

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 13, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.  
Koppel Borough Fire Hall**

**PRESENT**

Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor  
Barbara Gioffre, President  
Tom Sobona, Vice President  
Jeffrey Dengler  
Suzanne Broge  
Frank Pisano  
Joe Budicak, Solicitor

**ABSENT**

Carrie Clerici  
Chuck Bevington  
Brandon Fombell, Engineer

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Anna Marie Plavecsky, Dave Plavecsky, Carol Shirilla, Joann Smith, Jim Krawchyk, Susan Krawchyk, Chad Crawford, John Young, Matt Cesare, Tim Brewer, Mike Stabryla, Brett Plavecsky, Neil Figurel, Matt Aiken

**MOTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS****Meeting Minutes**

- Approval of minutes of November 15, 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.

**BIDS****Waste Removal Bids**

Bids submitted for contracting waste removal for Koppel Borough were submitted and opened at the meeting. The following companies submitted their bids:

Aiken Refuse - \$4,695.00/mo. – 2-year

Valley Waste - \$8,558.00/mo. – 2-year

J. Young Refuse - \$3,994.50/mo. – 3-year

All bids were bid at the same specifications. The low bidder was J. Young Refuse and a motion was made to accept the bid of J. Young Refuse at \$3,994.50/mo. for a 3-year contract. The Health and Sanitation Committee will also review the bid. The current contract for waste removal is with J. Young Refuse and is for 3-year at \$2,996 per month.

**OTHER MOTIONS****Mutual Aid Agreement with Big Beaver Borough**

Chad Crawford, Roadmaster, spoke about adopting an agreement with Big Beaver Borough. It includes use of trucks and equipment, snow removal, and other services. The agreement is non-monetary and is merely trading services back and forth. Insurance issues will be discussed with the Borough insurance company to make sure there is coverage with this agreement.

- A motion to adopt a mutual aid agreement with Big Beaver Borough. Motion to approve. All in favor and all improved.

### **Tax Ordinance**

- A motion to adopt a tax ordinance for a 2-mill increase was made. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved. The 2-mill increase will amount to \$19,879.24. After finalizing the budget, the total yearly operating income for the Borough after the increase will be \$501,399.17.

### **Budget Adoption 2023**

- A motion to adopt a budget for 2023 was made. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved. The 2023 Budget was and is made available at the Borough Municipal Office for review.

### **ACT 57 of 2022**

- A motion to adopt Act 57 of 2022. This is the ability to apply for a waiver for taxes. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

### **Christmas Gift for Employees of the Borough**

- A motion was made to approve a \$50 Christmas gift to each Borough employee. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

### **Park Grant – EADS**

- A motion to approve the application of \$2,500 for 2 park grants. Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Mayor Report**

A report on the result of a meeting that was held some time ago with PennDOT and requested by the Business District of Big Beaver to address the issues with traffic along SR's 18, 351, and 551.

Reported by Chad Crawford of Big Beaver:

A road study by Southwest PA Commission is being done to explore making a change to the road path that would remedy the traffic issues and address safety along that corridor for local business. Another meeting with PennDOT and all involved will be held after the holidays to discuss the results of the traffic and engineering studies.

For the police department it was recently made known that future paper citations will not continue to be filed in the same manner and the department would need to e-file citations making it necessary to contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to process handwritten citations. Another option is a traffic and criminal citation system called TraCs which is free, but the department would need to outfit the cruisers with a printer and paper. It will be a topic of discussion in the coming year.

#### **Zoning Report**

No report was provided from Owen Pella.

#### **Police Report**

A report was submitted by Officer Preisel.

#### **Fire Department Report**

Tim Brewer reported that the Koppel Fire Department will have their Children's Christmas party on December 18<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 pm and thanked Koppel Borough for their donation of \$500 to the party.

There will be upcoming soup sales and Tim Brewer is requesting that Borough residents participate by letting the fire company know what soups are their favorites. Athena Pangikas-Miller will design an announcement to be posted for the soup sales on Facebook.

The department has been renting the hall and had 21 rentals last year. Food events were 4 soups sales, a pulled pork dinner and a pork chop dinner. All were a success. Coming up - the hall is being used for 40 weekends.

**Maintenance Report**

Devon Price was not present at the meeting. Jim Krawchuk offered comments. The brake retarder restriction signs were installed along SR 18 by Big Beaver's Road Department. The signs in Koppel were installed by Koppel maintenance. Jim reported that all equipment has been repaired, is up and running, and ready to go. He also thanked those individuals who helped with equipment needed along the way for the extensive repair of vehicles, trucks, and equipment. Jim acknowledged the help provided by past President Mike Edmond for unselfishly providing tools and assistance for whatever the Borough's needs have been. Mike Edmond also provided maps of the Koppel Sewer System and Jim had two copies made and laminated.

**Armstrong Cable Contract**

The Armstrong Cable contract expired in August 2022. Chuck Bevington contacted Armstrong Cable and there is an ongoing conversation about a new contract. The Armstrong franchise fee paid to Koppel totals about \$5,000 per year. The result will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Currently, the cost to the borough is \$207 per month for internet/telephone for the municipal office and the police/maintenance building.

**GUESTS COMMENTS**

There were no comments made.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.