

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of Koppel Borough Council for June 16, 2020

Council Attendance: Barbara Gioffre, Eugene Docchio, Frank Pisano, Athena Pangikas-Miller, Michael Sabino, and Sandy Florie

Borough Solicitor: Joseph Budicak
Mayor: Tom Vannoy

Guests Present: Jeff Dengler, Carol Shirilla, Ken Orrico, Martin Sheeler

Absent: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

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

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A motion was made to accept the May 19, 2020 Minutes.

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller Motion seconded by: Eugene Docchio

Roll call – Completed

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

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

Motion made by: Michael Sabino Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call – Completed

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

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A motion was made to pay the Borough Fire Dept bills for June

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio Motion seconded by: Michael Sabino

Roll call – Completed

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

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A motion was made to accept a Resolution to change the name on the Berkheimer account for Mary Sue Binkowski to be the representative of the Borough in regard to tax information.

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller Motion seconded by: Eugene Docchio

Roll call – Completed

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

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A motion was made to use money from the sale of unused equipment towards a new power tamper which costs around \$1500 new and \$600 used.

Motion made by: Sandy Florie Motion seconded by: Eugene Docchio

Roll call – Completed

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

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Athena Pangikas-Miller questioned renegotiating the contract for Armstrong Utilities when the contract is ended. Council will investigate other service and cost for another internet provider. Several calls were made to Armstrong Utilities by the Borough regarding the contract and left messages, but the call was not returned. Contact with a sales person was made who tried to sell additional service, but not in regard to the contract.

Guests

Jeff Dengler asked about a car parked on Mount Street and 3rd Avenue that has been there for at least two months. He noted that the license plate is out of registration. The police will investigate.

Carol Shirilla asked about a truck parked on the sidewalk on 2nd Avenue and Arthur Street and that it is obstructing the view of traffic. Also discussed was a vacant house with high weeds on 3rd Avenue and Ida Street and looks to be abandoned. The police will investigate both.

Athena Pangikas Miller voiced a complaint from nearby neighbors on 2nd Avenue regarding the Borough's street sweeping. Several of the neighbors around the 2600 block complain about the sweeper throwing debris and chunks of asphalt. They have difficulty finding alternate parking when street sweeping comes through. Ken Orrico stated that all of 2nd Avenue is in need of resurfacing and there is a consideration to not sweep this avenue because of that. He also added that street sweeping is only once a month and that the pile of debris picked up is about 600 pounds of material from our roads. Also questioned by those are people parking against the flow of traffic and why it is not consistently enforced. The police will enforce parking against traffic.

Michael Sabino asked if those who do not move their cars during street sweeping would be ticketed. The answer was "no".

Ken Orrico reported that the sweeper conveyor belt was rebuilt before his employment and was at a considerable cost. The rebuild did not include new rollers and they are now needed along with a new belt (has a tear). He requested that if possible new rollers, belt, and side shields can be purchased over the winter months in preparation for next year. He said it is not a necessary emergency but would help if it was fixed over the winter to make it ready for spring. Maintenance is continuing to patch potholes and is asking for the residents to contact the borough if they notice any holes needing fixed on roads and alleys. Work will begin on the ballfield in preparation for Potter Baseball. He also questioned the repair of drains on 6th & Mount. He said the drains are very low and not working well and built with brick. He suggested we get a bid from the contractor to repair them when they are there paving the entrance on Mount Street. He also asked if Koppel Maintenance should repair them instead of the contractor.

Skip Docchio mentioned that something needs done to eliminate the water runoff onto Mount Street. He said the storm drain is not functioning and "totally worthless" and causes a puddling on Mount which freezes in the winter. Skip said there is a lot of water running down Mount Street and maybe because the ditch that was once there was eliminated long ago and water runs down the side of the storage facility that lacks a gutter on the backside facing the alley. Ken Orrico stated that there is a plan to break into the pipe and put a small storm drain in the middle of the alley. Skip suggested asking the facility owner to put a gutter on the building and "T" it into the pipe that exists there. Maintenance needs to look at this.

Sale of Unused Equipment at the Borough Building

Old bikes were sold for \$100.

Ink cartridges sold on Ebay for \$50.

It was suggested by Skip Docchio to use the money for a power tamper at about \$1,500 new and \$600 used. A motion was made that the money received by all unused equipment be set aside for purchase of the tamper. It was decided to have a garage sale for the unused items in the borough garage. The public will be able to look at what is being sold and make an offer.

Engineer's Report

Brandon Fombelle was not present for the meeting but in his report MBI was asked to coordinate existing street opening issues between the Borough and Columbia Gas. MBI created a letter summarizing the issues the Borough has found to be deficient and submitted that letter to Columbia Gas. Columbia Gas is working with the Borough to correct the work that was completed.

Solicitor's Report

The ordinances for garbage will be advertised and ready for next month's meeting. For those who are not paying their garbage fees, a municipal claim could be filed against them and against the property. It could also be done for high grass in the event that the Borough cuts the grass when the property owner does not comply with a request. A short ordinance for the collection of interest and a fee schedule for legal fees will also be done by the solicitor. The borough would then be able to cut the grass and place a lien with interest charges and legal fees when at the time of sale of that property the borough could recoup costs.

Garbage has resumed for normal pick-up and those present expressed their satisfaction with the garbage pick-up service. Mary Sue Binkowski has been very successful in collecting unpaid garbage bills.

Mayor's Report

Potter Baseball

For Potter Baseball on July 17th, there will be 10 children and 2 chaperones and housing for them will be needed when they arrive. It was hoped that they could stay at the rectory, but because of Covid 19 Brayman Construction is still renting the building and PennDOT is not wanting possible access to Brayman's work product if they were to stay there. An alternate was discussed of housing them for the night at the Koppel Borough Fire Hall, but no showers are available. Other accommodations will be looked into. Update: Housing has been confirmed.

Police Department

Koppel filed charges against police officers Borghi and Sarcone. It was questioned and verified that Borghi was not let go because of Covid 19. They both are now suspended from their duties at the municipality they are currently working for.

It was suggested that a camera be installed in the police office for the protection of the officers.

Meeting was adjourned by Barbara Gioffre.