

Work Session Meeting – November 5, 2019

Attendance

Mary Sue Binkowski, Secretary; Barbara Gioffre, President; Sandra Florie, Vice President; Michael Sabino; Skip Docchio; Athena Pangikas- Miller.

Streets and Roads

Traffic Light – Traffic light on SR 18 is not working correctly. When reported to PennDOT a response from PennDOT reported that it is Koppel's responsibility for maintenance and its cost. The cost is shared with Big Beaver Borough. Bruce and Merrilees is the contractor for repair. Taking into consideration the fact that the road is deteriorated and in need of repair and that the loop is in the road, repair would be pointless. The loop detector is sending repeated signals, causing traffic to slow and results in backed up traffic.

Resolve: Athena Pangikas-Miller met with Aaron Bernstine to discuss the traffic light and the cost of repair and Koppel's responsibility. The road needs to be repaired before the light is repaired.

Koppel Borough Engineer Brandon Fombelle suggested to review and pass an application for property use. Because the borough does not have a planning commission, we need an application specific to land development. When companies come in to do work, an application would be filled out with a description of the type of work to be done, length of job, etc. so to ensure work is done as the application states and is done in a workmanlike manner.

Utility work in Koppel. It was suggested that a packet be given to utilities who are working in Koppel that includes our ordinance to ensure the ordinance is followed.

Resolve: Further discussion with Brandon Fombelle to get this implemented.

Bid for repair of Mount Street. Mahoning Builders was winner of the bid. Brandon Fombelle recommended that we go with Mahoning Builders the lowest bidder. It was bid at prevailing wage. The road to be repaved 50 feet curb to curb from SR 351 on Mount Street to 6th Avenue – the entrance to Koppel Steel. The work is to move and replace storm drains and install new curbing. Michael Baker's fees will be added to the cost and all will be billed to Koppel Steel.

Railroad Crossings

Photographs were sent to Norfolk Southern Railroad in an email to Bill McVickers showing hazardous areas along the track, requesting that they be address. Suggested also to contact railroad and ask for repair of crossings.

Resolve: A previous phone call to the railroad resulted in nothing being done to repair the crossings. A crew was sent to inspect and found that no repair work would be done. The borough is waiting for a response to the request for removal of rails left on the side of the track and the ditch behind the Linarelli building being a hazard.

Borough Full-Time Employees - Police and Maintenance

Health coverage – The UPMC Health Plan will be changed to include a \$1,500 deductible for full time employees of the borough. The change in plan will be a cost savings to the borough of \$4,580.28 per year.

Police

Retention of officers and benefits offered to help keep officers was discussed. Adding a pension or 401k was discussed.

Resolve: An appointment will be made to check into the options of both a PMRS pension or a 401K. Council will question other communities asking what is offered to police officers and their costs.

A question of cost of uniforms was asked when officers leave our employ and the cost to the borough for the loss.

Resolve: It was found that uniforms are reused when officers leave. A storage room with uniforms is stocked with different sizes, but there are times when officers who are smaller need alterations or new uniforms need to be purchased.

Note: As of this writing and in preparation of the budget, it is shown that the police department operates under budget.

Office Equipment/Building Repair

The need for new printers/copier/fax – police department and borough office. Speerhas Business Machines was called to purchase a printer/copier/fax at \$729 plus \$295 service agreement that provides for total repair and toner replacement, for one year, for 10,000 copies for the borough office. Upon writing these minutes, the printer for the police department quit working and the borough is awaiting the delivery of another machine.

Building - Police Department – need for windows. A bid for replacement with glass block windows. Next year's budget would take this into consideration.

Motion: A motion was made by Athena Pangikas Miller to award Mahoning Builders the bid to repair Mount Street. The motion was seconded by Michael Sabino.

Motion: A motion was made by Eugene Docchio to hire two part-time police officers. The motion was seconded by Michael Sabino.

Motion: A motion was made by Sandy Florie to move Shay Sarcone from part-time police officer to full-time assistant police chief. The motion was seconded by Athena Pangikas Miller.

Motion: A motion was made by Athena Pangikas Miller for Shay Sarcone to receive healthcare coverage. The motion was seconded by Eugene Docchio.

Motion: A motion was made by Michael Sabino to change plans and add a \$1,500 deductible to the UPMC Health Plan coverage. The motion was seconded by Sandy Florie.

Motion: A motion was made by Eugene Docchio to purchase printer/copier/fax from Speerhas for borough office and police department. The motion was seconded by Sandy Florie.