

MINUTES – KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 19, 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 - Absent

Police - Chief Warren and Sergeant Squicquero

GUESTS PRESENT

Dave Plavecsky, Tim Brewer, Skye Cider, JoAnn Serge, Jim Krawchyk

MOTIONS

- A motion was made to accept the October 15th Council Meeting minutes and the November 5th 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 donate \$500 towards the Fire Department Christmas Party. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to accept the 2025 Budget. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to advertise the 2025 Budget. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to move \$25,000 of accrued interest on investments to the General Fund to support the Fire District costs for 2025. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to open the agenda to discuss applying for an LSA Grant. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to create a resolution allowing for the application of an LSA Grant. All in favor and all approved.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Discussed reaching out to the railroad to get an MOU for maintaining and enforcing any ordinance along the railroad tracks.

POLICE REPORT

- The citation report was handed out.
- On January 12, 2025 the department will be going live with e-filing traffic citations. This eliminates the need to go to the magistrate's office to file a citation.
- The US Deputy Sheriff's Association donated two active shooter vests. They were delivered yesterday and there is one in each vehicle. The Chief sent them a thank you letter.
- After looking into the body-cam grant, it was determined that we could not apply for it. They only fund the grants based on higher crime data.
- Discussed the left turn from Route 18 onto Mount Street again.
- Discussed the possibility of getting a new floor in the Police Building. Chief Warren will get a formal quote.
- A gun buy-back program for Police officers was discussed. More details to follow.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- There was a hearing today for the former Fire Chief, Devon Price. He only came up with \$3,600 instead of the full amount of \$6,100, so he received a 2-year probation for a felony theft. He could get a reduced probation if he pays the rest of the money back within a year.
- The Fire Department received a debt-relief grant from the state which was enough to pay off two loans. Going into the Fire District in January, they will be debt free.
- The Christmas Party will be held on December 15th and the borough will donate \$500 towards the party.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- No report

MAYOR'S REPORT

- A \$100 gift card will be given again this year for the best decorated house in town.
- Skye Cider has been working on our Winter Newsletter and handed out a copy for review and comments.
- The DGLVR grant was submitted yesterday. We asked for \$96K and it should help direct the water that runs across Garden Alley into a storm drain.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

- Getting the light poles and street lights fixed has become way more involved than expected. Councilman Brett Plaveccky finally reached someone from Penn Power. They forwarded a link to him to submit information on which lights are out. He is in the process of creating a spreadsheet with the numbers and also documenting photos of all of the light poles in town.
- Our leaf machine is not currently working. We contracted MonoWorx to come in and collect a majority of the leaves in town. There are still leaves that need to be collected but not sure how that will happen at this time.
- The front cover for the salt shed was installed by Jim Krawchyk and Rick from Maintenance.
- The flags have been removed for the winter.

ENGINEER REPORT – No report

GENERAL DISCUSSION

We would like to thank Hunter Brothers, LLC for their generous donation for the park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm