

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of Koppel Borough Council for December 15, 2020

Council Attendance: Eugene Docchio, Glenn Marshall Jr., Frank Pisano, Barbara Gioffre, Sandy Florie
Michael Sabino

Borough Solicitor: Joseph Budicak
Mayor: Tom Vannoy

Borough Engineer:

Borough Police Officer: Chief Smock

Also Present: No Guests were present

Absent: Athena Pangikas-Miller

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 November 17, 2020 Minutes

Motion made by: Sandy Florie

Motion seconded by: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

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: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

Motion seconded by: Michael Sabino

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: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

Motion seconded by: Michael Sabino

Roll call –

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

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A motion was made to purchase batteries and an antenna for the Police radio – not to exceed \$150.00

Motion made by: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

Motion seconded by: Frank Pisano

Roll call –

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

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A motion was made to give employees \$50 Christmas gift

Motion made by: Sandy Florie

Motion seconded by: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

Roll call –

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

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A motion was made to purchase a new Police car

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

Roll call –

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

A motion was made to **promote Officer Charles Pens to Sergeant effective January 1, 2021**

Motion made by: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call –

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

A motion was made to **approve the General Fund Budget for 2021**

Motion made by: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

Motion seconded by: Frank Pisano

Roll call –

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

A motion was made to **advertise the Amendment to Garbage Ordinance #399**

Motion made by: Sandy Florie

Motion seconded by: Frank Pisano

Roll call –

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

QUESTIONS

A question was asked about the emergency meeting minutes held by Council and if they are available. Those minutes have not been typed but will be available soon.

A question was asked about the Alborn Tires bill and what it was for. They were for the replacement of tires on Police Vehicle 237 and included breaks, control arms and inspection.

A question was asked if the Borough bought the tires for the fire truck requested by the department. They have not been purchased as of the date of this meeting. The Koppel Fire Company had requested at a previous meeting that the Borough purchase new tires for the truck owned by the Borough and the approximate cost is \$800.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A question was asked about what is sexual offense in his report. Chief Smock answered that it is any kind of sexual abuse or offense.

A question asked about the investigation regarding the robbery of Al's. Chief Smock reported those questioned at Al's had no idea what direction the person came from, but thought they fled on foot and could not see them once they left the store. Police searched the area and looked at video from the store. In the video, the robber was covered entirely except for her eyes. It is believed that she came from the Ellwood direction and pulled in on the side of Al's and backed in. The video was poor and the make or model of the vehicle could not be discerned. It appeared that the vehicle had a broken hubcap in the back. There were many leads and tips and the police made a thorough investigation from all the leads. All leads were exhausted as there were many discrepancies in those leads.

New Police Vehicle and Equipment

The department is in need of equipment to be replaced; those items being portable radio batteries and are three at \$25.99 each and antennae at \$12.99 each. The cost will be \$100 +/- . The radios are in good condition and are analog. The motion was made and passed to purchase new batteries and antennae for the radios and will be purchased through the Chief's Amazon Prime account.

The Borough owns two Police cars used by the department. Car 236 is a 2006 Crown Victoria model and is unreliable and needs repair frequently. Car 237 is 2012 Ford Interceptor and is in decent condition with minimal repair needed but is aging out.

The purchase of a new police vehicle was discussed and information was obtained by Chief Smock to do that. He spoke with Dave Gladowski of IBIS TEK, Butler, PA. They passed on the name of Kathie Seech of Leasing Specialists, Inc. who handles leasing. There was a cost estimation given for a new 2021 Ford Interceptor at a base price of \$33,844 and the outfitting is approximately \$10,000 +/- . A new radio that will be compatible with both analog and digital (when digital becomes available) would cost \$1,200 and could all be worked into the lease. The total cost of the vehicle and outfitting is about \$45,044.

The following lease agreements could be used:

3 year lease at \$15,575.02 – 3 annual payments

4 year lease at \$11,869.36 – 4 annual payments

5 year lease at \$9,649.32 – 5 annual payments

Sandy Florie asked where the funds would come from. Tom Vannoy said that the funds are from a donation given to the Borough by Koppel Steel years ago. The account is to be used specifically for police purchases and is about \$25,000. When money was taken from the account in the past to purchase a vehicle or equipment, it was then replenished monthly with \$1,000 per month keeping the money donated at its same amount of \$24,000 to \$25,000. It was pointed out that the 2021 budget includes \$12,000 as a line item to replace the money in the account.

A motion was made and passed to purchase a 2021 Ford Interceptor with a 4-year lease at \$11,869.36 through Costars. The total cost being \$47,477.44 at an estimated total and a max not to exceed \$50,000. The specialist gave contact information on two dealerships. It was recommended to go with McCandless Ford because it is closer and the offer was better. It will be leased until it is paid off and then owned by the Borough. Ron Lewis will service the vehicle. Both dealerships are Costars and we would not have to bid this out.

Council agreed to sell Car 236 and remove all markings.

A motion was made to appoint a Sergeant to the police force, who will act as an OIC in the department and will have authority to manage the daily affairs of the department. A motion was made and approved to appoint Officer Charles Pens as Sergeant at a rate of \$20 per hour effective January 1.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

A request was made to hold an informal meeting with the fire department and will be scheduled at the earliest convenience. It was agreed to contact Jill Richner to set up the meeting. The Emergency Management Coordinator John Stubbs will also be contacted.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Suggestions on how to proceed with delinquent garbage accounts were sent to Owen Pella.

A supplemental agreement was drawn up between the Borough and Mahoning Builders that once Tenaris paid Mahoning Builders a check would then be sent to Koppel to reimburse the Borough for the payment made by the Borough to Mahoning Builders for the completed work.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Ken Orrico was not present for the meeting. Wilson Construction spread millings in an alley without charge as a good will act. A question was asked about the pipe and frame work behind the Borough building and what the purpose was for it. It is to be used as a roof structure for a tarp to cover the salt supply. It was determined to ask Ken when the project will be completed.

Ken Orrico will be resigning as of January 15, 2021 and there was discussion about the wages and insurance paid him to possibly keep him from leaving. Concern was expressed because of the snow season.

MAYOR REPORT

No report

NEW BUSINESS

Cares Act

The Cares Act information was sent in by Mary Sue Binkowski and the Borough was given \$18,963.58.

2021 Budget

A motion was made and approved to adopt the budget for 2021. New software was purchased and the Borough is working with DCED to get a more accurate history on income and spending so that budgeting in the future will be easier.

The budget shows the maintenance supervisor salary is based upon what Ken Orrico is making now and a revision to the budget could be made later.

Garbage Ordinance Amended

At the suggestion of DCED, Barbara Gioffre requested that a motion be made to amend the Garbage Ordinance to read "And Other Services". The Borough provides services to its residents in addition to garbage pickup and costs for services are rising while the Borough has been absorbing the costs. The amended ordinance was provided and will need to be advertised in the paper and then adopted at the next meeting. It was also suggested by DCED that the fee for garbage pickup be raised to \$20 per month.

Local Property Tax

A discussion on raising the local property tax was made due to increased costs for the Borough to operate. The current millage is 18 mils and must be done by ordinance, advertised prior to adoption, and included in the yearly budget before adoption. It was decided to revisit an increase at a later date and in time for 2022 annual budget. Currently, the millages for County is 26 mils, Local is 18 mils, and School is 68 mils. Other ways of raising revenue could be through street lighting, fire department, etc. A question was asked about taxing billboards and the solicitor reported that billboards are taxed through property assessment.

Food Distribution

Food distribution this month is on December 15 at 3 pm. Tom Vannoy will use his truck to get the food from Victory and will use the Borough trailer. Since it is winter time, using the Borough truck would mean having to remove the plow and Tom has agreed to use his truck. Koppel will be given 100 boxes.

Christmas Gift for Borough Employees

A motion was made to give each Borough employee \$50 as a Christmas gift from the Borough and that includes all of the police, maintenance workers and Borough Secretary.

Meeting was adjourned.