

**MINUTES - KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MARCH 15, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**Koppel Borough Municipal Building**

**ROLL CALL**

Barbara Gioffre, President  
 Tom Sobona, Vice President  
 Eugene Docchio  
 Jeffrey Dengler

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

Carrie Clerici  
 Chuck Bevington  
 Athena Pangikas-Miller, Mayor

**Absent:** Frank Pisano

**Guests Present:** Timothy C. Brewer, Patty Palamone, Anna Marie Plavecsky, Carol Shirilla, Joann Smith, Morgan Price (Koppel Fire Company), Josh Haddox

**MOTIONS**

**Meeting Minutes**

Approval of minutes of February 15, 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.

Motion to approve the purchase of a lift and air compressor for maintenance.  
 Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Motion to approve telephone service from Armstrong Cable at \$124.75 per month.  
 Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

**REPORTS**

**Zoning Report**

A home in the Borough was inspected for livability by the Beaver County Humane Society officer, our Zoning Officer, and law enforcement. The Humane Society was able to take a number of animals.

The subject of hoarded homes was discussed and the potential hazard of fires. The problem with these homes is it becomes a long process with zoning and law enforcement involved, and is not easily remedied.

It was asked if anyone on Council would volunteer to handle ordinance violations by noting properties in violation and giving the information to the Borough Secretary for letters to be sent to the residents notifying them of the violation and giving a period of time to correct the situation. In the event it is not taken care of, the information would then be sent to Owen Pella, Zoning Officer for further enforcement and possible fines.

### **Police Report**

The department continues to look to hire new officers. A meeting was held by the County to inform departments of the conversion to digital transmission and the County's part in implementing the purchase of radios. Mayor Athena Pangikas-Miller and Chief Justin Warren attended the meeting.

A complaint of children breaking into a garage on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue had been reported and the identity of the children is known to the police. Eyewitnesses saw the event and the police are investigating the incident.

### **Fire Department Report**

The soup sale on March 19 was held. The soups for sale were Cheese Broccoli, Ham and Bean, Wedding and Potato soup. There will be another soup sale in April. Koppel FD expressed thanks for their successful sales. It was suggested that they hold a strawberry shortcake and ice cream festival.

Fire Department meetings are the second Sunday of the month and are open. Morgan Price reported that the pump was fixed in the fire engine but additional work is needed before it will be ready for testing and passage.

The fire hydrant near the newly built bridge is fenced and the Koppel FD is asking for a key to access it when needed. A request to PA American Water will be made for the key. The Koppel FD expressed the need for the hydrant to remain; so, a request was made that it not be removed. A new contract for maintenance cost of \$20 was received by the Borough for its continued care and will not be signed until access to the hydrant is obtained.

### **Maintenance Report**

The need for 5-ton of cold patch for repair of potholes was made. Also, needed is a skid of mulch for the park and other areas in the Borough and will be purchased soon. Break retarder signs will be installed once direction is given by Michael Baker for placement.

### **Engineer's Report**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue**

The repaving and condition of the base of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue was discussed. The overall condition of the base is poor and needs repaired so that the paving will last for years. It is estimated at the base is 4"-6", with 1.5" wearing course. The need to repair with 6" gravel, 4" asphalt base course, and 1.5" wearing course will be a huge cost. Alternate ideas will be looked at and a discussion with PA American Water will be held to discuss their responsibility toward repair in accordance with the road opening ordinance. Some of the stormwater inlets need to be raised and some need to be replaced.

#### **Lemon Way**

Lemon Way curbs were laid on top of the pavement and those will be removed and replaced with asphalt curbs. Cement work will begin on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in one week.

#### **PennDOT – SR 351 water running on road near the bridge**

There is continued monitoring of the ongoing issue of water running onto SR 351. Michael Baker is in contact with PennDOT and Tenaris and they are looking to correct the problem.

#### **EADS Stormwater**

The engineer for Michael Baker, Brandon Fombelle, has reviewed the proposal from EADS for the grant for stormwater on Arthur Street. At their suggestion, changes were made to the contract and a revised proposal was made and yet to be voted on by Council. It is currently being reviewed by the Solicitor.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Liens on a property have been filed at the Beaver County Court for unpaid garbage fees and liens may possibly be filed on others.

PSC Metals complaints led to a call to a city solicitor for Newport, Kentucky, a community that also has problems with explosions coming from a metals plant. An ordinance was done by Newport to require the facility to monitor the number of explosions. Newport met with the company and the metal facility put in a sound barrier and it did not solve the problem. New Castle, Pennsylvania was called about explosions they are experiencing from a metals plant and they also have not had success with the problem. A meeting with the new owners of PSC is suggested. In looking for a solution it was found that there is equipment called a pre-shredder that may lessen the explosive events. Various ideas to stop the explosions were discussed.

### **Mayor's Report**

The police department has retainment issues and discussions will take place on how to entice new hires. Koppel will be advertising for officers. Representatives of the department were asked to attend a meeting with Beaver County to discuss the upgrade to digital radios. Athena Pangikas-Miller and Chief Justin Warren attended. Beaver County will provide 80% reimbursement for the new radios. Athena will also attend a meeting at the County for the tax reassessment and asked if anyone present had questions they wanted her to present at the meeting. Information will be forthcoming on the reassessment. Parts for the police cruiser have finally come in and the cruiser has been repaired and is back in use.

### **Guest**

Josh Maddix, Chairman of the Beaver Falls Recreation Board, spoke about being interested in using the Koppel Ballfield for the softball season to begin on April 18<sup>th</sup> with an indetermined number of games. Tom Sobona spoke to say that there are players from Koppel, however, the field may not be suitable for use and is mostly grass and possibly would not benefit the girl's team for play.

Tim Brewer spoke about traffic that was built up in town with the closing of 588 in Eastvale and at 5 A.M. cars are not stopping at the stop signs and are pulling out onto SR 18. He warned that accidents could happen if this is not stopped. A request for not allowing a left hand turn on Ida Street was made. A request to the police will be made to monitor this area.

### **Landlord Licensing**

A look at the licensing requirements for landlords will be made by Council at a meeting to be scheduled in the future.

### **Garbage Bills**

Paying for postage vs. online payment of garbage fees was discussed. It was noted that online payment would mean a possible cost for the service of 2.9% and would complicate the billing process because of the software used by the Borough. Garbage billing will remain the same and will be mailed monthly.

### **Move to the Rectory and Phone Service**

The Borough Office move to the Rectory will take place on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The telephone service for the Borough is currently Verizon and the average monthly bill for service is \$160. Armstrong Cable was contacted to provide a bid to switch the phone service to Armstrong. A contract was received with a bid for 2 lines at \$49.90 with unlimited local calling 1500 minutes long distance each month and 3 lines at \$74.85 with unlimited local calling and 2,000 minutes long distance each month. Each additional minute is billed at 5 cents. A one-time installation fee is \$79.95 with a contract for 36 months. The total monthly fee for phone service of 5 lines will be \$124.75. Council voted in favor to change service.

After a phone call to Armstrong disputing the \$79.95 installation fee, it was agreed that the fee will be charged but Armstrong will waive the first month's phone charge of \$124.75 and is a savings of \$55.20. The monthly savings by switching to Armstrong would be approximately \$35.25.

### **Security Cameras**

Councilman Chuck Bevington offered to look into the Borough's purchase of security cameras.

MOTION TO ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.