

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of Koppel Borough Council for April 20, 2021

Council Attendance: **Barbara Gioffre, Eugene Docchio, Frank Pisano, Sandy Florie, Jeff Dengler, Jim Loomis**

Borough Solicitor: Joseph Budicak
Mayor: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Borough Engineer: Absent

Borough Police: Officer Lusby

Also Present: Chuck Bevington, Carol Shirilla, Tim Brewer, Henry Tjernlund

Absent: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

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

A motion was made to **accept the March 16, 2021 Minutes**

Motion made by: Sandy Florie

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: Sandy Florie

Motion seconded by: Jeff Dengler

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: Sandy Florie

Motion seconded by: Jim Loomis

Roll call –

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

A motion was made to **allow Solicitor Joe Budicak to send PSC a letter stating the complaints of the Borough residents regarding the explosions and requesting PSC to address the problem.**

Motion made by: Jeff Dengler

Motion seconded by: Jim Loomis

Roll call –

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

A motion was made to **hire Justin Warren as a Part-time Police Officer**

Motion made by: Sandy Florie

Motion seconded by: Jeff Dengler

Roll call –

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

A motion was made to **purchase the following items for the Maintenance Department**

A sawzall for \$200

A metal plate for the dump truck for not more than \$500

A no-frills lawn mower for \$200.

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Eugene Docchio

Roll call –

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

A motion was made to **pass an Ordinance for Break Retarder restriction on SR 18**

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Jim Loomis

Roll call –

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

A motion was made to **subdivide the parcels of the School/Church/Rectory. Then the next step is to get an appraisal and a survey, if necessary, for the possible sale of the Rectory.**

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call –

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

Police Department Report

Report was handed out

Fire Department Report

No one was present to represent the fire department. Devon Price, EMC was unable to attend because he had to work.

Engineer Report

Brandon Fombelle was not present. No recent engineering projects have taken place in the Borough.

Solicitor Report

In reference to the continuing issues with PSC Metals, Pam McQuisiton was contacted and also Attorney John Herman for the DEP. Attorney Herman stated that not much can be done by the DEP as their concern is Air, Water and Ground Pollution; explosions are not their purview. Solicitor Joe Budicak said our options are limited but some restrictions could be done by Ordinance. The Borough has a public nuisance ordinance but nothing that mentions noise. We could add noise to our current ordinance but when doing so it could be challenged that PSC was there before this zoning ordinance existed and would be grandfathered in. Another approach is to contact PSC by letter formally stating what the issues are and determine if we can come to some sort of agreement. Jeff Dengler said that people in other communities have posted complaints on Facebook and asked if Homewood, Big Beaver and North Sewickley could be contacted to see if they are also affected. As far as damages from the explosions, the Solicitor stated that there is a burden of proof when complaints of broken windows, cracking plaster etc. are reported and it would be difficult to prove the cause is from PSC. Mayor Athena Miller asked if a meeting between the

Borough and a PSC representative could be setup. Jeff Dengler asked if OSHA could be contacted and the Solicitor stated that would have to be done by an employee for OSHA to become involved. A motion was made and approved by Council to allow Solicitor Joe Budicak to send PSC a letter stating the complaints of the Borough residents regarding the explosions and a request for PSC to address the problem.

Mayor Report

The Koppel Police Department is losing several police officers and those vacancies need to be filled. An applicant for one of those vacancies is Justin Warren who formerly worked for Koppel in the department. A motion was made to hire Justin Warren and was approved by all of council.

Maintenance Report

Beavers and Quads

Mike Stabryla reported two problems at the reservoir. First, quad runners and dirt bike riders have been breaking into the gate. Second, beavers are building up the dam which increases the water table. Present at the meeting was Chuck Bevington of Koppel who is a retired Game Warden. He said that Koppel can contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission and they will trap and move the beavers. He suggested that we ask the game commission to police the area but still allow access for fishing and recreation. Chuck stated that if Koppel would sign up under the Land Use Act, they would not be liable for any accidents. Council is in favor to call the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the removal of the beavers and remove the dammed-up areas the beavers have created.

Storage Area

Contact with the person owning the military vehicles was made and an agreement to move the vehicles to one side was made. Koppel will then be able to utilize that area for storage of road material.

Three bids were obtained for a roof on the salt shed – the lowest being \$7,000. No decision has been made regarding what type of roof is needed. Blanks was contacted to add an additional block for height (two more feet)- cost is \$50 a block and \$90 to set the block in place. A decision has not been made regarding the purchase of additional blocks. Mike requested the approval to purchase a sawzall needed for cutting the present roof off. A no-frills lawn mower is also needed. Mike received bids to repair the dump truck that were very high and it was agreed that he would purchase a steel plate from Armour Manufacturing at \$480 which would be welded onto the truck by Mike. A request to purchase flags for the memorial was approved. Motions were made and approved to purchase the following:

A sawzall for \$200

A metal plate for the dump truck repair for no more than \$500

A no-frills lawn mower for \$200.

Guests

Memorial Day

A question was asked if the Memorial Day program will be held. According to Pennsylvania Outdoor Gathering Restrictions, 250 people are permitted. Mayor Athena Miller will make preparations for the scaled down program to be held. Several requests were made to the Borough office by family members of Veterans to have their name added to the memorial. The Mayor will research the cost of adding the names.

Old Business

Weight limit on 2nd Avenue after paving

Concern was expressed about heavy trucks on 2nd Avenue gaining access to Youngblood's property and once PA American Water has replaced the sewage and water lines, how these heavy trucks will affect the newly paved roads. The Solicitor said a weight limit could be adopted by council and he advised to

contact the borough engineer. If these truck are allowed use by Mount Street, that would mean catch basins could be destroyed.

Resolve: Brandon Fombelle of Michael Baker Engineers was contacted to advise on the weight limit.

Tax Refund Request to Beaver Falls School District

A request to the Beaver Falls School District was made for a refund of \$9,300 for paid school taxes on the school/church properties.

Resolve: A letter with documentation was sent to Beaver Falls School District

Unfinished Business

Break Retarder Restriction

A Break Retarder restriction was requested by Big Beaver for PennDOT. Koppel would need to pass an ordinance and purchase a sign to post on SR 18. A separate break retarder also needs to be made. Koppel will be responsible for posting in the northerly direction of SR 18. Big Beaver is responsible for posting in the southerly direction of SR 18. A motion was passed to pass an ordinance for break retarder restriction.

School/Church/Rectory

The sale of the rectory to an interested buyer was discussed and the need to subdivide the parcel. The sale of the rectory would satisfy the debt from the mortgage and any additional money would then be specifically used for the school/church renovation. It was noted that tax revenue for the borough would be gained by selling the rectory. A motion was made to subdivide the parcel and get an appraisal and a survey if necessary, for the sale of the property. All of council approved.

AED Machine

The AED machine box was installed in the borough office and it was questioned if it would be best to install it in the police office, since they are in possession of the device. Also discussed was the need for one legally in the borough office.

The meeting was adjourned.