

MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Koppel Borough Fire Company Hall

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Barbara Gioffre – Council President
 Carrie Clerici
 Brandon Fombell, Engineer

GUESTS PRESENT

Tim Brewer, Deborah Brewer, Anna Marie Plavecsky, Dave Plavecsky, Brett Plavecsky, Carol Shirilla, Joann Smith, Patty Palamone, Suzanne Broge, Russel Broge, Denise Green, Brittany Rall, Martin Veitz

MOTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS**Meeting Minutes**

- Approval of minutes for August 16, 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.

MOTIONS

- Approval to have Trick or Treat on October 31st. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.
- Approval to appoint Suzanne Broge to the Council position vacated by Eugene Docchio. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.
- Approval to pay \$248 for Fire Department truck repairs. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

REPORTS**Zoning Officer Report**

Did not receive the zoning report for August 2022 until after the meeting. The zoning report in its entirety is available for view at the Koppel Borough Municipal office.

Jeff Dengler questioned Solicitor Joe Budicak as to how the fines for various Ordinances are issued. Joe explained that all municipalities are the same. Depending on the violation, Code Enforcement issues a citation and it goes before the Magistrate. If the violation is proved, the Magistrate will set the fine at that time. The person being cited can ask for a hearing, then a date is set up and our Code Enforcement has to appear. The Magistrate will at that time issue a fine, but he has to go by the limits of our Ordinance. A second offense fine would be higher. The citation can be appealed but then would be referred to a local court.

There was a discussion about the building on 5437 5th Avenue, where the structure is compromised and the brick is loose. Council is considering whether or not it should be condemned, who is responsible to make that call, and who should pay for it if it does need to be torn down.

Since our Code Enforcer was not in attendance to comment on these issues, some council members stated they would like him to be present at some of our meetings.

Police Department Report

- Chief Warren was present at the meeting and distributed the report to council. He stated that he received (and passed around to council) a State Patrol log from January to present. There were 80 calls that the State Patrol responded to.
- Our officers will begin enforcing traffic citations for speeding on 5th Avenue and on Arthur Street due to some complaints. The U-turn at the Post Office was also discussed.
- Chief Warren mentioned that he thought it would be a good idea to have an impound lot, as it would bring money into the Borough. There is a potential fenced in lot that could be used. All the possible logistics of that were discussed such as insurance, how to fence it in securely, cost of fines, how to make payments, whether or not we can hold junk cars, creating an ordinance, etc. This is something to think about and further discussions will take place.
- Chief Warren and the Mayor will attend a meeting with the District Attorney in reference to a PA Crime and Delinquent Grant. If any money is granted, we may be able to get the Tough Books needed. More information to follow.
- There is a Holding cell at the Police station. Chief Warren would like to put a camera in the cell for safety issues. If a prisoner is taken into custody, it is not safe to have that prisoner in the same room as an officer who carries a firearm.
- Chief Warren asked if we have a Disorderly House Citation Ordinance and described some of the issues they are having with residents. The Borough has a "3-strikes" Ordinance but that is different from the Disorderly House Ordinance. The Chief will get a sample one from New Castle Police Department.

Fire Department Report

Tim Brewer reported that on November 12th a pork chop dinner will be held. It will be a sit-down or take out and tickets are \$10.00. On December 18th a Christmas Party for Koppel children is planned – more information to follow

Maintenance Report

Mike Stabryla, Maintenance, reported that the trees on Arthur Street and 5th Street have been trimmed. The pot holes have been filled and cold patched. Catch basins have been cleaned. 1st Ave is the only one that has been parged. The rest of them from 1st Ave down need to be parged. The catch basin on 5th and Mary is crushed and needs to be rebuilt.

Jeff Dengler stated that Mike has been helping install the cameras and they should all be done within the next week.

Engineer's Report

No report for this month.

Solicitor's Report

Joe stated that the discussion had earlier in the meeting about the Code Enforcement items was all he had for this month.

Mayor's Report

- Trick or Treat date has been changed to Oct. 31st from 6-8 pm.
- Mayor Miller asked if anyone wanted to participate in another event before the weather gets cold. A mini-fall event for October 15th with a movie and food at the baseball field is planned.
- A meeting was held with PUC, PennDot and Norfolk Southern Railroad and our other Engineering Firm, EADS. We asked for the meeting because we filed an informal complaint to Norfolk Southern about the drainage problems at the railroad crossing on Arthur Street and to discuss how we are going to bore underground to get the storm sewers installed once our grant is approved. Norfolk Southern agreed to come out in the next year and a half to re-dredge the area and make sure that everything is okay.
- A separate meeting was held with PennDot to discuss 351 and the water runoff. The water is running down the hillside from the large house that sits on top of the hill. PennDot will take care of the problem and lien the owner of the house. PennDot also wanted to discuss the possibility of an Agility Agreement with Koppel and this will be brought up at another meeting.
- Chief Warren and the Mayor met with Sgt. Burello of the State Police. Sgt. Burello wanted to make sure they were supporting us in a way that was beneficial to the community.
- A discussion with EADS was also had about getting a grant to fix the timing of the red light by Al's Corner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chuck Bevington stated that they did a walk around after the letters for maintenance of property were sent out. Most residents have cleaned up their property.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – Frank Pisano thanked Chief Warren on how an incident was handled. He also thanked Jeff Dengler, Chuck Bevington, and Mike Stabryla for installing the cameras.

GUESTS COMMENTS – a guest asked if we have an Animal Ordinance and complained about a cat digging up her flowers. Council stated that there is nothing that can be done about cats. Patty Palamone stated that there are kids on bikes going in and out of traffic and she fears that someone is going to get hurt. Another guest asked about why nothing is done about vehicles not stopping at the stop sign on 6th Avenue going into the mill and coming out of the mill. Tim Brewer complained about vehicles not adhering to a “no left turn” from Rt. 18 onto Mount Street. Chief Warren said he will put some officers at these sites.

MOTION TO ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.