

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of Koppel Borough Council for **February 18, 2020**

Council Attendance: **Barbara Gioffre (by Skype), Athena Pangikas-Miller, Michael Sabino, Frank Pisano, Eugene Docchio, Glenn Marshall, Jr.**

Borough Solicitor: Joseph Budicak Borough Engineer: Attendance not needed and absent

Borough Police Officer: Arthur Shidemantle

Mayor: Tom Vannoy

Present: Frank Pisano, Glenn Marshall, Jr. , Michael Sabino, Athena Pangikas-Miller, and Eugene Docchio

Absent: Sandy Florie

Guests: Suzanne Broge, Russ Broge, Jeff Dengler, Patty Palamone, Carol Shirilla, Rick Smith, Tim Brewer, and Bill Heaton

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance by Athena Pangikas-Miller

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A motion was made by Glenn Marshall, Jr. and seconded by Eugene Docchio to accept the minutes from the January 21 and January 29, 2020 council meeting. The motion was approved by present council members.

A motion was made by Glenn Marshall, Jr. and seconded by Frank Pisano to approve payment of the Borough bills from the general fund. The motion was approved by present council members.

A motion was made by Frank Pisano and seconded by Eugene Docchio to approve payment of the Fire Department bills. The motion was approved by present council members.

Guests

Jeff Dengler questioned why a survey of the sewers was being done. Barb Gioffre stated that PA Am Water presented the Borough with their plan to replace the infrastructure. PA Am Water submitted a plan for 2020 to replace sewer lines and presented a plan showing where old terracotta sewer lines and will be replaced and they will repair the areas they are digging according to the Borough ordinance

Several guests also questioned the condition of the alleys. It is that there has been a lot of rain this winter and gravel used to repair the potholes has not fixed the problem and has washed out. Council is aware of the condition of the streets and alleys and has had a representative from PennDOT in the borough to give an opinion of costs and best method of repair. PennDOT suggested various other materials to repair and it was noted by the rep that there is a lack of proper drainage everywhere in the borough. It was determined that repairs by Koppel Maintenance will take place in the spring and maintenance is looking into the materials suggested. Council knows that Ken is attempting to fix what he is able to now and is doing his best to remedy the situation until more can be done in the spring.

Jeff Dengler questioned the police department about the "break-ins" to some cars in the neighborhood. Officer Shidemantle stated that all the cars in question were unlocked and suggested that residents lock their car doors. Security videos provided the police with information about the individuals who are suspect and it is believed they are teens or young adults who are gaining entry to unlocked cars along the avenues. Officer Shidemantle suggested that residents lock their car doors and if they see anything that is suspicious, call the police and do not try to handle the situation on your own.

Koppel Police Department

The Police report was presented by Arthur Shidemantle of the Koppel Police Department.

Fire Department Report

Saturday, February 22, is their pork chop dinner. Tickets are available. Tim Brewer will be doing the cooking.

Engineers Report

No report this month

Solicitors Report

No report this month

Maintenance Report

Ken Orrico, Maintenance Manager reported that his meeting with the PennDOT Representative provided information that will help him in the spring to try and resolve the various issues of drainage and potholes in the alleys. He said that PennDOT suggested that when repairs are made to the roads partnering with a neighboring community could help reduce the cost. Ken is in the process of getting estimates for road repair.

Estimates were received on March 5, 2020.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Vannoy stated that the Police Chief, Matt Smock, took another position in Ellwood City beginning February 1, 2020 but will remain the chief until the end of February. Matt will continue to work part-time.

Interviews for Police Chief are scheduled.

New, Old, and Unfinished Business

Potter Baseball

Ken Orrico is creating a preliminary materials list and a person from Ellwood City has offered to donate as well. Mayor Vannoy stated another meeting will be held at the Firehall on March 3rd to discuss more details. The Mayor talked to Tim Brewer about catering the dinner.

The meeting was held at the Firehall and those who attended were Tom Vannoy, Jeff Potter, Don Mancini, and Ron Thellman.

Grants

Update on the grant filed in December for PA Small Water and Sewer: The grant was filed by EADS, and if selected by the state program, will provide assistance for the construction of storm sewer systems and flood control in Koppel Borough. Koppel's streets and alleys are affected adversely from the lack of stormwater drainage. The application will be a 3-phase project. The first round applied for will address Arthur Street and would start by doing the lower half of the street to where the church is and up to the railroad tracks. Tracy Frampton, our contact at EADS reported that the CDBG grant must meet the criteria for eligibility for application and the plan will be submitted to HUD for approval. Once eligibility approval is given the process to proceed with application for the grant will need to be passed by resolution of council.

Last year we applied for the DCED small parks and community grant. Koppel was not successful in getting the grant and is a pretty competitive round. It was discussed by Athena Pangikas-Miller to apply for it again since they have increased the amount. The total has gone from \$60,000 to \$110,000-\$120,000. Athena would take the existing plan, work with Michael Baker to add to it, and apply for it again and must move on that relatively soon. Discussion to proceed was tabled until next council meeting.

Grant application is in the process.

Real Estate Tax Appeal

An appeal was filed to change the tax status of the rectory, school/church, and ballfield and a hearing was held January 7, 2020 and reported to be favorable to Koppel. The borough hopes to be reimbursed for the taxes that were previously paid. Mr. Budicak expressed that he was unsure if reimbursement could be made but would look into the matter further and report his findings.

Church Property

There is no update on Koppel Steel's interest in renting or buying the church property.

PA American Water

A small parcel of land was not transferred to PA American Water several years ago at the time of sale. The transference of property to PA American Water is by deed that was prepared by the water company, of which the transfer tax will be paid by PA American. A motion was made by Glenn Marshall, Jr. and seconded by Eugene Docchio to transfer this parcel to PA American. The motion was approved by present council members.

The deed is being signed.

Phone Equipment Borough Office

Outdated and faulty phone equipment in the Borough Office is needing replaced and it was suggested by Barb Gioffre that we also have the lines checked because of the static on our current lines. APP-Com was to present a bid for new phone equipment after the company came to assess the Borough's needs. A final bid has not been received yet. It was also discussed to change our phone service from Verizon to Armstrong. Mayor Vannoy will speak to Armstrong to see what our costs would be. We currently use Armstrong for internet service. An amount of \$600 for equipment was approved by council at a previous meeting. Barb suggested we increase the amount to \$1000 so that the cost of the lines and phone equipment can both be covered. Council agreed to investigate the matter of changing services, and waiting for the final bid.

A call was made on March 4, 2020 to APP-Com for the bid to be submitted to the Borough.

EMC Coordination

Bill Heaton, EMC from West Mayfield asked for a contact number for the Borough's EMC John Stubbs. Bill wants to talk to John about the possibility of our municipality merging with other municipalities to purchase equipment in the event of an emergency or disaster. This would allow for more equipment purchases such as generators, heaters, radios, extension cords, etc. The cost would be around \$1000/year and is to be used for purchase of new equipment.

Personnel

A motion was made by Michael Sabino and seconded by Frank Pisano to call an Executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Police Hiring

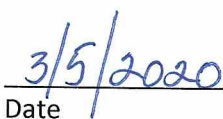
Hiring of a New Police Chief - Glenn Marshall, Jr. made a motion to advertise in the Beaver County Times for the Police Chief position. Art Schidemantle has submitted his interest and Council would like to see if additional candidates are interested. Michael Sabino seconded the motion. The motion was approved by present council members.

AED Defibrillator

Michael Sabino brought up the fact that currently Koppel Borough has need of an AED Defibrillator and in case of emergency it would be beneficial to have one. Michael indicated that the price of a new one was high and that once it is used it has to be inspected and then there is no backup. Michael contacted CINTAS, who is a supplier of the AED. Their service agreement is for 36 months at \$99 a month. The service agreement includes: monthly inspection and if ours is used a replacement is given until they inspect and return our original. After the 36 months, it can be purchased but typically that doesn't happen because at that point it is already 36 months old. Most people just re-sign a new agreement. A motion was made by Glenn Marshall, Jr. to lease a new machine and seconded by Frank Pisano. The motion was approved by present council members.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Michael Sabino.


Mary Sue Binkowski, Koppel Borough Secretary


Date