

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

PRESENT

Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor
Tom Sobona, Vice President
Jeffrey Dengler
Suzanne Broge
Frank Pisano
Chuck Bevington
Joe Budicak, Solicitor

ABSENT

Barbara Gioffre
Carrie Clerici

GUESTS PRESENT

Anna Marie Plavecsky, Dave Plavecsky, Carol Shirilla, Joann Smith, Jim Krawchyk, Susan Krawchyk, Tim Brewer, Brett Plavecsky, Isaiah Guthrie, Rachel Gibson, Steve Necaster, Russell Broge

MOTIONS**Meeting Minutes**

Approval of minutes of December 13, 2022 meeting. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

General Fund

Approval to pay bills from the General Fund. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Fire Department

Approval to pay bills for the Fire Department. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

OTHER MOTIONS

Motion to approve trading in 2 old pistols from Police Department for a new AR.

Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Motion to approve an additional cost of \$2500.00 for masonry work on the Borough building.

Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Motion to approve to appoint the EADS Group as our Engineering firm.

Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Motion to approve Armstrong contract.

Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

REPORTS**Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Report**

No report given.

Jeff Dengler asked if Owen Pella, Zoning/Code Enforcement, is no longer doing property maintenance, is he legally bound to finish resolving an issue for a property that he was previously working on. Solicitor Joe Budicak said no, he is not obligated.

Police Department Report

A call report was submitted by Chief Warren.

Chief Warren followed up on the TraCs system discussed at the last council meeting. He filled out a questionnaire which puts the department on a waiting list. The state is picking 40 departments this October. He doesn't believe we will get one this year and maybe not even next year, as they are only allocating the system to 60 departments a year for the entire state of PA.

Officer Richard Conti has left the department. An application for employment was dropped off – the Chief will review it and possibly interview the candidate.

The new digital radios are being programmed and we should have them soon.

Chief Warren brought up the issue of trading in 2 old hand guns for a new AR for approximately \$60.00. A good hand gun would still be available for the new officer to use.

A discussion was also had about the implementation of a time clock and the best way to keep track of the hours worked as their schedules sometimes are not as simple as clocking in and out.

Fire Department Report

A soup sale was held Saturday, January 14th and it went really well. There will be another one on February 18th.

Maintenance Report

Devon Price was not present at the meeting. He sent the Mayor his report. He says he is aware that there are a lot of complaints about the alleys, but there is not much that can be done until the weather breaks. He also said that a roller needs to be purchased so that the limestone stays compacted. The leaf picker was also painted to preserve it.

Engineering Report

No report was sent.

Solicitor Report

A letter was sent to the owner of 5437 5th Avenue asking her to work with the Borough to get the building demolished and then lien the property and we would agree that she not be held personally responsible.

A concern was expressed about a broken window in the building and the possibility of someone getting hurt.

Mayor Report

A new contract was given to council from Owen Pella, Zoning/Code Enforcement. Owen no longer wants to do property maintenance but will stay on to help with collecting past due garbage payments and possibly starting rental inspections again. That contract will be tabled until a February 7th working council meeting and to hopefully meet with Owen at that time.

Barb Gioffre and the Mayor discussed the possibility of a police officer (Office Squicquero) taking over the Code Enforcement. He will have to go for some training.

A meeting was held with EADS and DCNR for a possible park grant. It was suggested that a survey of the community (possibly thru social media) of what they think is needed at the park. A public meeting is also planned for March 7th with EADs in attendance, to talk about the vision of the park.

New Business

A motion to approve the Armstrong Cable contract was approved.

A motion was made to replace Michael Baker Engineering with the EADS Group Engineering firm.

Thank You

Thank you to Ryan Bertolo for donating a sizeable amount of ammunition to the Police Department.

Thank you to Amanda Duncan for her generous donation to the Police Department.

GUESTS COMMENTS

Steve Necaster introduced himself - he is running for Magistrate for our district.

Brett Plavecsky commented on the alleys and his concern that people are driving thru yards to bypass the potholes.

Recess Requested to hold an Executive Session.

MOTION TO ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.