

MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
October 17, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Koppel Fire Hall

PRESENT

Mayor - Athena Pangikas-Miller
Acting President – Tom Sobona
Susan Krawchyk
Anna Marie Plavecsky
Suzanne Broge
Jeff Dengler
Chuck Bevington
Frank Pisano
Chief Warren
Sergeant - Erie Squicquero
Joe Budicak - Solicitor

GUESTS PRESENT

Dave Plavecsky, Brett Plavecsky, Jim Krawchyk, Carol Shirilla, Joann Smith, Carol Ferrigno, Matt Cesare

MOTIONS

- A motion was made to accept the minutes from the September 19th and October 3rd meeting. 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 for Joe Budicak to get an emergency court order for the demo of the 5th Avenue property. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to advertise for bids for the demo of the 5th Avenue property once the emergency court order is granted. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to open the agenda to discuss police matters. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to hire Brian Speer as a part-time police officer. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to upgrade police fire arms which were discussed at a previous meeting. Approximate cost is \$2,500. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to purchase TracsSystem printers for police to generate electronic tickets. Approximate cost is \$1,500. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to approve a joint petition for recognition of the bargaining union for the police. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to purchase a computer and printer for the new Tax Collector. Approximate cost is \$1,000. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to give the Fire Department a donation of \$100 for their crafting fund-raiser event. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to award Z's Paving the contract to pave Mary Street/2nd Avenue up to Route 18. Cost is \$15,200 and paid for thru our Highway Aid Fund. All in favor and all approved.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Officer Squicquero the car on 2nd Avenue with the smashed windshield is now gone.
- The gas and electric has been shut off on the 5th Avenue property. Discussion was had about getting an emergency court order for demolition due to the fact it is a public safety hazard.

POLICE REPORT

- Discussion to hire Brian Speer as a part-time police officer.
- Discussion to upgrade police firearms and attachments so that everyone is using the same gun and therefore, purchasing the same ammunition will be much cheaper. Approximate cost is \$2,500.
- Discussion to purchase TracsSystem printers for the generation of electronic tickets. This will be mandatory in July of 2024. Approximate cost is \$1,500.
- The money for all these purchases will be taken from the remaining donations given to the police.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Will comment under Old and New Business

MAYOR'S REPORT

- There is a potential grant which could be used for getting alleys fixed. The mayor or someone would have to go to a 2-day training in order for Koppel to be permitted to qualify for the grant. The mayor talked about using the grant on Garden Alley. However, the real problem with the alley is someone filled in the gully, which had a culvert pipe which took the water away into the drainage system. The natural flow of water was changed when the gully was filled in and when that happened it started washing everything down Mount Street. The council is looking into how to correct the situation and determine who is liable to fix it.
- Due to the recent tax re-assessments, a discussion was had about adjusting the current millage. It will be on next month's agenda for more discussion.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

- Alleys are being worked on
- Curbs are being painted
- The leaves are being picked up and will be picked up every few days.
- The concession stand roof is in the process of being replaced. It should be done by next week.

GUESTS

No questions from the guests

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Councilwomen, Susan Krawchyk suggested that a welcome package be handed out to new residents. A general information document is currently being handed out to people who come in to the office and sign up for garbage.
- The old burning ordinance was discussed and the need for updating it.
- Matt Cesare gave some interesting background information on Koppel and the Church. He is in contact with a historical group and many ideas for the building were discussed. The Mayor will contact the head of the historical group to discuss grants, funding and the possibilities for the building.
- There was a discussion on how to honor Jiggy Nardone in Koppel. Many ideas were given and something will definitely be done. It will be tabled for a later date.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:30 PM