

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSE
NOVEMBER 28, 2017**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mark Burns
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose
On Tuesday November 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Nicholas P. Goretski, III., Walter Lutz

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

PRESENT: Code Officer Russ Moroz

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert J. Fanella Joe Pancerella

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

No one spoke.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Bruno R. Varano)

Mr. Varano stated this meeting was called for the Bridge, to set some things straight after some people put some crap in the newspaper. Mr. Varano stated he will turn this matter over now to Mr. Motyka so that he may go through this bridge project line by line.

Mr. Motyka stated that Mr. Tamborelli put in a Right to Know request. Mr. Motyka stated that concerning all the donations and money put forth. Mr. Motyka stated we would have \$12,000.00 for park benches and bridge. Mr. Motyka stated initially we applied for grants two years in a row and planted trees at \$3,000.00 each and so cash wise we invested around \$18,000.00. Mr. Motyka stated as we read through the breakdown a lot was donated timewise and stated all of that will be recognized when we make the final donation sign up.

Mr. Motyka stated the first 10 that bought benches each one will have their name on a bench and the remaining donors will have their name on a plaque. Mr. Motyka stated we have about \$3,700.00 left over and the cost for each plaque on the bench was \$40.00 and we purchased 10 so we spent \$400.00 to recognize each donor. Mr. Motyka stated everything else above and beyond will be used for other parts of the project. Mr. Motyka stated we originally thought we would get five benches and it ended up that we got 10.

Mr. Motyka stated we started off with \$3,300.00 to building the bridge. He stated the Dep stream crossing Permit was \$1,888.00 and that was if we put telephone poles or pipe in the stream, no matter what we would do to cross the stream, that would be the cost. Mr. Motyka stated the Lumber invoice was \$3,247.00 originally but with this whole deliberation back and forth and with Mr. Bielskie's opinion that we would have to make it ADA and then cost \$3,763.00. Mr. Motyka stated when they met he had said no problem but it is going to cost several thousand dollars more.

Mr. Motyka stated the big kick here was per his request to go 9 ft. deep with the bridge piers instead of 40 inches. Instead of three yards of concrete on the top we went with 10 yards of concrete on the bottom. Mr. Motyka continued to go over the breakdown sheet he prepared and then stated the total bridge cost budgeted from day one was to be \$7,155.00 and with the donations the cost would have been \$6,485.323.

Mr. Motyka stated when this turned into a debate it added a lot of costs. Mr. Motyka stated we got a letter from Mount Carmel Township after someone contacted them and stressed that the bridge was on their property. Mr. Motyka stated a big thing here was when we go a second letter from Mr. Bielskie stating he wanted to see the engineer drawings and so that was a big change.

Mr. Motyka stated that before the hurdles the cost minus donations was to be \$6,485.33 and since all of these hurdles were put in our road the total cost when all said and done will be \$11,649.15. Mr. Motyka stated the difference is a cost of \$5,163.82. Mr. Motyka stated all of it has cost the borough more money. Mr. Motyka stated everything was approved by DEP from day one. Mr. Motyka asked if there are any questions on the cost breakdown he prepared.

Mr. Motyka stated he visited the Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Municipal Authority and stated that he obtained stamped drawings form 1987 sewer line project. Mr. Motyka stated theses are stamped drawings from a civil surveyor. Mr. Motyka stated a lot of the ideas came from the idea the bridge is in Mount Carmel Township.

Mr. Motyka stated these blueprints show that this bridge is 100% in Kulpmont and stated it should have been dealt with on a local level and should not have gotten another municipality involved from day one. Mr. Motyka stated it took a long time for him to find something that would prove that adding as he displayed the blueprints, "here we are, definite proof."

Mr. Motyka stated with all of that said \$1,888.00 of that was approved to get the crossing permit which is what we would have needed for any crossing a pipe or whatever, if we take that off of there we have \$3,300.00 from donations and at the September meeting we made a motion for the Borough to pay \$5,000.00 to finish the bridge out and since then we got hit with the engineer stamped design drawing which was \$3,470.00 which equals our allocated money is less than what is needed to complete the project. Mr. Motyka stated we are still getting donations and so that may go down.

MOTION- Mr. Burns made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Zigarski to allocate an additional \$2,000.00 to finish the bridge project.

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

Mr. Motyka stated with that said and going through the proper channel he would hope that we can get this project completed. Mr. Motyka stated when you get grants from Merck and Walmart and BB&T and then you get hit with at \$3,400.00 Engineering cost, which he added he never saw a necessity for it. Mr. Motyka stated it is really a kick to the gut, it really through a wrench in the project with all that it takes to raise money.

Mr. Varano stated all they did was cause extra cost for this bridge and questions what they did for Kulpmont. Mr. Motyka questioned Rhonda if she could include this breakdown to Mr. Tamborelli in his Right to Know Request. Rhonda replied that since he is providing it she could include it.

Mr. Motyka stated there would probably be a two week turn around to get volunteers here and stated as said at the last meeting having inmates provide some labor is another cost now. Mr. Motyka stated with council's approval, if we are able to have some help from the maintenance guys where needed to help out to complete this project. Mr. Motyka stated that telephone poles will be placed on each side of the track so that it does not get washed out again and we will have the borough workers help with that.

MOTION – Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Zigarski for the maintenance guys to lend a hand where needed for the bridge project.

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

Mr. Varano stated that we will now address the Aqua project. Mr. Varano asked Russ Moroz to enlighten us on the Aqua project adding that it is ridiculous to do a project like this, starting it now.

Russ Moroz stated that he was contacted about starting the project on December 4th. He stated John Klinger came into the office today with the plans and said they were anticipating a start date of December 11th. Russ stated that in the letter it states there will not be any problem digging and stated that they have their permit fee in there and stressed that they would have their contractor, Crawford and that he would fix anything and would put enough amosite in. Mr. Varano commented their permit fees are not matching up with ours. Mr. Varano questioned if our fees were around \$10,000.00. Russ Replied not for this one. Mr. Varano questioned why they are coming in so late. Russ Moroz

stated that is the way they had it bid out, this was a project they were going to work through the winter. Mr. Varano stated the plows will be beat to hell if the streets are torn up through the winter. Council briefly discussed and agreed this project should not be done over the winter. Mr. Motyka stated Mt. Carmel had a similar issue and problems where they could not get the paving done through the winter. Mr. Varano stated he will step down and make a motion that this project does not get done until spring of 2018.

MOTION- Mr. Varano made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Burns to not allow the Aqua project to get done until spring.

Mr. Motyka questioned how they go about checking the lineal feet of ditch. Russ Moroz stated he has the plans and they are on the one calls. Russ stated he thinks they may be off on that and stated he will add it up. Russ Moroz stated he has one question on 13th and 14th street. Russ Moroz stated everything should be paved curb to curb. Mr. Varano stated they had all year to do this adding they do not have an argument with the water company further commenting council just does not want the town torn up during the winter. Russ Moroz stated he did specifically say to them that it probably won't happen and did give John Klinger a heads up on that.

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

OLD BUSINESS-

Mr. Motyka stated he and Mr. burns met with the Mount Carmel School board and stated in 2004 a lease was signed with the Borough for \$1.00 per year for ten years. Mr. Motyka stated the Veterans Memorial Field is used by them for baseball and the cross-country team uses it as well. Mr. Motyka stated that we incur cost for maintenance, trash etc.. Mr. Motyka stated when the season ends in June, we are still maintaining the grounds all year, our borough workers for lawn mowing, removing the trash, maintaining the ground.

Mr. Motyka stated the associated cost and hours were discussed with the school board and we asked our solicitor to follow up with their solicitor. Our solicitor reported back they did not want to renegotiate the contract and are happy with what it is. Mr. Varano commented that he would guess they don't. Mr. Motyka stated we asked for \$2,500.00 toward the costs and we have not heard back from them.

Mr. Varano stated in the original contract it was that any associated cost they were to split the cost with the Borough. Mr. Motyka stated if council is in agreement we ask for \$2,500.00, Mr. Motyka stated he also asked for some help from them on applying for grants also. Mr. Burns stated that school board has Bucknell students helping them with grants. Mr. Varano stated the new council may want to approach them on that. Mr. Varano stated that it is right in there if you don't sign a lease in 10 years, then it goes year to year and that is how we have been working the last four or so years.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Malakoski that we adopt a lease and send it on to the school board, for next school board meeting and include that we are asking \$2,500.00 toward the cost incurred.

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

NEW BUSINESS –

Mr. Malakoski stated he was approached to house the Santa Sleigh in the borough garage on the 12th of December the Santa Sleigh will be in Mount Carmel and rather than run it all the way back house the sleigh in our garage for the Santa Sleigh event scheduled for the 13th in Kulpmont. Mr. Malakoski stated they would be able to accommodate and have room to house for one night.

MOTION- Mr. Malakoksi made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Zigarski to allow the Santa Sleigh to be housed at the borough garage for on the 12th and 13th of December.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Varano stated he hopes everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Joe Pancerella 700 Pine Street stated he has a question on the lease and how it is written the school district would share in any additional expenses on maintenance. Mr. Motyka stated it is more of a gentleman's agreement. Mr. Varano stated it is not set in stone that we could really enforce it. Mr. Varano stated all of our maintenance people between ours and theirs would do the work, but over time you have different people up there and different people here.

Mr. Motyka read over the current agreement and then stated we resurfaced the tract but as the lease reads they did not initiate that work and so are not obligated to pay any of it. Mr. Motyka stated that he does not feel the lease was written fairly. Mr. Pancerella stated that was his question, if it is in there to share costs we would be able to send them an invoice. Mr. Motyka agreed and stated he does not think it is fair to the borough the way it is now. Mr. Varano stated that he is pretty sure that Greco was their attorney and Bill was ours.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

RHONDA WILK
BOROUGH SECRETARY

DATE OF APPROVAL

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