

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Koppel Borough Municipal Building**

ROLL CALL – PRESENT

Barbara Gioffre, President
Frank Pisano
Eugene Docchio
Jeffrey Dengler

Carrie Clerici
Tom Sabino
Chuck Bevington
Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor

Guests Present: Tim Brewer, Carol Shirilla, Dave Plavecsky, Brett Plavecsky, Tony Clerici, Damian Gajewski, Jill Richner, Morgan Price, Devon Price, Russell Broge, Suzanne Broge

MOTIONS

Meeting Minutes

Approval of minutes of December 14, 2021 meeting.
Motion to approve minutes of last meeting.
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.

Approval to pay for repair to Engine 2, owned by Koppel Borough, at the cost of \$986.86 for leaking tanks and recertification of pumps.
Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Maintenance

Approval to purchase a lift for \$4,500 and a compressor for \$1,300 for repair of the Borough's vehicles.
Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Reappointments

Motion to reappoint Joseph Budicak as solicitor for Koppel Borough.
Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Motion to reappoint Michael Baker, Jr. as Koppel Borough Engineers.
Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Motion to reappoint EADS Engineering as grant writers for Koppel Borough.
Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Motion to reappoint Pella Consulting for Zoning Enforcement for Koppel Borough.
Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Motion to reappoint Herrmann & Loll, Inc. as auditors for Koppel Borough.
Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

REPORTS

Fire Department Report

A reorganization meeting was held by the fire company. Will Madden stepped down as Chief and Suzanne Broge stepped down as President. Devon Price was elected as Chief and Morgan Price as President. 59 quarts of soup were sold at the soup sale. Another sale is planned for February 19 and March 19. The Koppel Fire Department is asking for soup suggestions to be placed on Facebook and the three most requested soups will be made. Fire Department meetings are the second Sunday of the month and are open to the public. The Emergency Management Coordinator position is open and a candidate is being sought.

The Fire Department asked the Borough to pay \$960.86 for the repair of a tank on Engine 2 that is not holding water. The amount includes repair of the tank and certification. An audit will soon be conducted and the trucks must be certified for insurance purposes. This is done yearly. Engine 1 is owned by the Koppel Fire Department and Engine 2 is owned by Koppel Borough. A question was asked why Engine 2 is the truck that is used the most. Devon Price, Chief said that Engine 2 has rescue equipment on it and is used for Turnpike calls.

Engineer's Report

Brandon Fombelle of Michael Baker Engineering was present and spoke about a weight restriction on 2nd Avenue. Presently, Michael Baker is in contact with PennDOT to find a solution to the water running on the road near the bridge. The water freezes when cold which has the potential to cause an accident. Both Tenaris and PennDOT were contacted and the two are looking into resolving this problem. The Borough is awaiting their response. It was asked if weight limits could be placed on all roads in Koppel and the solicitor and engineer advised an ordinance would have to be passed. Signs will need to be posted.

Tony Clerici, present at the meeting, is employed by Michael Baker Engineering. With the approval of MBE, he will donate his time for the benefit of Koppel to assist Brandon Fombelle when needed.

Solicitor's Report

Attorney Joe Budicak reported that the hearing for Brian Bush was held regarding the garbage ordinance. Mr. Bush was fined for delinquent garbage bills and he paid the fine. A question was asked about changing the ordinance regarding multiple rental units and allowing the landlord to get his own garbage removal service. There was a consensus of council to keep the ordinance as is. The landlords who do not pay their garbage fees will be notified and cited when appropriate and delinquency can result in having a lien placed on their property.

Maintenance Report

Mike Stabryla, Maintenance Supervisor, made a request to purchase an 11,000 lb. lift for the garage and an air compressor. The cost of the lift is \$4,500 and the compressor is \$1,300. A discussion was had about whether the floor in the garage could handle the lift. A torch set and mechanic tools were purchased for repair of the Borough's vehicles in order to save the cost of vehicle repair. The Maintenance Dept. is currently looking for a part-time helper. The plow for snow removal was broken when plowing roads during the recent heavy snowfall. It was taken for repair to Meiter's. The damage was done by a manhole cover that was lifted when Mortimer Construction was replacing water and sewer lines on 2nd Avenue. A question was asked who is responsible for the cost of repair. PA American Water was called to let them know about the damage to the snow plow and a request for reimbursement for repair will be made. Two new garage door openers were recently installed. A call will be made to Rick Milligan to take down the Christmas lights.

Mayor's Report

The ALPR cameras were installed about a month ago. Access and training will be forthcoming for the police department. To effectively use the cameras, a Toughbook will need to be purchased. The New Castle Police Department offered to donate their used laptops but it was determined that they were not useable. The cost would be about a couple of thousand dollars for a suitable system. The police department is interested in doing fund raising in the community. Community planning and potential events are being planned for the coming months. A parade, carnival, vendors at the

field, kickball tournament in August, Oktoberfest, and Christmas events are potential events. T-ball was discussed and how many kids might be interested. Jeff Potter will be in Koppel again on Wednesday, June 22 to build a scoreboard and hold a goofy golf event as a fundraiser. Rick Pelloni, head of a local ministry, contacted the Borough and would like to use the ballfield on June 11 or July 23 to serve food, offer prizes, gifts, music, and provide ministry.

Explosions

The Pennsylvania Seismic Network was contacted and they responded to an inquiry on how they might help to detect noises and explosions in the community. A discussion on what happens when an explosion takes place was discussed at length. A log of events was provided to them. It was noted that PSC Metals has been purchased by another company and those in attendance said that it has been quiet for a week or so. Further inquiry is being done by the Koppel Solicitor. A town in Newport, Kentucky was contacted. They are currently involved in a lawsuit about a metal facility similar to PSC as they are also experiencing explosions. Newport is a similar industrial town like Koppel, but with higher population and a higher tax base. Newport passed a noise ordinance, but experienced difficulty in enforcement of the ordinance. Their cost to measure sound was high with little effect. An invitation to discuss this problem with the new owners of PSC Metals was suggested. Aaron Bernstine was contacted by email and has not yet responded to the complaint. The DEP has been contacted and visited in times past but contaminants were found to be within legal limits and noise does not come under their jurisdiction.

Fire Hydrant Removal by PA American Water

PA American Water requested the removal of a fire hydrant near the pump house on SR 351. The Koppel Fire Department asked that it not be removed because the hydrant is needed. After contacting PA American Water and speaking with the water company, it was determined that in order to keep it an additional charge of approximately \$20 would be added to the monthly fee of \$498 per month for the hydrants.

Questions asked were:

- Why is Koppel being billed an additional \$20 if Koppel is already paying \$498 per month. Was this hydrant not included.
- Council asked that a map of the location of hydrants from PAWC be provided for the fire company's use.
- Is the red hydrant on 2nd Avenue for the reservoir?
- Were any hydrants removed on 2nd Avenue?

Resolve: A call to PAWC asking the above questions.

The request to remove the fire hydrant by PAWC was a hydrant recently added at the time of the new bridge construction. It was for PAWC's use and was never included in the \$498 monthly fee. A request was made to keep it and an agreement will be submitted to the Borough by PAWC to add this hydrant.

Unresolved:

A request for mapping of hydrant locations was requested. There was not a confirmation on the red hydrant on 2nd Avenue or if any hydrants were removed. Further discussion will need to be had with Steve Demofonte of PAWC.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.