

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 8, 2014**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Nicholas Bozza
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by body present. Kulpmont Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday April 8, 2014.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Novakoski, Nicholas Bozza, Clarence Deitrick, Stephanie Niglio, Bruno Varano and Joseph Winhofer.

APPOINTED POSITIONS: Treasurer Paul A. Niglio, Jr.

ABSENT: Philip Scicchitano and Stephen Motyka and Solicitor William C. Cole

PRESENT: Code Official Russ Moroz, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff and Chief Michael Pitcavage.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Stellar, Sandy Ditchey, Tom Ditchey, Joe Politza, Mark Burns, Bob Chesney, Bernie Nestico, Bill Henry, Barb Maher and Joseph Pancerella.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: (Bruno R. Varano)

Mr. Varano states that we have a survey that needs to be completed for the regional police study and states that most of it is financial stuff, and then some information that the Chief would have. Mr. Niglio states that he will fill out the financial information and give it to Rhonda.

MAYORS REPORT: (Bernard P. Novakoski)

The Mayor states that he has no report but that he did just receive information from Representative Lou Barletta's office on the cost of 36 Flags to be flown on Chestnut Street at a cost of \$349.45.

MOTION- Mr. Deitrick makes a motion to spend \$349.45 for the flags to be flown on Chestnut Street and seconded by Mr. Bozza.

Mr. Varano states that we may receive donations toward the cost of the flags; the Veterans Organizations in town usually donate toward the purchase.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Mayor Novakoski states that he received a call from Holy Angels asking about handicap parking and they asked if they could have white lines to set up individual parking. The Mayor states that the way he understands everything was painted blue and they said if we could do that for them.

The Mayor states that they are having a problem with people who pull up and are taking up two places.

Mr. Bozza questions if this is in front of the church.

The Mayor states that it is in front of the church for individual parking spaces is what they are talking about and states that they are in no hurry if we could do that for them..

Mr. Bozza replied that when it gets nice out.

Mr. Varano states that we do not actually paint lines for the parking.

Mr. Bozza states that if they want lines down there we can take the brush down there it will not take long.

Mr. Varano states that we have that whole corner down there for handicap.

Mr. Varano states that we can separate the parking spaces and paint the lines.

Mr. Deitrick agrees that it will not take long to do.

Mr. Bozza states that when we do the cross walks we will paint the lines.

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

No One Spoke

SECRETARY REPORT (Rhonda Wilk)

Mr. Niglio states that a motion is needed to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 11th and April 1st, 2014.

MOTION- Mr. Deitrick makes a motion and was seconded by Mr. Bozza to approve the meeting minutes from the March 11th and April 1, 2014 meetings.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Mr. Niglio states that under correspondence a letter was received from ISCA Enterprises, Inc. and copied to Council and Mayor

TREASURERS REPORT- (Paul A. Niglio, Jr.)

Mr. Niglio states that Council received a list of the bills to be paid and the financial statement.

MOTION- Mr. Deitrick makes the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bozza to approve the financial statement and to pay the additional bills.

Mr. Varano states that the only bills that were over \$1,000 was our oil bill and states that was over \$5,000.00, Gannon and Associates \$2,700.00, Health Insurance \$5,400.00, B & B Heating oil is \$5,100.00, Aqua is \$1,100.00 for the fire hydrants and KME is \$900.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BOZZA (yes), DEITRICK (yes), MOTYKA (absent), NIGLIO (yes), SCICCHITANO (absent), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (yes)
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio states that the elected auditors completed the audit and states that a motion is needed to pay the auditors \$450.00 each for the three elected auditors.

MOTION- Mr. Deitrick made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Niglio to pay the three elected auditors \$450.00 for the completion of the 2013 audit.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BOZZA (yes), DEITRICK (yes), MOTYKA (absent), NIGLIO (yes), SCICCHITANO (absent), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (yes)
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

POLICE REPORT- (Chief Michael Pitcavage)

Police report attachment #2 Chief Pitcavage states that sometime over the weekend somebody vandalized the unmarked police car while it was parked out front.

The Chief states that it was scratched through the braked lights and to the wheel well and states that it is very noticeable.

Mr. Deitrick states that we need to get a camera and put it out front so that we can catch them. Mr. Varano directs the Chief to get some prices.

FIRE CHIEFS REPORT (Jeffrey Gilotti)

Report Attachment #3

BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT (Stephen G. Bielski, Sr.)

Report Attachment #4

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS REPORT (Russ Moroz)

Report Attachment #5

Mr. Moroz states that we need code citations and the quote that we received from our previous supplies was over \$600.00 for 1,000.

Mr. Moroz states that he and Rhonda called around and received a quote for 500 for \$140.00 from a supplier in Northumberland.

Mr. Varano states that a motion is not needed and states that this is part of a normal operating expense.

Mr. Bozza questions Mr. Moroz if he would like to give an update on the status of the mill property on Chestnut Street.

Mr. Varano states that some of that may be potential litigation, if you want to give just a quick synopsis on what occurred.

Mr. Moroz states that we did meet with the owners and the owners were there with the Department of Environmental Protection and basically went through the property and DEP told them what needs to be done and gave them a 90 day time frame.

Mr. Moroz states from there they will have to get a structural engineer because of some of the defects that are in it. I would think they are going to start working on it as quickly as possible, but for right now the street will still remain closed because of the stacks and they will remain closed until the engineer states that they are stable.

Mr. Varano questions if they foresee any break like in putting anything in there.

Mr. Moroz states that they states that they had it listed for two years and did not even get a phone call on it.

Mr. Varano states that does not sound promising.

GRANTS AND RECREATION (Clarence H. Deitrick)

No Report

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Philip Scicchitano)

No Report

SERVICE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE (Nicholas Bozza)

Mr. Bozza states that the street sweeper is going to be running down Chestnut Street on this Thursday.

Mr. Bozza advises that if you see the sweeper go by once do not move your cars back, a couple passes will be made.

Mr. Bozza states do not attempt to move your cars back until possibly when you do not see the sweeper anymore for at least an hour.

Mr. Deitrick questions if there is a time frame.

Mr. Bozza states that it is between 9:00a.m. Until 3:00 p.m., that's what is on the sign and he states that he is not saying they will be sweeping until 3:00, but that is what the sign states.

Mr. Varano states that it is better to leave it at 3:00 p.m. and feels that if they are done sooner that is fine, but it is better to be safe than sorry.

Mr. Bozza states that he has a flyer here for potential gas lines in town and is going to keep some in the borough office for people to go on the web site and follow the instructions with interest, the more people that show interest and fill these out the better shot we have on getting gas in town.

Mr. Bozza states that it's very simple just go on the web site and follow the instructions it will take about 5 minutes.

Mr. Bozza states that surplus distribution is going to be April 17th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

Mr. Bozza states that concerning the fire police vehicle, the guy came in and said that the alternator is not big enough to supply the power for those two batteries and states that he is still waiting on a price for the alternator and states that Mt Carmel Auto does not have one.

Mr. Bozza states that he will get a price for the alternator for the next meeting.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (Bruno R. Varano)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE (Stephanie Niglio)

No Report

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Stephen Motyka)

No Report

SENIOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Winhofer, Varano and Deitrick)

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bozza states that he has been getting some phone calls from some landlords on the landlord registration fees for \$50.00 per unit that are saying they now received a citation for a fine of \$200.00 per unit because they did not pay it on time.

Mr. Bozza questions if we sent out a notice to these landlords.

Mr. Moroz states that we did, the registration was to be paid on March 1st and the paperwork sent out was sent on March 20th.

Mr. Bozza states that the letter he has here from a landlord is dated April 1st and it said it had to be paid March first.

Mr. Winhofer states that's correct they were given an additional 30 days.

Mr. Henry states that he brought copies for everyone and he states that he was given five days to pay it, but he got the citations in the mail at the same time as the letters.

Mr. Deitrick states that the letter was sent out before that.

Mr. Henry states that you all no Jodie and she doesn't miss a T, she pays all of the bills.

Mr. Varano states that as he explained on the phone, this is a yearly fee and at the December meeting the landlords were given a 60 days to pay this and its not saying that they could not have paid it, if they paid the \$120.00 then they would have been receiving a rebate and not a fine.

Mr. Varano states that it said the fee had to be paid by March 1st and it is on the web site in the minutes plus it was in the paper.

Mr. Henry states that he did receive the increase in the mail but he did not get the bill, he states that he just got all of this all together and asks why he would come here and lie.

Mr. Bozza questions if we have a copy of what was sent, the first one.

Mr. Moroz states that the first one was sent out the 20th of March and the fines were not sent out until April.

Mr. Varano states that April 3rd would have been 2 weeks.

Mrs. Niglio questions Mr. Nestico if he recalls getting the first letter.

Mr. Moroz states that anyone who paid did not get one, he paid.

Mr. Varano states that there were people that paid last year that got rebates now this year, and states that he does not know how many had not paid by the March 1st deadline.

Mr. Moroz states that there were about 12.

Mr. Bozza questions how many right now, just as far as landlords did not pay.

Mr. Moroz states that we are down to 5.

Mr. Henry states that someone could have called him and told him that the registration fee had to be paid.

Mr. Varano questions him on who told him that he did not have to pay the registration fee by March 1st.

Mr. Henry states that to be honest, he did not even know when they are suppose to be paid and states that he does not even know if Jodie knows that.

Mr. Varano replied that actually they should have been paid by December 31st but we gave them 60 days until March 1st but they had to be paid by March 1st.

Mr. Henry states that it did not say that in the letter, it just stated about the increase in the letter and he states that the only notice he can say they received is when the citation came all in one.

Mr. Varano states that we will take that into consideration and look further into this and that is all we can tell you right now, he said she said.

Mr. Varano states that we will get back to this, we are still under old business but we will be getting back to this.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Deitrick states he would like to wish all a Happy Easter and a Happy Mothers Day as well.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Varano reminds citizens to keep the time to speak down to three minutes please.

Sandy Ditchey states that she owns the property located at 1255 Chestnut Street in Kulpmont.

Sandy Ditchey states that is where her parents Maryann and Edwin Wojick next to the Eagle Sign Company that collapsed. She states that she is concerned about their property and that the debris and garbage has not been removed, nothing has been done for the last six weeks.

Sandy Ditchey states that when this occurred, a backhoe or tractor of some sort came right up on their property destroying the yard and states that she understands this had to be done because of the safety issue however; nothing has been done to remove the debris.

Sandy Ditchey states that from what she heard, the gentleman that owns the property is bankrupt and states that she does not know how much of that is true or not but states that her concern is getting that cleaned up as soon as possible.

Mr. Varano states that is Councils concern as well and asks Russ Moroz to shed some light on this issue.

Mr. Moroz states that Mr. Valeiko has someone in there cutting up some of the metal and starting to clean this up.

Sandy Ditchey states that as they while they are cleaning up they are breaking windows and glass is all over the place and states that her parents are not going to be able to run a lawn mower or anything.

Ms. Ditchey states that $\frac{3}{4}$ of their yard is a wreck.

Mr. Bozza questions Mr. Moroz if they guys down there are employed by Valeiko.

Mr. Moroz states that they are.

Mr. Bozza states that they need to clean up.

Mr. Deitrick comments that they need to clean up daily.

Ms. Ditchey states that they are there very sporadically and states that it is a stress for her parents they are in their 70's and more less are tenants in the home owned by her and her sister, so she states that she wanted to express her concern on this.

Mr. Moroz states that he will get down there and talk to them and will try to get things cleaned up as much as they can be.

Mr. Robert Chesney of 929 Pine Street states that he is still extremely concerned about the site for the new borough hall and states that it was a complete swamp and with thought that with fishing season coming up we could have probably stocked it.

Mr. Chesney states that again, that pond system is still the burr that keeps festering.

Mr. Chesney states last year at the April meeting is when he had presented the petition to please stop all proceeding on that and lets discuss it at open forum, nothing has been done for that whole year as far as discussing it outside the confines of that meeting.

He states that so much is discussed at the meeting and then nothing; it's just buried until the next meeting.

Mr. Chesney states that a good comparison he could make is if we wanted to pass a new ordinance to have your dog keep on a leash it would have to go through three meetings, three readings and people would have to give discussion on that if it were to be put into place.

Mr. Chesney states that he continually asked that we have meetings on the building and nothing except for now.

He states that he wanted to form a citizens committee formed to help Council evaluate some other properties and buildings and we continually, like now he sates that he is looking at some faces and it is getting old for everyone now.

Mr. Chesney states that it has been a whole year since he has been researching this and going back to 2008 nothing was really discussed about this to 2009, not until the end of the year and states that all he can say in conclusion to this is that he hopes that Council is going to be extremely diligent and that he looked at the plans from Shaffer and Associates and some things in there could be a tad excessive.

He states that it shows 13 council seats and 40 seats in the audience.

Mr. Varano states that you do not count the seats it is just a sketch, and standard seating, you don't count the seats.

Mr. Varano states that the dimensions of the Council room you go by, that is if they show a box in there to show a space for a refrigerator they are not going to build it to the size of the refrigerator because it is only a drawing.

Mr. Chesney states that he is only going on what he can see and states that this is what he is asking for and nothing was ever produced until the last meeting and then after the last meeting we had a record from 2009 that he states he couldn't find or every time he asked and it was not in the minutes anywhere and then that was here last meeting along with the one from the architect which was going to make this into.... Mr. Varano asks Mr. Chesney if he could wrap it up.

Mr. Chesney states that he would like to wrap it up but he just wants it to be know again that the citizens are still concerned about the cost of this building and asks to please be diligent on what you do there and states that the site is always going to be questioned.

Mr. Winhofer asks Mr. Chesney what is wrong with the site.

Mr. Chesney states he was down the other day like he said and you couldn't even walk.

Mr. Winhofer states that there is no drainage down there yet.

Mr. Chesney states the big thing is the \$340,000.00 for the pond.

Mr. Varano states that there is no \$340,000.00 and states that he keeps telling him that.

Mr. Winhofer states that is for the drainage no matter where you build at any site.

Mr. Chesney agrees and states that he thinks that was covered three meetings ago that if a pre-existing building would be used there would be no need for a pond.

Mr. Varano states that there is no pond, it is underground and from what he understands is it will cost approximately from what he hears from the engineers and the architects it will cost around \$50,000.00 or \$60,000.00, not \$340,000.00 dollars.

Mr. Chesney states that it is the number he was given.

Mr. Varano states that he gave him the number the last five meetings.

Mr. Chesney states that no it is not in the minutes and he does not have it written down.

Mr. Varano states that just because it is not in the minutes does not mean that it was not said.

Mr. Chesney states that he was here, and he didn't hear it.

Mr. Varano said he knows that he had said it.

Mr. Chesney states to please as much as you can keep the taxpayers in mind when this building gets built.

Mr. Chesney comments that he still feels, just turn off some valves on the radiators we don't need to heat everything but that is kicking another horse.

Mr. Varano states that we are all taxpayers also.

Mr. Chesney states he understands but like he said we should have had more of an inside meeting and had peoples input.

Mr. Varano states that they had their meeting.

Mr. Chesney states one meeting.

Mr. Varano states that is all that is required by law.

Bill Stellar representing the Police Athletic League states that the members want to know if when the borough builds the new building if we can get space in it if there is anyway possible and states that they have signatures of 30 members that are there now that are interested.

He states that they have ways to generate \$300.00 per month income from members where everyone under 18 would be free.

Mr. Bozza states that they have the boosters asking them the same thing also.

Mr. Varano states that the seniors also.

Mr. Bozza states that he would like to put both of them in there.

Mr. Stellar states that the members would pay memberships, have keys and they are willing to move everything they just want a space to put it.

Mr. Stellar states that the two rooms they have now they would not even need that much room.

He states that the space needed would be about the size of one room, he states that they have 30 guys sign in five days and about 15 more that would be interested and didn't get to sign yet.

Mr. Varano comments that you just heard Mr. Chesney, we are supposed to be frugal in building this new building.

Mrs. Niglio comments "in this Taj-Mahal, we don't have know room for you, sorry."

Mr. Bozza state that he feels they will consider both organizations, the boosters and he PAL but at this point we just can't do that.

Mr. Stellar states that they just want to make Council aware of their interest and that they would be willing to do anything they could and just want consideration.

Mr. Varano states you would need a smaller area, one room.

Mr. Stellar states that is correct and all of the guys are willing to move everything, many of them have trucks and are all willing to move everything and set it up and they have a lot of equipment a few thousand dollars of equipment and a lot of interest from the guys.

Mr. Varano states that they cannot guarantee anything

Council President, Bruno R. Varano states that council met in executive session for approximately one hour and forty minutes to discuss contractual, personnel matters and possible litigation.

MOTION- Mr. Winhofer made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bozza to send a new letter requesting payment for rental registrations in 10 days of receiving the letter and waiving fines for non payment.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BOZZA (yes), DEITRICK (no), MOTYKA (absent), NIGLIO (yes), SCICCHITANO (absent), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (yes)
4 YEAS – 1 NAYS

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

RHONDA WILK
BOROUGH SECRETARY

DATE OF APPROVAL

