

## Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of Koppel Borough Council for February 16, 2021

Council Attendance: Eugene Docchio, Frank Pisano, Barbara Gioffrie, Athena Pangikas-Miller

Borough Solicitor: Joseph Budicak  
Mayor:

Borough Engineer:

Borough Police Officer:

Also Present: Jeffrey Dengler, Adam Contino, Tim Brewer, Suzanne Broge, Russell Broge, and Devon Price  
The meeting opened with a Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance by Barbara Gioffre

---

A motion was made to accept the January 19, 2021 Minutes

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Motion seconded by: Eugene Docchio

Roll call –

\*\*\*The motion was approved by all present members of council.

---

A motion was made to pay the borough General Fund bills.

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio

Motion seconded by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Roll call -

\*\*\*The motion was approved by all present members of council.

---

A motion was made to pay the borough Fire Dept bills.

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Motion seconded by: Eugene Docchio

Roll call –

\*\*\*The motion was approved by all present members of council.

---

A motion was made to **allow Mike Stabryla to purchase the old Crown Victoria police car for \$500.**

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Motion seconded by: Eugene Docchio

Roll call –

\*\*\*The motion was approved by all present members of council.

---

A motion was made **to repair the Borough dump truck with a sheet of steel to be cut and welded onto the bed. Mike presented a bid for the material. It was approved to keep total including labor under \$1,000.**

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Roll call –

\*\*\*The motion was approved by all present members of council.

---

A motion was made **to adopt the admendment to our Garbage Ordinance.**

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio

Motion seconded by: Frank Pisano

Roll call –

\*\*\*The motion was approved by all present members of council.

---

A motion was made to **raise the garbage fee from \$15/month to \$20/month effective April 1, 2021**

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Roll call –

\*\*\*The motion was approved by all present members of council.

---

A motion was made to **accept the resignation of Mayor Tom Vannoy**

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio

Motion seconded by: Frank Pisano

Roll call –

\*\*\*The motion was approved by all present members of council.

---

A motion was made to **accept the resignation of Councilwoman Michael Sabino**

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Roll call –

\*\*\*The motion was approved by all present members of council.

---

A motion was made to **accept the resignation of Sergeant Pens on the condition of a resolution between Borough Council and Sergeant Pens.**

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio

Motion seconded by: Frank Pisano

Roll call –

\*\*\*The motion was approved by all present members of council.

---

### **Fire Department**

On March 21, 2021 the fire department will be holding a spaghetti dinner. Take-outs only. The department is selling tickets now. Monthly bills for the fire department were submitted and someone questioned one of the bills. Suzanne Broge said it was for the mounting of the new tires which were purchased last month for the Borough fire truck.

### **Engineer's Report**

The engineer was not present and no report was given.

### **Solicitor's Report**

#### **Kennedy Property**

A property was purchased by Mr. Kenneth Kennedy that was partially in the borough of Koppel and Big Beaver and the intent is to construct a garage. Zoning shows that the building of the garage falls under accessory use and is allowable, therefore, construction of the garage has been approved. A letter outlining this was sent to Mr. Kennedy indicating the borough's consent to build the garage with the restriction that it be utilized for residential use only.

### **PSC Metals**

Discussion continued from last month's complaint about the explosions at PSC Metals. The business conducted at PSC is industrial and the property is zoned heavy industrial. The kind of business being conducted fits in with the zoning ordinance. A public nuisance lawsuit could be filed but there is reluctance to go in this direction because this type of litigation can be very involved and expensive for the borough to pursue. There is also no guarantee of the outcome. The Environmental Protection Agency has been contacted by residents, but they are unable to address issues involving noise because this does not come under the guidelines of what they do as an agency. A request was made for the name and number of the persons and agencies contacted to further address this issue. The severity and frequency of explosions will need to be presented to PSC Metals plus a letter from the solicitor requesting them to alleviate the problem. Dave Plavecsky, a resident who complained at last month's meeting, was unable to attend tonight's meeting. An increase in severity and complaints about the explosions have increased.

### **Maintenance Report**

Mike Stabryla tore down a portion of the ceiling of the garage bottom bay because it was falling down and is working to repair it. Salt spreader equipment was repaired and is up and running. Pictures were submitted of the 10-ton dump truck which is in need of repair and will require a sheet of steel to be cut and welded to the bed. Mike presented a bid for the material. A motion was made and passed to pay for the metal and the cost of repair, keeping the total under \$1,000. Mike plans to use millings to repair alleys and fill potholes and the unused portion will be moved to the storage lot. He also plans to clean up around the rear of the borough building. Mike has donated equipment to the maintenance department (a grinder and a drill press).

### **Guests**

A compliment was paid to Mike Stabryla for the excellent job done on roads during the various snow falls.

### **Police Car**

A motion was made and approved to sell the old police car to Mike Stabryla for \$500. The Kelly Blue Book is estimated at \$150 to \$415 for the Crown Victoria. Rules governing advertisement and bidding do not apply since the purchase price is under the allowable amount. The license plate was taken off and given to McCandless Ford for the new car. Council agreed to allow the removal of all the markings on the car, as well as radio and other police equipment.

### **Garbage Ordinance**

The amended garbage ordinance was advertised and a motion was made and approved. The changes are as follows:

- To allow for the change of rates and other fees by resolution.
- To add the wording "Other Municipal Services" to the description. This includes other services Koppel provides to the community and does not charge for.

### **Garbage Fee Increase**

A motion was made and approved to increase the garbage fee from \$15 per month to \$20 per month. This fee increase will begin in April. The changes were made at the suggestion of DCED (The Department of Community and Economic Development).

### **Resignations**

Letters of resignation were submitted and a motion to accept the resignations of Mayor Tom Vannoy and Councilwoman Michael Sabino were made and approved by council. The approval of the resignation of Sergeant Charles Pens is conditioned on the resolution of the remaining issues between Borough Council and Sergeant Pens.

### **Vacant Council Positions**

Two residents were present to express interest in serving on council; Jeff Dengler and Adam Contino. Both expressed an interest to help the community and make it a better place to live. Council asked to interview the interested parties and hope to appoint someone at the next meeting.

### **Mayor Vacancy**

Council will need to appoint a Mayor. According to the solicitor, there is 60 days to appoint.

Note the following taken from the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes:

#### **Duties of Mayor**

- To preserve order in the borough, to enforce the ordinances and regulations.
- Report to council the state of the borough and make recommendations to council on matters of borough concern.
- Performance of marriage.
- In the event of emergency, request aid from Emergency Management Services.
- The Mayor has full charge and control of the Chief of Police and the police force.
- The Mayor does not vote or preside over meetings with the exception of the reorganization meeting (on even years).

### **Emergency Management Coordinator**

John Stubbs, Koppel Borough Emergency Management Coordinator has expressed a desire to resign and has stayed on until someone was found to fill that position. Devon Price of the Koppel Fire Company is interested and will be in contact with John Stubbs for the transition. Suzanne Broge expressed that Devon is very dedicated and reliable. Devon has agreed to do what is required to assume that position.

### **Sale of the Rectory**

The current renter of the rectory has expressed a desire to purchase the property. The mortgage for the property would need to be satisfied. An appraisal of the property would need to be done and a subdivision of the parcel is necessary. Advertisement of bids would need to be made and bids taken. A negotiation of the agreement of sale would have to be made conditioned upon paying for the subdivision of the parcel. A list of appraisers was obtained from the Appraisal Institute.

An executive session was called on personnel matters and the meeting was adjourned.