

MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
May 16, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Koppel Borough Municipal Office

PRESENT

Barbara Gioffre, President
 Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor
 Tom Sobona
 Suzanne Broge
 Jeff Dengler
 Frank Pisano
 Justin Warren – Police Chief
 Officer Erie Squicquero
 Joe Budicak - Solicitor

ABSENT

Chuck Bevington
 Carrie Clerici

GUESTS PRESENT

Anna Marie and Dave Plavecsky, Brett Plavecsky, Josh Konacheck, Tim Brewer, Denise Green, Susan and Jimmy Krawchuk,

MOTIONS

- A motion was made to accept the minutes from the April 18th meeting. 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 bills for the Fire Department. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to purchase Taser 7 Cert for \$4,169. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to provide a portable toilet for the ball field from July through September at \$121 per month. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to replace the leaf picker hose through Old Dominion Brush Co.; the lowest price at \$1,609.60. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to advertise the newly drafted traffic ordinance in the Beaver County Times with the intent to adopt the new ordinance. All in favor and all approved.
- A resolution was made to apply for a playground grant through CDBG for \$240,865.40. All in favor and all approved.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Justin Warren presented a breakdown of price packages for a new Taser. The Taser 7 Cert package includes batteries, holster, training cartridges (8 per weapon in years 1 and 3 and 4 per weapon 2, 4 and 5), unlimited duty cartridges when used in the line of duty, a bay dock, and warranties on handles, batteries, dock, and e.com licenses. If purchased before July 1st a 7% discount on Taser 7 Cert is offered. Officers will need to qualify every year and the benefit is that cartridges are included for each officer. The other package offered is Taser 7 Basic and includes batteries, holster, dock, warranties on handles, batteries, and dock and e.com licenses. All cartridges in this package are purchased a la carte. It was clear that it was more cost effective to purchase Taser 7 Cert. A motion was made to purchase the Taser 7 Cert package for \$4,169 with an annual fee of \$833.73 over five years.

A request by Officer Squicquero was made for a medical bag as he is being called for medical emergencies because of extended response time from ambulance services. He has medical training but does not have the equipment needed to answer the calls. The cost of a medical bag is about \$384. A motion was made to purchase a medical bag and the motion failed when Councilman Jeff Dengler said he would see if one may be donated.

It should be noted that any complaints by residents should be made to the police department at 724-775-0880. This is a non-emergency number.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

There is a scrapbooking fund raiser at the Fire Department on Saturday of this week. All the funds and proceeds go to the Fire Department. A 95th Anniversary Event is to be announced by the department and will be held at the ball field.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The solicitor Joseph Budicak had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Athena Pangikas-Miller reported the events coming up:

- May 20th the Koppel Communitywide Yard Sale. A decision was made to extend it to another day because of the weather. DC Taco's will be a vendor at the event.
- May 29th at 9 AM is the Annual Memorial Day program at the Koppel Memorial Park
- Two toilet rental services were contacted for the events coming this summer. In July Fishers of Men, in August the Fire Department 95th Anniversary, and on September 16th a Vendor Fair to be held at the ball field. Each event will be about 28 days apart and it was found to be less expensive to rent the portable toilets from July through September rather than paying the charges for placement and pick up of toilets each time an event is held (\$60). The rental cost is about \$125 per month. The toilets will be staked down and cleaned by the vendor. A motion was made to allow for the portable toilet rental.
- Another event is a Tenaris walk through held at Tenaris on June 6th at 6 pm.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The need for more effective code enforcement was discussed by Council and has been a topic of discussion for a number of months. This subject prompted a call to Richardson Inspection for a fee schedule and availability. Mr. Richardson would be pleased to offer his services to the Borough and provided a fee schedule that was included in the packet for Council's review. Richardson Inspection was recommended to Koppel by Ellwood City Code Enforcement and was hired for inspection of a property that was deteriorated and in danger of collapse. His service was prompt, efficient and without problem. Discussion about enforcement of code/ordinances and it being necessary for resident's safety, for maintenance of properties and maintaining values and addressing non-compliance issues that directly affect the two. Council agreed to meet with Richardson to discuss his services at an agreed to time and will ask questions in response to requests, turnaround times, services offered, fees charged and his qualifications.

GUESTS

Tim Brewer asked if there will be a community wide clean-up day. Since Young's Refuse picks up most everything, it was determined that there is not a need for a clean-up day.

Josh Konacheck spoke regarding the complaints about dirt along 6th and the road clean up by Tenaris. They will be using a walk behind to clean each Monday from the front gate and down along 6th Avenue. Tenaris is also working 24 hours a day Monday through Friday, therefore, there will be less activity on the weekend.

Denise Green asked about regulating basketball hoops. She also asked what is being done with the Traffic Ordinance and was particularly interested in the regulation concerning portable basketball hoops in the Borough. She was told that the ordinance would need to be published in the Times and then voted on by Council for adoption at its next meeting.

NEW TRAFFIC ORDINANCE

A new traffic ordinance was drafted and reviewed by Chief Justin Warren, Officer Eric Squicquero, Council and the Solicitor. The ordinance was discussed and a motion was made to advertise in the Beaver County Times with the intent of the Borough to adopt. The ordinance incorporates all previously adopted ordinances pertaining to traffic and adds missing elements to the ordinances specific to present need for vehicles and the use of public right-of-way, roads, and alleys.

GRANTS

A grant was applied for Greenways, Trails and Recreation for a playground grant through EADS. Playground equipment was selected and the grant is for \$240,865.40 to include ADA curb ramps, swings, playsets, benches, pavilion, water and electric connections. A resolution was made to apply for the grant. The award will be announced in the fall of this year.

HOUSE DEMOLITION

A question was asked about the demolition of the building on 3rd concerning cleanup, road closing, and safety. Inquiry to code enforcement will be made to answer questions that were brought up about the debris and disposal, etc.

SEWER AND WATERLINE REPLACEMENT ON 2ND AND IDA

Complaints about the speeding of the heavy equipment operator from Wilson were made. Wilson was contacted about this problem and asked that they hold down the speed of this equipment operator to avoid an accident. Work is expected to continue for the next month.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:40 PM