

MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
January 16, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
Koppel Fire Hall

PRESENT

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

Joe Budicak – Solicitor

Police Chief Warren and Sergeant Squicquero

GUESTS PRESENT

Josh Konecheck, Cindy Chartrand, Alan Chartrand

MOTIONS

- A motion was made to accept the December 19th minutes and the January 2nd reorganization 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. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to accept an oral agreement for the Police to provide security detail until the attorney's finalize the written agreement which was discussed at tonight's meeting. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to name an Alley after Jiggy Nardone. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to open the agenda to add the purchase of a new chain for the salt spreader. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to purchase a new chain for the salt spreader. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to hire Eric Kerr as a part-time police officer. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to upgrade the ALPR cameras at the intersection of Rt.18 and Arthur Street to PlateSmart Vision. All in favor and all approved.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

- A potential buyer inquired about a property on 4th Avenue for code violations.

POLICE REPORT

- Reports were handed out to council.
- Police were given the wrong address for a search warrant. As a result, the wrong house was broken into and the door was damaged. Chippewa police and Koppel police were both at the residence. Payment for the door was discussed.
- Beaver Falls police will not work with Koppel Police pertaining to the left turn from Route 18 onto Mount Street.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Beaver Falls Fire Department and Koppel Fire Department are beginning to work together. There is still an ongoing discussion about joining with them to help get grants.
- Sergeant Squicquero asked council to think about a possible stipend be paid to the volunteers – for example \$15 per volunteer per call. Other fire departments are doing this to attract volunteers and to help with funding. This could be paid at the end of the year by the Borough. Council asked that a proposal be written up and submitted.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- No report given – see discussions below

MAYOR'S REPORT

- No report given – see discussions below

MAINTENANCE REPORT

- The same problem on 2nd Avenue with the water flow continues. Richardson Inspection will be called to come and look at the situation.
- Continuing to patch potholes with the millings given to us.
- The lighting on the monitor in the jail is still a work in progress. Many suggestions as to how to fix it were given.
- The salt spreader needs a new chain and that will be fixed in the next week. One problem is the salt is old and gets hardened over time. This is hard on the spreader and causes it to jam and damage the chain.

GUESTS

Cindy and Alan Chartrand, business owners, presented their interest in pursuing a gourmet food service in Koppel. They purchased property on 5423 5th Avenue and the plan was to open a restaurant. Due to code issues, they could not put in a full kitchen. Instead, they will make that space an office for their food service business. In the meantime, they purchased a trolley food truck which is fully equipped with brand new kitchen equipment. They are requesting that this food truck be allowed to operate from the parking lot of their office. Their food choices are different from anything else in town.

- The Solicitor stated that since there are no current ordinances against having a food truck parked, they can operate immediately.
- They also mentioned potentially having a motorcycle fund-raiser towards the end of summer.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- The request for bids for demolition of the building at 5437 5th Avenue has been advertised. EADS will be handling the details and the bidder will be chosen in February.
- President Sobona has reached out to someone to look at the property by the ballfield for potentially putting some pickleball courts in.
- A meeting with the Union Rep and selected council members for the non-uniform employees will be on January 29th. The contract, when negotiated, will be sent to the Solicitor for review.
- The access road to the reservoir is in real need of repair. Koppel was granted the right-of-way many years ago. Solicitor Budicak will reach out to the owner to see what options there are to get the road fixed.
- Solicitor Budicak, Josh Konecheck of Tenaris and Chief Warren discussed the written agreement between Koppel Borough and Tenaris for security detail at the Tenaris Plant.
- Jiggy Nardone's family has been raising money and wanted council's input as to how to spend the money for a memorial for him. Since we did not get back to them, they decided on a bench and will place it at the IMBS. They asked if we could name the ballfield after him, but the Mayor said probably not. Council approved naming an alley after Jiggy – final name to be determined.

- In reference to the ALPR cameras on Rt. 18 and Arthur Street intersection, Chief Warren explained that Big Beaver Borough and a few other jurisdictions are switching over to Plate Smart Vision, which is a newer, updated software camera system. If we don't switch, we will not have access to all of the cameras.
- The Mayor will post a flyer asking for residents to participate in forming a recreational committee to help plan, advertise and run community events and fundraisers.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:16 PM