

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
SPECIAL MEETING
For General Purpose
APRIL 25, 2017**

Opening Prayer by Councilman George Malakoski
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Novakoski, Bruno R. Varano, Stephen Motyka, George Malakoski, Walter Lutz, Mark Burns and Richard Zigarski

ABSENT: Nicholas P. Goretski III.

APPOINTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: Solicitor William C. Cole and Treasurer Paul A. Niglio.

PRESENT: Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Lubeski

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON ANYTHING THAT IS ON THE AGENDA:

No one spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Bruno R. Varano)

Gregg Lubeski President of the Lower Anthracite Baseball League. Mr. Varano stated that he has a question on what teams are involved.

Mr. Lubeski replied that they are from Mt. Carmel, Shamokin, Elysburg, Ashland. Mr. Varano questioned if they all have insurance. Mr. Lubeski replied yes and per this event everyone is to have a copy of their insurance. Mr. Varano questioned if they are aware that there is no alcohol allowed. Mr. Lubeski replied yes. Mr. Varano stated that you all would be responsible for clean-up and any damage that may occur would be turned into their insurance. Mr. Lubeski agreed.

Mr. Lubeski stated that it gives the kids more playing time and gets them acclimated from going to little league to teener league before the season starts. Mr. Varano stated that he realizes that they got caught in a pinch here and asked that they try and give them a little more time next time. Mr. Varano stated that he realizes that they didn't have much of a choice here and that they got bamboozled by Bunker Hill. Mr. Lubeski stated that it was a miscommunication and added that there was no bamboozle. Mr. Varano stated that he was just using that word off the top of his head.

Mr. Malakoski questioned when the game will be played. Mr. Lubeski replied that it will be this Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Malakoski questioned if he checked with the Coach at Mount Carmel. Mr. Lubeski replied that he has and assured that he will be at the field at all time.

MOTION- Mr. Lutz made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Malakoski to approve the request for baseball tournament to be held this weekend at the baseball field.

Mr. Motyka stated that he just wanted to mention that if they ever want to hold another one to just come and give us a little bit of an advanced notice and stated that they would be more than welcome.

Mr. Lubeski stated that he has seen that a job johnnie is down there and questioned who supplies that. Council replied that it is the school and that he should check and make sure that they don't lock it. Mr. Varano stated that he is welcome to get another one and put it down there for the weekend if need be. Mr. Lutz commented that the school keeps up with it and stated that it is remarkably clean adding that the school keeps up with it.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Mr. Lubeski asked if they could practice to pitch down there after the high school and stated that as he had already said they all have insurance, there are three Mount Carmel teams. He stated that they would always clear it with Kulpmont first adding that there is always supervision.

Mr. Varano stated that he should just check with them and then let us know. Mr. Varano added that we went through that with Ray one time before he gave the field to the Jets or something and it ended up to be a debacle because we had other games scheduled and there they were bringing their team down and said so you have to check.

Mr. Lubeski stated that if there would be any damage while they are there the insurance would pay for it adding that there is respect for the field obviously because if we didn't have these fields we couldn't play the games. Mr. Varano stated that is what they are there for and we just have to keep in mind the citizens of this town that pay for that and as long as you guys respect it that is fine.

Mr. Varano stated that we have two Requisitions to be approved for reimbursement to get this freaking loan closed out. Mr. Varano asked Rhonda Wilk if everyone has a copy of these papers. Rhonda replied yes. Mr. Varano stated that the one covers Shaffer Designs, Mech Tech, Advantage Engineer, Baer Wolfe Associates and KPI, that is Requisition 13 and the other is Requisition 14 Reimbursement for the interest paid to date on the loan with BB&T Bank.

Mr. Varano stated that a lot of these are going to be reimbursements of money spent down at the Fir Street project. Mr. Varano stated that the USDA, the way that they explained it to us and asked Rhonda Wilk to correct him if he is wrong, they explained to tear that building down and to get a new roof on the maintenance building we would have to start a whole new project.

Mr. Varano stated that we are going to re-coup some of the money that we spent down there and then it goes right into the General Fund and then we can pay to have the building demolished and put a new roof on the garage and finish up anything else that we will need to have done. Mr. Lutz questioned if that \$136,000.00 goes into the \$790,000.00 loan, he stated that he didn't understand the sheet. Mr. Varano replied yes adding that it is part of the \$790,000.00. Mr. Lutz asked if we can tell what is left because he didn't understand that sheet. Rhonda Wilk said that is this sheet and passed it over which is the breakdown provided to Michelle at the USDA for loan close.

Mr. Lutz stated that \$790,000.00 is the loan and \$250,000.00 for the building, \$32,500.00 for the closing and \$14,000 contingency second from the bottom of the letter. Mr. Varano stated that we have to shuffle everything around because of the USDA, we are going to use that money to put a roof on and everything. Mr. Lutz stated that he is good with all that he just wants to know the amount left. Rhonda Wilk stated that she does not want to say an amount without having the papers with her. Mr. Lutz asked Mr. Varano what he is saying and what does he want to do. Mr. Lutz stated that you want to close out the loan so that we get the \$136,000.00 and when we get that it will go back into the General Fund and then we can use that for whatever may come up. Mr. Lutz stated that perhaps tomorrow he can come up and he and Mrs. Wilk could go over that, because he didn't understand.

Mr. Lutz asked the question if we do not have to pay anything, but we are going to get paid. Mr. Varano replied that is what this requisition is a reimbursement. Mr. Varano questioned if this is coming from the BB&T or the USDA. Rhonda Wilk replied that this money will be reimbursed from the USDA.

MOTION- Mr. Varano stated that he will step down and make the motion and was seconded by Mr. Lutz for Requisition #13 for reimbursement of money paid as listed on the requisition.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BURNS (yes), GORETSKI (absent), LUTZ (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), ZIGARSKI (yes), VARANO (yes)
6 YEAS and 0 NAYS

MOTION- Mr. Varano stated that he will step down and make the motion and was seconded by Mr. Lutz for Requisition #14 to be submitted for the reimbursement of the interest paid to BB&T.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BURNS (yes), GORETSKI (absent), LUTZ (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), ZIGARSKI (yes), VARANO (yes)
6 YEAS and 0 NAYS

Mr. Varano stated that he talked with Manny Giorgini and stated that the price went up \$272.00 on the garage door for the Fire Department.

MOTION- Mr. Lutz made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Burns to spend up to \$9,000.00 for an appropriate door for the Fire Department.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BURNS (yes), GORETSKI (absent), LUTZ (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), ZIGARSKI (yes), VARANO (yes)
6 YEAS and 0 NAYS

Mr. Varano asked Rhonda Wilk if the USDA Amended letter of Conditions is the letter that he has on the Agenda is the same letter that we just went over. Rhonda Wilk replied yes. Mr. Varano stated that it is basically a breakdown for the loan amount of \$790,000.00. Mr. Lutz asked if he could get a copy of that. A copy was passed down to Mr. Lutz.

Mr. Varano stated that last year George and his wife planted flowers down at the Town Park and would like to have them do the same again this year.

Mr. Lutz stated that he would approve to spend up to \$200.00 to Mr. Malakoski and his classmate Miss Patty to purchase and plant flowers.

MOTION- Mr. Lutz made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Zigarski to spend \$200.00 for Mr. and Mrs. Malakoski to plant flowers at the Town Park.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Mr. Varano stated that we heard from Kurt Masser on Monday, he called and let us know the he talked and met with UGI and stated that Kulpmont is very close to getting gas in the Borough. Mr. Varano stated that they did a study and now would like to send up engineers to go over right of ways, numbers and meet with council. Mr. Varano stated that the numbers are very close.

Mr. Motyka added that by numbers it's a threshold as to where it is profitable for them. Mr. Varano stated that he asked that council calls Lisa Harris adding that he called her on Monday and she has yet to get back to him. Mr. Varano stated that he is waiting to hear from her. Mr. Motyka stated that he called Gordner's office and they already received a call from them, and so they are going right to the politicians, saying we are that close to making that happen.

Mr. Varano stated that if they would have only done this last year and coordinated with the Aqua project they could have saved all that money on paving between last year and this year. Mr. Lutz commented that the deal with utilities is that you don't have enough time with utilities but let's all think about this, most likely if this goes forward they are going to come to us and are going to want us to waive everything.

Mr. Lutz stated that we had a discussion when Aqua came to us adding that everybody should be prepared and think about what their thoughts are. Mr. Lutz stated that the project will be ten million dollars and stated that he does not know what the fees will be but if it finally comes forward we need to be prepared. He stated that what happens is people go on gas and come off oil, adding that he has done some work on this, and if a thousand people do it they can conceivably save \$1,000.00 per year,

that's a million dollars a year. Mr. Lutz stated that over a period of time at a net present value it makes the community more wealthy to the tune of ten million dollars. Mr. Lutz asked council to trust him on that, trust him on economics.

Mr. Lutz stated that it is really a good project and the other thing is you have to convert your heating, but they will help you with that and you can pay off over a long-term deal. Mr. Lutz stated that with that said, who knows what the price of gas will be twenty years from now. Mr. Lutz stated that he has done some work for people and they found 500 times more natural gas than what they thought. Mr. Lutz stated that whoever is the youngest guy here, gas will be low for long as you live, your kids maybe not, but for the next 60 years it is going to be very low.

Mr. Varano stated that we have to think about the paving and all adding if we have to ban some, then we have to ban some. Mr. Motyka stated that there is a difference between the Aqua project there was no money value to our residents and with UGI they can save a lot of money.

Mr. Lutz stated that it is inconceivable that some of our old folks all of a sudden they have another \$150.00 a month. Mr. Varano commented that we want to keep the gas, not shipping it all overseas, we want to save money here. Mr. Lutz stated that there is so much gas. Mr. Varano stated that we are number one in the world now adding that we surpass Russia. Mr. Lutz stated that most of the wells up North are capped, they don't need them.

Mayor Novakoski stated that there are only two of them up by him that are producing gas, they capped them all off. Mr. Lutz stated that the gas went down to a dollar per cubic foot and stated that is incredible. Mr. Motyka questioned on how Council feels about making an announcement when the next meeting comes up and there is more of the public here and let them know or keep it low key for now. Mr. Varano states that he thinks that we should let them know, this way if they have plans on buying a new furnace they can hold off on buying a new furnace. Mr. Varano stated that we have been waiting two and a half or three years already and we were very enthusiastic then. Mr. Varano stated that we thought we got shunned, but we didn't.

Mr. Varano stated that he will need a short executive session at the end of the meeting

FINANCE/PURCHASING/GRANTS – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated that the article made the paper that BB&T donated \$2,500.00, \$1,000.00 is a check to us and the other \$1,500.00 we will need to turn in receipt and they will reimburse us. Mr. Motyka stated that since that article appeared he has been getting calls with interest to purchase a bench and have their name on a bench. Mr. Motyka stated that he has sent letters for donations out to businesses.

Mr. Motyka stated that he wants permission to move forward on these benches. Mr. Motyka stated that it went from 6 stations down to 5 stations because it is a half mile track. Mr. Motyka stated that he would like to purchase these and get them in our hands so that when BB&T does volunteer in May or early June we could put them in the ground right away.

Mr. Motyka stated that Ed O’Hearn called him and said that he could get them at a better price because his father has an upholstery business and we could probably save on shipping because it is out of Lancaster.

Mr. Motyka stated that he needs to follow up with him adding that shipping could be every bit of \$400.00 and so if we send our guy down we can save on shipping. Mr. Motyka stated that we are still researching on what we want. Mr. Lutz stated that \$1,750.00 to acquire benches. Mr. Motyka asked for up to \$4,500.00. Mr. Lutz stated \$4,500.00 and then we are going to get \$2,500.00 from BB&T. Mr. Motyka stated that and hopefully we will get some donations. Mr. Varano suggested to make it \$5,000.00 cap on it because you don’t know what the freight will be. Mr. Lutz agreed and suggested to make it \$5,000.00 and commented to Mr. Motyka not to tangle himself all up adding that it may just not pay for our guys to go. Mr. Motyka stated that we are still researching exactly what we want.

MOTION- Mr. Lutz made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Burns to spend up to \$5,000.00 to purchase the benches.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Mr. Motyka stated that there was an article in The News Item that Shamokin said landlords are businesses and asked if council would like to send a letter out to each landlord for a donation since we are sending their money back we can include it.

Council agreed to include the letters. Mr. Varano stated that it does not hurt to ask. Mr. Lutz commented the he does not want anyone to be disappointed. Mr. Lutz stated that we are likely to hear from the Kulpmont 100 and Knights of Columbus people.

Mr. Lutz questioned Rhonda Wilk if we received the reimbursement on the sign yet. Rhonda Wilk stated that we have to submit everything. Mr. Motyka asked if we heard back from that lady. Rhonda Wilk stated that she heard back from her but that she honestly just needs to find the time to work on that.

Mr. Motyka stated that same grant was awarded this weekend adding that he has not heard anything.

Mr. Varano stated that there is some major clean up going on down at the West End. Mr. Varano stated that they need to pull some stumps out. Mr. Varano stated that Buggy has been down there with his skid steer and Mr. Malakoski is volunteering his time or course with our backhoe adding that he thinks that we should pay him. Mr. Malakoski stated that he did not want to be paid that he is only pulling some stumps out. Mr. Lutz suggested possibly some gas or something for Mr. Malakoski. Mr. Malakoski replied that he will take a little bit of gas and that is all. Mr. Varano replied fair enough.

Mr. Motyka stated that Friday at 3:00 p.m. we are pouring concrete up at the playground and stated that it is all graded and ready for concrete, Joe Cesari is paying for it out of the Car Cruise money. Mr. Varano stated that has been planned for two years now.

Mr. Burns asked what we heard on the vandalism up there. Mr. Motyka stated that Kyle reviewed the tapes and he stated that he tried to get the name and stated that he thinks that if the cops have their names that they should approach these kids, these groups and say we have you on tape and play their bluff just to scare them straight. Mr. Lutz stated that we have a real situation down at the mill and stated that somebody is going to get killed down there and that we have to put a security system down there.

Mr. Varano questioned what we can do, what can we do to curb this situation. Mr. Lutz stated that we should contact Tamborelli and see if he can get a system down there. Mayor Novakoski stated that he thinks that the owner should do that adding that it is his responsibility. Mr. Varano stated that we can't get a hold of the owner or we would have him tear it down. Mr. Burns stated that he agrees that someone is going to get killed down there. Mr. Lutz stated that we should put a security system down there, catch the kids and then somehow have Mr. Cole throw the book at the parents. Mr. Varano said that he is asking what can be done about the situation itself and that we are just putting a band-aid on it. Mr. Lutz stated for the next meeting he will have some suggestions and said that he is not ready to say something yet. Mr. Lutz stated it is a very bad deal down there.

Mr. Lutz stated that you would be flabbergasted as to how many abandoned vehicles there are in this town. Mr. Varano replied that he would not. Mr. Burns stated that by him there is twenty of them. Mr. Lutz stated that he will be ready for it at the next meeting. Mr. Lutz stated that he walked the whole town Sunday morning and was like son of a bitch and what the worse part of it is that you could have someone that looks like human garbage and the property right next door to it is a house you could do surgery in the backyard. Mr. Lutz stated that he does not know how that neighbor doesn't kill someone.

Mr. Lutz stated that the cars are all over the place and after the last meeting he kind of went and looked for them and they are all over the place. Mr. Varano stated that if you put a tow sticker on it they will wait and move the car to the other end of town and that is perfectly legal. Mr. Lutz stated that the deal with it is the timing on it and the Ordinance where it is a health issue. Mr. Lutz stated that if you put the health issue with it then you can move on it. Mr. Lutz stated health issue, water pools, mosquito.

Mr. Lutz stated that rather than saying anything definitive, in two weeks he will be more intelligent about it. Mr. Burns stated that the old Wander Inn Building is surrounded. Mr. Lutz stated that you come up on these things and some of them the weeds are growing up over everything and stated that when you do your like "What the Hell." Mr. Varano stated that they are probably all Apichell's. Mr. Lutz agreed.

Mr. Burns questioned if he owns that building up there. Mr. Lutz replied the we can get him on that also. Mr. Lutz stated that he understands that we can't do anything on grass until the first of May and asked if that is in the Ordinance. Mr. Varano said that does not say anything of it in the Ordinance and added that Russ told him that he was not giving any tickets out until the 1st of May. Mr. Burns stated

that the grass is already six inches high. Mr. Lutz questioned if he was being recorded. Mr. Varano replied yes. Mr. Lutz asked Mr. Burns to remind him in executive session to say something then. Mr. Varano stated that concerning the rails on the handicap ramps. Mr. Varano stated that Mr. Bielskie got the variance but he said that is not going to fly because a rail will need to be put up for that handicap ramp. Mr. Lutz stated that is the deal. Mr. Varano stated that everybody is going to be bitching about that and they will say “you got rails in the middle of the street.” Mr. Varano questioned, what are you supposed to do. Mr. Lutz stated that what happened was that Rocky didn’t shoot a line and added that he does not want to say anymore.

Mr. Varano agreed and stated that it can wait until executive session. Mr. Varano stated that if there is nothing additional the board will now meet in executive session.

Bruno Varano, Council President stated that the board met in executive session for approximately twenty minutes for personnel, contractual and litigation matters.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

**RHONDA WILK
BOROUGH SECRETARY**

DATE OF APPROVAL