

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Koppel Borough Municipal Office**

PRESENT

Barbara Gioffre, President
Tome Sobona, Vice President
Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor
Jeffrey Dengler
Carrie Clerici
Suzanne Broge

ABSENT

Joe Budicak, Solicitor
Brandon Fombell, Engineer
Chuck Bevington
Frank Pisano

GUESTS PRESENT

Anna Marie Plavecsky, Dave Plavecsky, Carol Shirilla, and Mike Stabryla

MOTIONS

A motion was made to hire Eric Sq Squicuero as part-time police officer. All in favor and all approved.

The maintenance worker position was vacated by Mike Stabryla after his resignation due to finding another job. A motion was made to hire Devon Price as Maintenance Worker at \$19 per hour with benefits or \$20 per hour without benefits. Probationary period would be 1 year. Devon chose to accept the position and is being hired at \$20 per hour with no benefits. All in favor and all approved.

Police

Other police departments have raised their starting salary for their part-time officers and a request was made to increase the wages. A discussion evolved into a dialogue regarding the budget and its short fall due to Covid and the rising costs of inflation and how it has affected the Borough. Further discussion and analysis need to be made before any decision to raise wages can be drawn. It was discussed that the Koppel Department would like to contact other municipalities to offer police protection and then could hopefully raise wages with the end result that would affect retention and attract viable candidates to the department. Currently, the police department is under their budget allowance for the year. No action was taken.

Zoning – Owen Pella

A date was set for November 8 to meet with Zoning Owen Pella and Solicitor Joe Budicak to discuss various zoning issues in the Borough and the method of enforcement. The zoning committee will meet again to come to agreement on steps to be taken for enforcement and referral of ordinance violations to Mr. Pella.

Tax Increase

A proposal to increase taxes up to 2 mills was discussed and is done by ordinance. The Solicitor has advised and Athena Pangikas-Miller will prepare the documents for further discussion and possible passage.

Security Camera Placement

Security camera placement was discussed about a camera behind the salt shed. Jeff Dengler questioned the need since a security camera on the rear of the maintenance garage area and can detect vehicles entering and leaving. Monitoring of that area is ongoing. No action was taken.

Tenaris - Recreation Fund Donation

Tenaris has agreed to donate \$15,000 and will donate \$7,500 this year and \$7,500 next year. Money donated will be placed in a recreation fund and could possibly be used to apply for a grant for a park that is being offered in the Spring through DCNR. This \$60,000 grant requires a match if awarded.

Tenaris - Security Camera

Tenaris agreed to allow placement of a security camera on its property that would allow for surveillance of the eastern end of the church property. Council will contact Josh Konecheck for the manner and time of installation of the camera.

PA American Water

In the near future, PA American Water will be replacing sewer and water lines on the avenues located in the southern portion of Koppel Borough. The Borough is awaiting to hear of a start date from PA American.

Wood Floor Design - Kelosky

Wood Floor Design owns property on 5th Avenue and is interested in developing the grassy portion into a fenced gravel parking lot for his fleet of trucks and remodeling and expanding the garage that is on the site. It is zoned VC-Village Commercial and is a Special Exception under the uses for that designation. He was informed that his request would likely need to be heard by the Koppel Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Kelosky has not finalized his plan at this time. Attorney George Patterson is the solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board, Mike Edmund, Dave Plavecsky, and Jeff Krupa (deceased) the alternates being Tom Vannoy and Tony Clerici.

GUESTS COMENTS

There were no comments made.

MOTION TO ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.