

**MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 20, 2021 – 6 p.m.
Koppel Borough Fire Company Hall**

Roll Call

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

Guests: Carol Shirilla, JoAnn Smith, Tim Brewer, Chuck Bevington, Henry Tjerland, Dave and Anna Marie Plavecsky

Motions

Meeting Minutes

Approval of minutes of June 15, 2021 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.

Borough Truck

Approval to have the truck repaired after damages with a deductible of \$500.
Motion to approve. All in favor and all approved.

Covid Relief

Approval to pay \$1,000 to Mike Stabryla for lost time and \$500 to Mary Sue Binkowski for applying for the Covid Relief Grant that the Borough received.
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. Mike Stabryla questioned Officer Warren about an out-of-state vehicle at Al's that was abandoned and asked what could be done. Officer Warren said the property owner would need to report the vehicle to the police for towing and the vehicle owner would be billed.

Fire Department Report

None given.

Engineer's Report

The concern of heavy truck traffic on 2nd Avenue and the posting of a weight limit on the road was addressed by Brandon Fombelle. Youngblood Paving was contacted regarding their trucks using 2nd Avenue to gain access to a

property they own at the old school. Brandon reported that Youngblood Paving is pursuing driveway access from PennDOT to allow access from SR 18 to their property, and, if granted, this should eliminate the problem for Koppel. If Koppel wants to post a weight limit on 2nd Avenue, core samples can be taken when 2nd Avenue is under construction and being repaved. And if not, it should be ok to use the existing section assuming that heavy trucks are no longer using 2nd Avenue. Brandon believes that the best course of action would be to put a weight limit on the road in the event the property is sold. He will also look into the area of Cedar Alley that was dug up for the new water and sewer line to see if it was paved prior to being torn up. A recent aerial map suggests that it may have been paved. PA American Water is disputing that.

Solicitor's Report

None given.

Maintenance Report

Mike Stabryla spoke about the current paving on 3rd Avenue by Youngblood Paving. Youngblood's gave Koppel 11 to 12 loads of millings (about 3 tons) from the milled streets of 3rd and Richard. It was questioned when 2nd Avenue would be paved because there are big potholes on 2nd that need to be addressed. Paving will take place after the replacement of water and sewer lines by PA American Water. The start date for this project has not been announced yet. Mortimer Construction will do 2nd Avenue and Richard Street and 4th Avenue will be done by Graziani Construction. It was then discussed if the millings could be used for a walking path around the ballfield. The cost of the equipment to do the job has not been determined yet, so council decided to wait until all the information is gathered before any planning begins.

The flag pole was taken down and the best place to install it was discussed. Council members would like it installed at the 3rd base line at the ballfield. Brandon Fombelle, Engineer, will look into the best way to install the pole. In the process of taking down the flag pole, the Borough truck was damaged and will be repaired by McElwain's. The truck is covered by insurance. It is in good condition with low gas mileage and it was suggested that the truck also be undercoated. Mike will do the undercoating. A motion was made to repair the truck.

The estimate from Ellwood City Borough to rent equipment for the clogged stormwater drains was \$200 per hour and \$50 for the person to run the machine. Dalton was also consulted but a price was not given. It was determined that Koppel Maintenance will do the work by hand. Cleaning out the stormwater pipe around the railroad tracks was discussed and whether PennDOT needs to be consulted. The intersection of SR 351 and SR 18 has steel plates covering the storm drains and it is believed that water from the intersection contributes to the problem along the tracks. Brandon Fombelle, Engineer, will look into the matter.

Mayor's Report

None given.

Zoning Report

Owen Pella, Zoning Officer, was in attendance and gave his report about properties with various ordinance violations. Owen spoke about another property that had been previously cited. That property has just been sold and the new owner will be cleaning up both inside and outside the vacated property. They plan on renting the property.

Further discussions with the Borough's Solicitor will take place at the next council meeting to discuss a landlord's refusal to pay for garbage and which, civil and/or criminal proceedings, will be taken. Unpaid fees due the Borough by this landlord is in excess of \$1,200.

A question was asked about violations that involve high grass, bushes and hedges that need cut and who is to address these issues. Going forward, letters of violation will be sent to homeowners noting the violation and indicating a time frame to comply. If it is not addressed, a second letter will be sent with a fine and the homeowner has a right to appeal. Hazardous overgrowth of bushes was questioned and whether the Borough is legally permitted to cut them at a right-of-way. The Borough's Solicitor will be asked to advise the Borough on how this can be remedied at the next council

meeting. A question about signage that limits the view of motorists was asked. Brandon Fombelle reminded Council that this issue was addressed previously and according to PennDOT was within the allowable distances.

Break Retarder information and cost to purchase signs was given by Big Beaver Borough. Our Break Retarder Ordinance was adopted and advertised. The Borough is now ready to make the purchase of those signs. Mike Stabryla will look into the cost and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Appointment to Replace Glenn Marshall, Jr.'s Council Seat

Carrie Desanzo Clerici was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Glenn Marshall, Jr. All were in favor and all approved.

Covid Relief

Koppel Borough received the Covid Relief Grant from the State of Pennsylvania and the first of two installments was received. Mary Sue Binkowski, Borough Secretary, applied for the grant and a motion was made to give her \$500 in appreciation for completing the application. Council approved giving \$1,000 to Mike Stabryla for lost wages due to Covid. The grant money is to be strictly used according to the State's criteria. All were in favor and all approved.

Cameras for intersection of SR 18 and SR 351

District Attorney David Lozier, who was present at the May Council Meeting, spoke about putting cameras at the intersection of SR 18 and SR 351. The intent is to limit crime. It is not a traffic enforcement device. 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 the question was asked if this is also a shared cost or does each municipality pay \$2,500. Big Beaver's Council President will be contacted. Further discussion of this is tabled until the next meeting so that more information can be obtained. Additionally, possible donations from local businesses could be solicited to make up the costs. The question was asked if insurance costs would be reduced if installed.

Guests

A guest asked whether the Solicitor had received a reply back from PSC Metals about the explosions. Since the Solicitor was not present, no answer could be given. His response will be given at next month's meeting.

Baseball Reunion

A Koppel Sports Reunion will be held on August 7, 2021 at 3 pm and all are welcome to the free event. If you plan on attending and you wish to bring a covered dish, it would be appreciated. Otherwise, food served will be hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, etc.

Motion to adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.