

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of Koppel Borough Council for *December 17, 2019*

Council Attendance: **Barbara Gioffre, Athena Pangikas-Miller, Michael Sabino**
Sandy Florie was contacted by phone for her presence so that a quorum was met

Borough Solicitor: Myron Sainovich Borough Engineer: Brandon Fombelle
Borough Police Officer: Shay Sarcone
Mayor: Tom Vannoy
Absent: Sandra Florie, Frank Pisano, Glenn Marshall, Jr., Eugene Docchio

Guests: Carol Shirilla, JoAnn Smith, Dean Knepp, Henry Tjerlund

The meeting opened with a Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance by Barb Gioffre

A motion was made by Michael Sabino and seconded by Athena Pangikas-Miller to accept the minutes from November 19, 2019 council meeting. The motion was approved by present council members.

A motion was made by Athena Pangikas-Miller and seconded by Michael Sabino to approve payment of the Borough bills from the general fund. The motion was approved by present council members.

A motion was made by Michael Sabino and seconded by Athena Pangikas-Miller to approve payment of the Fire Department bills. The motion was approved by present council members.

Koppel Police Department

The Police report was presented by Shay Sarcone of the Koppel Police Department.

Koppel Volunteer Fire Co.

Jill Richner was present to give the report from the Fire Department. A pork chop dinner is scheduled to be held on February 22, 2020. The Children's Christmas Party was well attended and a success. The borough had received notice that the Emergency Medical Coordinator (EMC) was not current in certification. Tom Vannoy asked if the EMC issue was resolved and Jill reported that John Stubbs has now satisfied the requirements for Koppel Borough's EMC.

Engineer's Report

The report was presented by the Borough Engineer, Brandon Fombelle of Michael Baker International (MBI). Regarding the traffic light, a proposal and an analysis for repair of the light and was received by the borough. Certificate of Insurance and bonds for Mahoning Builders was received by MBI for Mount Street repairs and that package will be provided to the borough. **Resolve: The timing was adjusted by Traffic Engineer Dan Fedio of PennDOT and the light seems to be working in an adequate manner.**

Solicitor's Report

For tax exemption of borough properties an Affidavit/Verification was submitted to the Board of Assessment in regard to 32-002-0109, 0110, and 0111 for tax exemption in October 2, 2019. A pretrial is scheduled for January 6th. It is anticipated that money paid in taxes for those properties should be refunded. A reminder to advertise for reorganization meeting was made. Also, a reminder that your

budget ordinances adopting should be sent to DCED by January 5th and also to advertise the tax ordinance and reestablish for the next year. The solicitor added that there is no change in his fees and he is interested in continuing to serve the borough as solicitor. **Resolve: Koppel is awaiting the pretrial hearing for taxes paid on Borough properties. The advertisement of the reorganization meeting was called into the newspaper. Money held in escrow from McGuire property sale is due to be released by McGuire Attorney Bea Cothen in the new year.**

Maintenance Report

Ken Orrico, Borough Maintenance Manager report was given about the leaf collection process and the maintenance department will continue to pick up leaves as long as requested. He will work on the alleys and received a load of gravel to repair alleys every week as long as weather holds up. Second Avenue has a problem in Meadow Alley and a complaint was made by JoAnn Smith. Ken assured her he would repair the alley.

Mayor's Report

There is a need to address a change in the Animal Ordinance and there has been a complaint of chickens in town. The current ordinance is needing to be addressed. A copy of the ordinance was given to the solicitor for review and update in the coming year.

4407 4th Avenue

Dean Knepp purchased the property out of repository and has asked for the borough's forgiveness of taxes for the year 2019-2020. Council voted to approve forgiveness of Borough taxes for 2019-2020.

2020 Budget

The budget for 2020 was approved by council vote.

Planning Commission/Committee

The inability to form a Planning Commission for Koppel Borough was discussed and resulted in a resolution for the council members to serve on the newly formed Planning Committee for the Borough. It was discussed if a resolution or ordinance should be made. Tom Vannoy said a resolution had been passed two years previous and the Koppel Council is now formed as a Planning Committee.

Koppel Borough received a thank you from Betsy Henrickson McGurdon for approving the Little Library she proposed to build for Koppel Borough and is to be erected in the grassy area of the borough building.

Ken Orrico, Maintenance suggested blocking the lower alley on 3rd Avenue behind the borough building and along the railroad tracks to be used only for borough use to eliminate the cost of constant repair. It will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Barbara Gioffre



Mary Sue Binkowski
December 18, 2019