

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 12, 2016**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Clarence H. Deitrick
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by body present, Kulpmont Borough Council held
its regular monthly meeting Tuesday July 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Novakoski,
Clarence H. Deitrick, Bruno R. Varano, Stephen Motyka, George Malakoski, and Walter
Lutz, Nicholas P. Goretski III., Mark A. Burns

APPOINTED POSITIONS: Borough Solicitor William C. Cole, Treasurer Paul A.
Niglio, Jr.

PRESENT: Stephanie Niglio, Steve Bielskie, Rose Bielskie, Jack Maciejewski, Jeff
Gilotti, Barry Fetterman, Joe Politza, Robert Michalkovich, Nick Bozza, Raymond J.
Siko, Eric Santor, Albert Rosetta, Joe Meyer, Keith Tamborelli, Joe Pancerella, Matt
Siko, Marshall Mirarchi, III, Bob Fanella, Bruce Graff, Jeff Sejut.

OTHERS PRESENT: Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Officer Russ Moroz and
Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Bruno R. Varano)

Mr. Varano states that at this time he would like to congratulate the Kulpmont 100
Committee and asks the committee members to all stand up and they were recognized
with a round of applause. Mr. Varano again thanks the committee.

MOTION- Mr. Deitrick made the motion and was seconded Mr. Goretski to prepare a
resolution for the Kulpmont 100 Committee to honor and thank the committee.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Mr. Varano states that we will go right into Personnel at this time and states we had three
letters of interest for the open council position and received another addition at the end of
the day that someone had placed in his door, Leanne Smith. Mr. Varano states that we
have letters of interest from Keith Tamborelli, Mark Burns, Stephen Bielskie, Sr. and
Leanne Smith.

Mr. Deitrick nominates Mr. Keith Tamborelli

Mr. Goretski states that he would like to nominate Mr. Mark Burns

Mr. Varano questions if there are any additional nominations. No one spoke, Mr. Varano states that he would entertain a motion to close nominations.

MOTION- A motion was made by Mr. Goretski to close nominations for vacant council position and was seconded by Mr. Deitrick

ROLL CALL VOTE - DEITRICK (Tamborelli), LUTZ (Tamborelli), MALAKOSKI (Burns), MOTYKA (Burns), VARANO (Burns), GORETSKI (Burns)
3 Burns – 2 Tamborelli

Mr. Varano directs Mr. Burns to come forward to be sworn in by the Mayor and to take his seat on Council.

Mark Burns was sworn into office by Mayor Bernard P. Novakoski. Mr. Burns took his seat on council.

Mr. Varano states that he forgot to mention that by the resignation of Joseph A. Winhofer a vacancy was also created on the municipal authority and states that anyone interested may submit a letter of intent and states that it is an unpaid position.

Mr. Goretski questions how long the term is for. Mr. Varano states that he believes that the term was up at the end of this year. Mr. Varano requests an executive session at the end of the meeting for contractual matters.

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

MAYORS REPORT (Bernard P. Novkoski)

Mayor Novakoski announced that he is still looking for auxiliary police.

Mayor Novakoski thanked the Kulpmont 100 Committee for a job well done and reported that there was only one incident that occurred in the entire town and comments that was amazing for all of the booze that was flowing through this town.

SECRETARY REPORT (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk states that approval is needed on the meeting minutes from the June 14th regular monthly meeting.

MOTION- Mr. Goretski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Malakoski to approve the meeting minutes from the June 14th regular monthly meeting.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk states that correspondence was received from the Northumberland County Conservation District and was copied to the Mayor and Council. Correspondence was also received from Kreco Electric and that was copied to Service and Facilities.

Mr. Lutz questioned if we received correspondence from the Fire Chief's, no? Mr. Varano replied that he did not see anything and asks Rhonda Wilk if she saw any correspondence. Rhonda Wilk replied no. Mr. Lutz commented that he will find it.

TREASURER REPORT (Paul A. Niglio, Jr.)

Mr. Niglio states that everyone received a copy of the financial statement, attachment # 1 and a list of bills to be paid and states that a motion is needed to approve the financial statement and to pay the bills.

MOTION- Mr. Goretski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve the financial statement and to pay the bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE - DETRICK (yes), LUTZ (no), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), VARANO (yes), BURNS (yes), GORETSKI (yes)
6 YEAS – 1 NAY

SOLICITORS REPORT (William C. Cole)

No Report

POLICE REPORT (Chief Michael Pitcavage)

Attachment #2

FIRE CHIEFS REPORT (Kevin O' Hearn)

Attachment #3

Raymond Siko provided Mr. Varano with a letter from the fire department. Mr. Varano read the letter, it reads as follows:

The current situation of housing fire-fighting apparatus in two different locations is survivable; but, it would be more efficient if all relevant apparatus were housed in one location. We have a limited number of firefighters; and, with the apparatus in one place we will know how best to respond to an emergency based on the people we have on hand. We have far fewer firefighters now than we did even 10 years ago; and as we look forward 10 years it is unlikely that this will get better. With that in mind, it makes no sense to make a 30-year investment into a new consolidated truck room. We believe it is possible and affordable to house the three

critical pieces of equipment in the current East End Truck Room with some renovations. We will need to widen the third bay and replace its door to accommodate all three pieces: Engine 221 currently housed at the East End, Utility 223 currently housed at the East End, Engine 215 currently housed at the West End.

As a point of information, the Fireman's relief fund cannot be used to provide housing for equipment.

Sincerely,
Kevin F. O'Hearn, Fire Chief
Michael Sinopoli, President West End Fire Association
Raymond Siko, II, Deputy Fire Chief
Jeffrey Gilotti, Assistant Fire Chief

Mr. Varano states that we will discuss this later under the old business.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Kevin O' Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT (TRI County COG)

No Report

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS REPORT (Russ Moroz)

Report Attachment #4

SERVICE AND FACILITIES (Nicholas P. Goretski)

Mr. Goretski announced that the food surplus will be held on July 21st in the borough garage from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

Mr. Goretski states that two sets of brushes are needed for the street sweeper at \$114.00 each.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Goretski to purchase two sets of brushes for the street sweeper at a cost of \$114.00 each.

FINANCE/PURCHSING COMMITTEE (Stephen Motyka)

No Report

CODE/HEALTH AND SAFETY (George Malakoski)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE (Walter Lutz)

No Report

Mr. Varano questioned where we are at on that Property Maintenance Ordinance.

Mr. Lutz replied nowhere and added that he is going to have a meeting with the former chairman on that deal on Friday and get back on track. He states that he has read some meeting minutes on that from the April meeting and states that he is not sure much has been done since then.

Mr. Varano suggest that he may want to invite Russ to that meeting and adds that he knows more about that than anybody. Mr. Lutz replied “only if you make me.”

GRANTS/RECREATION (Clarence H. Deitirck)

No Report

Mr. Motyka stated that he attended the CDBG meeting two weeks ago and expressed how disheartened we are about Kulpmont not being eligible because our income is too high.

Mr. Motyka states that Shamokin receives \$33.00 per resident no question asked, Mount Carmel receives \$16.00 or \$17.00 per resident, and he adds that in Ralpho Township he has seen more new houses and a bigger tax base receive CDBG money with no questions asked.

Mr. Motyka states that they listened to his complaint and expressed that it is not solvable at their level but states that he did find out that if we tailor our potential projects toward disabled individuals or seniors that they would fund those without a survey and not considering income. He states that if we have a target idea toward senior citizens in this town we could search for funding for that.

Mr. Motyka states that a couple of months back he states that he expressed his interest in putting a bridge over the Veterans Memorial Field and states that we had a simple outline and states that he would like to pursue that with this grant to receive 50% of the grant.

Mr. Motyka states that DCNR last year told us it was a good idea but we had no matching funds. Mr. Motyka states to council that with their approval he would like to put an application in and adds that a woman from SEDA-COG is meeting with him here on Friday to walk the site.

Mr. Motyka states that he is going to explain that to her that in 1980 when the field was put in that there was a bridge across, so it needs to overcome architectural barrier, so

hopefully she will see that there is no safe way to the field and we can try for 50% of the funding. Mr. Varano questions if he is saying then that we would have 100% of the funding then. Mr. Motyka answered no and added that we would have 50% to match a potential DCNR grant.

Mr. Varano replied that he thought that he was getting that from SEDA-COG. Mr. Motyka replied no, and added that SEDA-COG controls that county CDBG money; they get paid by the county to orchestrate the grants. Mr. Motyka added that CDBG is represented by SEDA-COG on all grants stating that is the reason the lady from SEDA-COG is meeting us here and states that anyone is welcome to join us for a walk of the site.

Mr. Goretski asked if he is planning to make it basically accessible to handicap down there. Mr. Motyka replied that the initial project that our engineer had a schematic, it was \$30,000.00 or \$22,000.00 for just permits to put a structure near a creek bed and the construction cost of the bridge was approximately \$43,000.00 plus construction so it was pushing more than \$100,000.00. Mr. Motyka states that it would include 20 handicap parking spaces, access path and a bridge over to the main path. Mr. Motyka added with council's blessing he would like to pursue that.

Mr. Lutz questioned then how much it was and asked if it was around \$127,000.00. Mr. Motyka replied yes, something like that. Mr. Varano commented that our match would be around sixty some thousand. Mr. Motyka agrees and adds that the county's match would match any DCNR grant and adds that it is just like at the municipal authority where if we got the 50% funding we could hold onto that and try to acquire funding over a three year period. Mr. Varano stated that then we could possibly get away with it free. Mr. Motyka replied that everyone has a packet of all of the information that he sent her and adds that he would like to try and pursue this.

Mr. Motyka states that concerning the DEP educational grant that was awarded to us and states that we approached all three local schools and Lourdes has come forward and several students will help to plant the trees down at the field and states that this should be taken place in September and states that he is going to meet for the first meeting on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. if anyone would like to join for that discussion.

Mr. Varano questioned Mr. Burns on what the chances are on getting prisoners to help out with some of these projects. Mr. Burns states that he talked to the warden today about it and adds that they have community service groups that nobody in Schuylkill County is using and so he would be willing to send them here to Northumberland County.

Mr. Motyka commented that he thinks for any future projects it may be good and adds that for this project, it is an educational grant toward the students and they are going to learn about watersheds and mining history. He adds that there are vans rented already through the grant and we are going to bus them out to Little Shamokin Creek to see what a healthy stream looks like where they will kick for minnows and bugs and all and then we will bring them back to Kulpmont.

Mr. Varano states that he did not mean it for this project just a FYI for future projects.

Mr. Motyka states that part of the grant was for an informational tack board enclosed in PVC Glass that will be down there, informational and it will show the history of our area and we will also show that even though Quaker Run seems dead it flows into Shamokin Creek, which flows into the Susquehanna River, which flows into the Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. Motyka states that he would like to purchase the tack board now and states that he and Rhonda Wilk will have to look into how the borough will be reimbursed.

Mr. Varano questioned how much it is. Mr. Motyka replied that it is \$800.00 give or take. Mr. Lutz questioned what if the grant does not go through. Mr. Motyka replied that we were approved for the grant already. Mr. Lutz questioned then when the funding will come through.

Mr. Motyka states that DEP gave us a protocol of what we do to move forward and states that next Wednesday we will meet with Jaci Harner from the Northumberland County Conservation District is the one that spearheaded this and the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance and we will have the first meeting to see how we implement the grant and states that she has done these grants before.

Mr. Lutz questioned then that we will spend \$800.00 and we are not sure on when we will get the money for that. Mr. Varano commented that is how all of the grants are done; it may take six months it may take a year. Mr. Lutz questioned if then a motion is needed to spend the funds. Mr. Motyka states that he does not know, the grant money is there. Mr. Varano replied that borough funds will be spent so he would say a motion would be needed.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to buy the bulletin board, to be reimbursed by fund not to exceed \$1,000.00 and was seconded by Mr. Goretski.

ROLL CALL VOTE - DEITRICK (yes), LUTZ (no), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), VARANO (yes), BURNS (yes), GORETSKI (yes)
6 YEAS – 1 NAY

Mr. Motyka states that for everyone's knowledge in the grant there was \$1500.00 for trees and plants and the kids will be brought in to plant them along the creek bed and states that there are a lot of other details such as the transportation to bring the kids in.

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka states that he asked Rocky Baer on a definite date because we only heard mid November and so we are waiting on a definite completion date.

Mr. Motyka states that he received a copy of the meeting minutes from the meeting with the contractors and states that it looks like all contractors have written notice to proceed and the General Contractors will hold all schedules and Shannon Smith provided insurance certificates.

Mr. Motyka states that Russ Moroz stated that he will give the meeting minutes to Rhonda and all councilmember's will receive a copy. Mr. Varano states that he was copied on it and states that he was at the first meeting.

Mr. Motyka states that pertaining to the building and the phone system we received two quotes one from Guyette who had met with Mr. Deitrick and Rhonda Wilk and states that he thinks that it was around \$6,600.00 to provide the equipment and the install and a monthly charge of around \$198.00 per month. He states that he also received a quote from Sage Technology to provide a system. One was the ShoreTel for \$8000.00 or the Avaya phone system for around \$6,200.00.

Mr. Motyka states that he will review this and make some phone calls. Mr. Lutz questions if it is to buy. Mr. Motyka states that it is a purchase of the equipment for both of them and Sage Technology is an internet base and so it's a one site cloud and Guyette is an off-site server and that is why you have the \$198.00 month fee.

Mr. Varano asked that copies be made for everybody. Mr. Motyka agreed and states that he needs some help in looking into this.

Mr. Motyka states that we will soon have to talk about furniture even though it is five months away.

Mr. Motyka states that he contacted two firms about energy audits and waiting on some quotes and information on what firms can do to access your lighting.

Mr. Motyka states that this may take a few months to iron out and states that SEDA-COG told him that they would like to review the quotes and tell him how to acquire the same services from both quotes. He states that should save money on the heating of the building. He states that we know how the old social quarter was a very high electric bill. Mr. Motyka states that they will come in and check and analyze the whole building for missing insulation, old florescent lighting and they may say a \$10,000.00 investment today will pay off in 10 years and we then would have that savings forever.

Mr. Lutz states that he went through the building and from what he can see most of the furniture is serviceable. Mr. Lutz added that there is an office right over here and frankly the furniture is quite valuable because it is from the 50's.

Mr. Goretski replied that it is his furniture and adds that he never took it. Mr. Lutz questioned if it is his personal furniture. Mr. Goretski replied yes it is. Mr. Lutz asked if he wants it back.

Mr. Goretski replied yes, the desk definitely and states that he just left it there for the next guy.

Mr. Lutz replied that all of the desks are what they call military style desks and we are not adding any staff so we are talking \$10,000.00 and as far as the conference room goes we can purchase some folding tables, put them up and take them down.

Mr. Goretski states that we may be able to get some things from surplus. Mr. Lutz states that he does not think we should spend much of anything.

Mr. Motyka replied if that's the case that is fine. Mr. Motyka added that council chambers would be considered a meeting room because the seniors would be using it as well and so we were planning on a folding table with a black skirt.

Mr. Lutz added that those tables are cheap. Mr. Niglio addressed the President of council as to where the recording equipment will go. Mr. Lutz replied to Mr. Niglio stating that we will have to figure that out. Mr. Lutz added that we will have to figure it out and states that we will have to spend some money, but we don't need new furniture.

Mr. Niglio replied that as far as the Administrative office, we need work stations. Mr. Varano added that computers are needed as well and states that ours are outdated. Mr. Niglio states that we need file cabinets and states that you see what's down in that office and adds that we live out of boxes.

Mr. Lutz replied that he walked through and saw that the items are serviceable and states that he has seen the boxes and states that he can't agree that we need to spend a lot of money. He continued on to say that he does not know how much we will have to spend but states that he will take a look and he will report back to council and council can then see what they want to do.

Mr. Niglio states that we waste more time looking for stuff that is not accessible. Mr. Lutz replied that may be a matter of organization. Mr. Niglio replied that we do not have any place to put anything to organize. Mr. Goretski added that you can't organize anything if you don't have a place to put anything.

Mr. Lutz states that there are some huge, huge businesses not some little \$700,000.000 deal that people work out of boxes. Mr. Lutz states that we have to be very careful about how much money we spend and he states that he will make suggestions to council and we can go from there.

Mr. Motyka adds that our new building will have a lot more file storage. Mr. Lutz added that file cabinets, they are all over the place, you can find them everywhere.

Mr. Varano directed everyone to take a look at the furniture that they have and take a look at what we may need. Mr. Varano states that we will then further this discussion and states that we may have a meeting in two weeks to then discuss this. Mr. Varano

added that we are running out of time and states that he figures that it will be the middle or the end of November. Mayor Novakoski states that this is the first project that he has been on that the contractors are working backwards. Mayor Novakoski states that next week apparently the contractors are supposed to start, that is supposed to be the tentative start date.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Bruno Varano and Clarence Deitrick)

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Varano states that at this time, lets discuss the fire department and where we are going to place this equipment and how we are going to go about it.

Mr. Lutz states that from what he gathered is that the East End and West End are suggesting that the East End Equipment remain where it is and to bring one of the vehicles up from the West End so that all of the vehicles could be housed.

Mr. Lutz states that he understands that the majority of council has the idea of that they want to garage the borough equipment and states that there seems to be a particular concern about the sweeper which we garage for 6 months at \$90.00 per month and some of the police cars which have been out in the weather for a very long time.

Mr. Lutz states that building is a fire station and to bring all of that equipment up there will have to be some modifications to the building, to the garage door or something like that. Mr. Lutz states that the thought about building something down at the West End, its very expensive and we can't get a firm number on it, but it is somewhere between \$100,000.00 and \$250,000.00. Mr. Varano asks the question "for what, a one bay?"

Mr. Lutz made the statement "how much does it cost," and asks for Mr. Varano to give an estimate.

Mr. Varano replied that it is not going to cost that much and adds that all that is needed is a steel building with insulation and you attach it to the building.

Mr. Lutz questions then how much does it cost, give an estimate.

Mr. Varano replied that they were told "hands off" by the fire department, you tell us. Mr. Varano added that you all met with Barletta, you tell us.

Mr. Lutz said let's say that it would be thirty, fifty or sixty thousand dollars, well for \$600.00 that we are spending to garage the sweeper, how many years.

Mr. Lutz added that it would be a long time, whereas they can go ahead and they can make modifications to the existing fire station and put the equipment in there and we are ready to go.

Mr. Varano questions then where are we supposed to put all of our equipment. Mr. Lutz replied we put it where we have been putting it all of this time. Mr. Varano responded by saying that we will be having it out there rotting.

Mr. Lutz replied that the roof is going to be fixed on the present building and as we go along and knock down the Wilson Building, there will be opportunity then to put some sheds up there.

Mr. Varano replied that the present garage is 2500 square feet, and to put sheds up we then would have to pay to do so. Mr. Lutz asked Mr. Varano what he means when he says we. Mr. Varano replied that when he says we he is referring to the borough.

Mr. Lutz replied the citizens of the borough and asked what is the alternative and where are they going to go. Mr. Varano replied that they should have been looking into this issue two years ago.

Mr. Lutz replied that he knows, and adds that we were looking at the Fir Street project for 5 years and now we are at this and questions where it is to go. Barry Fetterman commented that if you put the addition on at the West End where you want it, when you pull the truck out you are looking at a telephone pole.

Mr. Varano replied that can be moved and adds that we had to move the one at the end of the block.

Marshall Mirarchi replied that will not be cheap either.

Jeff Gilotti replied that he was at the meeting at the West End when that was proposed and it was shot down by the membership, they said we could put a new building behind but that they want no addition because of parking. Barry Fetterman commented "taking up the parking spots."

Mr. Goretski commented that you can't have your cake and eat it. Mayor Novakoskie added that it is apparent that these guys don't want a fire company. Marshall Mirarchi commented back that apparently you guys don't want a fire company.

Mr. Varano replied "no." Mayor Novakoski commented that every alternative you do not like. Marshall Mirarchi made the following statement, "you guys need to take into consideration the safety of your constituents that elected you into your positions."

Mr. Deitrick questioned what safety has to do with moving down to the West End and adds that it has nothing to do with it. Marshall Mirarchi states that you want to put one bay on to a building down there and asks how they are going to get all of their

equipment into that one bay down there and adds that the East End has double the equipment.

Mr. Deitrick replied that they have two trucks and they are going down to one and asks them to correct him if he is wrong.

Marshall Mirarchi replied that was never brought up. Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Gilotti replied that was shot down at a meeting.

Barry Fetterman replied that was shot down, and added that they are not going to take a piece of shit. Mr. Deitrick questioned what he means by a piece of shit. Jeff Gilotti said you're giving a "75" and taking an "88."

Mr. Lutz interjected and said now lets hold on a minute; let's catch a breath just for the heck of it. Mr. Varano directed a comment to Mr. Lutz and stated that he is running this meeting, by the way.

Mr. Varano states that it was agreed that we were turning over the "75" Hahn to you guys and you could sell it; we were giving it to you. Barry Fetterman replied what were we going to get for it and added "nothing."

Mr. Varano said that is fine, if you don't want it we will put it up for sale. Barry Fetterman replied to put it up for sale and adds that they don't want it. Deputy Fire Chief Ray Siko addressed Mr. Deitrick and stated in reference to his question about going to the West End, we talked about it and looked at it and the problem with the additional bay is that they are going to loose a good portion of their parking and the second thing is with the pole is that he is not sure what the exact cost is, however he knows with another company they discussed moving a pole with nothing on it and it was around \$16,000.00.

Ray Siko states that the pole down there has lines on it so he is not sure how that works in moving the pole and where it would be moved to. Mr. Goretski replied that he once talked with them before and because it was a fire company they would move the pole and there was not going to be a cost.

Ray Siko states that if this is something they are looking at then we will have to look at where the pole will go, we can't move it across the street because that would be Mr. Greco's property and his garage and we can't move it to the right because of the entrance to the West End, so he states that he does not know if that will be an issue.

Ray Siko states that the West End Fire Association said that the fire chiefs came to the borough and said that the 1975 Hahn, which is outdated and starting to rust now and is becoming a safety factor.

Ray Siko states that they have discussed in the past in placing that piece of equipment out of service because it's becoming a safety factor. Ray Siko states that whatever agreements and again because of the Sutphen being owned by the Association, that has to

be an agreement between the Borough and the Association. Ray Siko states that to spite what people think they have been moving on this and has been in contact with two fire companies and states that they missed their boat in 1993 when they approached the borough and all they needed was a signature to proceed and they could not get one, so what happened was Warrior Run built a 1.5 million dollar fire station, so we missed the boat.

Ray Siko states that now they have to look ahead and there is no funding available and states that they even went for consolidation and even though they are an operating fire department they are consolidating into one station.

Ray Siko states that money is just not there and with everything going on with administration and the higher ups they are cutting money and of course they are cutting money to emergency services.

Ray Siko states that they tried and letters have been sent and right now they have to try and figure out what they are going to do and states that his interest is the safety of the people. Ray Siko states that adding a pole building and he can't answer this question but does it have to be followed to specifications, does it have to be handicap accessible, does there have to be showers available and does there have to be a housing unit these are things he states that he cannot answer.

Mr. Varano replied that fire companies are exempt from prevailing wages among other things. Ray Siko states that one thing he wants to clear up and states that Jeff Gilotti has the paperwork outlining what it is but, people are confusing the Kulpmont Firefighters Relief Association is the money that they get through the state for operating public safety of the department.

Mr. Varano replied that none of this money came from fundraisers and questions if it all came from fireman's fund and states to keep in mind that we have the audits.

Mr. Deitrick questions if they are talking about state grants that they get every year and added that can be used to pay down a mortgage. Mr. Deitrick states that if you combine into one place you can still get grants for both units for 5 years that's a law. Mr. Deitrick states that they are thinking about changing it to ten years if you consolidate, and you can get the two grants every year so that is an option, to get a loan and pay down with that.

Ray Siko replied that what their grants are used for is replacing equipment and turnout gear. Ray Siko states their gear is 13 years old. Ray Siko states that with that grant the department has to put the remaining money.

Mr. Varano questioned if that is the \$250,000.00 grant. Ray Siko replied it was a \$150,000.00 for the turnout gear and states that \$20,000.00 is their match.

Mr. Varano states that from the Fireman's Fund we turn over to the fire department about \$15,000.00. Mr. Varano states that so, you have seven years of funding from the

Fireman's Fund. Jeff Gilotti states that the fund has \$130,000.00 right now and of that money fifty to seventy five thousand dollars is going to the radio project and states that they have not spent any money in the last four years because of the radio project. The fire department has about \$45,000.00 and there is a grant in for gear for \$150,000.00 which they have to match with \$20,000.00. Jeff Gilotti states that they also have a grant in for SCBA is 10 year and states that they are using gear right now that is not NFPA non compliant and if there would be an injury or a death someone would be liable, but they do not have any gear to use.

Mr. Varano said but you said that in the fire department you have \$45,000.00. Jeff Gilotti states that is correct. Mr. Varano replied that so if you have \$45,000 and the borough throws in another \$15,000.00 you can build a building. Jeff Gilotti replied that you did not hear the whole thing and stated that of the \$45,000.00 they have a grant out there for \$150,000.00 which they have to put \$20,000.00 to it and another grant out there for \$100,000.00 for air package and they have to put another \$20,000.00 to that.

Mr. Varano replied that you can take that out of the equipment fund because that is PPE. Jeff Gilotti states that the grant matching money cannot come out of relief it has to come out of the fire department money it cannot come out of relief.

Mr. Varano replied that we will check on that. Jeff Gilotti replied that he has the relief guidelines right here. Assistant Chief Gilotti stated there are three things they need right now turnout gear SCBA, and they have a 30 year old fire engine and a 17 year old fire engine.

Assistant Chief Gilotti stated that they have an income from a fund drive of about seven or eight thousand dollars per year.

Jeff Gilotti states that they met with Representative Barletta and there are no new construction grants so we have exhausted our resources.

Mr. Varano replied that council was led to believe that they were getting money until they met with Representative Barletta's aid Peggy Reichenbach.

Mr. Deitrick states then what he is saying is that if you would combine the West End truck up to the East End then we would no longer need to give the West End money.

Jeff Gilotti said what they are trying to do is take the squad and put it down there, so that the three primary pieces would be in one house at the East End with a little bit of modification to the third bay and states that he has no idea what that is going to cost, it is the cheapest plan for the taxpayers in the long run.

Mr. Varano states that it does not make sense because there is not parking there and questioned what would happen on a night like this when there was a meeting and there was a fire.

Jeff Gilotti replied that you would park on the street. Ray Siko added that they did it when they had the bar. Jeff Gilotti added that it is not ideal but it is the cheapest plan for the taxpayers.

Mr. Motyka states that he received some quotes in August of last year, Conestoga Pole Buildings quoted \$40.00 to \$60.00 per square foot and that puts you in a brand new building with four bays at \$220,000.00 to \$337,000.00 if you don't want to go down to the West End, but as you said there is no grant money. Jeff Gilotti replied that \$7,000.00 a year split between the companies for operating, how you pay the mortgage bottom line.

Ray Siko states that to be honest with you that building was too small, we out grew it years ago. Ray Siko states that people are misled when they see the money, one thing we took a stance on this radio project and Mr. President if you recall when he asked about the radios at a meeting and it was brought up that the radio project is coming up and said that he was sure that the borough could not fund this and the response was "absolutely not we don't know what we are going to do with the police department" is what was the answer.

Mr. Varano questioned if at that time then wasn't the county paying for all of this. Ray Siko replied not all of it, most of it and he added that they are not even going to get enough radios for their first line equipment; they are going to have to purchase them. He added that they decided as a department to freeze everything unless there is an emergency because you're looking at a local radio at right around \$3300.00.

Mr. Goretski states that he feels a committee should meet with these people and look into this. Mr. Varano replied that he did before, but they are never available. Mr. Varano stated that if he sets up a committee, we will only want to meet with the Chiefs, not a whole pile of people because then you have too many meetings.

Ray Siko states that if you recall we had two meetings and we scheduled a third and they showed up but there was a miscommunication and states that they did not have a meeting since that time. He added that one reason for the meetings was to stop the nonsense of he said she said it was to say here it is right from the horse's mouth for your ears.

Mr. Varano states that a committee was set up to your liking and states that they were never informed about that meeting and they did not hear about it. Ray Siko agreed and said that is correct.

Jeff Gilotti commented that was when the communication broke down and states that he does not feel that they should be meeting with two councilmen, this jeopardizes the fire protection for this community and so the meeting should be held with a full council in a public meeting.

Mr. Goretski disagreed and states that it concerns the public but that he thinks that it should be in an executive session with you guys.

Jeff Gilotti interjected and stated that he doesn't. Mr. Goretski continued that until you make some decisions and before you rev everyone up in town that we are going to spend thousand of dollars doing stuff that we may not and may come up with a better idea.

Mr. Goretski added that you make a public meeting and get a crowded room, you get a lot of people yelling and screaming and you don't accomplish anything. Mr. Goretski adds that you have got to talk to the players and you guys are the players.

Mr. Lutz commented that there is a very serious accomplishment when you have a meeting like that; you get a lot of people to talk. Mr. Lutz adds that we do not have any nuclear missal secrets here, you get people to talk and if someone wants to yell a little bit well then they yell a little bit. Mr. Lutz states that everyone should be involved in it, this is a serious issue and what Mr. Mirarchi said is exactly right, we are talking about the safety of the borough.

Mr. Varano states that we will meet in two weeks and every Tuesday after that unless we have a council meeting or sewer authority meeting. Mr. Lutz questions if we can look at going into the West End. Mr. Varano commented that right away you want to go into the West End, we have a building here.

Mr. Goretski added that we are having a regular council meeting, this is a council chamber. Mr. Lutz replied that everyone won't fit; we had a meeting about the building at the West End and 200 people showed up. Mr. Goretski replied that we are having a regular council meeting.

Mr. Varano states that is why he said lets have a meeting with the committee and then you people take it back to your people. Jeff Gilotti stated that he would rather do it in a public forum. Mr. Varano replied then we will do it here in two weeks on Tuesday July 26th, and every Tuesday until we get this settled unless there is a council meeting or an authority meeting.

Ray Siko states that he would like to try and rectify a problem with our mutual aid companies. He went on to say that information leaked out that the Kulpmont Fire Company #1 was getting shut down.

Mr. Varano questioned who was. Ray Siko replied the East End. Ray Siko states that they are now receiving calls from outside fire chiefs asking if they are they getting shut down and it is really playing hell with their mutual aid right now, he states that he is being asked if they are closing and saying if they are they need to make changes, it's really playing hell right now and we need to rectify that.

Mr. Varano asks the News Item if they are able to put a statement in the newspaper and The News Item agreed. A person in the audience questioned why the East End can't stay in the fire company and questions what the boroughs stance is on that.

Mr. Motyka states that there was some discussion that if all of the apparatus is out of the West End then they would not receive their allotment anymore and that would jeopardize the whole facility down there and asks if that is true. Jeff Gilotti replied that they are moving an East End vehicle to the West End and the allotment should stay the same.

Mr. Varano commented that then you end up with the same thing that you have right now, two buildings. Jeff Gilotti states that the primary pieces are under one roof and that is what they are getting at and states that he is considering that the secondary piece and adds that is the best option they have. Mr. Varano commented that it is his opinion.

Jeff Gilotti asks when they are meeting. Mr. Varano states in two weeks at 7:00, July 26th and states that they can meet every Tuesday when there is not a council or authority meeting. Mr. Varano states as long as we keep it civil like this and states that he feels this was a very productive meeting.

Marshall Mirarchi questioned what will be the borough's plan if nothing is figured out by November what is going to be the Borough's decision with the East Ends apparatus.

Mr. Varano replied that he does not know and can't answer that right now because he does not know, that's up to council.

Marshall Mirarchi states that he just wants to be made aware, because that is something that the public needs to be made aware. He states that if there is nowhere for them to house their apparatus, gear and a place for them to go when the siren rings at three o'clock in the morning what is going to happen.

Mr. Varano stated that he agrees and states that is why he mentioned about PPE and about spending the money on equipment if you have no place to house it.

Jeff Gilotti commented that lets not forget what Mr. Siegal said from SEDA-COG, he you have to provide fire protection.

Mr. Varano states that his exact words were that you have to provide designated fire protection. Mr. Goretski states that you could designate it from outside the borough.

Mr. Varano states that we do not have to buy trucks, equipment or house them and adds nobody does in this area.

Marshall Mirarchi replied that you haven't had to for 50 years so let's stop saying that you don't have to provide this or that and that we can go outside of town.

Mr. Mirarchi made the statement to go ahead and call Atlas and these other fire companies and adds that this is a brotherhood and if you think that it is going to be as simple as calling up the Mount Carmel Township Supervisors and they are going to say "okay we will send Atlas up" go ahead and see how that plays out.

Marshall Mirarchi as the Vice President of the fire department and a Lieutenant at the Kulpmont Fire Company #1, the fire fighters did not make this mess and states that they voted it down twice. He adds that the Mayor was on the board of the East End when this all went through and the firefighters found out about this when we got a call from council asking a question of what was going on that their building was put up for collateral.

Mayor Novakoski replied that the night he was there was his first night and that is when he found out it was closing and told him not to put this on him. Marshall Mirarchi replied that he is not putting it on him. Mayor Novakoski replied that yes he is, just by the way he stated it.

Mayor Novakoski added that when he found out he tried to stop it. Jeff Gilotti questioned the Mayor if he was or was not on the building committee.

Mayor Novakoski replied that he was and added that they had one meeting. Jeff Gilotti replied enough said. Mr. Varano stated that they are not responsible for this either and that this is not their fault either.

Mr. Mirarchi replied that he understands that but that there was a solution presented to council tonight that was going to save the taxpayers a lot of money and solve a lot of the problems and your first reactionMr. Varano interjected and asked how it was going to save a lot of money and adds that you still will be paying for two buildings.

Jeff Gilotti replied that \$8,000.00 a year is not a lot of money to invest in a fire company that is not a lot of money to heat two stations. Mr. Varano stated that the borough pays a lot more than \$8,000.00 and stated that we went over that before and that he has the bills.

Mr. Varano added that we are a mill and a half over on our fire protection. Jeff Gilotti said so is everybody else because you are only allowed 3 by state law. Mr. Varano replied that he is exactly right and that we pay 4.5 to 5, so we are at least a 1.5 mill over.

Matt Siko states that he would guess that it is safe to say that we should probably steer away from words like decertify or evict.

Mr. Goretski replied that nobody is saying that we do not want to have a fire department, nobody is saying that.

Mr. Varano made the statement that they were some of the options that they were given by Mr. Seigel when he was here. Mr. Varano questioned Mr. Lutz and asked if he was at that meeting.

Mr. Lutz replied that he was not, he was in Alaska. Mr. Lutz stated that it was in the last meeting that the Mayor said decertify.

Mayor Novakoski stated that is what Mr. Seigel said. Mr. Lutz said yea, SEDA-COG.

Mayor Novakoski replied to Mr. Lutz “you have all of the answers.” Mr. Lutz replied “with them I do.” Mr. Lutz stated that anyhow, the borough did not have anything to do with that fire station.

Mr. Lutz states that there is a serious question as to what happened with the pledging of the assets. He added that he knows this because he read the file five times and looked at the tax returns from the East End.

Mr. Lutz stated that there is an issue there. Mr. Lutz states that the borough did not have anything to do with it; it was the five individuals at the East End and the USDA. Mr. Lutz states that he does not know how aware the USDA is on what is going on but when he reads their charter, their charter is very much into that they support the communities and fire protection and all of that and so they kind of need to be made aware that they may have some very serious issues.

Mr. Lutz states that they think they have a title to a building that he is not sure that they have. Mr. Varano commented that they wanted to get out of that deal pretty quick.

Mr. Lutz replied that they sure did and when you read the file and tax returns, they got problems. Mr. Lutz states that he thinks that the fire company should sue the USDA. Mr. Varano added that he thinks that the people that caused this whole mess should be prosecuted.

Mr. Lutz states that he understands that the Fire Station was kind of paid for and when you read that file, nobody here would lend them the money. Mr. Lutz stated that it is a Federal offense and a Federal program.

Mr. Varano stated that he knows that the USDA was awful ticked off because the guy that he spoke to said that they would have never approved that loan.

Mr. Lutz replied that they did approve it. Mr. Varano replied that he knows but not him, his predecessor. Mr. Lutz stated that he knows but Mr. Ward is the supervisor of the crew that is up in Montoursville and they have due diligence responsibility and they have responsibility not to cause harm to communities and they caused harm. Mayor Novakoski added that they also foreclosed and did not use due process; they just said you guys are out of business and we are taking the building over.

Mr. Lutz said that he just feels that there is a larger issue about the security and people think they own it and he is not sure that they own it and that there are avenues to explore. Mr. Lutz added that their file is bad. Mr. Varano states that he hopes that they can come to some kind of arrangement and states that they are not anti-fire department.

Mr. Varano states that they just have to look at all the angles and options, give our opinions and states that he does not like it when we are adversarial, it is no way to get anything solved.

Mr. Deitrick commented that you also have to consider that we are the keeper of all of the other equipment in this borough that deteriorates because it sits outside and now that we got stuck with something that we did not want, we are still in the same place. Mr. Deitrick added that we have an office but we can't house all of our equipment that belongs to all of the borough citizens also that deteriorates if it sits outside.

Jeff Gilotti states that he thinks it would be cheaper to add onto the existing building up here, but we can discuss it.

Jeff Gilotti states that in reference to the last months meeting where it was said about a \$100,000.00 slush fund and so on.

Mr. Deitrick responded by saying that they had asked for that information before and they got nothing and is asking why is it all coming out now, that is his question and added that this may have all been solved if that information would have come out back then instead of now.

Mr. Varano agreed and added that many times he had asked for that information and it was never turned over to them.

Mr. Lutz stated when you have scarce recourses you have to say what is more important and states that the fire equipment is much more important that the street sweeper, more important than the police cars, simple as that. Mr. Lutz states that 90% of the citizens of the borough would say yes we all have to make sure we are all together on this fire equipment and the sweeper can be put away for \$540.00 a year.

Mr. Deitrick states that it is more than that, it is trucks that have to sit outside in the cold in the winter, a backhoe and other equipment.

Mr. Lutz states that the police and the fire companies are top priority. Mr. Varano stated that if our equipment does not get out in a snow storm then our fire trucks are not getting out. Mr. Lutz replied that it has been getting out. Mr. Varano replied that it is because we have a good street committee. Mr. Deitrick added that we had to get rid of a truck and just had to weld a truck because it was all rotted and rusted out, it cost \$3,500.00. Mr. Varano added we have recycling trailers also and that you can only fit so much in the garage that we have.

Mr. Varano stated that he has a serious concern though about parking as being an issue down there.

Mr. Deitrick added that you have the three police cars, code officer, and secretaries parking not to mention people coming to visit an office. Matt Siko questions if anyone is really going to complain about someone parking because they have to get the fire trucks out for a fire.

Matt Siko said that roads could be shut down and stated that they shut down a street every time there is a fire. Mr. Goretski added that as long as you have a criteria set up as to what to do and to channel the traffic because what happens is that you have people coming in and they don't know where to go.

Mr. Lutz comments that they all do great, when something happens they are having dinner and a tree falls on someone's car you all run out, you all do great.

Mr. Deitrick stated that he does not think anybody is questioning that. Mr. Lutz replied that we then need to give them adequate support.

Mr. Deitrick stated that you are just saying street sweeper, we are keeper of all of the equipment in the borough. Mr. Lutz commented that he is done. Mr. Varano stated that they are just spinning their wheels right now, so let's continue this at the meeting in two weeks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Varano thanked that Kulpmont 100 Committee again for a great job.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Stephen Bielskie of Scott Street in Kulpmont states that on Scott Street many people have parking in the back of their houses, if vehicles are parked in front of the garage doors you can't get into your parking spaces. He states that it is against the law to park in front of a garage in the first place and states that he would like to see if we can get that posted with no parking on the other side of the street.

Mr. Goretski replied that you can't post the other side though. Mr. Bielskie replied that you can't park in front of a garage door. Mr. Goretski replied that you can't post the other side though.

Mr. Bielskie states that if they park in front of a garage door, you can't park in your driveway. Mr. Goretski questioned if he is saying that the street is not wide enough to get into the garage. Mr. Bielskie replied yes it is and states that Nick Bozza is here and he lives there so he knows.

Mr. Goretski stated that is something we will have to look at and questioned if the street is that narrow. Mr. Varano commented that some of them are narrower than others. Mr. Bielskie suggested rather than ticketing the people, possibly put a few signs up posting that there is no parking on the other side of the street.

Mr. Deitrick questions if we can purchase private property. Mayor Novakoski stated that it is against the law if it is posted then you cannot park in front of a garage, not if it is not posted. Mr. Bielskie replied to check with the Chief of Police, it's the law that you cannot park in front of a garage.

Mr. Bielskie stated that at least 15 times this year he called the code officer Russ Moroz down and stated that he would like all of council to go down to his house right now and just walk in front of his house and smell the pig sty.

Mr. Bielskie stated that according to Russ more letters went out to Bango again, it is going to be Bango's problem to evict them not ours.

Mr. Goretski questioned why something is not being done. Mr. Varano questions why they are not being cited. Mr. Moroz replied that we have grounds for eviction now because of the police presence there.

Mr. Bielskie replied that Mr. Moroz had grounds all year long. Mr. Bielskie added that this has been going on for years and added that anybody that lived there we had problems with and states that he had the SWAT team come into his bedroom one day because of the people that lived next door. He continued to say that he and his wife got woken up by them pounding on the door with an AK 47.

Mr. Goretski stated that he does not have the right to evict; he needs the police officer to cite. Mr. Bielskie replied that we have a Rental Ordinance agreement that states 3 strikes, if a code official or a police officer is down and makes a report up or anything they are suppose to send the landlord a letter saying this is strike 1, this is strike 2 and this is strike 3 and you cannot rent the property after the 3rd letter they are evicted.

Mr. Bielskie replied that last time the people went to legal aid and that is not our problem though that is Bango's problem to move them someplace else.

Mr. Varano questioned Mr. Moroz and the Solicitor on once that he sends the letter to the landlord telling them he has to evict these people because of the three strike rule after he goes to the magistrate how long it takes. The Solicitor replied that it could be up to 90 days.

Mr. Bielskie stated that right now the lady is in the hospital, her husband left, the daughter is staying their but the daughter does not want to be there because they are always fighting and two weeks ago they took her daughter off of her.

Mr. Bielskie stated that last week the police were up there because of the garbage and this week its all along the porch and goes up the back to the corner, it s that bad. Mr. Bielskie stated that a lot of the garbage is adult diapers, in the heat and questions if he needs to say more. Mr. Varano replied no and directed Russ Moroz to take care of that.

Mr. Bielskie stated that he sat down with Mr. Moroz and discussed that they have to start doing something about this dilapidated building, it may be for sale or whatever but, he states that he showed him the way he does things, where they are sent a notice of violation after the violation and then start with a citation.

Mr. Bielskie stated that there is a house across the street from them where the windows are smashed and cats are going in there, foundation wall is falling over and the back door is wide open and states that is an unsafe structure according to UCC.

Mr. Bielskie adds that the UCC has more strength with that. Mr. Goretski states that you can condemn that property. Mr. Bielskie replied that condemning is one thing but you must do something after you condemn it. Mr. Goretski added that you then have to go through the magistrate and file the charges. Mr. Varano directs the Russ Moroz to take care of that.

Mr. Bielskie stated that he and Russ Moroz sat down and they are going to start working to clean the town up. Mr. Bielskie stated that the thirteen years that he has been living in Kulpmont, anyone who lived in there lived there for six or eight months.

Mr. Varano stated that if there is no other citizen that would like to be heard that the board will now meet in executive session to discuss contractual matters.

The Borough Solicitor William C. Cole announced that the board met in executive session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss contractual matters.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Goretski to accept option C of the Aqua proposal which is a written promise to install Option A which is to install a new water line, pave street from 89th and Scott to Fir Street and install a fire hydrant on 8th and Fir Street when requested by the borough.

ROLL CALL VOTE - DEITRICK (yes), LUTZ (yes), MALAKOSKI (no), MOTYKA (yes), VARANO (yes), BURNS (yes), GORETSKI (yes)
6 YEAS – 1 NAY

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

**RHONDA WILK
BOROUGH SECRETARY**

DATE OF APPROVAL