to speak. He introduced himself and wanted to make himself known in the community and was curious about how things were going in the Borough. Guests complained about recent explosions. Rich said that their business has picked up and they believe there is a culprit and they are looking into finding out who that is and assured that it will not continue and they are working to eliminate this from happening. The explosions are from propane tanks that are crushed and not noticed when customers are bringing in their metals. He presented his business card and asked that residents call as SA Recycling wants to be part of the community and is willing to help the Borough and would like to be involved in whatever way they can. A representative will be present at the meetings and encouraged the residents to report any issues. The hours of their operation will remain the same. SA Recycling offered to take the unusable millings. Frank Pisano mentioned that men coming from the plant after work are driving fast and asked that they keep the speed down especially because of the young kids out playing. Rich assured he would address this issue as well. A question was asked about fibers in the air being noticed in swimming pools and on homes near the plant and assurance was given that monitoring will take place and addressed when it occurs.

Steel City Disc Dogs

Lynn of Brighton Township and has Steel City Disc Dogs is asking to use the ballfield for events. They have played in the Hopewell area and more recently were using the Youngblood property to play. They are looking for a fenced area and the ballfield would be a good place for their event. Events last up to 2 hours and are family events. Leagues play and can be 10 to 20 people with a number of dogs. Cleanup and disposal are done by participants. She is also involved with UpDog a disc and dog sport organization. Steel City Disc Dogs is insured.

Park Grant and Pavilion

Tracy Frampton of EADS spoke about grant applications and scheduled a meeting was had with Adam Matis of DCNR. The park grants has a 50/50 match but there are limitations and shortcomings to this grant. The ideas for a playground and pavilion were discussed and the amount offered by the grant does not meet the Borough's need. To apply, another public meeting would need to be held along with surveys. Since this grant does not provide enough in funding for a playground and pavilion and considering the additional meeting and survey, it was thought that this grant was not a good fit for the desired project. Another grant is through DCED grant and is Greenways, Trails and Recreations due in May. The maximum amount of \$250,000 and has a 15% match and is better suited.

Frank Pisano is anxious to begin building a pavilion and asked if the money spent to build it could be applied as a match to the grant. He was able to get a donation for a reduction of the cost for a cement slab measuring 40'x30' 4" thick from a local company. The question was asked how much the project would cost. It was estimated that it would cost about \$40,000 to build a pavilion.

Mr. Frampton explained that contracting COSTARS can quote a price to build that would not require bids. Council agreed to apply for the Greenways, Trails and Recreation grant. A question was asked of those in attendance if this is what they would like to see. It was expressed that a playground is needed. A motion to apply for the grant was made.

DELETION OF INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

A request to delete inactive garbage accounts was made and is an attempt to clear the books of accounts no longer in use by those who have moved, are deceased, renter accounts that are now transferred to landlord accounts, etc. A motion was made and approved by all of Council.

EASTER EGG HUNT

An Easter Egg Hunt is being planned and an Easter Bunny costume will need to be purchased. Approval for \$300 to spend on the event was requested and approved.

PSAB CONFERENCE

A request to attend The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Conference in June held in Hershey, PA was made and cost of registration and room rate to attend is \$500. The PSAB is an organization that offers classes and various training events for Borough officials throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Barbara Gioffre plans to attend and has completed the requirements for the designation of CBO Certified Borough Official given by PSAB an organization that the Borough has been a member of for many years.

DANGEROUS BUILDING 5th AVENUE

A dangerous building is being watched on 5th Avenue because of the protruding and collapsed brick façade. Council discussed issues that involve the safety of the community and are concerned for those who live there and are frequently around the building. A letter was sent to the owner with no response. Several ideas were presented on a method of addressing the problem and the need to gain access to view the interior. Mayor Athena Pangikas-Miller contacted Ellwood City Borough and their Code Enforcement could provide a report after inspection of the property to determine the extent of deterioration at a cost of \$180. If it was determined that the building needs to be condemned then at a cost of \$500 EADS would provide an engineer's report verifying the results and the need to proceed toward demolition. Once condemned if the owner is not willing to pay for demolition, an appeal could be made to Beaver County to raise the building. Access to the property is needed and the concern is for public safety and the possibility of falling bricks from the building's failing masonry. This issue was tabled until further information is received on how to proceed. In the discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Chuck Bevington to provide inspection of the property by the Ellwood City Borough Code Enforcement Officer for an inspection to determine its deterioration at the cost of \$180, but the motion failed.

Mary Sue Benkowski, Secretary
March 9, 2023