

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 19, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Koppel Borough Fire Company Hall**

PRESENT

Barbara Gioffre, President
Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor
Tom Sobona
Jeffrey Dengler
Frank Pisano
Eugene Docchio
Chuck Bevington
Carrie Clerici
Joe Budicak, Solicitor
Brandon Fombell, Engineer

ABSENT**GUESTS PRESENT**

Timothy C. Brewer, Jesse Burnette, Anna Marie Plavecsky, Dave Plavecsky, Brett Plavecsky, Joann Smith, Carol Shirilla, Jim Krawchyk, Susan Krawchyk, Russell Broge, Suzanne Broge

MOTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS**Meeting Minutes**

- Approval of minutes for June 21, 2022 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.

Electric Bills for Borough

- Motion to approve payment of electric bills as they are received rather than holding payment for approval until monthly meeting. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

MOTIONS**Accept resignation of Councilman Eugene Docchio**

- Motion to accept resignation. All in favor and all approved.

Reappointment Councilwoman Carrie Clerici

- Motion to reappoint Carrie Clerici to council. All in favor and all approved.

Security Camera Purchase

- Motion to purchase wired security cameras for the Borough Building and Maintenance/Police Building at not more than \$1,500. All in favor and all approved.

Weight Limit Ordinance

- Motion to adopt the weight limit ordinance. All in favor and all approved.

REPORTS

Zoning Officer Report

Owen Pella provided a zoning report for June 2022. The zoning report in its entirety is available for view at the Koppel Borough Municipal office.

Police Department Report

No report given. Officer Preisel was in attendance.

Fire Department Report

No report given.

Maintenance Report

Mike Stabryla, Maintenance, asked if he could finish cutting the bushes on (3302 3rd Avenue) Richard Street that are in the right-of-way and on the sidewalk. The Borough Solicitor noted that the inhabitant should be notified and once that is done the bushes and trees in the right-of-way can be cut. The Beaver County GIS will be used to determine right-of-way. Mike asked to paint the leaf machine but it was suggested that potholes in alleys and roads need fixed first as well as the cutting of the tall grass along Arthur Street. Dry food pickup is scheduled for Thursday, July 21st for the Fishers of Men event at the ballfield on Saturday.

Engineer's Report

Brandon Fombelle addressed the water running onto SR 351 near the bridge and reported the results of a meeting with Andrew Reed of Pennsylvania Utility Commission, Phil Mutunga of PennDOT, Athena Pangikas–Miller and Barbara Gioffre. The purpose of the meeting was to close the contract for the bridge and discuss the water running onto the road. Athena Pangikas-Miller reiterated that Andrew Reed of the PUC thought the water was not a direct result of the bridge construction and felt it was ground water runoff and his intention is to close the contract for the bridge. Phil Mutunga also inspected the area. Brandon will reach out to the PUC for clarification and will continue to address the water problem with PennDOT, Tenaris, and PAAW. It is also our plan to further address the railroad property along the Arthur Street crossing and ditch along the rails with the PUC.

In addition, we are trying to set up a meeting with the Borough's State Representative and PennDOT about the SR 18 and 351 traffic signal and problems associated with the timing device. Adjustments have been made to the signal by PennDOT but it has not helped with traffic. It was suggested that an officer manually operate the light during rush hour periods.

There has been correspondence with Columbia Gas about the 2nd Avenue gas leak repair to the road. It was technically not repaired according to the ordinance. There were drainage issues and sinking issues on 4th Avenue. Brandon noted that the work done on 2nd and 4th was to resurface only and not to repair the road. These issues will be looked into further and addressed with those concerned.

Solicitor's Report

The weight limit ordinance was advertised and will be adopted tonight. Handicapped spaces were questioned. An administrative fee may be charged for installation by the Borough. Signs can be removed when the person is deceased. It was discussed that there are numerous residents who could use a handicapped sign and there could possibly be multiple signs on each street where parking is already limited. There are no designated handicapped spots in Koppel at the current time. Further discussion was tabled and no action taken.

Mayor's Report

Zachery Priesel and Richard Conti are the new police officers that have been hired. One more part-time officer is needed. A retirement plan was requested by Officer Justin Warren.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Sanitation and Codes – Chairperson Chuck Bevington

At the committee meeting it was noted that monitoring for violations by the Code Enforcement Committee will be done first. A courtesy letter will be mailed to each resident encouraging them to maintain their properties by addressing violations such as tall grass, garbage and trash, etc. If any violations are found by the committee, the resident will be notified with no fine given allowing time to remedy the situation. If the violation is not addressed in the allotted time given, it will then be referred to Owen Pella, Ordinance/Code Officer for further enforcement and a possible fine.

Auditor Report

Budget and Finance Committee – Chairperson Carrie Clerici

It was asked that the Budget and Finance Committee review the Auditor's Report and any deficiencies in the report be addressed by this committee. A copy of the report will be given to each committee member.

Sidewalks

Parking on sidewalks was discussed and it was noted that sidewalks are a public right-of-way. Maintenance of sidewalks is each resident's responsibility. Parking on the sidewalks is prohibited according to the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code.

Security Cameras

The need to purchase security cameras for the Borough Building and the Maintenance/Police Building were discussed. Two units will be purchased and are wired, Bluetooth with 8 Cameras each. Installation will be done by Chuck Bevington and Jeff Dengler. A motion was made to purchase the cameras and was approved by council.

Trash Burning

It was asked if burning should be stopped in Koppel because refuse pickup takes most garbage disposed of. There have been complaints of the burning of trash and toxic smells of plastics in the Borough. It was mentioned that often the smell from burning is detected as coming from Big Beaver and suggested that when that occurs complaints can be made by calling Big Beaver Borough. Koppel Borough has a burning ordinance and complaints of burning violations are enforceable by the Koppel Police when they are called. A request for the disposal of an old burn barrel was made and Koppel Maintenance agreed to dispose of it.

GUESTS COMENTS

SA Recycling

Thanks was given to SA Recycling for addressing the complaints and eliminating the explosions coming from the facility.

A request by Koppel Maintenance for the purchase of wiring for the air compressor was made. Brett Plavecsky offered to donate the wiring.

MOTION TO ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.