

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 15, 2021 – 6 p.m.  
Koppel Borough Fire Company Hall**

**Roll Call**

Mayor:	Athena Pangikas-Miller	Secretary:	Mary Sue Binkowski
President:	Barbara Gioffre	Zoning:	Owen Pella (absent)
Councilmen:	Frank Pisano	Solicitor:	Joseph Budicak
	Skip Docchio	Engineer:	Brandon Fombelle (absent)
	Saundra Florie	Maintenance:	Mike Stabryla
	Jeff Dengler	Police:	Justin Warren
	James Loomis	Fire:	Jill Richner

Guests: Carol Shirilla, Tim Brewer, Chuck Bevington, Henry Tjernlund

**Motions**

**Meeting Minutes**

Approval of minutes of May 18, 2021 meeting.  
Motion to approve. 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.

**Pennsylvania Game Commission**

Approval to make application and cooperative agreement with the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the reservoir.  
Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

**Resignation**

Glenn Marshall, Jr. resigned from Council on May 18, 2021.  
Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

**Police Department Report**

The department report was presented to all of Council by Officer Justin Warren. Councilmen Frank Pisano and Jeff Dengler asked about enforcement of zoning regarding code violation and grass cutting. Suggestions by Officer Warren to enforce zoning ordinances by the police department were discussed and further discussions are to be had with Chief Matt Smock and the Mayor about procedures.

**Fire Department Report**

Jill Richner reported that the fire department is opening back up from Covid and the department is training in Ellwood. Volunteer Tim Brewer is working on ideas for future food fund-raising events. Jill thanked Koppel for the Memorial Day Service and Koppel thanked the department for the great job they did.

### **Engineer's Report**

Brandon Fombelle was not present at the meeting but sent his report. The three projects he is working on are the PA American Water Plan Review, Second Avenue Pavement and the Rectory Lot Subdivision. He addressed the PA American Water plan for water and sewage replacement on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Richard. After reviewing the plans provided to the Borough by PAWC, he asked them to revise their construction plan and they have agreed. Also, Youngblood Paving requested improvement in the quality of the pavement so as to withstand traffic on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue once the next phase of PAWC is completed. Options are being reviewed. A hold has been placed on the subdivision and Michael Baker International has provided a fee proposal for the work.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Attorney Joe Budicak spoke regarding a letter he sent to PSC Metals addressing the complaints from residents about explosions at the plant. A request was made from Brian Chimmel of the DEP to notify him if and when there might be a meeting or contact with PSC Metals. The solicitor said he is waiting for a response from PSC.

He stated that the Break Retarder Ordinance was advertised and is now up to Council to move forward on this.

Our request to Beaver Falls School District for a refund of two years of taxes (2018 and 2019) that were paid for the church, school, rectory and ballfield was answered and a refund for one year was given. The Borough questioned why a refund payment of only one year was given because an appeal was filed for tax exemption following these acquisitions and it was granted by Beaver County Assessment. Further research into what was done by the previous solicitor in regard to the appeal will be done and why only taxes for 2019 were refunded.

### **Maintenance Report**

Mike Stabryla said one of the Police cars is due for inspection next month. Repair work was done on the zero-turn lawnmower. Youngblood Paving will be paving in the Borough on the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The ballpark concession stand is being painted on the exterior. Most of the weeds are cut at the ballfield. Mike asked if the flag pole at the church can be taken down and moved to the ballfield. Frank Pisano would like it to be at the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line. Weeds on curbs will be sprayed and curbs will be painted at the corners. The rubbish pile will be taken to the reservoir and cleaning up the trash near the tracks is a weekly job.

Clogged stormwater drains near the railroad tracks need cleaned out, as it is the pipe under SR 351 Arthur Street. In times past, equipment was rented from D&G Rental to clean out the pipe. Mike will look into the cost for rental of the equipment. The street sweeper is in the storage lot for now until the hydraulics can be fixed. A request for bid for a metal roof for the salt shed was discussed.

### **Mayor's Report**

The landlord of a 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue property was asked to evict his tenant because of the 3 strikes policy ordinance. The chief spoke with the magistrate and the landlord did file to have that tenant evicted, but did not show up for the court hearing and it was thrown out. This has happened to other properties owned by this landlord. The question is "can this landlord's rental license be revoked for this." Officer Justin Warren spoke on behalf of the police department and stated that in the past a police officer was the enforcer of ordinances and maintenance for rental properties. He asked if the department along with Zoning Officer, Owen Pella, could continue with this practice and it was suggested that Owen attend a meeting to discuss this.

June 30<sup>th</sup> is Potter Baseball Guinness Book World Record Playing Catch with funds raised to benefit CureSearch Childhood Cancer. The event starts at 7 pm across the country and the event is virtual. Those wanting to sign up can do so at Sign Up Genius. The cost for those 13 and older is \$10 and \$5 for 12 and under. The event will be held at the Koppel Ballpark.

Mayor Athena Pangikas-Miller talked about having fireworks for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and contacted a company about the cost. To purchase commercial grade fireworks would be about \$5,000. Jill Richner said if tickets were sold, it would not be difficult to raise that amount. It was discussed that on August 7<sup>th</sup> a baseball reunion and a type of community day will take place and suggested that fireworks be done at that time and allow for more time to raise the money.

### **Guests**

#### **Uncut grass and debris**

There have been complaints about properties with tall grass and weeds in the borough and it was brought up in the meeting again by those present. A guest complained about rodents and the smell of cat urine near the resident's home and what could be done about it. The solicitor's recommendation is that the borough has ordinances that address these complaints.

The following was discussed:

- To enforce the ordinances and depending on the issue, the police will notify the owner.
- A letter will be sent to the owner and 5 days will be given to rectify the matter.
- Those property owners that do not comply after a warning will be fined according to the property maintenance code or applicable ordinance.
- In the event that the issue is not rectified, the borough will take steps to remedy the problem and a bill for services will be sent to the owner.
- If the bill is not paid, it is the option of the Borough to lien the property owner.
- It was suggested that a notice be placed at the Post Office, on Facebook and Koppel's website so that residents are aware of the Borough's policy.

### **Garbage**

Complaints were discussed about violations of the Garbage Ordinance. Violations could be subject to a fine of \$100 each day that the violation continues to exist.

It was noted that there are delinquent refuse accounts and violations need to be enforced.

Another matter is that the ordinance states each home is to have two garbage cans with lids. The animal problem exists because garbage is not being disposed of properly. Also, birds pick at the garbage bags which results in garbage strewn about. The ordinance is posted on koppelborough.org.

### **Michael Yeck, Game Warden**

#### **Pennsylvania Game Commission**

Michael Yeck spoke regarding the application and agreement for the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Hunter Access Program for the Borough in the reservoir area. The program opens up this area to the public with restrictions. Once application is made, the Pennsylvania Game Commission will patrol this area. The agreement is renewable within 5 years. A motion was passed to apply and Mayor Athena Pangikas-Miller will process the application and mail it to the commission.

**Baseball Reunion**

A Koppel Sports Reunion will be held on August 7, 2021 at 3 pm and all are welcome to the free event. They are planning to serve hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, etc.

**Covid Relief**

The government award of \$75,466.50 for the Covid Relief Fund for Koppel Borough has been submitted and awaiting approval. It would be paid in two increments; one in 2021 and the other in 2022.

**Cameras for Intersection of SR 18 and SR 351**

Present at the May Council Meeting, District Attorney David Lozier spoke about putting cameras at the intersection of SR 18 and SR 351. The intent is to limit crime. Koppel and Big Beaver Borough would both be participants. The initial cost for the cameras would be \$17,000 of which the County would pay \$10,000 and the remainder of \$7,000 is shared by Koppel and Big Beaver. The yearly maintenance fee would be \$2,500 and it was asked if this is also a shared cost or does each municipality pay \$2,500. Further discussion of this is tabled until the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.