

MINUTES - KOPPEL BOROUGH WORKING MEETING
October 3, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

PRESENT

Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor
 Tom Sobona, President
 Jeff Dengler
 Susan Krawchuk
 Anna Maria Plavecsky
 Police Chief Justin Warren
 Officer Erie Squicquero

GUESTS PRESENT

Jeff Richardson, Josh Konecheck, John Atkinson

MOTIONS

- A motion was made to promote Eric Squicquero to Sergeant with no raise in pay - that will be determined through the union agreement. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to spend \$300 for Halloween candy. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to spend \$100 for a gift card to be given to the winner of the Halloween Home Decorating Contest. Contest will be judged on Sunday, October 29th. All in favor and all approved.

GUESTS

- John Atkinson stated he would like to see the road paved from Mary Street to 2nd Avenue up to Route 18 because it is in really bad condition. He asked if someone would call and ask PA Am Water to pave it while they have the equipment here. It's about 20x60 feet. It's also dangerous turning off of 18 onto 2nd Avenue. The Mayor will call and inquire to see what can be done.

TENARIS UPDATE

- There were complaints about the dirt in town and it being all over vehicles. Josh Konecheck stated that on October 16, the final phase of paving will begin and should last 3-4 weeks - this should eliminate a lot of the dirt. He did not think it was coming from Tenaris, but if it continues, please let him know.
- Finally, on October 13th, the contractor is coming to stop the water running across R351. It should be a one-day job and they will keep an eye on it to make sure it stays addressed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Jeff Richardson, our Zoning Officer, attended the meeting to discuss the properties on 3rd Avenue and 5th Avenue. As far as the 3rd Ave property, the previous Zoning officer sent an "Order to Vacate" and condemned the property. The owner claims it was fixed and went back into the house. In August Jeff sent a "Notice of Violation" and an order to show cause. He filed with the magistrate and is waiting on a day in court. Since the owner is back in his property, Jeff can send an "Order to Vacate" based on the previous one sent. Or Jeff can send a new letter asking for another interior inspection, given that the property had been condemned and it cannot be lifted until the new inspection has been approved. Council will discuss and make a decision.

- There is a property on Richard Street that has a running water problem, which has created a lot of mold and makes the building unsafe and possibly uninhabitable. The owner has not responded to fix the problem, so Jeff Richardson Inspection Services sent a certified letter to the owner and if there is no response, RIS can take the owner to court and get an administrative warrant. In the meantime, Councilwoman Krawchyk said she reached out to Beaver County Housing Authority on behalf of the tenant living at the property. They do not have emergency housing or protective services for older adults in their program. She asked about Koppel Terrace and they do not have any vacancies. Council will continue to try and help the tenants.
- Chief Warren wants to hire Brian Speers as a part-time police officer. Council will interview him before the next meeting.
- Chief Warren stated the new officer, Sam Piccinini, needs a vest carrier. Council tabled until next month until a final price was given.
- President Sobona asked that the police remember to bring a report to the meetings and also asked Officer Squicquero, as Code Enforcer, to print out a report showing which properties have been tagged, the follow-up and what the results have demonstrated.
- A few council members had a meeting and thought it would be a good idea to create an "Action List" of areas around town that need to be attended to, such as buildings, infrastructure, etc. or anything your neighbor would identify. Then go through the list to see what can be prioritized and get them taken care of.
- Officer Squicquero asked that a line item be added to this year's budget for Emergency Management expenses – approximately \$1,000.
- Chief Warren discussed the amount of ammunition used for mandatory qualification and training purposes. He asked that a line item be added to this year's budget for ammunition for training/certification purposes. The amount for the budget will be determined later. Also, he would like to purchase 5 Glock 47's so all officers have the same gun. It also keeps the ammunition purchases the same. The guns and all attachments should be around \$5,000. This is just for discussion now and will be decided on at a later date after getting a quote. The money will come out of donations received.
- Chief Warren is also looking into getting his Weigh Masters certificate for over-weight trucks. The training is free. Citations for these trucks can run anywhere from \$6,000 to \$15,000 per citation.
- Residents burning at night is becoming a problem. Some people are burning toxic substances. Officer Squicquero stated that if he sees anyone burning at night and it is non-recreational, he will tell them to put it out and if they don't, he will get the fire department to put it out. The burning ordinance is outdated and council will look into getting it updated.
- There was a discussion about using Borough money to demo the 5th Street building. Many scenarios were presented but no decision was made. Richardson Inspection Services said it is not our responsibility and we are not liable, but Council is concerned about the safety issue.
- The concession stand roof needs to be fixed. One side of it is extremely rotted out. A discussion about how to get this completed was had. A decision will be made at a later date.
- Trick or Treat will be held on Halloween night from 6-8 pm.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:02 PM