

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of Koppel Borough Council for November 17, 2020

Council Attendance: **Eugene Docchio, Barbara Gioffre, Sandy Florie, Athena Pangikas-Miller**

Borough Solicitor: Joseph Budicak
Mayor: Tom Vannoy

Borough Engineer:

Borough Police: Chief Smock & Officer Garcia

Guests Present: Jeff Dengler, Anthony Florie, Tim Brewer, Russell Broge, Suzanne Broge, Carol Shirilla, Andrew Ohorodnyk, Mary Ohorodnyk and Ken Orrico

Absent: Frank Pisano, Glenn Marshall, Jr. and Michael Sabino

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 October 20, 2020 Minutes**

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio

Motion seconded by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Roll call –

***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: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call -

***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.**

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call –

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

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A motion was made to send the overdue payment to Mahoning Builders

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio

Motion seconded by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Roll call –

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

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A motion was made to rent the Rectory to Healthcare Licensed Personnel

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call –

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

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A motion was made to amend the garbage ordinance to read “and other municipal services”

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call –

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

Eugene Docchio questioned a bill for the Fire Department at the last council meeting. It was found that the bill in question is insurance that covers the equipment and building. This insurance was required to purchase after the department had a fire in 2014.

Fire Department

Two tires need replaced on the fire engine the borough owns. The cost is \$330 for each tire, for an approximate cost of \$800. Suzanne Broge said the paperwork will be made available to the borough.

A takeout dinner held by the fire department went very well and they are planning to hold another dinner sometime in March. No Christmas party will be held this year, but plans are ongoing for a party next year. Mayor Tom Vannoy thanked the fire department for their assistance with Halloween.

Solicitor's Report

A lease was drafted for the rental of the rectory for the perspective tenant. Work is ongoing on the revised garbage ordinance and newly proposed traffic ordinance.

Tenaris has agreed to pay for the road repair on 5th and Mount and will only send the payment to Mahoning Builders and not to Koppel Borough. Mahoning Builders is asking for payment from Koppel Borough for the overdue invoice. A motion was made and approved by Council to send the payment for the overdue invoice and on November 19, 2020, a supplemental agreement was drafted by Solicitor Joe Budicak and mailed to Mahoning Builders for them to endorse over the check received by them from Tenaris for payment to reimburse Koppel Borough its payment.

Police Report

The Beaver Falls Police Department made a presentation of the services they could provide the borough for policing.

Maintenance Report

Any residents needing leaves picked up must call the borough. It was agreed that Tuesday and Thursday leaves will be picked up unless it is raining. December 8 is the end of pickup. The old tires on the street sweeper were replaced.

Ken Orrico, Maintenance Manager will be leaving the employ of the borough on January 15th.

Mayor's Report

Police residents finding needles are asked to call the police for removal and disposal.

The Cares report was sent in by the borough Secretary and included police costs due to Covid. The due date was November 13th.

Guests

Drew and Mary Ohorodnyk are attempting to sell their house and are asking that the borough look at properties on SR 18 1st Avenue and 1304 1st Avenue. The properties have overgrown weeds and debris and have caused those interested in the house to walk away. Photographs were taken and given to the Chief of Police. The zoning officer will also be inspecting the properties. If there is reluctance by the property owners to clean up the area, the solicitor indicated that Koppel Borough has an ordinance that is enforceable and the borough could go in and clean it up and then put a lien on the property for payment.

A guest asked what is being done when the zoning officer is called and it appears that nothing is done. Barbara Gioffre stated that the worst properties are addressed first and given to police and the zoning officer. Due to the amount of properties needing addressed, the borough is not financially able to address them all. He asked if the county gets involved. The solicitor indicated that the county doesn't have the authority to address these type of issues and the borough is responsible for enforcement of ordinances. If entry to the home is denied by the owner, under the right circumstances a search warrant would allow entry when appropriate. Jeff said that there are two homes that he believes are not livable, and asked when can someone determine that this house is not livable.

A guest asked about cats that have become a problem to neighbors in the 6th Avenue area. Koppel does not have an animal control person. There is an ordinance that states residents are not permitted more than two animals.

A guest reported that left turns from Ida Street to Rt 18 are dangerous. Cars are coming out and not stopping. It was suggested that a “no left turn sign” be put on that road. It is a borough street and the ordinance can be changed.

A guest reported that there are people who are taking advantage of our garbage pickup. They put out items that the service doesn’t take.

NEW Business

Food Distribution

Several people have volunteered to help with a food distribution this week at 2 PM. There will be approximately 100 boxes of food and there are no financial restrictions.

There is also food in the concession stand that needs to be given away. It was decided to give the food away at the Food Distribution.

DCED

At the suggestion of DCED the Garbage Ordinance needs to be amended to read “and other municipal services”. Koppel provides other services such as leaf pickup and collection of grass clippings that costs our community. To justify the fees charged this addition is needed and would have to be advertised. Eugene Docchio made a motion to amend the garbage ordinance to read “and other municipal services”. The motion passed with all in agreement.

It was also suggested by DCED to add an Occupancy Permit for Landlords. Passage of the ordinance would allow for collection of a fee each time a tenant moves out and a new tenant moves in. The borough has a Rental License Ordinance where the landlord is charged yearly a fee for a license to permit rental of his property. Periodic inspection of rental properties is done by the zoning officer. The solicitor will look at the rental license ordinance.

Rectory Rental

The rectory has been rented to Healthcare Licensed Personnel, LLP. A lease will be signed on November 18, 2020. They have agreed to pay the rent in advance for 6 months. The lease is yearly and can be extended to three years. Rental includes the building and the parking area. They will be responsible for the snow removal and grass cutting. A motion was made to allow rental of the rectory to Healthcare Licensed Personnel, LLP. It was seconded and approved by council.

A motion was made by Eugene Docchio to adjourn the meeting.