

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
March 13, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Robert Chesney
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Bozza, Robert Chesney, Stephen Bielskie, Robert Fanella and Walter Lutz

ABSENT: George Malakoski, Michael Sinopoli and Robert Slaby

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Solicitor, Edward Greco and Treasurer Paul A. Niglio

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Politza, Jeff Gilotti, Rose Bielskie, Bernadette Fanella, Rosanne Nolan, Robert Nolan and Stephen Motyka

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

No One Spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz stated things are moving along on the Powell Building. Mr. Lutz stated since Council only meets once per month he is asking for a motion for bids to demolish the Powell Building. He stated the solicitor has been working with the owner's attorney and we will need to get in there for some inspections and write up some bid specifications. He stated hopefully that will get done shortly so that we can advertise for bids.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to advertise for demolition of the Powell Building.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mayor Bozza questioned if there is a way we could put a best value contract on this so that we don't have the same situation happen as with the demolition on the old building. Solicitor Greco stated at this point, because we don't even know what it entails at this point or if it could collapse with a gust of wind. Mr. Fanella stated an environmental engineer will need to get in there. Mr. Chesney stated first we will need to have access and then we will need to get an engineer in there to know what contractors are going to bid on, we want to know exactly the steps and what is going to happen to take that building down. Mr. Lutz stated an environmental engineer will need to get in there and then an engineer to draw up the specs.

Mr. Lutz stated two resolutions were passed by Council declaring vacancies on the KMHJMA and then two motions were approved to have two individuals appointed to be seated on the authority and stated those two individuals were not seated last night. Mr. Lutz stated we are now at a situation where we need to request the County District Attorney to proceed with any legal action so that the proper appointed and duly sworn in members could be seated.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion to request Northumberland County District Attorney to proceed with taking civil action for new members of KMHJMA Board to be seated and the removal of the two members they have replaced.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

The Solicitor stated just so there is no confusion, it is not a criminal action but a civil action.

Mr. Lutz stated he thinks that everything is squared away concerning the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board. Mr. Lutz stated there is going to be a meeting on April 2nd. Mr. Chesney stated Mrs. Wilk is going to be the supervisor of that election and stated Rhonda has posted the necessary paperwork. Mr. Chesney stated she will supervise our three workers that qualify for union status to come in and vote for or not for the union.

MAYORS REPORT- (Nicholas Bozza)

Mayor Bozza stated he has recently visited Life Geisinger and stated it is really a very good facility that do a lot for the elders in our community. Mayor Bozza stated he met with the coordinators and directors and stated they are looking to get more actively involved with the community and stated if anyone has the chance to stop down there adding it is really a great facility.

Mayor Bozza stated concerning the Crime Watch they just recently had their status updated and their bank account is in place so that donations may now begin to be taken for the crime watch signs. Mayor Bozza stated he will need to get with Mr. Fanella on where the signs could be placed.

Mayor Bozza stated Monday they are having a stop the bleed class down at Holy Angels and stated it is very good information and anyone interested is encouraged to come down.

Mayor Bozza stated he had a phone call asking if the traffic light is up to code. Mayor Bozza stated he does not know because usually they have push buttons and cross walks and signs. Mayor Bozza stated he does not know and told the person he would bring it up. Mayor Bozza stated he knows we are responsible for inspections and maintenance but is PennDOT responsible to bring it up to code. A short discussion took place and it was agreed that Mr. Fanella stated he will look into it.

Mr. Lutz stated he forgot to mention when the discussion took place on the Powell building that we need two engineers and Environmental Engineer and an Engineer for the Powell Building concerning demolition. He stated the Engineer did not get back with us before the meeting, but he would like to see a motion to spend up to \$3000.00 for hiring an engineer.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to spend up to \$3,000.00 for an Engineer.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Approval is needed on the February 11, 2019 monthly meeting minutes and the March 4, 2019 special meeting minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to approve the meeting minutes from February 11 and March 4, 2019.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated under Correspondence we received the following:

- 5 letters of interest were received for appointment to KMHJMA Board, Copied Mayor/Council
- Northumberland County Tax Collection Committee, Copy Mayor/Council/Solicitor/Treasurer

- Wiest, Muolo, Noon, Swinehart & Bathgate Law Offices, RE: Mt. Carmel District Industrial Fund Corp., Copied Mayor/Council

Mr. Lutz Commented on the third item of Correspondence and stated our Solicitor was able to get us \$10,000.00 Solicitor Greco stated he will elaborate on that in his report.

- BB&T Bank – BB&T Sun Trust Merger, end of 2019 – Copy Mayor/Council
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania PA Labor Relations Board/Memorandum of Agreement, Copy Solicitor/Mayor/Council and Treasurer
- Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance/Clean up in the Borough Veterans Memorial Field/Seeking permission and litter disposal from Brough April 20th – Copy Mayor/Council
- Victor Girardi, Transit Directors LATS – Borough share of Capital funding match for previous bus purchase copy Mayor/Council
- Oil Heater/ Borough Garage Quotes Copied Mr. Fanella/Service and Facilities

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to grant permission to the SCRA for clean up of the Veterans Memorial Field on April 20th and for the Borough to dispose of the trash.

Mr. Chesney questioned the dates the SCRA submitted and stated they were contradicting in the letter it states April 20th and then also April 28th. Rhonda Wilk stated the date was verified with SCRA as it being April 20th and that April 28th was a misprint.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Lutz stated another item under correspondence that will need action is the correspondence from Victor Girardi, Transit Director of LATS. The letter received by council is for the request of the Borough's share of Capital Funding match of \$327.00 for a previous bus purchase.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to pay Kulpmont Borough's share of the Capital Funding of \$327.00 to LATS for the previous purchase of a bus.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

TREASURERS REPORT – (Paul A. Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated everyone received a copy of the financial statement and the billing for the month of February and stated a motion is needed to approve and to pay the bills.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and Mr. Fanella seconded the motion to approve the financial statement and to pay the bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated as reported under correspondence there was a court hearing and procedure involving the Mount Carmel Industrial Fund, which was established in the 60's when Alumo was there and sold bonds.

The Solicitor stated there was an amount of money, roughly \$63,000.00 and there was a board member left that said what should we do with the remainder of this money and so they petitioned the court and it was Kulpmont Borough, Marion Heights, Mt. Carmel Township, Mt. Carmel Borough, Mount Carmel Area School District and Northumberland County Industrial Development Fund were notified and participated.

Solicitor Greco stated The Northumberland County Industrial Fund initially wanted all the money to fund a study for a protentional Hotel/Motel to be built in the area. The Solicitor stated all of the municipalities opposed that because that may never be built and stated they all found and expressed a need for the money and agreed that each entity would split the money and stated we received \$10,144.38 which certainly was a boost to each of the entities. Mr. Lutz commented "the Solicitor is not saying enough, he was the one that cut the deal and said that was found money."

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – Nathan Foust)

Mr. Lutz stated Chief Foust is not here this evening and introduced Officer McHugh one of the Borough's new officers and then commented "we are very lucky to have him here."

Officer McHugh stated the police report is attached and stated they handled 243 incidents and complaints and stated they are currently working on trying to simplify the monthly activity report so that everyone could see a better breakdown of the crime that is happening in Kulpmont.

Mr. Lutz commented there is a lot of activity and the efforts of the officers are really starting to show. Mr. Lutz stated they have a lot going on that cannot be talked about. Mr. Lutz stated he never realized how much was going on in the borough and made the statement “it is money well spent.”

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Fire Chief Report Attachment #3

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report Attachment #4

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT – (Russ Moroz)

Report Attachment #5

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated Food Surplus distribution will be held on Thursday March 21, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the borough garage.

Mr. Fanella stated the Street Sweeper is out and the season schedule will begin the end of this month. He stated they have been busy filling potholes.

Mr. Fanella stated earlier he met with the insurance provider and stated he was informed there was no liability coverage on our Fire Department and stated to add coverage as an addition insured on the policy the cost would be \$493.00.

MOTION- Mr. Bielski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to add Kulpmont Fire Department to the Borough’s insurance policy as additional named insured.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated he has listed on the agenda the police department computer and backup and asked Rhonda Wilk to explain what that is about.

Rhonda Wilk stated the Police Department currently has no backup for their computer system and a quote was received from Liquid Technologies for an external backup, the

cost would be \$24.00 per month for the external backup. Liquid Technologies stated the Administrative office would be included and stated the backup will hold 250 gigs of data for the \$24.00 cost per month.

Rhonda Wilk stated the police department would also like to have their computers mapped and have a common file they would all be able to access. That estimate to have that work done is approximately \$170.00, \$85.00 per hour, estimated to be a two-hour job. Once the computers are mapped and Officer Toter will then work to place documents the department wants to share in the common folder.

Mr. Lutz stated there is no off-site backup and when the officers get some of the criminal deals there could be some lost investigation information.

Mr. Niglio stated last month he was in when the Chief needed to send information out in an email and there was some question on the ability to scan. Rhonda Wilk stated that was something different, and stated at the time he did not know if the fax machine they have in the police department was able to scan, but since then we contacted CSP Office Equipment and Mark Kraynak said it was capable of scanning and asked for the Chief to call him and set up a time that he could come in and set that up and go over that with the police. Mr. Niglio stated that is just a matter of some training then.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to spend up to \$500.00 for backups on the computers for the police department and the administrative office and to map the police department computers and set common files up.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated yellow paint is needed for the streets and a quote from Sherwin Williams for 50-gallon yellow street paint was received for \$845.00.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to purchase 50-gallon yellow paint for the street department at a cost of \$845.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated we received our signed DEP grant back and stated with that grant we will be paving the parking lot up at the borough garage for the drop off recycling and putting fencing up and will need to get going on the purchase of a truck.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and Mr. Bielskie seconded the motion to advertise for paving the parking lot, fencing and the truck through the recycling grant.

Mr. Lutz stated essentially, we got that \$143,000.00 grant and we need to get going on it there is a lot of work that will be done at the old building site, it will become a recycling center and will be better for the people to drive up and drop off their recycling.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated the last item he must talk about is the borough pick up truck. Mr. Fanella stated it is getting old. Bruce Graff commented that it is in pretty good shape for a 2002. Mr. Fanella stated the bed rails are rotted and stated he has an estimate from JT Welding in Natalie for \$1,535.00, parts and labor. Mr. Fanella stated he will need to remove the bed and put new rails underneath for it to pass inspection.

A discussion took place to make a motion to spend up to \$1700.00 to fix the truck not knowing if it will end up being a little more and not knowing the condition until the bed is removed.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to spend up to \$1,700.00 to fix the 2002 pickup truck.

Mr. Lutz stated the truck is in good shape and so if we fix it and get a few more years out of it that will be great.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated we already approved up to \$7,000.00 to replace the oil burner at the borough garage and stated we received two more quotes and the low bid was LTS \$6,200.00. Mr. Fanella stated it was already approved to spend up to \$7,000.00 and so this bid came in less.

Bruce Graff stated the pick up needs two ball joints and the cost would be \$250.00.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to purchase ball joints for the pick up at \$250.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (absent)
4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

FINANCE/PURCHASING– (Robert Slaby)

No Report

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated there is a garage in Kulpmont that we are watching, they have not given us plans and so we are watching them.

Mr. Lutz stated we are getting close to doing something positive with the Powell building and the Derk building was sold and the lady will be coming into the borough in three weeks to discuss her plans on what is going to be done with that building. Mr. Lutz stated we are moving down the street.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (George Malakoski)

No Report

GRANTS/RECREATION - (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz stated we are going to start working on a recreation grant, \$250,000.00 for some improvements to the football field. He stated we are planning to do some stuff up there. Mr. Lutz stated we will make the report back about that.

PERSONNEL- (Michael Sinopoli)

No Report

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Chesney, Sinopoli and Fanella)

Mr. Chesney stated progress is continuing at the Mill and stated their short-term goal is to try and finish in June. Mr. Chesney stated the fencing was put up to keep people away and off the property and away from the retaining shell they built in the old driveway between the two structures and if you noticed the wooden bin, that will house the trailers where they will be throwing in any materials they deem possibly dangerous that will need to be removed in a correct manner. Mr. Chesney stated they are very optimistic on how the progress is going to go.

Mr. Chesney reminded everyone that a permit is required for any dumpster that is not placed on private property.

Mr. Chesney stated the other day the Committee met with the police, just to sit down and see where they are going. Mr. Chesney stated it was a very profitable hour to spend together and stated they hope to have informal periodic sessions with them in the future.

Mr. Lutz stated they are moving along at the Mill and stated a lunch was held the other day at the West End for the workers at the Mill in appreciation and stated they hope to do it again in the future.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Robert Nolan and stated he has an issue with a neighbor to his property and provided pictures to council and the code officer to view concerning his problem and issue. He stated this is something the Mayor, Council, Code and even the Fire Department will potentially need to address. Mr. Nolan stated the ownership of 100 is a rental property and that is the individual that is in there as an occupant that he is having a problem with. Mr. Nolan stated the other two properties adjacent to it, 102 and 104 are the properties he and his brother own. Mr. Nolan stated the last property is privately owned by the occupants that are in there.

Mr. Nolan stated he believes the occupant that is in 100 is causing a potential hazard to the community. He stated even though they have the lumber company backside against this property and 102 adjacent to it, his issue has to do with the fact that the occupant is throwing garbage out the window and onto the roof along with cigarette butts.

Mr. Nolan stated he has been putting up with this for a long time. Mr. Nolan stated in that type of structure if a fire starts, after getting the occupants out, the roof is probably going to go off those four buildings. Mr. Nolan stated, and Jeff Gilotti could tell you. Jeff Gilotti replied, “without a doubt.”

Mr. Nolan stated he has gone to the property owner already and basically, they have done the best they could of getting the garbage cleaned up. Mr. Nolan stated he is concerned about a possible fire adding the one tenant and the elderly people on the end are close to 90 years old and stated if there would be three or four firetrucks that would come on scene they may have a heart attack. He added it is not a good situation and stated he does not want to confront the individual that is in there.

Mr. Lutz stated they will get back with his within three days. The Mayor added he believes the officers have been down there and so they will look at the reports as well. Mr. Chesney commented it is an honest concern and Mr. Bielskie added they will take care of it.

OLD BUSINESS –

None

NEW BUSINESS-

Rhonda Wilk stated just before the meeting we received an email from Megan Doebler she ran the Tinker Garden Parks and Greenspaces last year at the Veterans Memorial

Field and she is requesting to have access again to do so. Rhonda Wilk stated she thinks it went well last year adding she did not hear much about it.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to allow Tinker Garden Parks and Greenspaces to run their program again down at the Veterans Memorial Field.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Mr. Fanella stated down at the Veterans Field we are getting a new sign which was sponsored by the Kulpmont Car Cruise. Mr. Fanella stated the top half will stay the same and the Red Tornadoes baseball team will be recognized sign and there will be an arrow pointing toward the field below the sign.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Lutz stated this year on October 5, 2019 Holy Cross is playing Bucknell at Lewisburg and stated we have asked Bucknell to donate 50 tickets to the Cougars and we are going to try and make a community event. Mr. Lutz stated we would like to show our support for Coach Robert Chesney, Jr. and so we are in the process of getting tickets, bus and try to do a tailgate. Mr. Lutz stated there will be more coming on that.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Date of Approval _____