

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2021 – 6 p.m.
Koppel Borough Fire Company Hall**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Council:

Barbara Gioffre, President

Frank Pisano

Eugene Docchio

Jeffrey Dengler

Carrie Clerici

Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor

Secretary: Mary Sue Binkowski

Solicitor: Joseph Budicak

Maintenance: Michael Stabryla & Jim Krawchyk

Fire: Suzanne Broge

ABSENT

Council: Sandra Florie, Jim Loomis

Engineer: Brandon Fombelle

Zoning: Owen Pella

GUESTS

Tim Brewer, Chuck Bevington, Dave and Anna Marie Plavecsky, JoAnn Smith, Carol Shirilla, Susan Krawchyk, Samuel Crangi, Sonni Crespo, Ryan Barrow, Don Edinger, Joseph Campbell, Suzanne and Russell Broge

MOTIONS

Meeting Minutes

Approval of minutes of November 15, 2021 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.

2022 Budget

Motion to adopt the 2022 Budget.

Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Holiday Pay – Full Time Employees

For those employees who work full time and work on the holiday. They are paid for an 8-hour work day and also receive holiday pay at their regular pay rate. If the holiday falls on a Saturday, their holiday is Friday. If it falls on Sunday, their holiday is Monday.

Motion to adopt the above Holiday Pay for Full Time Employees

Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Moving Municipal Office

Motion to move the Municipal Office to the Rectory

Motion was approved.

Approved – Frank Pisano, Eugene Docchio, Carrie Clerici and Barbara Gioffre

Opposed – Jeffrey Dengler

RESOLUTIONS**Taxes**

Resolution levying taxes for 2022 remaining at 18 mils.

Motion made - all in favor and all approved.

REPORTS**Fire Department Report**

The Koppel Fire Company will have a Christmas party on Sunday, December 19, 2021 from 2pm to 4pm. There will be a Soup Sale on January 15, 2022 for take out only. Election for officers for the Fire Department was held and Morgan Price is now President. Suzanne and Russ Broge have resigned the fire department as of January 1st. Engine 2 is not holding water and the pumps need recertified. The cost for repair and recertification is \$986.86.

Maintenance Report

The Christmas lights are up and some have been rewired. The truck used to pick up leaves was taken for repair several weeks ago and has not been returned. The length of time and delay in the repair of the street sweeper and truck has caused the dissatisfaction of several Council members. Concern was expressed because the borough has only one truck and maintenance jobs are dependent on the truck. Eugene Docchio asked about the street sweeper which has an electrical problem that is draining the system. He asked if a toggle switch can be put on it to correct the problem and a response from maintenance said they could do that. Maintenance also noted that leaf pickup will be done once the truck is repaired and the salt shed is built.

Police Department Report

Chief Justin Warren reported that he and Officer Jeremiah Curtis were going through old citations and organizing them. The system ALERT, where citations are reported, has been updated and completed. It has not been updated in a very long time. Chief Warren is looking into using court envelopes by Friends Office so that the name of the offense, dispositions, preliminary hearing and final disposition are recorded for better record keeping. Inventory taken is recorded with the time and date and evidence is done in the same manner. The cost is \$170 for the envelopes. He also asked about money budgeted for training officers. For consideration there is an online class for handling cases and can be used for required police certification. The cost is considerably less than in-person classroom training.

Engineer's Report

No report given.

Solicitor's Report

The Brian Bush summary appeal for garbage payment on rental properties was held. He agreed to pay the fine. Judge Tesla held the hearing. The solicitor suggested that some changes may need to be made to the garbage ordinance because when payment is made for the tenant by a charitable organization it is not submitted to the landlord.

Mayor's Report

Koppel applied to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for policing the Koppel Reservoir. There was a problem in the Commission receiving Koppel's application and has now been corrected. The inspection by the Game Commission took place and they will now move forward to remedy the issues involving the Beavers and will trap and rehome them.

GUESTS

Ordinance Compliance

Complaints were made about junk cars parked for extended periods with no inspection or registration, etc. The zoning officer sent letters of warning to those in violation and their complaints were voiced about the notices. It was explained that ordinances pertaining to junk vehicles, vehicles parked for extended periods, and junk on properties that violate the ordinances will be enforced. The following ordinance violations were discussed.

Section 622 of the Zoning Ordinance lays out the regulations for Vehicle Repair and Service Stations in the Borough. Adopted in 2013.

- Subsection 622.3 states that “the site shall be screened with a six (6) foot brick or stone masonry wall or a solid fence of wood or other material, deemed appropriate by the Zoning Officer, along each property line which abuts any property zoned and/or used for residential purposes.”
- Subsection 622.6 states that “vehicles awaiting repair outside of the building shall be screened from adjacent properties and streets with a vegetation landscape buffer or opaque fencing at least six (6) feet in height.”
- Subsection 622.8 states that “no derelict, damaged or unlicensed vehicles shall be stored on the premises for more than 48 hours.” This subsection would apply to any vehicle not actively awaiting repair/maintenance.
- Section 302.8 of the Borough’s Property Maintenance Code does not allow for any vehicles that are unlicensed or inoperative (must remain in a roadworthy condition).

A remedy for storage of vehicles for a business is being explored, such as fencing or a vegetative buffer. The Borough is working to assist the property owner to become compliant. The Solicitor explained that Zoning Ordinances and Property Maintenance Codes are typical in communities and can be much more stringent than those in this Borough. No one is being singled out, but compliance is necessary for the benefit of the entire community. When complaints are made, the ordinances are reviewed for non-compliance and warnings are issued. The ordinances will be enforced.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Explosions

Mr. Plevesky asked if anything had been done regarding the noise coming from PSC Metals and contacting a university study group about testing for explosion and noise problems. Mayor Athena Pangikas Miller said she had contacted Penn State and was put in touch with a study group that does seismographic readings and has an affiliation with the school. She left a message and has had no response from them. It is believed that percussion from the explosions is the cause for the buildings shaking. The solicitor responded that he will follow through to address this issue.

Alleys

A complaint was made about an alley that was fixed by filling holes with millings and is now bumpy. It was explained that the Borough does not have the equipment required to make a smooth roadway. Consideration should be given that it is an alley and not a main road.

A question was asked about a realtor sign that is blocking the intersection on Mount Street. A call was made to the Castle Realty and asked them to move the sign back.

Resolve – The sign has been moved.

A reminder of the reorganization meeting on January 3 at the Koppel Borough Municipal Office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.