

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 30, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**Koppel Borough Municipal Office**

**PRESENT**

Barbara Gioffre, President  
 Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor  
 Suzanne Broge  
 Jeff Dengler  
 Joe Budicak - Solicitor

**ABSENT**

Tom Sobona, Vice President  
 Frank Pisano  
 Chuck Bevington  
 Carrie Clerici

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Anna Marie and Dave Plavecsky, Brett Plavecsky, Jeff and Jackie Richardson, Marty Veitz, Eric Ferrigno, Chief Warren, Eric Squicquero, Darrell Holmes, Steve Kusma, Josh Armstrong,

**MOTIONS** – There were no motions made.

**Policing of Homewood Borough**

A meeting with Homewood Borough was held and attending was Mayor Athena Pangikas-Miller and the Koppel Police Department. They said Homewood is interested in having their Borough policed by Koppel. The Chief suggested a fee of \$1,000 per year be charged and all citation proceeds would be paid to Koppel. The mayor favored this and stated that Koppel would be acting as a good neighbor since Homewood has helped Koppel in the past. There was also a discussion that the fire departments could work together in fund raisers. It was noted that this would make it favorable when applying for grants, but concerns were raised about Homewood's ability to pay due to limited funds and the additional cost to Koppel for wear and tear on equipment and fuel costs. It was suggested by Officer Squicquero that a 5-year contract with an escalated yearly fee be made with Homewood. The chief said he would attend Homewood's monthly meetings as well. A discussion was made for possibly contracting with other communities for police protection as Koppel Police once did for New Galilee Borough.

**Police Car Demolished**

Koppel Borough Officer Josh Armstrong was involved in a vehicle pursuit that was multi-jurisdictional and ended in Franklin Township. Koppel's vehicle was hit and burst into flames totaling the car. Officer Armstrong was not harmed but later visited the Beaver Valley Medical Center to be examined for a headache that did not go away.

**Request for an Unmarked Police Vehicle**

The police also requested the purchase of an unmarked vehicle for code enforcement. A uniformed officer cannot legally go onto private property unless requested by the owner.

**Questioning by Police of ARPA Grant**

A question was asked by Chief Justin Warren about ARPA Grant money awarded to the Borough and why the Police Department did not receive anything from the grant. The initial grant for \$75,000 was received and that money is in a separate account and is designated for the Stormwater Improvement Project, which will begin in the spring of 2024. The other grant money from Beaver County, CDBG, and Statewide LSA Grant has not been received. All of the grant money will be used for the Stormwater Project. The Borough has reported to Beaver County and the Federal Government their intent for using the grant money.

**Unionization of Koppel Police Department**

Officer Justin Warren notified Council that the Koppel Police Department has joined the Teamsters Union and will have representation going forward. His explanation for this was done for officer representation by attorneys because if an event occurs it would be necessary to have that representation. Also included is Rick Milligan of maintenance. The announcement was not previously known by the seven Council members and the Chief said he wanted to be fair to the Borough but also wanted to be covered by union representation. He said they chose to go to this union because they cover all employees.

**Code and Zoning Enforcement**

Jeffrey S. Richardson of Richardson Inspection Services, LLC presented a proposal to act as Koppel Building Code Official to enforce code in accordance with the International Property Maintenance Code. He provided a fee schedule as well. The possible requests for service from council would include rental inspections, property maintenance inspections - both commercial and residential, flood plain management, stormwater and fire safety. Requests would be called in and responded to the next day. Reports will be provided. Plan reviews are paperless and applications and outlines are submitted by email and reviewed within 48 hours for residential and 10 days for commercial. A coordinated effort could be done to work with Officer Eric Squicquero to enforce code violations.

Officer Squicquero reported that there is a bedbug infestation at a rental property on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue which is a health issue. This rental may be unfit for occupancy and is in danger of the rental license being revoked.

The traffic light on Rt. 18 and 351 is not working correctly and it was noted that traffic is backing up again. A call will be made to Big Beaver Maintenance to assist in the timing of the light.

The solicitor Joseph Budicak reported that the Traffic Ordinance summary was just advertised in the Beaver County Times today.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:26 PM**