

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Koppel Borough Fire Hall**

PRESENT

Barbara Gioffre, President
Tom Sobona, Vice President
Jeffrey Dengler
Chuck Bevington
Carrie Clerici
Suzanne Broge
Frank Pisano
Joe Budicak, Solicitor

ABSENT

Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor
Brandon Fombell, Engineer

GUESTS PRESENT

Anna Marie Plavecsky, Dave Plavecsky, Carol Shirilla, Joann Smith, Jim Krawchyk, Susan Krawchyk

MOTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS**Meeting Minutes**

- Approval of minutes of October 18, 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.

OTHER MOTIONS**Police**

- A motion to approve the trade of weapons to purchase a new weapon with registration at Markels. Final cost to the Borough about \$30. The trade involves two Glock 31s and trading for one new Gen 5, Glock 17- 9mm with night sights. Total cost is \$480 and \$450 is given for the trade-ins, with remainder of \$30 to be paid. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Fire Department

- A motion was made to approve a donation of \$500 to the Koppel Fire Department for the Children's Christmas Party. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Maintenance Department

- A motion to hire Jim Krawchyk on an "as need" basis for maintenance was made. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion to purchase (missing receivers) for the snow plow on ebay for \$190. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Garbage Pickup

- A motion to advertise for bids for garbage pickup and removal. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved. The contract is a 3-year contract.

REPORTS

Zoning Report

No report was provided from Owen Pella. Chuck Bevington reported that a meeting with Owen Pella took place to ask for more of his presence around town and to clarify his involvement in enforcement of ordinances. A future meeting of the Zoning Committee will need to be had to iron out the procedures for enforcement.

Police Report

Chief Justin Warren presented the report and noted 41 calls. Newly hired part-time officer Eric Squicquero will soon be on the roster once initial customary reports required are received by the police department.

Fire Department Report

Tim Brewer reported that the Koppel Fire Department held a pork chop dinner and sold 160 dinners. Upcoming is the children's Christmas party on December 18th. Also planned are a number of upcoming soup sales and will again be asking for requests of your favorite soups to involve the entire community.

Maintenance Report

Newly hired maintenance worker, Devon Price reported that organizing and cleanup is going on. Preparation for the collection of leaves is being made. Winter projects for preparing equipment for snow removal is being done. Missing (receivers) parts for the snow plow are needed.

Tax Increase and Budget

A proposal to increase taxes from 18 mills to 20 mills was discussed and is done by ordinance. Covid has fueled inflation and has increased the Borough's operating cost. An increase in fuel costs and aging equipment or lack of equipment has put a demand on current available tax revenue. In order to continue to provide services to the community, it was determined that an increase was necessary. A mill is equal to \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of taxable value. The 2 mill increase will amount to \$19,879.24 in revenue. The total yearly operating income for the Borough after the increase will be \$481,519.93. The intent to increase will be advertised in the Beaver County Times for three consecutive weeks. The Solicitor has advised the Borough and Athena Pangikas-Miller prepared the document. The amount of increase is to be included and shown on the 2023 Preliminary Budget and is available for public view. The 2023 Budget will need to be adopted at the December Borough Council meeting.

Armstrong Cable Contract

The Armstrong Cable contract expired in August 2022 and is needing to be renegotiated. Chuck Bevington will contract Armstrong Cable to do that. Currently, the cost to the Borough is \$207 per month. The Armstrong franchise fee paid to Koppel totals about \$5,000 per year. The bill includes internet and telephone for the municipal office and the police/maintenance building.

Immediate Borough Needs

- Dump truck bed repair
- Backhoe tires – not needed immediately
- GMC pickup tires

GUESTS COMMENTS

Questions were asked in regard to the millage increase and in answering those questions, the information provided to those questions is contained in the section of this report on Tax Increase and Budget.

The meeting was recessed and an executive session was held to discuss employment issues. The Municipal Office will be closed from Monday, November 21 to November 25, 2022.

RECESS AN MOTION TO ADJOURN - Meeting recessed at 6:30 pm. After departure of the guests, the meeting was reconvened and then adjourned at 7:15 pm.