

MINUTES – KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 17, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Koppel Fire Hall

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor – Athena Pangikas-Miller

President – Tom Sobona

Vice President – Jeff Dengler

Anna Marie Plavecsky

Brett Plavecsky

Susan Krawchyk

Rich Serge

Suzanne Broge

Joe Budicak – Solicitor

Police - Chief Warren and Sergeant Squicquero

GUESTS PRESENT

Dave Plavecsky, Tim Brewer, Skye Cider, JoAnn Serge, Jim Krawchyk, Robert Guthrie, Paul Fabyanic

MOTIONS

- A motion was made to accept the November 19th Council Meeting minutes and the December 3rd Working Meeting 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 payment of bills from the Fire Dept. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to adopt the 2025 Budget. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to open the agenda to set a fee for a Variance Application. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to set the Variance Application fee to \$1,000. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to amend the Uniform Union contract to set a minimum of hours (192 hrs.) that need to be worked before being eligible for the uniform allowance. This would start in February, 2025. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to adopt a policy for police officers to buy back their guns. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to purchase an ADA compliant restroom for the park. Cost would be \$3,296.17 and will be paid with proceeds from holiday raffle. All in favor and all approved.
- Councilman Dengler asked to open the agenda to go into an executive session about a personnel issue. All in favor and all approved.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Nothing to report

POLICE REPORT

- The citation report was handed out.
- Discussed getting another set of license plate readers for the lower end of town near the bridge.
- Matt Taylor, bar manager of the IMBS Club, asked Chief Warren to speak on his behalf about the establishment of new policies at the club. They will start closing M-Th at 12:30 am and Fri-Sun at 2:30 am on the dot. Details on changes during the Bocce Tournament will follow.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- The Christmas Party was held on December 15th. Thanks to the Borough for the donation for the party.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- No report

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Our website will begin taking online payments in January. A PayPal account has to be set up first in order to pay online.
- A gift card has been purchased to present to the winner of the Christmas decorating contest.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

- Jim Krawchyk and Rick, Maintenance Supervisor, have been working on the salt spreader. The motor was mostly rebuilt and it is ready to go.
- The front cover for the salt shed was installed by Jim Krawchyk and Rick.
- The dump truck bulk head will be cut out and the metal to replace it will be installed and welded by Buddie Marshall. Many thanks for his help.
- Garage door openers have been ordered and will soon be installed. Rick will bring in his bucket truck to help with the installation.
- The reason for a few Christmas lights not working were due to burned up receptacles on the poles. The receptacles are live and we are looking into how to shut them off.
- Rick asked for access to the cameras so he can look at the back of the building where people are dumping illegal items. Chief Warren suggested that some of the cameras need to be realigned.
- Rick fell in the garage and hurt his shoulder. He has been advised by Workmen's Comp on how to proceed.
- Discussed a potential backup for Rick in the event he will be out due to his injured shoulder.

ENGINEER REPORT – No report

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Sergeant Squicquero asked that a committee be formed to go over all of the ordinances. Many of our ordinances need updated and amended. Solicitor Budicak suggested that we advertise them all at once to save money on advertising costs.
- Discussed the reorganization of the committees as each council member is on two committees. This makes it almost impossible to meet often enough. Further discussion will take place at a later date to merge some of the committees.
- Discussed the issue/problems of traffic control during an accident.
- Guest Paul Fabyanic has had some issues with Koppel Auto Service because the sign for the auto business is on the Fabyanic property. Koppel Auto Service has also bolted the sign to the street name pole, which is not allowed. Koppel Auto also said they have a permit to hang the sign, which is not the case. **Update:** Further review of this situation will continue.
- Chief Warren drafted a policy for the gun buy-back program. He sent it to our solicitor for feedback. Each interested officer will have to work a minimum of hours to participate.
- Chief Warren also discussed amending the Uniform Union contract to set a minimum of hours that need to be worked before being eligible for the uniform allowance.
- Some advertising signs that were put on the Penn Power poles have been taken down.
- Executive session for a personnel issue has been resolved.

Executive Session: 7:20 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm