

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 3, 2022**

Magisterial District Judge William C. Cole performed the swearing in of Newly Elected Mayor, Robert M. Slaby and a Councilmembers Mike Balitchick, Wm. Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney and Stephen Bielskie.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present.  
Kulpmont borough Council held its Re-Organization meeting  
Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

Robert M. Slaby Called the meeting to order

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Robert M. Slaby, Mike Balitchick, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph J Dowkus II and Stephen Motyka.

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk and Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff

Robert M. Slaby stated at this time he is going to resign his position as a Council member with a two-year term remaining and being vacant. Solicitor Greco stated Borough Council now has 30 days to fill that vacancy.

**MOTION-** Mr. Bielskie made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Slaby as Council Member and was seconded by Mr. Chesney.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6- 0

Robert M. Slaby stated he was this towns Mayor for 12 years, a position he is going to return to this evening and has been on Council for 4 years. He continued to say it has been a pleasure working with Council and stated in his opinion this is probably the best Council in 20, 25 years. He added stated Council could be very proud of that because he had been through some terrible times here and stated he hopes to continue to work with Council as Mayor.

Mayor Slaby declared all appointed Borough positions vacant and stated at this time a President must be selected.

Mr. Dowkus made a nomination to nominate Mr. Bielskie as Council President.

Mr. Bradley made a nomination to appoint Mr. Bielskie as Council President.

No additional nominations for Council President.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion to close nominations seconded by Mr. Bradley.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6- 0

Mr. Bielskie Council President presided over the meeting.

Mr. Bielskie asked if there were any nominations for Vice President of Council.

Mr. Bradley made a nomination to nominate Mr. Dowkus as Council Vice President.  
Mr. Motyka made a nomination to appoint Mr. Dowkus as Council Vice President.  
No additional nominations for Council President.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6- 0

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion to appoint Edward Greco as solicitor at the same retainer and per hour rate and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6- 0

**MOTION**- to appoint Paul Niglio as Treasurer by Mr. Dowkus and seconded by Mr. Chesney at current rate.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6- 0

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley and seconded by Mr. Dowkus to appoint Bruce Graff as Borough Supervisor and approving current rate.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6- 0

**MOTION**- Mr. Chesney and seconded by Mr. Motyka to appoint Rhonda Wilk Borough Secretary and Right to Know Officer by Mr. Chesney and seconded by Mr. Motyka.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

**MOTION** – Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to appoint Paul Niglio as Vacancy Board Member.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

**MOTION** – Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to name a delinquent tax collector as Statewide Tax Recovery.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

**MOTION** – Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to name Kevin O’Hearn as EMA Director.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6- 0

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to adopt all same and current procedures governing Borough Council.

**VOICE VOTE**-

Unanimous

**MOTION** to table any decision on the Borough Depository by Mr. Dowkus and seconded by Mr. Chesney.

**VOICE VOTE**-

Unanimous

Mr. Bielskie asked that Council Members get to him the committees they would be interested in.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion to table the committee appointments and was seconded by Mr. Balitchick.

**VOICE VOTE-**

Unanimous

**MOTION**-by Mr. Motyka and seconded by Mr. Dowkus to approve the meeting schedule for 2022 as every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday as each month at 7:00 p.m. with every other Wednesday being reserved for meeting for General Purpose if needed and advertise.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6- 0

**MOTION** – A motion by Mr. Dowkus and seconded by Mr. Bradley to advertise open positions and request a letter of interest to fill the vacant 2-year term for council position, tax collector, Borough Physician and Heath Board Officer.  
Letters of interest being due on January 26<sup>th</sup> by 4 pm.

Solicitor Greco stated we have 30 days to make appointment of Tax Collector and Councilmember. Mr. Motyka stated we could call a meeting on Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup> to fill vacancies. Solicitor Greco stated if the Borough does not appoint within 30 days, it would then go to County.

Mr. Dowkus stated he did reach out to the board of elections for a list of all the write ins of registered voters and we would at least be able to look at that.

Mayor Slaby stated time is of the essence. Mayor Slaby stated a tax collector will need to be bonded and would not suggest a person that has been convicted of a crime. Mr. Bradley questioned if the person filling the spot would need to be the same political party. Mayor Slaby replied, “No,” it is not a requirement.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6- 0

Solicitor Greco stated there are two seats open on the Sewer Authority. Both Mr. Slaby and Mr. Bielskie seats are both open.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to include members of KMHJMA to be advertised for 2 vacant positions on the board.

Mayor Slaby commented there have been rumors that once he becomes Mayor, he would be forbidden to serve on the KMHJMA Board. He stated he has since then received confirmation from PSAB that he would be able to continue the KMHJMA Board.

Mr. Bradley stated the Sewer Authority member does not need to be someone sitting on Borough Council. Mr. Bradley questioned if it is a non-paid position. Mayor Slaby

agreed, it is a non-paid position. Mr. Slaby stated in his opinion you should not be able to sit on the board if you are o a member of Borough Council. Mr. Bradley stated it is hard to get someone to volunteer when it is a nonpaid position. Mayor Slaby commented especially when you get ridiculed.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6- 0

Mayor Slaby stated he will swear in Mr. O’Hearn within the net week or so.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR**

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**RHONDA WILK  
SECRETARY**

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**DATE OF APPROVAL**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mr. Chesney  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday January 12, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Michael Balitchick, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Stephen Motyka.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Niglio

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul A. Niglio, OIC Stephen Mazzeo, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Official Heather Owens and Secretary Rhonda Wilk.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kevin O' Hearn, Ray Siko, Marshall Mirarchi and Joe Politza

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated the Acreage, the 40 acres behind the mill is for sale and persons interested in purchasing are talking about having a trailer on the lot. Mr. Bielskie stated they are allowed to be on the land 180 days out of the year, anything after that there would be an issue. Mr. Bielskie stated they plan on riding their 4 wheelers on it. Council discussed the acreage and agreed if they plan to develop the land to go through the proper channels when the time comes.

**MAYORS REPORT-** (Robert Slaby)

Mayor Slaby requested an executive session with Borough Council to discuss a personnel matter at this time, 7:05 p.m.

Solicitor Greco announced Borough Council met in executive session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss a personnel matter.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed for the December 8<sup>th</sup> regular monthly meeting minutes, the December 22, 2021, special meeting and the January 3, 2022, re-organization meeting minutes.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve the meeting minutes from December 8, 2021, December 22, 2021, and the January 3, 2022, meetings.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

1. DCED copy of grant approval \$42,500.00, Copy Mayor/Council
2. Correspondence from PSAB was received providing information on a two-day course understanding challenges, laws and regulations that impact the community. The cost is \$125.00 per member, Copied to Mayor/Council
3. PSAB – Bidding Thresholds Increase (effective Jan 1, 2022) contracts below \$11,800 require no bidding, contracts between \$11,800.00 and \$21,900.00 require three written Quotations, purchases or contracts over \$21,900.00 require formal bidding.
4. IRS standard mileage rate has increased for 2022.
5. The U.S. Treasurer Released ARPA Report Portal & User Guide for non-entitlement Units of Local Government ARPA reporting- First Report being due April 20, 2022, Copied Mayor/Council
6. Correspondence was received from TETRA TECH / Quaker Run Stream Sealing Project, SCRA. There is a form included that will need to be signed by Council and returned concerning that project. Copied Mayor/Council
7. Mr. Stephen Bielskie submitted a letter of interest to serve the KMHJMA Board, Copied Mayor/Council
8. Mr. Robert Fanella submitted a letter of interested dated January 5, 2022, to fill the vacant council position, remaining two-year term, Copied Mayor/Council
9. Kulpmont Fire Department sent correspondence in regard to 2022 administration and operational leadership changes- Kevin O’Hearn Chief of Department, Ray Siko II, Deputy Chief and Marshall Mirarchi, Assistant Chief- Copy Mayor/Council.

10. Northumberland County Mental Health Services – conducting a street count of unsheltered homeless people, Copied Mayor/Council/Officer Mazzeo

**TREASURERS REPORT** – (Paul A. Niglio)

Mr. Bielskie stated Mr. Niglio is absent this evening. Rhonda Wilk stated council received a list of bills to be paid and stated a motion is needed to approve.

**MOTION**- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated Municipal Liens were filed against properties in the borough for cutting grass. Solicitor Greco stated he also has some information on the residential ordinance which could be addressed later.

Mayor Slaby questioned if there was any interest on the vacant lots that the borough owns on the 900 block of Chestnut Street. Rhonda Wilk stated we have not received anything although there was an interested party inquiring about it, he owns a property adjacent to the lots.

Solicitor Greco stated the lots would need to be advertised, if someone comes in and makes an offer without advertising that would not satisfy. A discussion took place on advertising the lots located on the 900 block of Chestnut Street to receive bids.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to advertise the Borough lots for sale with the bids being due February 9<sup>th</sup> by 4:00 p.m. and will be opened at the February 9, 2022, meeting.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Officer Mazzeo stated his report is attached. Officer Mazzeo stated we received ammunition last year and stated he received a quote, MOPEC upgraded their requirement and stated he recommends we purchase the ammunition and at least we have it.



Mr. Bradley questioned if the ammunition is going to be available. Officer Mazzeo stated depending on what type it is, some stuff is available for government and some stuff is just not available if you are government or not.

**MOTION**- To purchase ammunition at a cost of \$765.73 for the police department by Mr. Motyka and seconded by Mr. Bradley.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Fire Chief report is attached.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT**– (Tri County COG)

Report attached.

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report is attached. Heather Owens stated she just wanted to mention she wanted to spruce up the place and run the vacuum before the meeting and the vacuum died and stated a new vacuum is needed.

Mr. Motyka asked for a quote to be presented at the next meeting for the purchase of a new vacuum.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley stated Food Surplus will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m. until 12 noon at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Bradley stated he does not know much about the food surplus program and stated he is planning on coming into the Borough office and Borough Facilities to familiarize himself more

Mr. Bradley stated he just would like to comment, we all know ice is way worse than snow and just would like to comment he thinks the crew did a great job this past Sunday with the roads.

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated he just would like to mention we received an invoice from Brinkash for the project at the Veterans Memorial Field, he stated it is not listed on the agenda, but he wanted to mention it and it will be listed for approval at the next meeting.

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY**- (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated in December we advertised Ordinance 2022-02 amending Ordinance 2015-08.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to adopt Residential Ordinance 2022-02 amending Ordinance 2015-08

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley thanked Mr. Dowkus for all his work and research on this. Mr. Dowkus thanked Mr. Bradley and stated it was not only him, but he also worked with the Code Officer, Solicitor Greco, Mr. Chesney and Mr. Bielskie had been working on this and going back and forth. Mr. Dowkus stated he feels we have been doing a real good job with it.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated the MAP grant for zoning came through in the amount of \$42,500.00 with the remaining cost to be paid by the Borough, Mount Carmel Township and Marion Heights based on population.

Mr. Chesney stated there are other grants we may look at to pursue.

Mr. Chesney stated we are still working with the Covid money and where that money could be used. We will be looking at using some of the funds for water mitigation and looking into options to complete some projects and look for some additional help with funding.

Mr. Motyka stated the SCRA is applying for a grant and with match the grant with \$112,000.00 of their own funds to seal the creek bed of Quaker Run.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion to have the letter of landowner signed for SCRA grant and provide any documents or signatures to work with that grant and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**PERSONNEL-** (Mr. Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated he spoke to Mr. Graff today and coordinated with the sewer authority and they will be working with Mr. Niglio next week for plastic pick up.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to accept their recommendation from the Kulpmont Fire Department to accept the leadership changes of Kevin O’Hearn as the Fire Chief, Ray Siko as Deputy Chief and Marshall Mirarchi to be Assistant Chief.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mayor Slaby proceeded to swear in Fire Chief Kevin O’Hearn, Deputy Fire Chief Raymond Siko and Assistant Fire Chief Marshall Mirarchi.

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Mr. Balitchick)

No Report

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Deputy Fire Chief stated a storm is rolling through the area and so he reminded to keep the hydrants clear and also stated he is still looking forward to working with past Fire Chief Jeff Gilotti. He stated the heat is now working in the truck room. Rhonda Wilk stated LTS was there to repair today

**OLD BUSINESS-**

Mr. Bielskie stated letters of interest are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup> to fill the vacant two-year term on Borough Council. And to fill the two vacant seats serving on the KMHJMA Board. Also, Residents are reminded to contact the Borough office and submit your letter if interested in filling the vacant tax collector position no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Mr. Bradley thinks we should pursue opening a Federal Surplus Account. He stated there is no cost and it will make items available to us.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to open a Federal Surplus account out of Harrisburg.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kulpmont Borough Council will hold the next public meeting on Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The January 12, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date – \_\_\_\_\_**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
SPECIAL MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSE  
JANUARY 26, 2022  
7:00 PM**

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 January 26, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Michael Balitchick, Stephen Bielskie, Wm. Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus and Stephen Motyka

**ABSENT:** None

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Treasurer Paul Niglio, Secretary Rhonda Wilk, Borough Supervisor, OIC Stephen Mazzeo, Code Officer Heather Owens.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Edwin Howerter, Joe Politza, Diane Graff, Luke Darrup, Marlin Hodge, Bob Fanella and Ben Britton.

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

No one spoke

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE-** (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated we received three letters of interest from persons interested to fill the vacancy of tax collector. Letters were received from Jennifer Shannon of Kulpmont, Paul R. Miller III from East Cameron, Luke Darrup of Kulpmont.

**MOTION-** A motion was made by Mr. Chesney to appoint Jennifer Shannon as tax collector and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (no), MOTYKA (yes)  
5 YEAS – 1 NAY

Mr. Dowkus stated letters of interest to fill the vacant two-year term for Borough Councilperson were received from Robert Fanella, Marlin Hodge, Mark Timothy Hine and John Motyka.

**NOMINATION-** Mr. Dowkus Nominated Mr. Marlin Hodge to fill the vacancy on Borough Council.

**NOMINATION**- Mr. Chesney Nominated Mr. Fanella to fill the vacancy on Borough Council

Mr. Chesney stated he would like to make a nomination based on a few things. Mr. Chesney state out of the list of candidates Mr. Fanella is probably the most qualified and stated he lost during the election by a few votes which show the community supported him. Mr. Chesney state he did numerous things for the Borough on his own time and is a person of experience who understands roadwork and issues like water runoff. Mr. Chesney went on to say we sometimes let personalities get in the way and personality should not interfere with running Council.

Solicitor Greco stated if there are no additional nominations, nominations will close and roll call will be taken for the candidate.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (Hodge), BIELSKIE (Fanella), BRADLEY (Hodge), CHESNEY (Fanella), DOWKUS (Hodge), MOTYKA (Hodge)  
4 Hodge – 2 Fanella

Mayor Slaby proceeded to swear in Mr. Marlin Hodge. Mr. Hodge then took a seat with Borough Council.

Mr. Dowkus stated there were two letters of interest received to serve on the KMJHMA and there are currently two five-year terms available. A letter was received from Mr. Stephen Bielskie, and a letter of interest was received from Mr. Richard Cooper.

Mr. Motyka Nominated Mr. Bielskie to the KMHJMA Board to fill the open five-year term.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka Nominated Mr. Cooper to the KMHJMA Board to fill the open five-year term.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus thanked everyone who submitted letters of interest for the positions open within our government.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion to purchase a vacuum cleaner not to exceed \$250.00 and was second by Mr. Dowkus.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made a motion to appoint check signers and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus as Stephen Motyka, Stephen Bielskie, Robert Chesney and Paul Niglio as check signers.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion to pay \$1240.00 out of the grant account to Brinkash Engineering for the project at the Veterans Memorial Field.

Mr. Motyka stated there is 17million dollars at the County, they are asking for projects that will fall in the 159 day that qualify for the American Recovery Act. Mr. Motyka stated he distributed to council the projects and would like to have councils' approval for all the submissions. Mr. Motyka stated he will go through them one at a time, the amount we are asking for and where the match is coming from.

Mr. Motyka stated there was \$11,000.00 allocated for the Kulpmont 100 Terry Miriello Field.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion that the Borough submit a grant request for \$11,000.00 to match that and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated Social Distancing and Recreation under the American Recovery Act. The Borough allocated \$10,000.00 for the expansion of the Terry Miriello Field.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to match the \$10,000.00 50/50 grant with what was allocated to the Veterans Memorial Field.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion to include \$100,000.00 match, request \$500,000.00 from the county covid funds and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

Mr. Motyka stated we previously submitted request from the County for \$500,00.00 from County Covid Funds. With previous submitted \$100,000.00 with our engineer, after the

fact we might have to match with other covid money we have. Mr. Motyka stated so for now its \$500,000.00. Mr. Chesney questioned Mr. Motyka is he is saying we have \$100,000.00 for that now. Mr. Motyka replied, "correct." Mr. Motyka stated we also have \$279,000.00 that was allocated minus the premium, hazard pay that was paid to the employees so we have about \$268,500.00 left that we could possibly match some of these other grants or fund some stormwater with.

Mr. Dowkus questioned Mr. Motyka if this is all part of the information you sent to us in emails today. Mr. Bradley asked, "bottom line, we can afford to do this, correct?" Mr. Motyka agreed.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated as he mentioned we already allocated \$110,000.00 to the restroom project and stated the County Covid money could be used for sanitation and so Brinkash Engineering figures what was needed to run the water line, sewer line and hand free faucets, toilets.

Mr. Motyka stated to request \$21,000.00 of the County money and then were matching that with the \$110,000.00 we already allocated to the grant. Mr. Bielskie asked, right now, whatever we have into it? Mr. Motyka replied the \$70,000.00 from the state and the in-kind services, so all projects are \$110,000.00, were using that as a match.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to request funds to be used for sanitation, hand free faucets \$21,000.00 County to be matched with money allocated.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to match \$80,000.00 for the \$80,000.00 Shamokin Creek Restoration Creek Alliance.

Mr. Motyka stated it is a shovel ready project and is asking for \$80,000.00. Mr. Motyka stated its short \$112,000.00 because allocated for a different grant to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and so were stuck wit the remainder \$80,000.00. Mr. Chesney asked, "what do you mean we are stuck with the remainder \$80,000.00. Mr. Motyka replied \$112,000.00, design as match and using remaining funds and so not cost to the borough. Mr. Bielskie commented, it was just the way it was said.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (abstain), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS - `1 ABSTAIN

Mr. Motyka stated he looked through the ARPA money and HVAC project in public buildings do qualify and stated if we go through an energy savings program, there would be an energy audit. Mr. Motyka stated he would like approval to submit this to county.



Mr. Motyka stated the full amount is \$300,000.000 for the full system, or the lesser amount \$120,000.00 cost.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made a motion to apply for \$300,000.00 grant from the county for current HVAC Issues in the Municipal Building and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Chesney asked to just remember we paid \$250,000.00 for the building and \$300,000.00 for renovations. Mr. Chesney stated this is going to be one of those things when they come back and say you must take the full building as we have seen on the one project, there was one bill given and we are still up in the air with that. Mr. Chesney stated even though we are going to apply for the \$300,00.00 we may not need to use it is that correct? Mr. Motyka replied, “we are going to apply and then we will go back to see what aspects of their design they are going to cover, or the County feels are worth funding.

Mr. Motyka stated they might recommend we replace the whole system or recommend we put the scrubbers in the duct system. Mr. Motyka commented the filters have never been changed and that is an issue. Mr. Niglio then commented, we do not have a maintenance contract.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** (Wm. Michael Bradley)

Mr. Balitchick stated there is a copy of the street sweeper schedule in everyone’s mailbox and stated as long as it is not disputed, he would like to advertise the street sweeper schedule.

**MOTION-** Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to advertise street sweeper 2022 schedule.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated the Police vehicle needs tires and stated it is not on the agenda, but he has a price quote for \$694.00 for tires. After discussion, this purchase was decided to be an emergency purchase and needed.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to purchase tires for the police vehicle at a cost of \$694.00.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**MOTION** – Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Balitchick to install a kill switch on the police vehicle radio by keystone not to exceed \$400.00

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus questioned Mr. Bielski if we ever got anything more about the 40 acres behind the mill. Mr. Bielskie replied, “no, just that they were interested in buying it.”

Mr. Dowkus then asked Mr. Bielskie what is going on with the new gas station down at the end of town. Mr. Bielskie replied, “not yet.” Mr. Bielskie added they were putting the sign up and stuff on the outside. Mr. Dowkus commented, “I thought we were there.” Mr. Bielskie stated they are not even ADA compliant so they can’t open. Mr. Bielskie stated once they call him back in, he will just wrap them with the ADA, so right now that is all I have.

Mr. Dowkus stated all he has is how everything went with the weeds and the grass when they were submitted. Solicitor Greco stated they were filed at the courthouse a week ago.

Mr. Bradley questioned Solicitor Greco if he had an opportunity to pursue looking into the possibility of charging people to work out of the area as landlords more annually.

Solicitor Greco replied stating a discussion came up with an out of state individual and stated they pay more taxes is they are a landlord. Solicitor Greco stated it is preliminary and he is still looking into it.

Mr. Bradley stated he would like to thank Bruce and his crew stating he thinks they are doing a pretty good job considering the conditions we are having with the ice and snow and our Officer Mazzeo in his effort to get some police officers on board. Mr. Bradley stated it looks like Jarred Scandle is going to jump aboard and stated, unofficially adding the comment, “lets hope that happens.”

Mayor Slaby stated it has been brought to his attention by Officer Mazzeo the Tahoe has a switch that needs to be replaced. Officer Mazzeo stated Keystone came out and said the reason for the flickering is that power is constantly coming to the radio and it is not good for the battery. Officer Mazzeo stated the switch is relatively cheap the labor is not. Officer Mazzeo stated the estimate for the switch and repair is \$385.00.

**MOTION** – Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Balitchick to install a kill switch on the police vehicle radio by keystone not to exceed \$400.00

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**OLD BUSINESS-**

Mr. Motyka stated we received a grant for \$42,500.00 from a match grant for zoning between us, Mt. Carmel township and Marion Heights. He stated our portion of that was \$13,975.00. Mr. Motyka state he would like council to consider how we want to pay that. Mr. Motyka stated he does not want them to submit an invoice to us every month for the next 2 years until this project is complete. Treasurer Paul Niglio questioned why not. Mr. Niglio stated possibly pay quarterly but stated he would not pay it all, we need cash flow.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Mr. Dowkus asked Council to check their emails and stated he had sent out emails about the ordinances that we are going to be working on for this upcoming month. Mr. Dowkus asked for members to contact him if there is anything they see when looking them over.

Mr. Bradley stated possibly we could look into the Vo-Tech Class making the signs for Kulpmont as Shamokin. He stated he is familiar and stated it may be just cost of materials, but it might be something to look for a cost savings for the re X's. Mr. Dowkus stated we would look into getting the students involved.

Mr. Dowkus stated once the committee sits down with Mr. Siko, we will be able to lay everything out and adopt an ordinance that will be fitting for our community.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

Our next meeting will be February 9, 2022

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No one spoke

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR**

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**RHONDA WILK  
SECRETARY**

**Date of Approval February 9, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
SPECIAL MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSE  
JANUARY 29, 2022  
9:00 AM**

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  
Saturday January 29, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Joseph Dowkus, Michael Balitchick, Wm. Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney and Marlin Hodge.

**ABSENT:** Stephen Motyka

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Secretary Rhonda Wilk.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tim Zyla, Luke Darrup and Britney Bidding

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie states Borough Council is meeting this morning for the purpose of appointing a tax collector for the borough.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE-** (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated there is an exam required for the tax collector and a fee they must pay.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion to waive the tax collector exam fee cost and for the cost or fee to be paid for by the borough.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (absent), HODGE (yes)

6 - 0

Mr. Dowkus stated on January 26<sup>th</sup> Council appointed a tax collector, Jennifer Shannon and have received a letter from Ms. Shannon declining the appointment.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to accept the letter of resignation from Jennifer Shannon as tax collector.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (absent), HODGE (yes)  
6- 0

Mr. Dowkus stated we have two persons other than Ms. Shannon that sent Borough Council a letter of interest for the position. Mr. Dowkus stated Mr. Paul Miller from East Cameron and Mr. Luke Darrup from the Borough of Kulpmont.

After a short discussion among Mayor and Council a motion was made.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley make the motion to nominate Luke Darrup for appointment as Kulpmont Borough Tax Collector and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (absent), HODGE (yes)  
6 - 0

Mayor Slaby performed the swearing in of Luke Darrup as Kulpmont Borough Tax Collector.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR**

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**RHONDA WILK  
SECRETARY**

**February 9, 2022  
DATE OF APPROVAL**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mr. Chesney  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday February 9, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Michael Balitchick, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Stephen Motyka.

**ABSENT:** none

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul A. Niglio, OIC Stephen Mazzeo, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff and Code Official Heather Owens.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joe Politza, Edwin Howerter and Ben Britton

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated we received one bid on the lots for sale that was received today.

Mr. Niglio read aloud the bid submitted by Stephen Motyka of 1471 Scott Street, Kulpmont PA 17834, bids submitted:

Parcel #1 929-931 Chestnut Street, 30 x 150, Parcel ID 002-00-003-211 \$4,000.00

Parcel #2 – 923 Chestnut Street, 30 x 150, Parcel ID 002-00-003-212 \$4,000.00.

From Mr. Stephen Motyka 1471 Scott Street, Kulpmont PA.

Mr. Bradley asked if there were not any additional bids. Mr. Dowkus stated it cost money for us to advertise. Mr. Bradley questioned if we have advertised this lot before and we did not get any bids. Mr. Niglio stated if these parcels are sold, money will need to be paid back to the County that was given to the borough to take these buildings down and added he does not know what that amount is. Solicitor Greco stated we could table the decision until we find out what that amount is.

Mr. Motyka stated he had planned to get this appraised and would like to donate it back to the borough for a park through a DCED grant and asked council to hopefully look at that when considering his offer. Mr. Slaby stated he thinks the number was around \$11,000.00. Mr. Chesney stated he feels the amount was in the neighborhood of \$5,400.00 each lot and stated he thinks we were asking \$12,000.00.

Mr. Bradley stated if we don't accept this offer, it may not come back around and stated a bird in the hand is better than two in a bush. Mr. Bielskie explained if we sell it we will need to pay the money back, if we do not sell it we don't need to pay the County the money back. Solicitor Greco stated he thought the amount was around \$8,000.00. Mr. Bielskie stated and if the amount of Mr. Motyka's bid covers the amount he does not have a problem with it and added he feels the Borough should wait until we are sure on the amount, we will need to pay back.

Mr. Motyka stated this is going to be donated hopefully for a park and so he does not know why they will not consider taking it. Mr. Chesney stated until we know what we must pay back and understand what we have it is only logical.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to accept the offer of \$4,000.00 for each parcel from Mr. Motyka.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (no), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (no), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (abstain), HODGE (yes)  
4 YEAS – 2 NAYS – 1 ABSTAIN

**MAYORS REPORT**- (Robert Slaby)

Mr. Slaby stated the Mr. Mazzeo continues to seek part time officers and stated he is working with some individuals and hopefully we will have some positive results by the next meeting.

Mr. Bradley questioned Officer Mazzeo is there is anything they as council could do and stated the people in Kulpmont want something done and stated the people in Kulpmont think they are dragging their feet and that is not the case. Mayor Slaby stated he does not believe there is and stated coming in as Mayor from council for four years have worked really hard with Mayor Bozza and stated he is expecting the same for himself.

Mr. Bradley asked again if there is anything Mayor Slaby or Officer Mazzeo thinks he or Council could do to let him know. Mayor Slaby stated if he thought there was something and based on also where he works, if there was something he would say something.

Mayor Slaby stated this Council have done everything and stated he understands how important it is to have a police officer respond when you need help. Mr. Bradley stated he is reaching out and offering any assistance and stated to the mayor he is not taking a shot at him; he would be more than willing if there is anything he could do to reach out and help. Mayor Slaby stated please don't think that is how he feels, Council has done

everything they could and so is Officer Mazzeo. Solicitor Greco asked Officer Mazzeo if he is getting any feedback. Officer Mazzeo stated the only difference he could see is we would need to implement what Shamokin is doing, that is not authorized at this time. Officer Mazzeo stated in checking with the academy, Lackawanna had none, everyone already had jobs or were not from the area. Mayor Slaby stated officer Mazzeo is absolutely right and stated that in Shamokin he has a couple that are in the academy right now adding they reserved that back in June or July.

Mr. Bradley asked if there is money in the budget to hire a full-time guy. Mayor Slaby stated yes, there would be. Mayor Slaby stated he, Council and Mr. Niglio would work something out. Mr. Motyka commented the Borough has in the budget for three full time officers.

Mr. Hodge asked about regionalization and asked if that is dead in the water now. Mayor Slaby stated he has not been invited to any of those meetings as Mayor or even when he was the president of council. He continued to say being in this position if he has been, he understands how it works. Mr. Motyka stated we reached out to Coal Township, Shamokin, and Mt. Carmel we are currently working with DCED on a study.

Mr. Niglio commented we are in the process of completing information and stated we were hit here with Covid and stated he was out and now Rhonda is out and stated we are about a month behind in our workload.

Office Mazzeo stated he would caution and stated in talking with Chief Hollenbush because of the shortages and the increases and everything else the cost would be substantial. Officer Mazzeo stated he is not saying it is a bad idea just that the cost is going to be high either way, there is no free ride. Mayor Slaby replied no there is not. Mr. Chesney stated there is nobody out there at the present time.

Officer Mazzeo stated Shamokin is sending candidates to the academy and stated Shamokin is that is 6-month lag to the academy, field training and hopefully they don't get hurt or flunk out. Officer Mazzeo stated he included with his monthly report some information on the last year and stated officers don't like where the profession is at right now and stated Shamokin lost a substantial number of senior officers because of how the profession has changed, Sunbury is in the same position. Mayor Slaby commented in Shamokin they went from 12 full time officers down to six.

Mr. Bradley asked Officer Mazzeo if there is any way the rules could be relaxed to take retired prison guards and giving them part time jobs. Officer Mazzeo replied as long as they are under the two years Harrisburg MOPEC rulings, yes. Officer Mazzeo stated he has officers he reached out to that past that two-year mark and Harrisburg is unsympathetic when you are past two years.

Officer Mazzeo stated you need to pass the physicals and a written test and stated the physical test even at his age are geared to a 25-year-old. Mayor Slaby stated they are trying.



**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Mr. Paul Niglio stated approval is needed January 12<sup>th</sup>, January 26<sup>th</sup> and January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve the meeting minutes from January 12<sup>th</sup>, January 26<sup>th</sup> and January 29, 2022.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

Mr. Niglio stated donations for the flags on Chestnut Street were received from Bruce and Diane Graff of \$100.00, Kulpmont Cruise Association Inc, \$100.00 and the Kulpmont Sportsman Association of \$100.00.

Mr. Dowkus stated the Sons of American Legion will also be making a donation of \$100.00.

Mr. Niglio stated Northumberland County Council for the Arts and Humanities send a membership application and stated that was copied to both Mayor and Council.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion to complete the renewal membership application for \$100.00 and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

A letter of resignation from Borough Council was received by Mr. Michael Balitchick, effective February 28, 2022.

Mr. Dowkus asked if we want to handle by our personnel committee. Mr. Bielskie replied saying we are going to need to advertise it and this time we want to interview people. Mr. Dowkus agreed and stated we will take care of that through personnel. Solicitor Greco stated Council will need to move to accept his resignation.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion to accept Mr. Balitchicks resignation effective February 28<sup>th</sup> and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

**TREASURERS REPORT** – (Paul A. Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated council received the financial statement and a list of bills to be paid and stated approval is needed to pay the bills.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

No Report

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Report attached

Mr. Dowkus stated he appreciates it being taken care of, the abandoned vehicle on Chestnut and Tenth Street, it was there a few days and there was a blind spot there.

Mr. Bradley stated the report is 11 pages and thanked Officer Mazzeo for his dedication.

Officer Mazzeo stated there are a lot of people coming to town that are not desirable and stated he and the Code officer work together daily to try and keep them out.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT**– (Tri County COG)

No Report

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report attached. Heather Owens stated the snow and ice situation is just a mess, it is freezing and then melts and then is refreezing. Mr. Bradley stated there was a woman that called and complained about her driveway being blocked by the plow going by and

stated Bruce Graff will see what he could do to try and accommodate. Mr. Chesney commented Heather Owens is doing a great job also.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley stated he thinks many people in Kulpmont may have transportation issues or are not aware of the food surplus program. Mr. Bradley questioned if we put an ad in the paper once per year for this if there is any advertising for this.

Mr. Niglio replied it is advertised every month, it's in every time we have it that we distribute. Mr. Niglio stated it is advertised in the paper, on the borough web page. Mr. Bradley stated he was going to attempt to reach out to civic organizations to see if he could get people that would deliver to the handicap people.

Bruce Graff added they currently have a handful that they deliver. Mr. Dowkus questioned how many total recipients we have on the list. Bruce Graff replied when he first started working here, we had 200 and now we are down to 25 or 30. Mr. Bradley stated he just wants people to know it is out there. Bruce Graff stated he usually calls the people if they did not come to remind them.

Mayor Slaby stated individual people living by themselves have expressed to him this is a good program. Mr. Bradley stated he would like to make it better. A discussion took place and ideas about possibly passing out a flier to residents to make them aware of the program.

Mr. Bradley questioned the approving of anything over \$75.00 having to be approved and asked if there is a reason why it is so low. Mayor Slaby stated at work he does not need anybody's permission to spend money, Council allows that authority in him and then they vote to pay the bills. Solicitor Greco stated if he needs a quart of oil for the truck then no, he does not need approval.

Mr. Bradley stated you should not need to wait to buy brakes for a police car and questioned if that is the way it works or questions if he is in error here. Mayor Slaby stated that is how it works in Kulpmont. Mr. Bradley stated he is waiting to buy lights for the plow truck because we are over \$75.00, we should not have to vote for that he is going to support it with a receipt and stated it is a very insufficient way to operate. Mayor Slaby stated he agrees, but it is up to these guys.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to allow purchases to be made for up to \$250.00.

Bruce Graff stated before he would call the Finance committee and let them know or do an emergency purchase for the cost amount. Bruce Graff stated that is what is doing with the lights for the plow and said he just likes people to know what he is spending before we get it, and it is not a surprise at the monthly meeting.

Mr. Bradley stated Paul Niglio is looking over at him like he is making a mistake here. Mr. Niglio replied to Mr. Bradley stating we have had people come and sit here in these chairs that came in here and there was careless spending, nobody cared and that is why you put the limits in there. Paul Niglio stated the employees have been very frugal and stated Bruce goes and gets the best price there has never been any problems here, it's just that people perceive those kinds of things. Bruce Graff stated he will let Mr. Bradley know; he will let Mr. Motyka know when he must make a purchase.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to approve the \$110.00 to purchase the lights for the dump truck.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka asked Mr. Bradley to get a price for the filters on the unit here in the Borough Building for the next meeting. Mr. Motyka stated this unit never had the filters changes on it. Mr. Bradley asked how long we are in the building. Mr. Bielskie replied five years ago. Mr. Motyka stated he will work together with Mr. Bradley to get a price for next meeting.

Mr. Bradley announced to Council a certificate of general liability insurance was received for the Mount Carmel Junior Baseball Team.

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

No Report

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY**- (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated he is working on some ordinances and stated he and the Solicitor will be getting together with the committee.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated there will be a meeting at the end of February and will be held in Aristes on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to go over the proper ways to apply for grants for recreation. He continued to say at our last meeting a lot of the grants were explained and initiated. Mr. Chesney stated Mr. Motyka is working on that, applications are in, and we are just waiting to see what is going to come out of that.

Mr. Motyka stated he would like permission to pursue a DCNR grant and stated he also found a PA Council of the Arts to try and develop the parcel on Chestnut Street into a park and stated so with Council's permission he would move forward with that.

**PERSONNEL-** (Mr. Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated with Mr. Balitchick's resignation he would like to advertise seeking a council person to fill the vacancy and to set up interviews. Mr. Motyka stated if you have the letters of interest by the 23<sup>rd</sup> that would be two weeks before the meeting.

Mr. Dowkus stated he would like to ask for the letters to be in by the close of business on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to advertise for interested persons to send in a letter of interest to fill the vacancy on Borough Council by the close of business on February 23, 2022.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Mr. Balitchick)

No Report

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

None

**OLD BUSINESS-**

Mr. Dowkus questioned on if we ever looked into the military surplus. Mr. Bradley asked Mayor Slaby if he had a chance to act on that. Mayor Slaby stated he is sorry, and he forgot about it but stated that he will do so.

Mr. Bradley thanked the street department for the job they are doing with the plowing. Mr. Bradley stated the ice is way worse than snow. Mr. Bradley stated there was a broken water line at night and water was freezing on the street, Bruce took it upon himself and came out and salted the street and stated he appreciates that. Mr. Bradley stated Mayor Slaby also came out for the broken water line and thanked him for that as well.

Mr. Motyka stated he and Mayor Slaby were approached about a letter from the Borough supporting researching if a community college would benefit the area. Mr. Motyka stated if you have that request, he will make a motion to support the researching a community college. Mayor Slaby stated he will have that, David asked him a couple times.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to support and research for a community college.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

Mr. Motyka stated he and Mr. Chesney approached the Northumberland Count Housing Authority a couple years ago and stated he would like a formal letter written to them to see about getting housing here in Kulpmont as is in Atlas, Mt. Carmel and recently in Coal Township on Trevorton Road. Mr. Motyka stated he would like to see them investing in Kulpmont.

Mayor Slaby stated there is the ARPA Fund and the final version of the ARPA fund is out there and he can get a copy of the final information on what the money could be spent on now and what the deadlines are. Mayor Slaby stated he would suggest contacting Mr. Christiano and Pat Mack to meet with our committee and stated they are always eager to come into communities and help.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to send a formal letter to the Northumberland County Housing Authority for consideration in investing in housing in the Borough and ask for a meeting.

**VOICE VOTE-**

Unanimous

**NEW BUSINESS-**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular monthly meeting is March 9, 2022

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The February 9, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date – March 9, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
SPECIAL MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSE  
FEBRUARY 23, 2022  
7:00 PM**

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 February 23, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Michael Balitchick, Stephen Bielskie, Wm. Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Stephen Motyka and Marlin Hodge

**ABSENT:** None

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Treasurer Paul Niglio, Secretary Rhonda Wilk and Code Officer Heather Owens.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated we are meeting to discuss the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) funding available for the Regional Policing Assistance Program.

Mr. Dowkus stated we are together for a conversation and to get a possible vote on a grant for police regionalization grant. Mr. Motyka then stated there was some question on if this meeting was even necessary since we are currently going through the DCED survey.

Mr. Motyka stated this is a big step to go through the PCCD grant and that is how Mr. Skavery explained it and so talking with Mr. Dowkus he stated they feel this would be the way to go, to have an official vote to pursue something as big as it is. Mr. Motyka stated the program offers up to \$150,000.00 grant for the formation of a new regional police department.

Mr. Motyka stated Justin Skavery did a good job of outlining how the two of them differ and he also did a good job on outlining what is needed to proceed. Mr. Motyka stated he

knows how hard it is to pull a grant together and so he thought to give Justin Skavery several weeks to work with us rather than four weeks would be a big difference.

Mr. Motyka stated a letter of commitment is needed from both boroughs, and if Marion Heights Borough would want to be on board, then three letters. Mr. Motyka stated he has tried to contact the new Secretary several times and stated he does not know if anyone has a way to contact her to please let him know. Mr. Motyka stated he would want to know if they would be interested and talked with Mr. Miriello, the new councilman. Mr. Motyka stated a third Borough involved would look better for this grant as well.

Mr. Motyka stated the big difference is rather than a Mt. Carmel Twp. takeover it is a regional force where we will all have day in this where there will be a board and a police commission that we assign board members to and will make decisions.

Mr. Motyka stated he thought it was a good idea and stated we fought in the last six months to even get any applicants. He added this will give us 24/7 coverage and it will be a path forward and said we don't currently have a path forward.

Mr. Motyka stated we will need a letter of commitment; letter of support and the third thing would be local government bodies meeting minutes that brought up the subject and supporting.

Mr. Motyka stated we would have meeting minutes from the past when we agreed to participate in the regionalization survey and the meeting minutes from this meeting could also be used.

Mr. Motyka stated what he feels is the biggest thing of all to decide is who will be the applicant, Mt. Carmel Township, Kulpmont Borough or possibly Marion Heights. Mr. Motyka stated in setting up a police commission it may be 3 members from Mt. Carmel twp. and Kulpmont and members from Marion Heights based on population each municipality, this can all be decided later.

Mr. Motyka stated he would guess we need a vote if interested and stated he thinks the Kulpmont, Mt. Carmel Township applicant idea should be decided by our Police and Fire Committee and Mt. Carmel Supervisors to come up with a plan forward.

Mr. Bielskie asked about the time frame. Mr. Motyka stated this grant would be submitted in April and stated he does not know how quickly we will find out if we get it and stated the survey from DCED would probably be a good back pocket piece of information to have for this grant.

Mr. Chesney commented that our backs are to the wall, we have been trying for four or five years to find a solution and stated he feels we need to move forward because we are just spinning our wheels. Mr. Bradley stated he did some research and there is a shortage of police officers nationwide and this is not just a local issue and expects in the future to



see federal funding to help support regionalization. Council briefly discussed the situation.

Mr. Motyka stated the Township approached him and they are 100% on board. Mr. Bielskie stated last time we tried to do something like this it got down to the wire and they turned it down. Mr. Chesney stated a motion was made but it did not get a second and stated that is water under the bridge.

Mr. Motyka stated when we applied for the zoning grant it went by population and stated the cost for regionalization may not be based on population, possibly it would be based on mileage.

Mr. Niglio stated approximately 15 years ago with DCED for regionalization. Mr. Niglio continued on and said, when it was looked into the cost has nothing to do with mileage, our cost would have doubled at that point and time and that is why it never happened.

Mr. Motyka stated there are other regional forces, Mifflin County has a regional force, Lewistown Pennsylvania, Buffalo Township have considered this. Mr. Motyka stated we could reach out to other municipalities for information.

Mayor Slaby stated not long ago he was involved in looking into regionalizing Coal Township and Shamokin and stated they went down to York and there was a half dozen police departments down there and they were running like a Marine Corp. camp.

Mayor Slaby stated the borough of Kulpmont will need to pay their share however it is determined, this is not a cheap way out. Mayor Slaby stated you could either do it on your own or do what Mr. Motyka is recommending.

Mayor Slaby then stated he recommends it and stated he does not have a vote, but he does recommend it as the town Mayor. Mayor Slaby stated as Mayor he supports Council looking into regionalization and stated something needs to be done.

Mr. Motyka stated a letter of commitment, and a letter of support is needed and our meeting minutes relating to our interest are the three things we need. Mr. Motyka stated DCED is currently involved in the survey. Mr. Motyka stated the PCCD is federal money. Mr. Motyka stated we would need out Fire/ EMA and Police Committee to meet with Mt. Carmel Township Supervisors.

Mayor Slaby stated he would like to add something that was asked by the former Mayor when he was president, "Why does it never work?" Mayor Slaby stated the answer is you need to leave the politics on the other side of the door, it is never going to work if you put a political group of people together.

Mayor Slaby stated he is not saying to sell out to Marion Heights, or Mt Carmel Township he stated he is saying to stay firm on what is in the best interest of Kulpmont.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to move forward to pursue the Police Regionalization grant and the commitments we need to fulfill.

Mr. Bradley stated we are not committing to anything. Mayor Slaby asked that he be included to be invited to whatever meeting there are, which will not be a violation to the sunshine law.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes) HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Chesney stated a letter was distributed to all Council and the Housing Authority accepted Mr. Motyka's bid amount of \$8,000.00 total as the final payment back to the County. He stated we were to pay them back \$11,594.00; they are accepting the \$8,000.00.

Mr. Chesney stated he just wants Council to know that he abstained from the vote to accept Mr. Motyka offer as did Mr. Bielskie until we confirmed the amount, we needed to pay back to the County. Mr. Chesney stated what we wanted to do was to get those lots back on the tax rolls, that was the whole purpose of selling those lots to relieve the borough of the responsibility for maintenance and liability.

Mr. Chesney stated Steve Motyka now is basically talking about turning the lots back to the borough. Mr. Chesney stated and now we would be going backwards with that because we will be having the same responsibilities turned back on us.

Chesney stated the sidewalks need to be repaired, the grass needs to be maintained and if anything is going to be placed there will need to be maintained. Mr. Chesney stated if anything is going to be placed on the lots it must be ADA compliant and will take some work to do that. Mr. Chesney stated if it is going to be some type of park there must be some apparatus purchased in order to do that and so it seems this is blossoming into something else.

Mr. Chesney stated we must know all of the aspects of every motion made, just as we discussed the police regionalization. He stated we must know what we are going to do what the cost is all the aspects. Mr. Chesney stated all we need to do is discuss all of that and when we know all of the ins and outs, we then can make a logical, sensible and mature decision of what we do.

Mr. Chesney stated he would suggest once the sidewalks are fixed and is ADA approved and fencing is up and Mr. Motyka still wants to give it back to the borough, well then possibly we may accept it. Mr. Chesney state if we are going to accept it as is well then, all the repairs will have to be made by the borough and so it is not a gain for us and the County giving us a break.

Mr. Chesney stated when you are deciding you need to look at all the ramifications. Mr. Chesney stated we are here to talk logic and discuss and do things as we say in the opening prayer, for the betterment of the citizens. Mr. Chesney stated it was kind of Mr. Motyka to put that offer in and for him to say he is going to give it back but asked if that is betterment.

Mr. Chesney stated he would like to make that motion stating once the lot has those preparations done to it and he then wants to give it back we could consider. Solicitor Greco stated he understands what he is saying.....Mayor Slaby interjected and asked what the alternative s to let the lot sit there and grow grass. Solicitor Greco replied no, with respect to his motion he is just doing the deed and so it is not even in Mr. Motyka's hands and so it is just an idea, he could sell it tomorrow.

Solicitor Greco stated if Mr. Motyka follows through the Borough would need to vote to accept it. Solicitor Greco stated at that point you would have the opportunity to object or approve it. Mr. Chesney stated he just wants everyone to think about what we must look at and what possibly could happen. Mr. Chesney stated he will rescind his motion if this is not the proper time to do so. Mr. Chesney stated what we wanted to do is to put them back on the tax rolls. Mr. Dowkus replied, "they are."

Mr. Bielskie stated it is not on the agenda, but he just wants to inform council the Borough received two letters of interest for the vacant Council position, one was Russ Moroz and the other was Robert Fanella. Mr. Bradley questioned if today the deadline was. Mr. Dowkus responded saying yes it was at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Paul Niglio asked what constitutes a deadline, we just advertised we would like to receive applicants by this time. Solicitor Greco stated Council did put a deadline, but it does not stop them from appointing someone else and stated he thinks that is what Mr. Niglio is saying. Mr. Niglio stated just so Council knows there is no deadline, their hands are not tied, they did that, so they have time to contact and get some information so not to be in the situation as last time.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR**

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**RHONDA WILK  
SECRETARY**

**Date of Approval March 9, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MARCH 9, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mr. Chesney  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday March 9, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Stephen Motyka and Marlin Hodge.

**ABSENT:** none

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul A. Niglio, OIC Stephen Mazzeo, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff and Code Official Heather Owens and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joe Politza, Edwin Howerter, Brian Wiktor, Elba Arenas, Annette Welch, Bernard Novakoski, Thomas Yagodzinski and Ben Britton.

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

Thomas Yagodzinski stated he paid for a reserved parking sign fee and stated he was contacted from the bank about an overdraft fee that he will need to pay for. Mr. Yagodzinski stated he stated the lady at the bank checked on her computer and that check was not cashed for three weeks later which caused him an overdraft.

Mr. Bielskie stated he does not understand if the money was in the bank when the check was written the money should have been in the account. Mr. Yagodzinski stated he dropped the check off at the borough and the money was in the bank, and then he got a notice on February 18, 2022, and stated he went down to the bank asking how that can be. He continued to say that check was not deposited at the bank until two weeks later.

Mr. Bielskie stated it does not matter if it was two weeks or two months later, if the money was in the bank, it would be there. Mr. Yagodzinski stated the money was there until he paid all his bills. Mayor Slaby asked how that is the borough's fault. Mr. Yagodzinski replied, "she cashed it two weeks later which caused an overdraft. He stated the money was there when he wrote the check, he paid his bills including that amount.

Mayor Slaby stated if she still had that check today and it wasn't cashed..... Mr. Yagodzinski interjected saying, "then there would not be an overdraft." Mayor Slaby stated the overdraft was not caused by the borough. Treasurer Paul Niglio stated we do not deposit every day. Mr. Yagodzinski replied, "I know, every two weeks." Mr. Niglio stated she was sick during that week and wasn't here adding sometimes deposits are made longer than two weeks.

Mr. Yagodzinski stated he is now stuck with an overdraft fee. Mayor Slaby asked how much the overdraft fee is. Mr. Yagodzinski replied \$36.00. Mr. Niglio commented it is not our fault.

Solicitor Greco agreed. Mr. Yagodzinski stated “he just thought he would mention it. Mayor Slaby stated there is no need to apologize, none whatsoever. Mayor Slaby stated he is just having a hard time comprehending.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated representatives from MC Federal Credit Union is here this evening and then introduced Brian Wiktor.

Brian Wiktor, Chief lending officer from MC Federal Credit Union stated they opened an office in Atlas about five years ago after FNB decided to move out of the area. He addressed Council stating they are here this evening to say they would like to sign up employee group which would give employees and families up for membership. He stated they are trying to make a commitment to this area when many larger banks have decided to move out. Brian introduced Annette Welch regional relationship manager, and Elba Arenas the chief member experience officer of MC Federal Credit Union.

Mr. Bielskie questioned what the difference between a bank and a Credit Union is. Mr. Wiktor stated a bank raises its capital through their shareholders and a Credit Union does not have shareholders, everybody that is a member has an equal vote within the Credit Union membership. Mr. Wiktor stated for instance in any given year if they make one million dollars and the bank makes one million dollars, the bank will take those million dollars and about 40% and pay it to their shareholders to invest in the bank whereas the credit union will keep that 40% in the credit union and it is turned into more competitive rates, invest in technology that sort of stuff.

He continued to say the group letter as he mentioned is just a letter stating you would like to opt in to give your employees and their families the opportunity to join. Mr. Niglio added they are asking for a letter so the employees, families and the residents of Kulpmont would be able to join. Mr. Wiktor replied, “correct.” Mr. Bradley questioned if you must have an account to be a member. Mr. Wiktor replied “no.” Mr. Bradley questioned if they have a mac machine. Mr. Wiktor replied, “yes.” Mr. Bradley asked if there is a possibility if they will be putting a mac machine in the Kulpmont area. Mr. Wiktor’s reply was they are currently looking into doing so. Mr. Wiktor stated they were started in 1954 originally Merck Credit Union and in the 1980’s credit unions were able to expand, at this point they have grown to six offices. Mr. Niglio stated it is a win win situation for the residents, giving them options.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to sign letter for MC Federal Credit Union.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes),  
CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**MAYORS REPORT**- (Robert Slaby)

No Report

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval of the February 9 and February 23, 2022, meeting minutes is needed.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve the meeting minutes from February 9, and February 23, 2022.

**VOICE VOTE –**

Unanimous

Rhonda stated another donation for the American Flag purchase for Chestnut Street was received from Attorney Edward Greco.

Rhonda Wilk stated five letters of interest to fill the vacant council seat were received from Russell Moroz, Robert Fanella, Bernard Novakoski, Walter Lutz and Bruno Varano and were copied to both Mayor and Council.

Correspondence was also received from Kulpmont 100 requesting a donation to the organization, copied to Mayor and Council.

A letter was received from KMHJMA requesting prior approval from the Authority Manager or Chairman for authority employee help with recycling or after hour emergency calls, copied to Mayor and Council.

Correspondence was received from County of Northumberland County, HUD requirements – conducted homeless street count on February 23, 2022. Copied Mayor and Council.

A letter from Mr. Edward Christiano of the Housing Authority was received regarding the offer of \$8,000.00 to purchase 929-931 and 923 Chestnut Street parcels. Accepting the \$8,000.00 amount as repayment and notifying check should be payable to Housing Authority of Northumberland County.

Correspondence of PSAB grant updates was received from PA Sate Association of Boroughs and copied to Grants and Recreation Committee.

Correspondence was received from GHD concerning the Aqua PA Inc. – Kulpmont Phase II Watermain Replacement, Notice of Application for DEP Permit – Copied to Mayor and Council. Rhonda stated the borough will need to go over this correspondence, it will need to be signed and returned.

Mr. Bradley stated they are going to rip up the street and asked if there is any possible way, we could get the PUC involved and possibly get a gas line put in, maybe if the PUC was approached, they will do it.

Mr. Bielskie stated we have been dealing with UGI for a while now with the Get Gas Project. Mr. Motyka stated he has a contact, and he will send this whole packet to them and see if they will consider.

Mr. Bradley stated he received a lot of input from people, and they would like to have gas. Mr. Bradley stated he knows in other areas they took surveys. Mr. Bielskie stated surveys were done here, the whole town. Mr. Motyka added that post cards were sent out and it has been five years ago adding that the reason Pine Street got it was that 19 out of 20 households said they wanted gas. Mr. Motyka stated he will make contact.

**TREASURERS REPORT** – (Paul A. Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated council received the financial statement and a list of bills to be paid and stated approval is needed to pay the bills. Mr. Dowkus questioned if that is excluding the one that he (Paul Niglio) was talking about before. Mr. Niglio replied “yes.” Mr. Niglio stated it may be listed as bills to be paid but it is listed under Mike’s report.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve and pay the bills.

Mr. Chesney questioned under 321.80 the TV Cable, he stated he did not find that on any report and questioned if this is paid just one time a year \$24,228.91. Rhonda Wilk replied that is a franchise fee, the borough received that amount. Mr. Niglio added we receive that every year.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio stated he provided all Council a copy of the regional police survey information that he had just completed. Mr. Niglio added Steve provided some information and he completed the financial stuff. He stated it will provide information and give council an idea of what is being spent in the police department. Mr. Niglio stated it provides a blueprint on what the costs are and what is being spent.

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he finalized the deed for Mr. Motyka and the deed should be recorded this week.

Solicitor Greco continues to say the sporadic emails concerning Mr. Valeiko lawsuit that had been pending and stated he thinks there are some depositions scheduled it is sporadic and has been pending concerning the property on Chestnut Street.

Solicitor Greco stated he has been looking into also what to do when properties are posted uninhabitable to see what the options are. He stated you worry about someone filling a claim against the Borough if we post a property. Solicitor Greco stated we don't want a challenge and stated he is looking into what some other municipalities are doing.

Mr. Motyka asked if he had a chance when we did the stormwater, Quaker Run to look into the easement, we mentioned we worried about damage when we spend that \$100,000.00. Solicitor Greco stated he will get back to him on that.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Officer Mazzeo stated he changed the format a little bit and stated he added a section of the calls the State Police refer to us by fax and stated Sgt. Zechman very graciously provided the number of calls that his people come down here. Officer Mazzeo stated the month of February they were down here 25 times which is roughly once per day.

Report attached

Mr. Bradley thanked both office Mazzeo and code officer Heather Owens for their report.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O'Hearn)

Report attached.

Mr. Niglio stated under the Fire Chief Report the Squad 2212, the 2000 KME will need to go for inspection

Mr. Dowkus stated we need to have it inspected. Mayor Slaby questioned where it is going. Bruce Graff stated he believes Ashland Deiseal.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to approve inspection of squad 221 (2000 KME)

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O' Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**– (Tri County COG)



No Report

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report attached. Mr. Bielskie stated there are a few houses we need to keep an eye on and stated on the 500 block of Chestnut Street before the porch falls and hits somebody.

Mr. Bielskie asked if we know who owns that now. Heather Owens stated we are writing fines and stated the fines were getting paid and then all of a sudden, the mail started being returned to sender.

Mr. Bieslie stated concerning the home that was burned out, he did find out they did pay \$10,000.00 to a contractor and stated he spoke with them and is looking into if they received a cancelled check because if so, he would go after them. Mr. Bielskie stated they were charging a lot of money for the demo even with the \$10,000.00 down and we could get a local contractor for a lot less.

Mr. Niglio stated in PA if your house suffers a loss the insurance company gives the borough the money until you bring it to code and so we are sitting on a check right now. Mayor Slaby stated whatever the claim is there is a percentage. Solicitor Greco stated municipalities would have had passed an ordinance to do so.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley stated food surplus will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. He continued to say an issue is time and transportation and stated he is going to attempt to reach out to athletic teams at Mt. Carmel and Lourdes to volunteer to deliver this food and stated he wants to be sure he is not bending any rules.

Mr. Bradley stated it is once per month and possibly the cheerleaders could do one month and then athletic team the other. He stated he feels he would have support on the volunteer part. Mayor Slaby suggested to contact the boroughs insurance carrier and make sure they are covered under the borough insurance.

A quote was received from Bradco Supply Co. for cutting edges for the 2019 plow truck at a cost of \$584.00

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to make the purchase for the cutting edges at \$584.00 total.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated McClure Service Co. provided a service agreement to annually maintain the HVAC system. They will visit the site 3 times annually and change the filters and the belt and are available seven days per week 24 hours and the cost is \$1458.00. Mr. Motyka mentioned he was on the roof with McClure and the filters have never been changed.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to sign the service agreement with McClure Service Co. at a cost of \$1458.00.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated from what he understands the roof is not completed, they have not replaced the gutter yet on the truck room. Mr. Niglio stated that is correct and stated he received a call from HPCI and stated he needs approval to pay the whole bill, but at this point he would pay \$22,250.00 which is less \$2000.00 holding that until the gutter install.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to pay HPCI in full and paying at this time \$22,250.00 holding the remaining payment until complete at Mr. Niglio's discretion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka held up a sign for the dog park donated by the Kulpmont 100 and stated the signs are donated but the hardware, concrete and poles and such are not and stated he would like to make a motion to spend up to \$300.00 for those materials.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to spend up to \$300.00 to install signs at the dog park including sign pole, concrete and cover purchase not to exceed \$300.00.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (no), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
5 YEAS – 1 NAYS

Mr. Chesney stated he would like to explain his “no,” stating that he wanted to question it, but we jumped right in.

Mr. Chesney stated he has nothing personal about the dog park but when that was brought up in the initial stages, we said we as the borough would not pay anything into it and it would be paid for by donations. Mr. Chesney stated he knows \$300.00 is not a lot, but he just wants everyone to know we said we will not be putting it in and that donations would be paying for it. Mr. Chesney stated he just wanted to remind everyone of what they had said.

Mr. Hodge stated concerning the subject of the dogs, he stated he would like to remind the citizens when they are walking the dogs down at the Veterans Memorial Field to pick up after them. Mr. Hodge stated there are dog stations down there and people are just not cleaning up after them. Mr. Hodge stated he knows there must be fines for that and stated he realizes we cannot be down there patrolling it, but people are not doing it. Mayor Slaby stated he believes you are supposed to police your dog and have the animal on a tether.

Officer Mazzeo stated that is Mt. Carmel Township jurisdiction. Mr. Niglio stated we the borough enforces all our laws down there. Officer Mazzeo he was talking with Solicitor Greco and Tony Matulewicz about that and under Federal 42 Section 8951 his jurisdiction ends at geographical limit unless the Borough purchases the property and annexes the property.

Mr. Niglio stated we own the property, the Veterans Memorial Park is owned by the Borough of Kulpmont, it is just in the Township not in the Borough, but we own it. Officer Mazzeo asked that somebody show him what we own because the day he walked in the door he was told we lease it.

Mr. Niglio stated it is in the Township, not in the Borough. Mr. Niglio stated we never annexed it, but we were given that by the Coal Company that was all Susquehanna Coal, Mr. Miriello was the spearhead of that. Officer Mazzeo stated he was told by Chief Hollenbush that it is in the Township.

Mr. Niglio replied, "it is in the Township, but we own that property." Office Mazzeo asked if we annexed it. Mr. Niglio replied, "no." Officer Mazzeo stated we need to annex it and stated after he talked to Solicitor Greco he talked to Tony Matulewicz and stated anything he does they are going to prosecute it.

Officer Mazzeo stated if we own it someone needs to let him know, because he was told by day one it was leased. Mr. Bradley stated even if we do own it would be considered private property no difference than if he owns it. Officer Mazzeo stated his understanding is we would need to formally annex it and the geographic limits in Kulpmont would extend to the Veterans Field.

Solicitor Greco stated we need to do something because if the officer makes an arrest down there and.... Officer Mazzeo stated that is a civil rights violation. Mr. Niglio stated we probably would never find anything in writing unless it was in the minutes that we got something from Mt. Carmel Township to enforce your laws, probably goes back to the late "70's".

Solicitor Greco stated he thinks if we find the deed that will give us the time frame. Mr. Hodge asked if we could give a warning or something. Officer Mazzeo stated unless we annex it, he has no authority.

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY-** (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated he is working on some ordinances and stated his committee will set up a meeting and then forward to the Solicitor for review. He stated other than that do not report.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated everyone received a copy from PSAB on grants that may or will be available and some that have already started. He stated again., all of the grants need to be investigated. Mr. Chesney stated Mr. Motyka is working on one for dirt and gravel. Mr. Chesney stated the recycle grant did not open yet but once it does, we will qualify to apply for that.

Mr. Motyka stated he was contacted by Cory Johnson on the 16 million dollars ARP money and stated the commissioners are in favor of allocating \$300,000.00 to our stormwater project. He stated they like the idea of the 50/50 match and stated he thinks we have \$260,000.00 in the borough and plus our engineer included the money we have from the grant in our possession.

Mr. Motyka stated concerning the Dirt and Gravel one of our employees is going to take the course. Mr. Bradley stated Bruce Graff will be taking that course and it has been taken care of arranging help for recycling. Mr. Bradley stated someone will need to take the training or we will not be eligible for the grant. Mr. Bradley stated Bruce wasn't forced to do it, his response was he will do it for the betterment of Kulpmont.

Mr. Motyka stated we need to make sure the FEMA money is applied for they are requesting our proposal this month. Mr. Chesney asked if Justin Skavery has something to do with that or just the engineer.

Mr. Motyka stated the Kulpmont 100 was at the field Tuesday installing more fencing on the B field and stated they are still putting much time and energy in up there. Mr. Chesney acknowledged the Kulpmont 100 and stated there is a lot of volunteer work being put in up there and stated it is greatly appreciated.

**PERSONNEL**- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus stated the personnel committee met in regard to the appointment to the vacant council position within the Borough. Mr. Dowkus stated letters of interest were received from Russel Moroz, Robert Fanella, Bernard Novakoski, Walter Lutz and Bruno Varano. Mr. Dowkus stated all the men are qualified.

NOMINATION- Mr. Motyka nominated Mr. Bernard Novakoski to fill the vacancy on Council.

President Bielskie asked if there are any additional nominations.

Mr. Chesney nominated Russ Moroz.

Mr. Bielskie questioned if there were any additional nominations. No one spoke. Mr. Bielskie stated nominations are closed.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BIELSKIE (Moroz), BRADLEY (Novakoski), CHESNEY (Moroz), DOWKUS (Novakoski), MOTYKA (Novakoski), HODGE (Novakoski)  
4 Novakoski – 2 Moroz

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

Mr. Dowkus stated the personnel committee will meet and reach out to Mt. Carmel Township and Marion Heights Borough and stated they will see when they are able to get together. Mr. Dowkus stated so not to violate the sunshine act, the committee will meet. He stated once he finds out what days they could meet, he will go from there. Mr. Dowkus stated there is a deadline and so it will be sooner than later.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Heather Owens stated she was contacted Jeneen Beury from 1144 Poplar Street, she said she had to work and so she could not make it here this evening. Heather Owens stated she has ongoing code concerns with the neighbor's dog urinating on the sidewalk and now there are foundation concerns for the front and back entrances. She stated also with trash. Heather Owens stated she is in contact with her regularly and stated she and Mr. Bielskie have been to her address numerous times. She continued to say the gentleman was away for a period of time, he is now back and tomorrow he is supposed to address everything. Code Officer Heather Owens stated Jeneen Beury just wanted to make all of council aware of the situation.

Mr. Bielskie explained the foundation issue and stated the part of the wall on the front porch is collapsed in. He continued to say he was supposed to put a fence up, but he was then away for a while. Mr. Dowkus stated there are a few homes on that block that the porches are becoming issues.

Mr. Chesney stated the proper protocol just needs to continue to be followed, fines given and forwarded to the magistrate. Keep following protocol.

Mayor Slaby stated these people are constantly being cited, it does get to a certain level where it goes to a higher degree. Code Officer Heather Owens stated the fines are raised now and he said he will be in tomorrow to make payment arrangements and pay on the fines. Heather Owens stated we are going to work on getting the fence and the foundation, Mr. Bielskie will be more involved with the foundation because it will require inspections.

**OLD BUSINESS-**

None

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Mayor Slaby stated in the correspondence there was a solicitation from the Kulpmont 100 asking for a donation and stated he does not think the council acted on that and stated for all they do he thinks it should be considered to donate.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to donate \$300.00 to the Kulpmont 100.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)

6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated the letter concerning blight golf tournament will need to be acted on by May 25 and so we could wait until next meeting.

Mr. Chesney questioned Mr. Motyka on the \$100,000.00 spoken about earlier and asked if that was at Sixth Street. Mr. Motyka replied, “no,” and stated he is talking about the open grant we currently have and the money that he had included in the grant as a match.

Mr. Chesney also questioned if we could do anything about the impounded cars because once again, they are parking right over the drain we just fixed. Mr. Motyka stated the solicitor is looking into it. Mr. Chesney stated they cannot keep parking over it, it is going to cause problems.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular monthly meeting is April 13, 2022

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The March 9, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date – April 13, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
SPECIAL MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSE  
MARCH 30, 2022  
7:00 PM**

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 30, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Wm. Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Marlin Hodge, Stephen Motyka and Bernard Novakoski

**ABSENT:** None

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Treasurer Paul Niglio, Secretary Rhonda Wilk and Code Officer Heather Owens.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None

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

No one spoke

**PERSONNEL-** (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus stated the gentleman that was interviewing with and planning to take a vote on hiring this individual this evening has accepted another position. Mr. Dowkus stated he received this information late in the day, this afternoon. He stated this individual accepted another position before we were able to deliberate his employment.

Mr. Dowkus stated Officer Mazzeo, Mayor Slaby and the personnel committee have been entertaining every idea they possibly could. He stated this candidate was coming from the York area and stated he placed very well in the academy and was obviously a good candidate.

Mr. Dowkus stated two individuals reached out to himself about council sponsoring them, however it could be done. Mr. Dowkus stated the personnel committee, the Mayor and Officer Mazzeo will get together a proposal for these gentlemen going to the academy and put together a proposal on however we agree to work this out.

Mayor Slaby stated he will get together information as soon as possible and stated council will need to be involved with this. Mr. Dowkus asked for anyone watching the

meeting that is interested in working in the Borough to reach out to us.

Mr. Chesney asked what guarantee the Borough does have once they go to the academy that they will stay working with the Borough. Mr. Dowkus stated as of right now, it is just a talking point until we have paperwork and meet as a personnel committee and then with Council and we will then go from there.

Mr. Dowkus stated he also wants to mention he has forwarded some information to Mr. Motyka on a grant for body cams. Mr. Dowkus stated that is something that will be on next months agenda and stated with state mandates and all, that is something that will be brought up.

Mr. Dowkus stated he is sorry to the citizens, and he wishes that we could act a little faster on getting these officers hired, but that is how the cookie crumbles.

Mayor Slaby agreed and stated he is right and stated it is not his fault, Mr. Dowkus fault or anybody here or prior council. Mayor Slaby stated it is not Kulpmont's fault or anyone's fault.

Mayor Slaby stated he says this based on his experience and stated right now he has advertisements out to fill three vacant positions for three officers in the City of Shamokin and stated he is not holding his breath based on his experience.

Mr. Chesney stated he thinks we need to keep beating the bushes for experienced officers.

Mayor Slaby stated he wants to thank Mr. Dowkus for his time and thanks him for inviting him to the meetings.

Mr. Dowkus stated all the information from the borough has been submitted to Mr. Scavery concerning regionalization and we are just waiting for everything to go through.

### **FINANCE AND PURCHASING** (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated we have a Mechanical Devise Ordinance and stated the Sportsman's Club was confused as to why they were billed \$40.00. Mr. Motyka stated on the Ordinance he sees a fee of \$50.00 and questioned if we know when that changed and asked if there is a resolution that changed this ordinance.

Rhonda stated there is documentation that goes back to 2004 and every devise is priced out at different amounts. Mr. Motyka asked the solicitor if that would be a resolution that changes these prices. Solicitor Greco replied he would think so, yes.

Mr. Moytka stated perhaps we could send out a letter asking them what devices they have as we do for landlord rentals. Mayor Slaby stated this goes back to when he was



previously Mayor and stated they would send the police to verify the devices establishments had.

Mr. Motyka stated the Sportsman Club wanted to make sure they were being treated fairly and asked if we are going to do a revisit. Rhonda Wilk stated there is a log already prepared and Mr. Niglio has been gathering updated information. Rhonda explained what happened with them is they were sent a letter in the amount of \$40.00 which was the wrong amount.

Mr. Chesney stated this ordinance states the amount is \$50.00 and stated Council should direct appropriate officials, which would be us to conduct a survey of the Borough of Kulpmont to conduct the number of devises. Mr. Motyka stated, and fee schedules would change through a resolution.

Rhonda Wilk stated she did go back to 2004 and up to 2016 and pricing is different depending on the machine and is per device. Rhonda Wilk stated 2016 was the last time these fees were collected.

Mr. Niglio commented the Sportsman's Club has made payments in the past to us. Mr. Novakoski stated he thinks the pricing needs to be adjusted and stated \$50.00 is a joke. A discussion took place and Mr. Novakoski stated he has counted machines and with the money establishments are taking in he does not think anyone would complain with a pricing adjustment.

Rhonda Wilk stated she could email council the chart log used and added some of the machines are \$100.00 each. Council continued discussion and Mr. Motyka stated he thinks we could leave it be for now and come June or July we could re-visit it once this is behind us. Council members agreed and determined pricing should be increased.

Mr. Moytka stated he received a price quote from Ehrlich to provide vegetation management and spray the top of the stone wall along Ash Street form 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Street banks on the East, North, West sides of the field top to bottom at a cost of \$937.00 and the Veterans memorial entire walkway for \$898.00.

**MOTION** - Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve the contract in the amount of \$1835.00 from Ehrlich to contract them for vegetation control for the stone wall and the walking track.

Mr. Bielskie stated he believes we did that every year. Mr. Motyka replied it stopped a couple years ago.

Mr. Chesney questioned if we got any other price quotes, or we need to get an additional bid. Mayor Slaby replied, "not at the price in this area," and continued to say that is reasonable.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), HODGE (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NOVAKOSKI (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated the back stop at the baseball field is currently a dangerous situation and needs to be replaced. He stated LSI Specialties, Inc. provided a price quote for removal and replacement of the backstop in the amount of \$1,000.00.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to accept the proposal of \$1,000.00 to remove and replace the backstop at the baseball field

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), HODGE (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NOVAKOSKI (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated he also said while he was up there, he would do a couple other things, included in that price, he will put a new rope on the flagpole.

Mr. Bradley stated he has an emergency purchase and stated the leaf blower quit and stated he received a quote for \$479.99 for a new one and asked if we just want to put it on the agenda for the next meeting or what.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to purchase a leaf blower for a cost of \$479.99.

Solicitor Greco stated this is as an emergency purchase as it is not on the agenda.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), HODGE (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NOVAKOSKI (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated Bruce also asked that an emergency purchase be made to purchase cutting edges, blades for the plow. He stated with the last storm and the ice that came through they ruined our blades, and a price was received to purchase a replacement in the amount of \$584.00.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to make the emergency purchase for cutting edges at a cost of \$584.00.

Mr. Chesney questioned if we did not just get those. Mr. Bradley replied we did and stated they do not last long. Mr. Bradley stated he is going to take them to school and see if he could build them up so we can have them for a back up emergency.

Mr. Bradley stated he does not have the hardened material they use but he could build them up so there is a spare. Mr. Bradley stated the hardware is very expensive and when you purchase them the hardware comes with them. Mr. Bradley stated he cannot promise

anything but before he retires, he is going to make an attempt to build some of them up, so we have some spares.

Mr. Bradley stated they are not a straight piece of steel there is a radius on the end. He continued to say they are very unique, and they don't last long, especially in the alleys in Kulpmont, nothing is flat and that is one reason why they wear out so quick.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), HODGE (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NOVAKOSKI (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka asked if everyone has seen the letter about the emergency firetruck repairs, we will need to know the cost so we could address that. Mr. Chesney questioned if they periodically check on all the features of the truck as preventative maintenance or do, they just wait until the annual inspection.

Mr. Dowkus stated he made a schedule for the street department, a preventative maintenance schedule. Mr. Dowkus stated he did not do so for the Fire Department and added that possibly is something they could work together with them to do so. Mr. Novakoski stated sometimes they know something is going on with the truck and they like to get it fixed right away.

Solicitor Greco questioned if Council is making a motion for that. Mr. Chesney stated it is already there for an inspection, we don't know what the bill is yet.

Mayor Slaby stated an email was sent out to Council by the Kulpmont 100 about a monument that was once outside the old municipal building. Mayor Slaby stated the monument was placed after Conrad Domchock was killed. A discussion took place as to where it possibly would be able to be located and placed.

Mayor Slaby stated he understands why itty was placed in proximity to where this occurred but do, we really want to place this out in front of this building. Mr. Niglio stated we may need to take a bench out to do so.

Mr. Motyka stated in his eyes he believes there are three options for it and stated we could put it out front as is or put former municipal building and put it at the recycle center or it goes in the trash, and we don't put it at all.

Mayor Slaby stated we are going to need to talk about it. Mr. Motyka stated to change the wording we will need to get an etcher. A discussion took place concerning who may possibly do the rewording. Mr. Dowkus agreed to reach out to them.

Mr. Dowkus stated on April 23<sup>rd</sup> they are going to be doing some clean up for earth day at the Veterans Memorial Field and stated we are also going to be doing some planting at the pollination garden. Mr. Dowkus stated we have a lot more to do there and have it lined up with the educational grant.

Mr. Chesney asked everyone to think about the possibility of considering some sort of donation for Ukraine for the next meeting.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR**

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**RHONDA WILK  
SECRETARY**

**Date of Approval April 13, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
APRIL 13, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mr. Chesney  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday April 13, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Stephen Motyka and Marlin Hodge.

**ABSENT:** none

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul A. Niglio, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Official Heather Owens and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** John S. Maciwsieski, Joe Politza, Edwin Howerter, Luke Darrup, Madison Mengel, Tyler Owens and Nick Bozza.

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

**MAYORS REPORT**- (Robert Slaby)

No Report

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval of the March 9<sup>th</sup> and the March 30, 2022, meeting minutes is needed.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve the meeting minutes from March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 30, 2022.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

Rhonda stated additional donations for the American Flag purchase for Chestnut Street was received from K of C Council, Sons of the American Legion Post 231 and Home Association Small Games of Chance.

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from The Kulpmont Car Cruise, a date for the cruise planned for June 19<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rhonda Stated action is needed for the request of borough council to apply for a special event permit from PennDOT. Copied to Mayor/Council

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion for the borough to proceed in applying for the special event permit for the car cruise and was seconded by Mr. Chesney.

Mr. Dowkus asked Officer Mazzeo to reach out for traffic control and safety. Officer Mazzeo agreed to do so.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

The Annual Fight the Blight Golf Tournament will be held at Indian Hills Golf Club on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Copied to Mayor/Council

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to sponsor a hole for the tournament in the amount of \$150.00.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation sent correspondence, starting March 7, 2022, traffic counting on municipally owned roads will be placed and data to be available on PennDOT Traffic Information Repository website (TIRe) Copy Mayor/Council

SCRA send an informational letter with goal and projects outlined for 2022, Copy Mayor/Council

Northumberland County Elections and Voter Registration sent a letter to notify the borough of the primary election to be held Tuesday May 17, 2022, voting machines to be delivered the week before. Copy Mayor/Council

Winnie the Pooh Daycare is Partnering with the Mother Pauline Center, hosting children's Spring Carnival event on May 14, 2022, from 12:00 to 5:00 pm at Mother Pauline Complex. Copy Mayor/Council

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the closure of the 1100 block of Maple Street for the Daycare Spring Carnival on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Correspondence was also received from Kulpmont 100 thanking the borough for the donation to support the organization and helping to make future events successful. Copy Mayor/Council

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation sent a letter to notify the borough of yearly maintenance of the traffic signal. Copy Mayor/Council/Borough Supervisor

Mr. Dowkus stated he thinks the timing is wrong on the traffic light and is unsafe and questioned how we reach out to them to have that corrected. Mayor Slaby state he just dealt with this a few weeks ago and stated there should be documentation in there as to how long that should operate when flashing, the green and the red.

Mr. Dowkus stated the green light turns to yellow then red. Mr. Dowkus stated when you come up the hill on Sixth Street, you can't see if any cars are coming West from Mt. Carmel. Mr. Dowkus asked anyone who has a contact to reach out. Mr. Dowkus stated with that study we may see how many cars are coming through there. Mr. Bielskie agreed to reach out concerning the red light.

PSAB sent a reminder of the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held on May 22-25, 2022, Hershey/deadline April 15<sup>th</sup> or until sold out- Copy Mayor/Council

Nick Bozza sent letter of notification for Earth Day- Pollination Garden – request consideration for a donation to help defray the cost of plants. Copy Mayor/Council

Mr. Dowkus asked Mr. Bozza what we are looking at as far as the plants and how the borough can help out. Mr. Bozza stated the master Gardner stated the cost will be between \$300.00 and \$500.00 and stated he is going to reach out to other organizations as well. Mr. Bozza stated they are the ones that will help us to get this garden state certified adding we are close.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to donate \$250.00 toward the pollination garden to continue the plantings.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Also, correspondence was received from PSAB Energy Procurement Program – navigating the evolving Electric Vehicle charging landscape. Copy Mayor/Council

**TREASURERS REPORT** – (Paul A. Niglio)

Council received a report which is attached and a list of bills to be approved for payment.

**MOTION**- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he has been doing some title work on the property on the corner of Scott and Fifth Street, by the creek. He stated he is going back in deeds researching if there is an easement or a right of way.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Officer Mazzeo stated the report is attached. Officer Mazzeo asked Council to let him know if there is anything they are not seeing on the report that they would like to see.

He stated the burglaries we had in town, the people we thought it was, it was them. Officer Mazzeo stated the State Police are doing the case and prosecuting. Officer Mazzeo stated the State Police got a break in the case.

Mr. Chesney stated he had a call from an Elderly woman and stated she was hit heavy with a phone scam and stated he just wants to warn everyone to be careful with people contacting you requesting information and account numbers.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT**- (Tri County COG)

Permits were issued and the report is attached.

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report attached.



Mr. Novakoski stated he sees work being done around town, but they don't have the permits hanging. Mr. Novakoski questioned the post office and the one down the road putting a roof on. Heather stated they have permits. Mr. Novakoski asked if they are to display them. Heather replied they should be displayed.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley reminded residents the food distribution will be held this month on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Bradley asked Bruce if the cutting edges on the agenda have been posted. Bruce replied they have been purchased.

Mr. Bradley stated the playground is now open.

**MOTION-** Mr. Bradley made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to purchase a new slide at a cost of \$836.08.

Mr. Dowkus stated last year he tried to repair the slide. Mr. Bradley stated with a hole in the slide it creates a liability and that is why he would like to see it replaced.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus suggested to put something there to deter kids from using the slide until replaced. Bruce Graff stated he put gorilla tape all over it and right now it is holding, there are no sharp edges and stated in his opinion if we remove the slide, he feels they will still go up there and possibly try to jump off.

Mr. Chesney questioned Bruce Graff on if he was able to find out what the wire was that was down. Bruce Graff replied, "I don't want to be mean; I am tired of everyone telling me about it." He stated he made the calls that he makes concerning that and stated he received so many calls on this. Bruce Graff stated he went up with a ladder and pulled the wire up above the roof line so that it is not blocking anything. Mr. Chesney replied, "well, good, thank you."

Mr. Bradley stated he would like to suggest expanding the maintenance building and stated we need a place to keep our stuff, we are paying rent and getting bounced around. Mr. Bradley stated he talked with Steve Motyka.

Mr. Bradley stated the biggest expense in building a building would be buying the land, we already own the land. He stated he thinks this is something we should pursue to eliminate paying rent to other people. Mr. Chesney asked if we would need bids on it. Mr. Bradley stated, "we need to take it to the next level."

Mr. Motyka stated he talked to his engineer and stated they would just hire an architect and mark it up and so he recommended we just approach an architect. Mr. Motyka stated he does not think it will meet the \$20,000.00 but we still need a document to bid out.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to pursue a designer to proceed with the expansion of the maintenance building.

Mr. Dowkus stated we have our engineer and stated he is sure they would point us in the right direction. Mr. Motyka stated it is very simple, if we go through an engineer, we are going to pay a mark up and then stated he recommended we don't do that.

Mr. Chesney then questioned if this will be totally enclosed. Mr. Bradley replied, "yes." Mr. Bradley stated we have to keep the street sweeper in there and Bruce keeps the recycling trailer in there and stated he is hoping it will be big enough that we can still utilize all of that.

Mr. Bradley stated he just feels it makes good business sense to gradually expand our own property and not to pay rent to somebody else. Mr. Bradley stated this is the first step.

Bruce Graff questioned why we cannot put a pole barn for storage down at the duck pond and stated we own that property. Mr. Chesney questioned what we pay for rent each year. Mr. Bradley replied, "over \$3,000.00."

Mr. Bielskie stated, "let's get this correct, they only get a stipend at the West End." Mr. Bielskie added it is not only for storage and stuff, but the fire company also has their stuff in there. Mr. Bielskie stated the cascade system is in there and that stipend does not even pay for the three-phase service that the cascade requires and stated they are not making money on that.

Mr. Bielskie stated the truck is coming back when they are done with it, and we are going to be selling two of the trucks. Mr. Bielskie stated there is going to be room there again.

Mr. Bradley stated it seems to him that this is becoming an issue and that is what he is trying to eliminate. Mr. Bradley stated Bruce should not need to search around where he is going to put the street sweeper, he should be able to park it anywhere he wants. Mr. Bradley stated if we own the property, it would be a minimum expense to put a lean-to off that building and stated he would feel we would be foolish not to do it. Mr. Bradley stated this is not up to him, he is only suggesting.

Mr. Chesney directed a statement to Mr. Bradley and stated we need numbers to see as opposed to what the rent is. Mr. Bielskie stated and the treasurer, Paul is not here. Mr. Chesney stated you need to use an educated guess and turn that guess into facts.

Mr. Dowkus stated the motion is to get an architect to draw up a plan and see what it may cost up to put this lean-to up. Mr. Bradley stated to see where we are at and then to put it

out to bid, that sounds good. Mr. Chesney stated with two trucks going to be sold, there is more room and so at \$3000.00..... Mr. Dowkus interjected and stated we don't need the Hatfield's and McCoy's from 100 years ago between the Fire Companies, we need to make the best decision for our guys. Mr. Dowkus stated we are wasting time going back and forth trying to find things and stuff get moved around over the winter.

Mr. Bradley stated possibly there is another valid suggestion as to another place we could put a pole barn up. Bruce Graff stated his stuff is packed in the garage, you can't even walk in there and stated he even has tires stored in the Municipal Building. Mr. Bradley stated there should be one place to store everything in there. Solicitor Greco stated a motion is on the floor. Mr. Chesney stated it is to pursue the idea.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated prices were received for the body cameras and questioned if the \$500.00 includes the set-up fee for the servers and such. Mr. Dowkus state he has not reached out to liquid technologies to hold all the information the cameras would get.

We received a quote for \$440.00 including the clip. A discussion took place and Officer Mazzeo stated he is not a computer guy and would suggest having Liquid Technologies install.

Mr. Motyka stated he would recommend we purchase the hardware from Liquid Technologies as well. Mr. Dowkus stated the company is in Pennsylvania and stated he would suggest purchasing the camera and the clip and then go forward to contact Liquid Technologies for a quote.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion to purchase the Camera and the Clip not to exceed \$500.00 and was seconded by Mr. Motyka.

Mr. Motyka questioned concerning a body camera policy as far as releasing a video to prosecutors or defense. Officer Motyka stated this is technology involving a huge amount of liability. Mr. Motyka asked for some research to be done. Mr. Dowkus agreed and then stated he is sure the state has one that covers us.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated he would like to congratulate the Fire Company and stated they did a great job fundraising and purchased a beautiful truck. Mr. Motyka stated it was added to our insurance and the cost is \$1,600.00 annually.

Mr. Motyka stated the West End plans to get rid of two trucks and stated he would like to give them three months to do so and to cover those trucks on the insurance for three

months. Mr. Motyka stated he would like to give the three months so this does not drag on and stated he would like to let the West End know that we will cover those two trucks for 3 months and then they would come off the insurance. Mr. Motyka stated it is about \$300.00 to keep those two trucks on for three months.

Mr. Dowkus stated the only thing he would be worried about is how long the Gladiator will be.....Mr. Motyka stated we could re-visit it in three months.

Mr. Bradley questioned if they are out of service and stated possibly the insurance premium could be less if they are out of service just while waiting to sell them.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion to insure the two trucks for the fire dept for three months and then re-visit and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated over the years Bruce's cold patch is a waste of money and it does not hold up and it is just work on top of work on top of work.

Mr. Motyka stated he got prices for asphalt paving equipment. He stated the quote is over the top because they quoted an 18" and a 24" milling machine, we don't need both. Mr. Motyka stated we have one more year of payment on our backhoe and so we can use 15% of our liquid fuel money for financing and stated we could look at financing.

Mr. Motyka stated the Road saw we could get later and the tar buggy; we should spend a week at the end of the year tarring. He stated the 24" milling machine is not much more than the 18" one. Mr. Motyka stated with the two brooms and the water tank, he stated those cost fifty-nine thousand and change.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to spend up to \$80,000.00 to create a hot asphalt paving crew in our town.

Mr. Bradley stated this is something they have done research on and there are some other issues to be addresses but the first thing is to get the stuff in house. Mr. Motyka stated we received \$65,000.00 from UGI getting gas lines, that money was to maintain the roads and if we spent that money somewhere else that is shame on us.

Mr. Bielskie asked Mr. Motyka first of all where are we getting the money from and stated the treasurer, Paul Niglio last said we have about \$50,000.00 to spend. Mr. Motyka stated we had \$100,000.00 cash carryover and Paul gave him a number we had \$85,000.00 to spend, plus the \$85,000.00 in liquid fuels we will get this year.

Mr. Motyka stated we went years paving a street every year and so we paved a street while the rest fell apart. Mr. Motyka stated he does not think it is a good approach that we pave one street per year. Mr. Bradley asked Bruce Graff how much cold patch they used already this year. Bruce replied that he can honestly say that the material they are

using is staying, it is the rest of the road that is falling apart. Mr. Bradley stated he is not criticizing what kind of work they are doing but they are just putting a band-aid on a bullet hole every time we do this. Bruce Graff stated this to him is to much for what we want to do. Mr. Bradley replied stating they discussed that and know if we do this you are going to need help.

Mr. Bradley stated the first step is getting this equipment and the second step is let's see what we need to do to fix all the streets in Kulpmont. Mr. Bielskie stated what about if this year we rent the equipment and see how it goes, and how long it takes you.

Bruce Graff replied when you rent equipment you only get it for a week and the first, second and third week we have recycling and food give away and the fourth week we have sweeper and rain and grass cutting between there.

Mr. Bielskie stated he spoke with Mark Lyash from Ralpho and they have a bigger area than we do and they just rent the equipment from Vought's Equipment. Bruce Graff stated he they are and stated usually when you rent the equipment it is for a week and then if you get rain....

Mr. Bradley asked Bruce how much it was to rent the tar buggy. Bruce Graff stated he thinks it was \$5,000.00 plus the cost of the tar. Mr. Motyka stated, "you're getting a brand new one here for \$13,000.00."

Bruce Graff said purchasing the equipment if something breaks then who do you get to work on it. Mr. Bradley replied we are not trying to create work here for you Bruce, you have enough to do. Bruce Graff replied, he has enough to do.

Mr. Bielskie stated the crew do a great job there is no if ands or but's about it adding he is just looking financially as to what Paul told him is available to spend.

Mr. Motyka stated if we finance this equipment, we are going to spend less then we will spend renting it yearly. Mayor Slaby asked Mr. Motyka about the equipment we will pay off how much that is.

Mr. Moytka stated one year on the backhoe and was not sure the amount. Rhonda Wilk stated the amount is \$15,000.00. Bruce Graff questioned where we are going to store all this equipment. Bruce Graff stated we will need something bigger than a lien-to.

Mr. Bradley stated he likes the idea about the other property, that is something he did not look into. Mayor Slaby asked how much room the food program occupies in the building. Bruce Graff replied he would say probably about 4' off the wall, you cannot squeeze another thing in between the truck and the wall and then there are all of the freezers we have in there.

Bruce Graff stated in his opinion we need another building and not just a lien-to. Solicitor Greco stated it is just a suggestion, but do you think we could get Paul Niglio on

the phone. Mr. Chesney stated he feels this needs a lot more research and this matter should be tabled until we figure it out.

Mr. Motyka suggested to make a subsidiary motion to table this and stated in the meantime he will get some information from banks on what it would be to finance the equipment.

Mr. Novakoski stated the streets are deteriorating more and more and stated we need to do fix it once and fix it right.

Mr. Bielskie stated the problem we have in Kulpmont is no drainage system. Mr. Motyka stated we are having eighty-five hundred feet of watermain replacement this year and so we will have approximately 9 blocks of asphalt in our town, and we are also looking at \$600,000.00 stormwater and we will talk about that in a minute but that will be another upgrade to our streets.

Mr. Motyka stated we really do not need to take liquid fuels money and pave a street this year we could do without.

**SUBSIDIARY MOTION**- Mr. Chesney made a subsidiary motion to table the purchase of the equipment until it is investigated more, and we have all the figures right.

Solicitor Greco asked if there is a second to the subsidiary motion. There was no second and so we go back to the original motion due to lack of a second.

Mr. Bielskie called for a roll call vote on the original motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (no), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 1 NAYS

Mr. Motyka state we should see our allocation from the ARPA money this money and a motion will be needed to proceed with design. Mr. Motyka stated he questioned the \$600,000.00 price tag, if it included design and was told it did.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to proceed with design.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated he wrote a lengthy email on meeting with the Conservation District on Dirt Road and low volume road grants. Mr. Motyka stated if we could connect the 400 block of Maple, we would have a good intention for a dirt road grant. Mr. Motyka stated

he talked with the engineer, and he could give us a design we could have in our pocket if we needed.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to have the engineer proceed with design.

Mr. Bradley questioned if we need the design first before we could get the money through the grant. Mr. Motyka replied, “no.” Mr. Motyka added the design will connect Maple.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated to elaborate, an email was sent to Mt. Carmel Township, the 1100 block of Wood Street is half in the Township. Mr. Motyka stated he did not have a response from Mt. Carmel Township to split the cost and so he would like to send a letter.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to renew our membership with SCRA in the amount of \$30.00

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY**- (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated the Tax Collector is here this evening and stated he asked Mr. Darrup to attend the meeting this evening and explain some of the issues he is coming up against.

Mr. Darrup stated the current tax collector fee schedule Ordinance. Mr. Darrup stated the returned check fee is listed at \$15.00 each and stated his charge for a return item fee is \$20.00. Mr. Darrup asked if Council would consider raising the fee to \$25.00. He stated there is extra work involved as well going back in to records because the bills would be marked paid when in fact they are not.

Mayor Slaby stated that is dirt cheap and the tax collector should not have to pay anything toward a fee and would suggest raising it to at least \$30.00. Mr. Motyka stated he just looked up the average fee and it is \$35.00. After discussion the new fee would reflect \$35.00.

Solicitor Greco stated we will amend the ordinance and include any additional changes would then come by resolution. Solicitor Greco stated he could have that done and so we would need a motion to advertise. Solicitor Greco stated we could have this done and advertised; it is a small minor change.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion to amend Ordinance 2021-02 Establishing compensation to the tax collector and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Solicitor Greco questioned Mr. Dowkus if he had anything under ordinance on the Service Electric.

Mr. Motyka stated he would be available to Mr. Dowkus if he would like to get together and research the matter. Mr. Dowkus stated he did research and reached out for information in the past and will follow up with that. Mr. Dowkus asked any Councilmembers that have any contacts to reach out as well.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated Mr. Motyka had sent out a DEP media event for Veterans Memorial Field, which was discussed lightly.

Mr. Chesney stated the Creek Project is on the agenda. Mr. Motyka stated he gave a good description on what is going on and there is no Borough money associated with that project.

Mr. Dowkus commented April 23<sup>rd</sup> we are having a clean up at the Veterans Memorial Field, Pollination Garden. He continued to say they will be doing some planting in the Pollination Garden. Mr. Dowkus stated the last couple of years they have been knocking it out of the park and people have been noticing it and taking care of business on their own. Mr. Dowkus stated please reach out to us on other areas in town that we could help clean up.

Mr. Motyka, we approved at the last meeting to get the backstop fixed and commented it looks very nice.

Mr. Motyka stated most of our volunteers are Saturday Hero's and would like to make a motion to pay Bruce Graff for a Saturday's pay to run that backhoe and dig the footers because it is not going to get done without the backhoe and Bruce is busy enough.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to pay Bruce Graff for a Saturday to work the backhoe for a day.



Mr. Bradley stated it would be following the collective bargaining agreement.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**PERSONNEL**- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus would like to meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters at the end of the meeting.

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Former Mayor, Nicholas Bozza stated he would like to thank the council for the donation for the pollination garden. Mr. Bozza questioned what steps council is taking to get more police in the Borough.

Officer Mazzeo stated he has been recruiting guys and there was a guy that was supposed to start last week and didn't. Officer Mazzeo stated some other things are being considered.

Mr. Bozza questioned Paul Niglio how much money is in the budget for police officers. Mr. Niglio replied there is enough for three officers, \$180,000.00, \$200,000.00.

Mr. Bozza stated there must be some kind of carry over in the budget. Mr. Niglio replied the council is spending it as you see, all the spending going on here is not in the budget.

Mr. Bozza stated how much in the police budget. Mr. Niglio stated there is no carryover in the police budget, it's a general fund. Mr. Bozza stated he is just wondering because he has been talking to some young individuals that would like to go through the academy.

Mr. Bozza stated the problem here is the pay and if you have the money, even to put one or two more people on why you can't boost the pay up. Mr. Motyka stated our total budget for police protection is \$274,000.00.

Mr. Bozza directed a statement to Mayor Slaby and said this summer his phone will ring off the hook, adding he knows this because his did and it is going to get brutal.

A discussion took place, Mr. Bielskie commented we are at \$25.00 per hour and are one of the highest paying now. Mr. Niglio stated at \$25.00 per hour that equates to about \$80,000.00 per officer. After additional discussion, Mr. Bozza stated his opinion is we could bump it up a bit. Mr. Bozza asked Mayor Slaby if he had some people apply in

Shamokin. Mayor Slaby stated there were three applications on his desk as of this afternoon and he stated he has three in the academy that will be coming out. Mr. Bozza asked his question is how could some borough, township or city do it three times better. Mr. Bielskie questioned Mr. Slaby on what the starting wage is in Shamokin. Mayor Slaby replied \$58,000.00. Mr. Bielskie replied that is higher than most.

Mr. Bozza stated we must consider Steve and these volunteers are doing such a good job to beautify this borough and if we don't have these guys to protect it what is the sense of doing it. Solicitor Greco stated he does hope when Council meets in Executive session, we may come out with something a solution.

Mr. Chesney commented we need to understand Mt. Carmel Township Area, Coal Township and Shamokin all have industries that feed into their coffers. Mr. Chesney stated Kulpmont Borough does not have industry feeding into the coffer.

Mr. Chesney stated Kulpmont Borough does not, they have Sue, Mary and Joe that are paying their taxes and their checks are bouncing because they do not have the money now to pay the taxes where they are.

Mr. Chesney stated we need to keep that in mind, realistic logic. Mr. Chesney stated you must understand, when you spend money, you need to know where it is coming from who is paying for it and the longevity of that spending.

Mr. Chesney stated we have seen time and time in this borough after two or three years the officers leave because we are the minor leagues of police and stated he guesses we will always need to stay that way because we cannot pay \$50.00 per hour.

Solicitor Greco asked if any other citizens would like an opportunity to speak.

No one additional spoke.

### **OLD BUSINESS-**

none

### **NEW BUSINESS-**

Mr. Motyka stated the SCRA for them to apply for Federal Grants they need an address for three letters a year and cannot be a P.O. box and asked if it is possible for them to establish a Physical address, using possibly 9 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Suite B.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to create an address of 9 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Suite B for SCRA use.

Mayor Slaby stated he feels this should be checked out with the post office and you may also need to check with the county on a new physical address.

Mr. Motyka stated he will do all that leg work. Mr. Dowkus suggested a locked mailbox outside. Mr. Niglio stated we have one mailbox outside for us, fire, and police. Mr. Mazzeo stated to put a second mailbox outside you would need to clear the post office and the county. Mayor Slaby commented, we need to make sure that one knows what the other is doing.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Hodge stated a decision has not been made concerning the placement of the monument discussed at the last meeting.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to place the monument out front of the municipal building.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated concerning the 2016 dump truck with the new emission control system, these trucks idol around town and stated the filters get blocked up because they are driving around town all the time.

Mr. Bradley stated a quote for a diesel filter is \$5,373.00. He stated when the exhaust system gets hot the carbon burns out of the system. Mr. Bradley stated this could solve the problem. He stated he suggested to Bruce to take the truck once an awhile and run it up and down the Natalie Mountain, this will help to burn the carbon out.

Mr. Bradley stated he suggested to take that truck if he needs to go to Home Depot or somewhere to try and burn that out and stated we should do that will all the trucks. Mr. Bradley stated if we are lucky that may solve the problem.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular monthly meeting is May 11, 2022

Mr. Bielskie stated council will now meet in executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

Solicitor Greco stated Council met in executive session for approximately 40 minutes.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to reconvene on Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for General Purpose concerning individual candidates.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes),  
CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The April 13, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date – May 11, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MAY 11, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mr. Chesney  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday May 11, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Stephen Motyka and Marlin Hodge and Bernard Novakoski

**ABSENT:** none

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul A. Niglio, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Official Heather Owens and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** John S. Maciwsieski, Edwin P. Howerter, Joe Politza, and Erika Noll.

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

Mr. Bielskie requested to meet in executive session at the end o the meeting for litigation discussion.

**MAYORS REPORT-** (Robert Slaby)

Mayor Slaby stated as Mayor he is recommending for Council to adopt the Police Camera Policy.

**MOTION-** Mr. Bradley made the motion to adopt the police camera policy and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated he had some DOT questions and stated he appreciates Officer Mazzeo, he did not know the answer at the time, and he pursued it and appreciates that and thanked him.

Mr. Dowkus asked Officer Mazzeo if Liquid Technology was able to get everything up and running. Officer Mazzeo replied, “everything is up and running, the log is set up.”

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval of the April 13, 2022, meeting minutes is needed.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve the meeting minutes from April 13, 2022.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Rhonda Wilk stated the special event permit application has been submitted to PennDOT for the Car Cruise to be held on Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Community Yard Sale in past years was held the weekend of the car cruise. Rhonda stated if council would like to consider the community yard sale during the weekend of the car cruise the date would be Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> and the Rain date would be Saturday July 2, 2022. Rhonda stated the yard sale was held from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in past years.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to schedule the Community Yard Sale to be held the weekend of the Car Cruise, June 18<sup>th</sup> with a Rain date of July 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Correspondence was received from USDA – requesting 2021 Annual Report ASAP, Copy President/Treasurer

Correspondence was received from David W. Bolton, Abbottstown Borough, Adams County -Including a Cannabis Resolution Templet, Copied Mayor/Council

Mr. Motyka questioned Solicitor Greco on if he received a copy of that correspondence and have had a chance to review that. Solicitor Greco replied, “yes.”

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to adopt a resolution in support and to encourage the Pennsylvania House Representatives and

Senate to support passage of legislation in support of Legalization of cannabis and Expungement for Previous Offense.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (no), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 1 NAYS

Correspondence was received form Northumberland County Conservation relating to the Aqua PA Kulpmont Phase II watermain Replacement NPDES Permit Application, Copy Mayor and Council

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs – Proposed Constitution Amendment was Copy Mayor and Council.

Northumberland County – Department of Economic Development and Planning send correspondence enacting the “Northumberland County Stormwater Management Ordinance.” Copied to Mayor/Council and Solicitor

Mr. Chesney stated when he spoke to Justin Skavery, he stated we could adopt our own or we could refer to the County Ordinance. Solicitor Greco replied that is correct.

A letter was received from the Borough of Marion Heights expressing interest and requesting Kulpmont Borough to consider collecting curbside recyclables in Marion Heights and to utilize the recycle center, Copied to Mayor and Council

Mr. Motyka stated there would be a lot of costs with that and stated if Council would want to review and see about the possibility of being able to use for the next grant round. Mr. Motyka stated that is a lot to consider and we would need to run numbers.

Mr. Bradley questioned when we would have time to do it. Mr. Dowkus stated we would need to hire more people. Mr. Bradley stated if it would bring money into the town then we could do that. Bruce Graff stated he is not going up there in the wintertime and stated it is bad enough here in the wintertime and with the hills there..... Mayor Slaby he received many calls from Coal Township when he was president of council on the wrong items being placed in bins.

Bruce Graff stated he knows for a fact when they had a dumpster and Coal Township would pick it up, they would put old oil containers in them and it would dump on the floor when they dumped them and that is why they took the plastic dumpster off them in Marion Heights, they were not doing it right.

Mayor Slaby stated he would respond not at this time. Council agreed, not at this time.

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) – Quaker Run and Buck Run Stream Assessment & Restoration Plan – May 18, 2022, 6:30 p.m. at the Brady Social Hall- Copy Mayor/Council

Kulpmont Sportsmen's Association – Youth Activities list provided and Upcoming Fish Derby request to consider donation, Copy Mayor Council

**MOTION**- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to donate \$100.00 to the Kulpmont Sportsmen's Association for the 2022 Fish Derby.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Correspondence was received from Mr. Nick Bozza concerning pigeon infestation on the 1100 block of Scott Street.

Mr. Bradley stated the properties with the pigeon infestation, the owner should be responsible for that and asked if that is correct. Mayor Slaby agreed with Mr. Bradley. Mr. Bradley questioned Heather Owens if they could be cited for that. Heather stated she did not see what was sent but she pulled all the emails that were received concerning this situation and stated there were five properties.

Heather Owens stated one owner had previously had a contractor come out in February and stated they are probably still gathering funds she would guess. Heather stated the one fixed the window and the other one had said the issue was resolved. She stated the one property owner the address was not good, and she had not heard from him. She continued to say there were no complaints since June and stated she was unaware there was still an issue.

Mr. Bradley questioned if they could be cited and stated he does not feel we should be paying for this. Mayor Slaby stated if the owners are known the borough should go after them. Heather Owens stated the only property that she knows of with an open window has been fixed and stated she was told flashing was hung and has been fixed. A discussion took place concerning pigeons and issues throughout town. Mr. Bielskie stated we need to notify the property owners they are unsanitary, and it is unsafe. Mayor Slaby stated he sympathizes with the people.

Mr. Motyka questioned how long we give the new owner of the mill to make repairs. Mr. Bielskie stated there was never ever a date and time. He stated they rebuilt the back roof where the roof was hanging and stated he has not been in since. Mr. Bielskie said they wanted to rent the lower part out and stated he is not going to let them in there until the electric service is restored. Mayor Slaby stated he hears what he is saying but bricks are continuously falling and asked if it will take a head on collision until something is done.

Mr. Bradley stated he does not think there is a grace period and if you buy a property, you are responsible. Mr. Bielskie replied, "just because you say that does not mean it works."



Mr. Bielskie stated he feels we should send a letter. Recommend Solicitor Greco to send a letter on timeline on what the plan is for repairs and the building is unsafe. Solicitor Greco to draft a letter including concerns of loose bricks, debris and opened and smashed windows and also the grass to be maintained and cut.

**TREASURERS REPORT** (Paul Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated you all received a copy of the financial statement and bills to be paid. Approval is needed to pay the bills and noted there is a correction on the list of bills, the list reflects PPL a credit and that is not the case, there is a bill in the amount of \$168.00.

**MOTION-** Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio stated concerning the letter from the USDA we received, we have been getting that same letter for the last four years since we hired a CPA, it takes a year to get our audit done. Mr. Niglio stated we send them everything we can. Mr. Bielskie commented it should get easier every year. Mr. Niglio replied to the audit, but not the timeline and stated he can't control that.

**SOLICITORS REPORT-** (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he has reviewed the cannabis legislation and has been doing title work looking at 6<sup>th</sup> & Ash Street for easement restrictions and looking through PennDOT records adding it is not an easy task. Solicitor Greco has been reviewing Cable Franchise Ordinances and stated with our upcoming cable franchise agreement he suggest we notify them of our intent and not to automatically renew. A discussion took place among Council and the Solicitor, and it was decided the Solicitor is to notify the Cable Company of our intent not to renew. Solicitor Greco stated he has also reviewed camera policy and reviewed the draft provided by Officer in Charge, Stephen Mazzeo.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Officer Mazzeo stated the report is attached

Mr. Bradley thanked Officer Mazzeo for looking into a PennDOT question for him.

Mr. Dowkus stated the camera for the Police Department will be a great asset for all parties involved.

Mr. Chesney questioned if possibly we could incorporate a mileage report with our trucks especially at this time. Mr. Chesney stated he would hope the personnel committee will

investigate that. Mayor Slaby questioned if it is a personnel issue. Mr. Chesney replied, “no, it is not an issue just a suggestion, Service and Facilities, whoever. Mr. Chesney stated before the day you would write down the mileage and at the end of the day you would write down the mileage, not after each stop. A discussion took place. Bruce stated there are four or five vehicles. Mayor Slaby stated from his standpoint if someone has a problem, with Officer Mazzeo or when we have more cops, and the car is driving around somewhere where it should not be he asked to let him know.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT**– (Tri County COG)

Report attached

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report attached

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley reminded residents the food distribution will be held this month on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Bradley stated a quote for tires for the lawn mower was received form Bastian Tire and Auto in the amount of \$456.00

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to purchase tires from Bastian Tire at a cost of \$456.00.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley questioned if it would benefit us to have a liability sign posted at the playground, he said he has seen them at other playgrounds. Solicitor Greco stated it does not hurt. Mr. Bradley stated kids are dropped off and the parents are leaving, the children are left unattended. A short discussion took place.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made a motion to purchase a sign for the playground.

**SUBSIDIARY MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made a subsidiary motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to research a sign for the playground rules and obtain a price.

Bruce Graff asked for the information ready and give it to Rhonda and he will then get the measurements on how big the sign will need to be.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated a vehicle drove through the playground on Sunday and ripped the field up and it will take 32-man hours to correct the damage that was done. Bruce Graff stated Heather was looking at the camera but was not able to download it. Heather Owens stated she is working on it and will get it adding there is at least one vehicle. Mr. Bradley stated whoever did it should be cited and made to be responsible.

Bruce Graff stated the gates were open because the 100 is up there doing work. Bruce said when he opens it there is no problem. Bruce Graff stated this is someone from the boosters, there is 6 or 8 inches of water up there laying from the rain and drove through it twice and then through the grass, this was a truck.

Bruce Graff stated he called the women that has been contacting him to hang banners on the fence. Bruce stated he told her that he is locking the gate and getting two signs “No Vehicles Allowed.” Bruce stated if this continues, he will change the locks, and nobody will get a key to it.

Mr. Bielskie questioned Officer Mazzeo on his monitor and if they would be able to view it and download from his office. Rhonda Wilk stated the computer used in the office took one and a half hours to download today and stated it is an old computer that we tried to utilize. Rhonda Wilk stated a new computer is needed, something inexpensive to be used just for that.

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated he had phone calls with Senator Casey’s office, Representative Masser’s office and Senator Gordner. Mr. Motyka stated they suggested for us to apply for the Growing Greener Grant in addition to the \$600,000.00 we are spending on storm water.

Mr. Motyka stated we can allocate the \$600,000.00 for stormwater projects and make it go further if we do get this Growing Greener Grant. Mr. Motyka stated Dr. Aaron Clauser Environmental Scientist gave him a price of \$4,000.00 to draft this application and submit it.

Mr. Motyka stated he met with engineers and the DEP office in Williamsport, and they will be coming to Kulpmont next week at 4 p.m.

Mr. Bielskie asked if we would be getting \$4,000.00 back. Mr. Motyka stated we are not guaranteed anything. Mr. Motyka stated we are looking at hundreds of thousands. Mr. Bradley stated when these grant applications are done professionally, the likelihood of receiving the grant are much higher.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion to spend \$4,000.00 to have an application drafted and submitted for the Growing Greener Grant Application and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Chesney stated on the same topic he feels we need to have a finance committee meeting at some point. Mr. Chesney commended Mr. Motyka on his efforts but stated he feels all of Council should understand and asked that we could have a finance committee meeting.

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY-** (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated Ordinance 2022-03 has been advertised establishing compensation to the tax collector.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-03 Establishing compensation to the tax collector and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus stated he has an ordinance committee here tomorrow at 6 p.m. and stated they are going to meet with Kenny from the Shamokin Fire Company in regard to the packet of information that was given to the committee by Mr. Slaby on the Red X program.

Mr. Dowkus stated the only other thing he has is the reviewing of the overhead wire.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated all is going well with the projects at the field, mostly spearheaded by Mr. Motyka. He stated they are doing a heck of a job.

As far as grants go as he mentioned he would like to meet with the finance committee so that we have all our ducks in a row.

**PERSONNEL**- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus stated the committee will meet tomorrow at 7 pm to discuss and review the police contract.

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

Mr. Chesney stated he would like to thank and commend the Fire Department on their actions at the recent fire in the Borough. Mr. Chesney stated it was a very dangerous situation, and they did a heck of a job.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Erika Noll of Kulpmont stated they have been having a lot of problems with the 18-year old's and above that are living at 728 Oak Street and stated from her understanding the property owner is in jail. She stated she saw one illegal vehicle has been towed yesterday adding there is one left.

Ms. Noll stated May 1<sup>st</sup> they were outside with the children and there was a drug deal going on right in front of the children. She stated all hours of the night there is foot traffic in and out and ATV's adding she has pictures and security camera footage.

Ms. Noll stated everyone on the block fears retaliation and stated she moved here to raise her children and they are working on buying more property to make their home bigger in the borough. Ms. Noll stated this is nonsense the trash is getting higher and higher on the back porch and stated it is a meth house and we are going to have an explosion soon, something needs to be done.

She stated she wrote letters to the mayor, to the borough within the last two weeks. Mayor Slaby stated he did receive her communication. Ms. Noll stated people are stumbling down the steps at all hours of the night. Mayor Slaby asked her to stay after the meeting and he will take her information and stated he will be glad to sit down with the officer and himself to meet with her.

Paul Niglio of Kulpmont of 415 Spruce Street. He stated concerning the fires that are going on, he questioned if the borough has a policy on where the fire chief does a written report when there are fires here on file at the borough.

Mayor Slaby stated he would be satisfied as Mayor if a Fire Chief would come to a meeting once in a while.

Mr. Niglio stated he is going to also recommend to Council the borough changes their meetings back to a Tuesday because the fire company meets on Wednesday.

Mr. Niglio stated he is not up on the fire ordinance, but he watches shows on TV about fireman all the time and they have to file reports and they are reviewed by somebody. Mayor Slaby stated he thinks the borough probably does because he knows in the city they do, there was just a major fire the other night.

Mayor Slaby stated he as the mayor and the President of Council should probably sit down with the Fire Chief and hash this out. Mr. Bielskie stated he believes the Fire Chief would need to give a report to the insurance Companies' on how the fire started. Mayor Slaby stated the Fire Chief in the City told him one of his responsibilities is to notify the state and stated they must all need to.

Mr. Niglio stated he has a substantial amount of his life savings in his property and questioned if we monitor response times, who is responding. We have a volunteer force in Kulpmont and if we have a fire at 10 a.m. in Kulpmont he questioned who is available.

Mr. Niglio stated he is not saying anything against the fire company adding he thinks they are doing a terrific job. Mr. Niglio stated he is just saying is there a report for review, we may be able to do things better.

Mr. Niglio stated we may be doing things the best we can but stated he is not one to know that and is not even pretending to know that but added someone should know that.

### **OLD BUSINESS-**

Mayor Slaby addressed Mr. Motyka on the email he sent out concerning making contact to Truist Bank concerning finding a tenant for the bank building. Mayor Slaby stated he will reach out to the Bank.

### **NEW BUSINESS-**

None

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular monthly meeting is June 8, 2022

Mr. Chesney asked for everyone to remember everyone who has served and given their lives on Memorial Day.

Mr. Bielskie stated Council will now meet in executive session to discuss litigation. Solicitor Greco announced Council met in executive session for approximately 20 minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The May 11, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date – June 8, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
JUNE 8, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mr. Chesney  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday June 8, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Marlin Hodge, Stephen Motyka and Bernard Novakoski

**ABSENT:** none

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul A. Niglio, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Official Heather Owens, and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Ridner, Lynn Ridner, Edwin Howerter, Joe Politza, Raymond J. Siko and Nick Bozza.

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated he and Heather met with owners of the mill and discussed borough expectations. Mr. Bielskie stated they are waiting for power right now and should be two or three weeks.

Mr. Bielskie stated we have a property on Pine Street and stated the contractor contacted him and they are going to move equipment in for the demolition.

Mr. Bielskie stated we have been getting many complaints on ATV's going through our Streets and stated we are going to look into whatever other communities do as far as ATV's.

Mr. Bielskie stated at the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> and Scott Street many kids play there and cars blow right through the stop sign. He added the neighbors came to him and wanted a speed bump to put in to slow them down. Mr. Motyka stated we had a flashing red light to go on the stop sign, he added we used it before and possibly that would help. Mr. Motyka asked Bruce if we have that somewhere and we can put that up. Bruce Graff



stated he does not know where it is at, he stated he will try to locate it. Bruce Graff stated it was flashing yellow, not red. Bruce stated he thinks it was yellow, yellow or red. Mr. Dowkus stated the day before that accident happened there, he told the kids to go play in the field and they did, he stated you never know and can't predict such things.

**MAYORS REPORT**- (Robert Slaby)

Mayor Slaby stated he has nothing to report.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval of the May 11, 2022, meeting minutes is needed.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the meeting minutes from May 11, 2022.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Rhonda Wilk stated under correspondence we received the following:

Northumberland County Dept of Economic Development and Planning – Re:  
Implementation of the Northumberland County Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance – Copy Mayor/Council and Solicitor

Mr. Motyka stated the first line states each municipality in Northumberland County much adopt an ordinance and asked Solicitor Greco to review before the next meeting. Solicitor Greco agreed.

A letter from County of Northumberland Office of the Commissioners – Community Notice Letter - Re: 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Copy Mayor/Council/Solicitor

Mr. Motyka stated there is a pile of money here to apply for if anyone has any ideas. Mr. Motyka stated years past he attended meetings and the Borough was not able to qualify due to being too wealthy of a community. Mr. Motyka stated it would require local surveys to be done. Mr. Motyka stated if anyone on council would like to look into this it is a big obstacle but if you want to do local surveys for resident income.

Holy Angels Parish – Re: Parish Picnic- Requesting Closure of the 800 block of Fir Street Friday August 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Copy Mayor/Council

Mr. Novakoski stated we should consider until 12 midnight because people from the parish are still at that time putting things away and transporting things.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to close the 800 block of Fir Street from 3 p.m. to 12 midnight.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**TREASURERS REPORT** (Paul Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated you all received a copy of the financial statement and bills to be paid. Approval is needed to pay the bills.

**MOTION-** Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SOLICITORS REPORT-** (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he did send a letter concerning the mill to Eli. Solicitor Greco stated they did contact him back and stated Mr. Bielskie did report on that.

Solicitor Greco stated a letter was sent out to Service Electric regarding the franchise and within a week he received a letter asking what changes the borough would like to see and so it was referred back to the Ordinance Committee adding we may start with the concern over the removal of wires that are no longer used.

Mr. Chesney commented, at this time this is open for debate. Solicitor Greco replied, “yes,” as far as changes adding an increase in fee would come back to the borough subscribers.

Mr. Motyka stated we are looking at overhead wires not being used for 6 months to be removed from the right of ways. Mr. Motyka commented it would really clean up the town.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Officer Mazzeo stated the report is attached

Officer Mazzeo stated he included in the packet for the Ordinance Committee sections of vehicle code and stated he has also received several complaints and stated they have been resolved.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Chief Kevin O’ Hearn stated the report is attached. He stated the fire department trains on Wednesday night and so there is conflict with that and stated he is a member for 40 years and to him and the guy’s training is more important and saves lives. He stated it is much more important for them to attend training. He asked council to contact them if there is something that comes up that needs to be addressed so someone may attend but otherwise, they are not going to skip training nights to attend a meeting when they have nothing additional to add.

Chief O’Hearn stated out of respect they came here today to see if there are any issues. He stated recently they have had two fires in the borough and training they go through all the necessary review of equipment adding they just purchased a new squad. Chief O’Hearn stated that is going to cost over \$300,000.00 when it is done. Chief O’Hearn stated the fire department is paying the entire cost of that and it is being upgraded to be more efficient and effective to current standards and we are going to be spending much time to get the unit ready over the next several months. He added until it is all done and said it will cost us another \$50,000.00 in equipment.

Chief O’Hearn asked to please understand that their time is important to them to try and protect the citizens of the Borough and ask for Council’s cooperation. Chief O’Hearn stated Rhonda knows how to get a hold of him and stated they will make sure he or Ray, Marshall, Matt or one of the other officers attend the meeting.

Chief O’Hearn stated going forward if nothing additional is needed from them they will be attending training. Chief O’Hearn addressed Mr. Niglio’s concern from the May meeting on who they report to. He stated the report they give to the borough is what they have given to the borough and stated if there were something more Council would like to see to please let him know. Chief O’Hearn stated they report every call they go out on to the State of Pennsylvania. He stated they report every time, members, equipment used, training update, any injury, everything. Chief O’Hearn stated they require them to do so and so there is a more in-depth report required every time. Chief O’Hearn stated the report required is being completed by his son and an average call takes about 20 minutes with a structure fire it takes over one hour to complete. He stated also insurance companies will ask for a report and that is what is given to them.

Chief O’Hearn stated he thought Mr. Niglio had a very legitimate question and stated he came this evening to express this information. He stated he has been a Chief for 25 years and after doing it for so long you sometime do not think about other people not really understanding it because we are so involved in what we do. He stated he appreciates the Boroughs assistance and stated we do have a good working relationship; and stated they are not coming to meetings purposely. Chief O’Hearn stated as leaders of the department it shows the members, we are there with them and stated they are fortunate to have so many active members at this time and stated they are one of the few departments to be able to add members.

Chief O'Hearn stated they have been successful in the Junior department and have had many come up the ranks the years and some recent interest and stated he only asks for Council's cooperation with what they are trying to do.

Mayor Slaby stated the Fire Chief Stephen Jeffrey in the City of Shamokin in a meeting after the fire on the 500 block of Spruce Street, he wanted the department to know how well they did in avoiding a catastrophe and the department did a magnificent job in stopping the fire from not burning the whole block burn down.

Chief O'Hearn stated in the future if you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out anytime and stated he would rather be called and get the right answer.

Mr. Hodge stated he was looking into and trying to get the siren back in Kulpmont and contacted Jamie Hosterman of Keystone Communications and stated he said The company has added sirens many times before to many municipalities. He said commented and advised the following.

- Will the siren double as storm warning or just station call out?
- A receiver would be installed that can decipher the tone and acknowledge that's it's a Kulpmont ton.
- Must get Northumberland County 911 center on board. They must approve.
- He asked that the fire company themselves be contacted.
- He recommended that the public be notified that we are adding back a siren. He has seen residents complain if not notified.
- He asked if we would be installing a new siren or reusing the old one.
- He asked about location and if it would be like mounted or building mounted.

Once we get 911 permission, we can schedule this gentleman to visit Kulpmont and provide a price.

Ray Siko stated he spoke with Mr. Hodge concerning the siren and stated they did away with the sirens when the new 911 center went into effect, and we change systems. Ray Siko explained that tones were eliminated by Northumberland County and there are no more tones for it. Ray Siko explained how the siren worked bay in the day and what would be required today for a siren.

Ray Siko explained the amount of calls and the cost for a siren when it would be tripped to go off. He also explained how sirens would go off for numerous types of calls. Ray Siko presented council with some examples of issues an incidents other municipalities had come across that utilized sirens. Ray Siko explained the modern use of cell phones and how alerts are set out over cell phones today and the efficiency of these alerts. He explained pros and cons of a siren and the concern for liability in having a siren.

Chief O'Hearn stated obviously it is up to the Borough Council on what they want to do. Ray Siko added the siren may go off 300 or 400 times per year. Mr. Chesney questioned what their suggestion is. Chief O'Hearn stated they have not had one for several years

and they don't miss a beat, its originally purpose was to alert volunteers. Ray Siko stated now a day there are cell phones, scanners etc.....

The Fire department expressed concern on the mill with powering back. Mr. Bielskie stated there was a new service put in and stated he is not leaving them go in there without recharging the sprinkler system. Mr. Motyka questioned if the power now is only to the lower building. Mr. Bielskie confirmed it is only to the lower building at this time. Ray Siko stated the sprinkler system in the bigger building froze and blew out and is inoperable. Mr. Bielskie stated they spoke about putting a new water line in there within a few months.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O' Hearn)

Kevin O'Hearn stated he has nothing to report and stated when there is anything he forwards the information to Rhonda and stated that is few and far in between.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**– (Tri County COG)

Mr. Bielskie stated where Archies restaurant was that will be opening back up as a pool room and they are making some renovations on the back porch.

Mr. Hodge questioned what he knows about Bressi Market. Mr. Bielskie stated if they go to open, he will not let them. He stated he knows they are cleaning up right now. Mr. Bielskie stated what it is now is mercantile and from what he heard there would be wine tasting and so it would then go to assembly. He explained a change in occupancy, a different occupancy would require ADA compliance.

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report attached

Mr. Chesney said keep doing what you are doing Heather, don't give up.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley reminded residents the food distribution will be held this month on June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Bradley stated an emergency purchase was made to purchase from Hilly Ridge a tire for the 2017 Mark X Lawn Mower, \$131.00.

Mr. Bradley questioned the borough grass cutting and said he is looking for clarification on this because he kind of got hit with it and was kind of surprised that the borough cuts peoples grass and asked why we do it. Solicitor Greco replied we are not cutting grass just to do it; we are trying to eliminate a potential nuisance. The Solicitor said Heather first cites and sends notices out notifying the grass is high and to cut within this amount

of time. Solicitor Greco said if they don't cut it and we do, we are keeping track and liens are then placed against the property. Mr. Bradley stated Bruce told him they barley use the truck and they use the weedwhacker and the hourly rate is \$15.00. Mr. Bradley commented, "we are not even breaking even on that." Mr. Bradley stated the fees should be updated.

Bruce Graff asked if Council realizes the grass, they are cutting is not 6" high, it is chest high. Bruce Graff stated they are going in there with no way of knowing what is in there, snakes, rats. He stated he understands clean it up as they are saying, but they are going in there praying the noise of the weedwhacker is going to chase everything away.

Mr. Bradley stated he is sure if one of these landscaping companies cut it, they would charge a couple hundred dollars. Solicitor Greco replied we are not supposed to make money, but we should at least cover our costs.

Mr. Bielskie stated Mayor Slaby stated they charge \$50.00 in Shamokin and stated we need to figure out what our costs are and at the next meeting vote on it and approve it. Solicitor Greco stated besides the hourly rate the equipment cost and gas.

Bruce Graff questioned why they are cutting grass when someone is living in the house. Solicitor Greco stated, again they were given notice. Bruce Graff replied, "it does not matter," and asked why they are cutting the grass when someone is living in the house. The Code Officer, Heather Owens stated they were fined and then given the lien notice. Bruce Graff stated the lady came out and was giving him, grief and he stated he gave Heather the phone.

Mayor Slaby stated as government you are responsible to provide safety and if there are rats running around and someone could show you pictures, you better do something about it. Mr. Motyka questioned how it is Bruce is allowed to go on private property, but Heather cannot step a foot on private property.

Solicitor Greco replied we have the authority to eliminate a nuisance and we give them a notice and say you do it and if you don't do it, we are going to. Mr. Bradley stated when we act, it seems like a very minimal force.

Mr. Bradley stated he is sure these people from New Jersey are looking at this like, "Hell, I pay more than this to have the grass cut I will just let these guys keep doing it," it is not supposed to be convenient it is supposed to be extremely inconvenient. Mr. Bielskie stated he believes all these people have had citations. Mr. Bradley stated this has nothing to do with Heather and said she does a bang-up job. Solicitor Greco stated the document is a great way to keep track.

Mr. Bradley stated today on the phone Bruce told him he is doing 17 lawns. Bruce Graff stated 17 yards already. Mr. Bradley stated he does not think taxpayers are responsible for mowing yards. Mayor Slaby questioned Bruce that there are 17 properties. Bruce replied 17 he is doing; some are doubles and there are two more she gave him. Mr.

Bradley commented Heather is on fire adding she is on top of things. Bruce Graff stated he does not do anything until she gives him the paperwork. Solicitor Greco addressed Bruce Graff and stated you have to understand there is probably a property owner on each side that will probably start screaming that their neighbor's grass is 4' high and so you must understand your eliminating a nuisance. Bruce Graff replied saying his wife's phone is blowing off the wall. Solicitor Greco stated you are eliminating a nuisance and an unhappy taxpayer, and again you should get the money back but unfortunately you must expend it and cite it.

Mr. Bradley stated we will table it and do some research, but he feels the fees are way to low and does not think it should be a convenience to anybody it should be an inconvenience to have the borough cut your grass.

Mr. Novakoski stated we could call Landscape Services and ask what they charge, of course they would be charging for profit. Mr. Novakoski gave an example on a lawn that was not cut for a few weeks, and it was very high and is not even 50' x 80' long and it took him a while to cut it and so he stated he could relate.

Treasurer Paul Niglio stated with 17 properties that is approximately 50 or 60 hours and we have two full time employees and one part time, you can't get anything done. Bruce Graff stated there are at least 20 more out there that he seen.

Heather Owens stated the grass season before she started there were 19 properties and they were just mowed, there was no lien process or anything. She stated the one property address she gave to Bruce, she gave him because she did not think it was going to be mowed and the letter said it was to be mowed by this date, and it was mowed. Heather stated some of the properties are new owners and do not know how we work. She said she will send them a bill now and if they don't pay it, we will then file the lien.

Heather Owens stated there are 8 properties that are delinquent tax properties and most of them are two and three years. Solicitor Greco commented that is the problem, the County is not going to take this responsibility to mow those and so if we don't take the action nobody is. Mr. Bradley questioned if then we are then obligated by law then to cut the grass. Mr. Greco replied, "no, we are obligated to cut grass we are eliminating nuisances, it does not say cut the grass." Mr. Bradley stated he understands but unfortunately like Paul said, "we are tying up our street department," and they do a great job. Mr. Bradley stated Heather is doing a fabulous job, he stated we are taking a beating on this. Mr. Motyka stated for instance we mowed the grass at the mill for ten years and all liens were waived, and we got stuck, not a nickel out of it.

Bruce Graff stated he was here for 13 years and does not think there was ever any money collected for cutting grass. Heather stated she is certain there was a property owner that paid the amount when a letter was sent out with the amount to be placed as a lien.

Solicitor Greco stated if you go for refinancing or a mortgage and then suddenly there is a lien on the property. Mr. Bradley stated that is pretty serious. Solicitor Greco stated The

News Item is here tonight and hopefully they will put something in the paper that Kulpmont is not going to tolerate high grass and you will be getting fined, we will take an aggressive approach to it.

Bruce Graff stated as he said, again, why are we cutting grass if somebody lives in the house. Solicitor Greco replied, like he said it is a nuisance. Bruce Graff replied, what he is saying is why can't they hire somebody to cut the grass, and why is the street department being hired out to cut the grass when somebody lives there.

Solicitor Greco replied, because Heather fines them and they haven't taken any action..... Bruce Graff interjected and said the lady did come out after them when they were cutting the grass and asked what you are doing. Bruce said he told the lady they are cutting the grass, and this is what they were told to do. Bruce Graff said the lady asked who told him to do it and he said so he called Heather on the phone, adding he did not know she was on vacation, stating he did not know that. Bruce said he gave her the phone and said here, you talk to the lady. Bruce Graff said Heather talked to the lady.

Solicitor Greco stated she was fined and will get the lien on her property. Heather Owens stated that is what she told her. Bruce Graff said, "do you know what she said to us when we left, thank you, like we did it for nothing. He said don't get him wrong it is marked down on his paper, but she figured it out this is great, you guys cut my yard. Bruce Graff stated she said," don't cut my flowers down" and stated he asked how you could see them commenting the grass if 5' high. Mr. Motyka stated we can't misuse manpower and keep falling behind on the streets.

Mr. Dowkus stated in the early 2000 he recalls high school buddies working here in the borough weed whacking the curbs, he said it was not community service, but he does not know what it was, but it is something we need to look into.

Mayor Slaby stated another thing we can investigate is Northumberland County juvenile probation. Mr. Chesney stated a concern would be liability. Mayor Slaby stated the insurance is not as expensive as you would think, it is cheap, and you would want to have that. Mayor Slaby stated Mr. Zielinski, a former Shamokin football coach often has kids in the juvenile system that could do this.

Mr. Motyka stated Magistrate Cole reached out to him concerning community service and he stated he does not think this is the avenue we should use them on adding we should use them on our own parks, this is a slippery slope.

Bruce Graff stated his thing is if you guys want to do that stuff, you better have someone to watch them because he is not going to babysit adding he has his own work to do. Bruce Graff stated Zielinski was here a few years ago and he had aids and they watched them. Mr. Motyka stated we used prisoners from the Federal Government that helped with the parking lot across the street and stated if we did that he would be there as then.



Bruce Graff stated he won't get anything done if he must babysit. Mr. Dowkus stated we will look into it, stating we have to, and we are shooting ourselves in the foot here. Mr. Bielskie stated we will get some numbers for next month. Bruce Graff asked if we are going to trust them to drive our \$13,000.00 lawn mower and not to hit rocks and break something on it. Solicitor Greco stated it would be something like painting curbs something like that. Bruce Graff agreed and said he is not comfortable with that.

Mr. Bradley thanked everyone for brining him up to speed on that adding it kind of hit him off guard and stated obviously it is something we are going to address.

Mr. Motyka reported he has been working with the Kulpmont 100 and stated a hole has been dug for the brand new \$14,000.00 clock for at the town park and are ready to go and pour concrete on Friday. Mr. Motyka stated it is 33' off the center of the highway. Mr. Bradley commented and said something Mayor Slaby brought up today was if anyone checked with PennDOT.

Mr. Motyka stated if we are not in their right of way and 33' is the right of way. Mr. Bradley stated 50' is the right of way is what he tells me. Mr. Motyka replied no, no it is not. Mr. Motyka stated "well, they are going to pour concrete for this on Friday." Mr. Motyka asked how 50' could be the setback when 50' would be in people's kitchens.

Mayor Slaby said he does not have a problem with it and asked not to take him wrong stating he is being told that by PennDOT. Mr. Motyka stated, concrete is going in on Friday and asked the question, "what do you want me to do, stop it? Mr. Bradley questioned if it would be possible for them to say you must move that clock. Members of Council agreed it would be possible, with Mr. Niglio stating it is a state law. Mayor Slaby referred to a situation at the end of town what was Kuzo Auto Sales and said they are in litigation about that.

Mr. Motyka stated if you carried our sidewalk in town park East and West you would be into everyone's porch that everyone does work on. Mr. Motyka stated we are far enough back in his eyes and asked how we move forward. Solicitor Greco questioned if we have the plans for Kulpmont, for the whole town on what they will tear up. Mr. Niglio replied "no," and stated they asked the borough if we had any plans, they are tearing up and rebuilding the whole thing.

Mr. Niglio stated the law is only on new development and was not in existence back then. Solicitor Greco suggested to get in touch with PennDOT and stated some laws state 120' but that would never be possible in the Borough. Mr. Chesney questioned about the Gazebo; it has been there for years. Mr. Bradley stated that is not considered to be a permanent structure. Solicitor Greco stated someone should reach out to PennDOT and verify.

Mr. Motyka questioned if they are going to provide him a document for Kulpmont. Solicitor Greco stated he is not saying they are right, and you are wrong and suggested for he or someone from the Kulpmont 100 to reach out to PennDOT. Solicitor Greco

stated if not, shoot him an email and he will reach out. Mr. Bradley stated so what if you pour the concrete, you're not putting a clock up. Mr. Dowkus stated then you will just be wasting all that money on concrete, and it is not cheap anymore. Mr. Bradley stated you understand chances are this is going to happen but without a guarantee you don't want to put out a whole lot of money. Mr. Motyka commented just 15' down the street Giorgini just put a wall up that is closer to the highway than this clock would be.

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated he is still trying to schedule a meeting with the members of finance committee.

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY**- (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated he contacted Mr. Lyons from PennDOT concerning the traffic light and will meet with the committee to address the red light. Mr. Dowkus stated the light is only red for a couple seconds and stated Mr. Lyons has all the documentation in his computer and stated it could be a potential problem. He stated he wants to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup>. or 4<sup>th</sup> week of June.

Mr. Dowkus stated he wants to also provide information on ARLE and the GLG Grants available for maintenance on the controller. Mr. Dowkus stated Kreco Electric came down and looked at the apparatus that is in there and it is very old. He stated it has been maintained but we are waiting on a price on the controller, which the grant would cover.

Mr. Dowkus stated we need to nail down when we could meet, those of us that work will not be able to make it and so I hope that one or all of us on that committee could meet and alleviate a big safety issue.

Mr. Dowkus stated we have been back and forth with the Red X program and stated the Solicitor reviewed it. He stated Shamokin uses it and so if you drive through Shamokin and see the Red X's on the houses, it is another safety measure they are doing and we are moving in that direction as well.

Mr. Dowkus states concerning the side-by-side ordinances, he provided council members with the state ordinance as well as two others from Boroughs in Pennsylvania. He stated we need to narrow down as to what we need and how our police force is going to handle these situations to keep our citizens safe.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to advertise the Red X program.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus stated there has unfortunately been a couple fires in town and some buildings that need to be razed and so just another step in the right direction to keep our citizens safe in Kulpmont.

Mr. Dowkus stated the committee needs to get together on the ATV Ordinance. He commented we need to set a precedent and we need to get tough on this stuff because people are getting away with it and think it is the norm. Mr. Dowkus stated obviously if they are trailer in their ATV's they don't live in the borough. He stated these outdoorsmen come and see us in Kulpmont acting up and not following rules they are going to follow suit.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated Mr. Motyka did hit on the CDBG and stated the meeting is tomorrow at 6:30 adding it is based on population and income. Mr. Motyka stated the sewer authority got it one time, but a survey was required door to door, block by block.

Mr. Motyka stated on the 21<sup>st</sup> the County will present the check in the amount of \$300,000.00 and stated he will not be available to go. Mayor Slaby will accept the check. Mr. Chesney questioned if that is a 50/50 match? Mr. Motyka replied, "no."

Mr. Motyka stated we met the criteria, and they funded our project. Mr. Niglio stated our amendment does not state that it just states to be used for certain things, we don't have to spend \$300,00.00 we must spend their \$300,000.00. Mr. Motyka stated our proposal states we are going to spend the \$200,00.00 we have and the \$100,000.00 we have from Seventh Street to meet the 50/50 match. He stated we are currently designing \$600,000.00 in storm water improvements in this borough.

Mr. Motyka stated in addition to this money on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month our Growing Greener Plus application is going in for another \$400,000.00 for all of the inlets and so we might be up to \$1,000,000.00. Mr. Bielskie stated that is one of our biggest problems here, because we are losing our roads.

Mr. Motyka stated and with the County and State Conservation District is calling on Wood Street which is half in Mt. Carmel Township, they are confident the project would fund and that would be an additional \$50,000.00. Mr. Motyka stated in addition the water company is doing 8,000 feet of water line and are required to pave curb to curb. He commented over the next year and a half we should see more street work in this town than in the last 30 years. Mr. Bielskie commented they canceled the third meeting they were supposed to have with us.

**PERSONNEL**- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus stated a new officer, Jarrod Scandle was added part time to work 25 to 28 hours per week. He added he has 14 years' experience and was in the military.

Mr. Dowkus stated we are working on trying to hire some additional part time officers and will hopefully soon have some more coverage here.

**MOTION**- A motion was made by Mr. Dowkus and seconded by Mr. Chesney to ratify the hiring of Jarrod Scandle to work part time 25 to 28 hours per week.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

Mr. Dowkus stated he asked the Fire and EMA committee to open up the communications and stated everything was covered today with Mr. O'Hearn and Mr. Siko coming here this evening, including the Red X program.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No one spoke

**OLD BUSINESS-**

Mr. Hodge stated we voted on having the monument put out here a few meetings ago and stated nothing was done yet in placing the monument. Mr. Motyka stated we have some projects going on this summer in the borough and stated he will get with Tom and will get that placed.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Mr. Motyka stated he was passed information on about two very successful residents, Joe Jazz Diminick and Joe Cesari, family members asked that we recognize their accomplishments and stated he was very impressed by what he read and will distribute the information to members of council, and we can discuss some plan forward.

Bruce Graff asked with the car cruise coming next week if he is posting Chestnut Street for Sunday. He stated he will get in touch with Joe on a time frame.

Mayor Slaby stated basically it is their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
JUNE 13, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mr. Chesney  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday July 13, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Marlin Hodge, Stephen Motyka and Bernard Novakoski

**ABSENT:** None

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Official Heather Owens, and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Edwin P Howerter, Luke Darrup, Bob Scicchitano, Nick Bozza, Brittany Shervinskie, Adam Pell and Raymond Siko.

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated the County is requesting to park a vehicle in the Borough parking lot, the vehicle would be used by the County worker if needed during the day and would be left in the lot overnight. Mr. Bielskie stated he does not know if it would be feasible. Mr. Bradley stated he would support it if it would not cause any problems. Mr. Bielskie stated parking is limited.

A discussion took place among councilmembers concerning the vehicles that normally are parked in the lot during the day, borough workers, Senior Action Center and Police employees' personal vehicles also police vehicles a fire dept. vehicle and code vehicle are normally parked during business hours.

Mr. Dowkus stated there is limited parking for persons needing to come in to conduct borough business, and the Senior Center. Solicitor Greco suggested if possibly there would be room in our parking lot at the garage and stated the SAC worker could park there and bring the county vehicle down for use during the day and then park it back at the municipal lot for overnight. Bruce Graff stated there would be parking along the wall.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to meet them halfway in parking a county vehicle at the borough garage municipal lot when not in use.

**VOICE VOTE-**

Unanimous

**MAYORS REPORT-** (Robert Slaby)

Mayor Slaby received correspondence from Kulpmont 100 request the closure of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Street 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. on July 23<sup>rd</sup> during the picnic to be held at the West End Fire Association grounds. Mayor Slaby questioned if council has any reason why he should not grant them permission. A discussion took place among council members, and it was decided to extend the closure until midnight on July 23<sup>rd</sup> for the picnic.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to close N 12<sup>th</sup> and Maple and 13<sup>th</sup> and Maple Streets on July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4 p.m. until midnight for the K100 picnic.

**VOICE VOTE-**

Unanimous

Mayor Slaby made the recommendation for Officer in Charge Stephen Mazzeo to be given the official rank of Chief of Police effective immediately.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney for a title change from Officer in Charge to Chief effective immediately.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mayor Slaby then swears in Stephen Mazzeo as Chief of Police.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT-** (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval of the June 8, 2022, meeting minutes is needed.

**MOTION-** Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve the meeting minutes from June 8, 2022.

**VOICE VOTE-**

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated under correspondence we received the following:

Correspondence was received from Northumberland County Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance Revisions and was copied to both Council and Mayor.

Received from Justin Skavery from Northumberland County Planning the Borough received approved funding agreement and a check for \$300,000.00 funding, copied to Council/Mayor.

Rhonda Wilk read a letter received from MCA Jr. Red Tornadoes, David J. Klimas requesting a monetary donation to assist in offsetting the cost associated in providing youth football and cheer organization for youth who reside in Mt Carmel, Kulpmont communities, copied to both Council and Mayor.

Mayor Slaby stated commented when he was the president of the Kulpmont Football Baseball Association years ago and does not ever recall Borough Council donating to the Cougars or the Football Baseball Association and they were right here in town. He stated he is not being critical of this gentleman's request and is not saying that Kulpmont kids do not benefit from this. Mayor Slaby stated we have our stadium here and stated he believes they are referring to a stadium in Mt. Carmel. Mr. Motyka stated it would be practice at the east end of Mount Carmel, the soccer field and commented that is how this reads to him.

Rhonda Wilk stated a letter was received from Marshall Mirarchi from the Kulpmont Fire Department concerning a request to have a parade on Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:00 p.m. to celebrate the housing of our new fire truck. The letter provided a parade rout and notification if approved the Fire Department would apply for a permit form Penn DOT.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve the parade and for them to move forward in applying for the necessary permit.

**VOICE VOTE –**

Unanimous

Correspondence was received from PSAB providing an update on the ARPA Distribution Fund release on July 15, 2022, and distribution to be the week of July 18<sup>th</sup>, Copied to both Council/Mayor.

Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau sent correspondence concerning the 2021 tax sale and duty to certify any municipal claim by August 30, 2022 and was copied to Mayor/Council/ Solicitor and Code.

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence received today from Tri County COG permits issued for June.

**TREASURERS REPORT** (Paul Niglio)

Rhonda Wilk stated Council received a copy of the financial statement and bills to be paid and approval is needed to pay the bills.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SOLICITORS REPORT-** (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he reviewed the Red X program and Northumberland County Stormwater Ordinance and stated he is requesting an executive session at the end of the meeting for a pending litigation matter.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Report attached. Chief Mazzeo stated he has nothing additional.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached. Rhonda Wilk stated there is a memo on the bottom of the Fire Chief’s Report.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT-** (Tri County COG)

Mr. Bielskie stated he did meet with the owner of the gas station and stated they are looking to hire people to open it up. He stated there are a few small things inside and stated that should do it.



**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Heather Owens stated the report is attached. She stated there is concern the fires on the 500 block Spruce Street. She stated all the property owners want to knock the homes down all except for one. Heather Owens stated he wants to leave his home in hopes that when the neighbor tears theirs down it collapses and stated she is not sure how to proceed. A brief discussion took place concerning the properties.

Mr. Bielskie stated he talked with the contractor for the Pine Street property and stated he has been told they will be coming to begin demo.

Mayor Slaby stated it is not fair to the neighborhood, this property has been this way for over a year now.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley stated the food distribution will be held on July 21<sup>st</sup> from 8 to 11 a.m. at the borough garage.

Mr. Bradley stated the gas tank needs to be removed and stated Bruce is working on getting a quote. Bruce Graff stated he talked to them this afternoon and stated one quote was to bring equipment down, if using our equipment, it will be cheaper, but not to exceed \$6,800.00. Bruce stated we are still getting permit fees for \$50.00 and being it is not being used.....Mr. Bradley stated it is something that needs to be done and eventually we could start being cited for it. Bruce Graff stated we had three years to decide what we were going to do with it. Mr. Bradley stated we need to move forward before we start getting fined for this. Mr. Bradley thanked Bruce for everything he does.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to remove the gas tank not to exceed \$6,800.00.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated the space provided for clean fill is for grass clippings and branches. He stated we are going to run out of space this is for yard waste from your home, we are providing a place to put it. He said it is completely out of control, there are trees and branches.

Mayor Slaby questioned Mr. Bradley when the Borough started to allow that. Mr. Bradley replied he could not answer. Mayor Slaby stated for the longest time when you drive down off the roadway there was dumping there and now you are pretty much telling me there is a landfill.

Mr. Bradley replied it was never intended to be a landfill, he added he has been here twenty years and you could always take your grass clippings. Mayor Slaby questioned if we are going to have the same thing as along Trevorton Road, when it catches on fire.

Mr. Bradley stated we have to do something asking if we want to stop it completely. Mayor Slaby stated the problem is nobody follows the rules adding they do not follow the rules at the recycling center. Mayor Slaby stated he does not think it will be any different down there.

Mr. Novakoski stated he feels we should just close it. Mr. Bradley stated in the borough code, he does feel we are somehow obligated to provide a place to dump yard waste, but what the mayor said is true it is becoming a landfill. Mr. Bradley stated it was never intended to be a landfill. Mayor Slaby stated in his opinion we don't need it. Solicitor Greco stated not necessarily would the borough be obligated to provide a place to dump yard waste.

Mr. Novakoski stated he thinks at one time someone may have asked if they could put brush and grass down there and it just grew from there. After more conversation Mr. Motyka suggested we close and revisit this matter in the future.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to shut down the Veterans Memorial field to all clean fill and to keep the chain up.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated when you pull into the Veterans Memorial Field there are all those piles where you pull in that makes it look like crap and stated he would like to have that cleaned up as well. Mr. Bradley stated he does not even know who's that is, who is responsible for that.

Mr. Bradley stated for a while they were doing construction work, but now who is responsible for that and stated he does not know how deep we want to get into this adding it is Mt. Carmel Townships. Mr. Bradley stated it is not Kulpmont and stated he does not know why we are spending any money down there doing anything down there and stated let them do it. Mr. Dowkus suggested council move on to the next item.

Mr. Bradley stated many people are interested in gas and stated we don't want to pave the street and then have them ripped back up. He questioned about a UGI survey and possibly avoiding that from happening. Mr. Motyka stated he will provide UGI contact information to Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Bradley questioned where the PUC falls into this because they are supposed to be supporting the taxpayer and stated for people that want to put gas in their homes now is the time to do it, when the street is ripped up and before it is paved. Mayor Slaby stated

the gas line runs from Poplar Street on Eleventh Street all the way to Pine Street. Mayor Slaby stated because of all the controversy over the crematorium he knows that for a fact. Mr. Dowkus commented we will need to give them a call, call UGI.

Mr. Bradley stated we need to discuss, with the expenditures in the street department the possibility of raising taxes and stated sooner or later we will need to raise the taxes. He stated this is something none of us want to talk about and yet it is inevitable. He stated we need a police department; regionalization is not going to happen.

Mr. Bradley stated Bruce needs help, the streets are a mess, we need help, we need more people and the only way it is going to happen is to raise taxes. Mr. Chesney stated he feels we should go with the later and then stated with everything the way it is people are not even going to be able to afford oil this winter let alone to say your taxes are going to go up.

Mr. Chesney stated it is a very bad time in the economy and stated he feels it should be revisited. Mr. Bradley stated this is something we have got to start talking about. Mr. Dowkus stated there is a committee for that and if there is anything to be discussed reach out to the committee.

Mr. Dowkus stated concerning the traffic light, he reached out to Mr. Lyons from PennDOT and did an inspection and our red light is not adequate. He stated a survey has been done and we are going to be able to lengthen the yellow and red light in both directions. He stated once we receive the new controller, we will be fixing that red light and making the borough safer.

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated there are several volunteer projects starting in the borough and stated next Saturday if some of our workers are available, we would like to start at the new entrance way at the Terry Miriello Field and stated he would like to have purchased 10 ton of stone to have on hand for these projects not to exceed \$500.00.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to purchase stone not to exceed \$500.00, 10 ton.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Chesney stated based on what is on the agenda he is 100% for anything going to the Terry Miriello field, anything continuing down there for the dog park or whatever, that was established many meetings ago that would be all volunteer money supporting the dog park and everything else.

Mr. Chesney stated he is not for giving any more concrete or anything to the dog park from our coffers because that was set up to be all volunteer and money donated, not from our coffers and stated he just wants to make that point get that out there to the public.

Mr. Bielskie stated he is for the entrance of Terry Miriello, but not for the dog park, no more money. Mr. Chesney stated we said that from the beginning.

Mr. Chesney stated concerning the roads and equipment. He stated since our last meeting he has made quite a few calls to PennDOT, Meckley's, Daniel Craig in Harrisburg and other places and all of them are telling him we should re-check into the spending of that money.

Mr. Chesney stated they said a big part of the purchasing the equipment is the maintenance and when you clean any type of tar equipment you need to scrape it, burn it, use kerosene or something else to clean it. Mr. Chesney stated he just does not know where in the borough they could do this and have kerosene running in the ground and the woods all over the place. Mr. Chesney stated he does not know if we have the ability to maintain.

Mr. Chesney stated he met with a company called Pothole Maintenance and they have gone through town today with Mr. Hodge and himself and looked at a number of potholes. Mr. Chesney stated he will leave materials and information in the office for any Councilmembers or citizens that would like to look at it. He stated the material has been used in Den Mar Gardens, Marion Heights and Mt. Carmel. Mr. Chesney stated one truck comes and will not require our people to do anything.

Mr. Chesney stated eventually we may want to ask Bruce and the guys follow them for a more uniform settling. Mr. Chesney stated one truck comes blows out the hole and then drops down the adhesive, puts down the stone material in the hole and finish the process and they hand tap it and it is serviceable to be driven over with a roller to give it a more consistent compaction. Mr. Bradley then commented, "we should look into us buying one of these trucks." Mr. Chesney stated they come in, they did Mt. Carmel Township and filled in 90 holes for \$5200.00. Mr. Bradley questioned how much does one of those trucks cost. Mr. Chesney replied \$5200.00. Mr. Bradley stated his question is how much to buy the truck. Mr. Chesney replied, he has no idea. Mr. Chesney stated he does not think we need to purchase equipment at this time.

Mr. Dowkus stated again this is something that should be handled by the committee, have a meeting, present the paperwork and then we go from there. Mr. Chesney stated he understands and said that is what he has been asking for and stated again he does not think we need to purchase equipment at this time.

Mr. Chesney stated at the last meeting the money that we are getting, the \$300,000.00 it was said it does not need to be matched. Mr. Chesney stated he wants it on the record that the money we are getting, \$300,000.00 must be matched. He continued to say in the newspaper on June 28<sup>th</sup> it read Coal Township submitted an application requesting

money, but the match was too high, and they could not meet it. Mr. Chesney stated municipalities receiving money must match. Mr. Chesney stated Stephen is working on it that we have the money to match and just wants everyone to know it is a matching grant.

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY**- (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to advertise the Red X Ordinance.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve by resolution the Northumberland County Act 167 stormwater ordinance.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated they had a meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> on the MAP program which will lead to zoning in our community. He stated it was an initial meeting and the group is going to do a lot of the preliminary work and we may be reaching out to citizens for a survey. He stated it is in the initial stages and it can come into land use and things of that nature.

Mr. Chesney stated concerning the 902 recycling grant we need to meet and see what we may want to apply for and then contact and meet with Joe Delgrippe and see what we may qualify for, based on our recycling. He stated we will refer this to the committee.

Mr. Chesney stated we will look at very low volume traffic roads and see if we may be able to get some money to help fix those up. Mr. Chesney stated the committee could check that out.

Mr. Novakoski commented on the zoning stating they do the survey, but it is going to take time.

**PERSONNEL**- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

No Report

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Adam Pell of 4 Lamplight Acres questioned if roadwork is on the list for lamplight acres and stated it is a mess. Mr. Bradley stated he has a list of roads that need to be paved and a list the PennDOT took a look at that have not been addressed yet.

Mr. Pell stated he also has a check donation from he and his father for the fire company and asked who it may be given to. Council directed him to give it to Ray Siko who was in attendance of the meeting this evening.

Bob Scicchitano of 525 Spruce Street stated he is one of the owners of the recent fires and thanked the first responders on the June 1<sup>st</sup> fire. He stated his property was a total loss. Mr. Scicchitano stated the insurance company squared up with him and money is being held until the property is clean up. He stated the problem is the other side is a half double and the gentleman is not a resident of Pennsylvania and does not have insurance.

Mr. Scicchitano stated all owners that's property was involved with this fire want to tear the properties down, the gentleman uninsured is hoping his will come down with it when he has his demolished. Mr. Scicchitano stated he has done everything asked of him, registered as a landlord, paid his taxes, immediately boarded it up after the fire and stated he could have it ripped down by the end of July, but we are dealing with this uninsured, out of state property owner.

Mr. Scicchitano stated he has no idea how long this will sit and be a hazard. Mayor Slaby stated he sympathizes with him. Mr. Scicchitano stated if there are any questions for him, he will be happy to come here to a meeting and address them and welcomed council to reach out to him with any questions.

Nick Bozza 1121 Scott Street is here on behalf of Barry Potchakilo. He stated 1136 Scott, you need to walk back there and take a look, park your vehicle and walk back, there are animal carcasses and pigeons are going into windows knocked out. He stated he does not know what kind of animals, but animals are bedding in the yard.

Mr. Bozza stated the people that owned this property cut trees and just piled brush and animals live in there. Mr. Bozza asked if council would please address this and commented it is bad. Mr. Bradley questioned if the realtor has that property listed if they are obligated to address this and have any responsibility at all. Solicitor Greco replied "no."

Mr. Chesney stated he would just like to mention, the Mother Pauline Center in Kulpmont has been declared a shrine by the Bishop of Harrisburg over the weekend.

Mr. Bielskie announced Council will now meet in executive session for contractual and litigation matters.

Solicitor Greco stated Council met in executive session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss contractual and litigation matters.

**OLD BUSINESS-**

None

**NEW BUSINESS-**

**MOTION-** Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to try the black top truck, Pothole Maintenance and see how it works out to repair the streets not to exceed \$6,000.00.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on August 10, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The July 13, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date August 10, 2022**

Mr. Chesney asked all to remember June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day and wished all a happy Father's Day and for a happy July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The June 9, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date July 13, 2022**



**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
AUGUST 10, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Joseph Dowkus  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday August 10, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Joseph Dowkus, Marlin Hodge, Stephen Motyka and Bernard Novakoski

**ABSENT:** Robert Chesney

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Chief Stephen Mazzeo, Code Official Heather Owens, and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Edgar Thompson, Edwin Howerter, Joseph A. Wolkowski, Tara Brokenshire, Janine Beury, Joe Cesari, Mary Kay Bartol, David Bartol and Rev. Andrew Stahmer.

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

**MAYORS REPORT-** (Robert Slaby)

No Report

**SECRETARY'S REPORT-** (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval of the July 13, 2022, meeting minutes is needed.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the meeting minutes from July 13, 2022.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Rhonda Wilk stated under correspondence we received the following:

Correspondence was received from Shannon and John Grinaway- 7/15 and 7/18 letter  
RE: noise Copy Mayor/Council/Solicitor/Police

AmTrust Insurance Co. RE: Audit – Copy Council/Mayor/Treasurer

Cory Johnson- County Consultant, Northumberland County Planning Commission -  
Quarterly Monitoring Procedures beginning September 30<sup>th</sup> – Copy  
Council/Mayor/Treasurer

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – Traffic Signal Permit Revised, requiring  
signature – Copy Council/Mayor/Solicitor

Kulpmont 100 – September 10, 2022, Honor the heroic acts of First Responders of  
9/11/01 with 1<sup>st</sup> Responders Parade begin at 1 PM. Requesting use of the Veterans  
Memorial Field area for staging fire and emergency apparatus prior to parade. Copy  
Council/Mayor

Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau – RE: distribution from 2022 Judicial Sale –  
Copy Council/Mayor/Solicitor

Northumberland County Department of Economics Development & Planning RE-  
building project 10 Kulp Lane – Copy Council/Mayor/Solicitor

Housing Development Corporation of Northumberland County (HDCNC) – Thank you  
letter Re: donation “Fight the Blight” – Copy Council/Mayor

Coal Township Commissioners – Coal Township Recycling Center Collection  
Containers, Copy Council/Mayor

A list was received from the police department concerning equipment purchases for the  
police department and is also listed under Service and Facilities - \$1,700.00

Philip Belk letter – 654 Spruce Street, regarding a solicitation permit Copy  
Council/Mayor

**MOTION** - Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to allow the  
Kulpmont 100 to stage the Fire and emergency response apparatus at the Veterans  
Memorial Field.

Mayor Slaby stated he has been asked as the Mayor of Kulpmont to sign off for the permit from PennDOT to close certain side streets and stated he does not have a problem with that and asked that just be included in the motion.

There was some discussion on what Kulpmont 100 was requesting in the letter. The letter was read aloud by Rhonda Wilk. Mr. Dowkus revised his motion to allow the Kulpmont 100 permission to use the Veterans Memorial Field to for staging for the parade and to post the route no parking from noon to 4 p.m.

**MOTION** - Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to allow the Kulpmont 100 to stage the Fire and emergency apparatus at the Veterans Memorial Field and to post the parade route for no parking from noon to 4 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated he would like to discuss the letter notifying the borough of a charge for Coal Township for the drop off bins at the recycle lot, adding the cost could be quite substantial and asked if we are paying anything now. Bruce Graff stated the cardboard goes every week on Tuesday and there are three bins, the mixed paper and newspaper go every other week or twice per month.

Mr. Bradley questioned if we pay anything now. Bruce replied, “no.” Mr. Dowkus stated the cost could be \$2,000.00 per month, give or take. Mr. Bradley stated our recycle program is enormous and stated they come from all over. Mr. Bradley stated if it is going to take us broke it is not worth it.

Mr. Motyka stated he is sure there are stipulations from the state to subsidize the recycle center. Mayor Slaby commented, “very well,” Mr. Motyka stated this could cost \$24,000.00 per year.

Mr. Bradley asked who is in charge of it now. Mayor Slaby responded and stated it is Tom Boyer, he replaced his son as township manager. Mr. Dowkus stated he will just call and see if we could set up a meeting with our service and facilities committee.

Mr. Motyka stated many grants come across our way and asked Rhonda to contact Mr. Delgrippe and see how he feels about this and how this all works together. Solicitor Greco reminded Mr. Dowkus to contact them before August 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Motyka stated he thinks the reimbursements are based on the amount you recycle and so for them to jeopardize reimbursement on charging us this \$100.00 fee.

Mr. Dowkus stated he will set a meeting and Rhonda will reach out to Mr. Delgrippe and make him aware of the situation. Mr. Niglio stated a decision is needed to be made or they will access the borough money. Mr. Dowkus stated August 26<sup>th</sup> is the cut off and so

if you all trust him to reach out and try to come to an agreement, we can then handle it at the next meeting.

Mr. Bradley stated it is not going to be beneficial and stated if we have to pay \$25,000.00 each year for recycling it is not going to net us anything. Mr. Motyka stated if we don't spend it, people are going to spend it in their own garbage bills each week.

Mr. Niglio stated Waste Management is only two miles away. Mr. Motyka stated we could always reach out to Waste Management and ask them; they get paid for the cardboard just as Coal Township does. Mr. Bradley stated we do not have the truck to move the dumpsters. Mayor Slaby stated Coal Township also makes big money on this recycling. Mayor Slaby stated they were granted funds to open that facility years ago and stated this is a win, win situation based on this for them and it is going to hurt municipalities like Kulpmont.

Mayor Slaby stated he does not have any problem with the people of Kulpmont using the bins but suggested to go up there any given day and pull some boxes out and see where these people live. Bruce Graff stated people from Coal Township use them. Mr. Bradley replied, it is easy and stated his sister comes up from Shamokin and uses them because it is easier than going to the recycle center.

Mr. Motyka stated there are stipulations attached to this both for us and Coal Township. Solicitor Greco stated if we don't come to terms, does council want to pay anything until next meeting adding we could incur several hundred dollars in fees until next meeting. Mr. Niglio stated we could put locks on for two weeks.

Solicitor stated if we don't come to terms do, we want to take them out. Mr. Dowkus stated he is going to contact them tomorrow and if we don't come to a conclusion, he stated he would tell them to come and get them until we come to an agreement. Mr. Bradley stated it would be ridiculous, we would basically be paying to haul people's trash away.

Mr. Motyka stated the recycling program is one of the better things we have going in the borough. Mr. Bradley replied, he cannot agree with that more, but we can't do it for a loss. Mr. Bielskie stated he had four or five municipalities that had to stop it because of the cost. Mr. Bielskie stated ours was going to Coal Township, but some must pay to get rid of it now.

Mr. Dowkus stated they are getting paid for it and being granted and making money off our refuge, that is our low paying fruit. Mayor Slaby stated they certainly would not be in business if it were costing the taxpayers of Coal Township money.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to continue with the Recycling pickup until next month meeting with Coal Township until next meeting.

Mr. Dowkus asked Council to check their emails tomorrow stating he will have a reply back on when we will set up a meeting with Mr. Boyer stating possible something will be figured out before September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Rhonda Wilk stated there was a late correspondence we received from Tara Stever and stated the Kulpmont Football Baseball Association would like permission to host a bonfire for the yearly homecoming festivities for the Kulpmont Cougars football team and cheerleaders. Requesting for Saturday October 15, 2022.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion to allow the bonfire.  
No second on the motion

Bruce Graff stated they don't have it at the field anymore, they have been doing it at the West End. Mayor Slaby asked if the request is for the field. Bruce Graff stated it is a long story because the chain link fence that is up there, he talked to Ray Shimko about last year and told him if they take this fence down it is not going back up.

Bruce Graff stated it is all beat up, the corners are broke and so the last few years it has been at the West End. Bruce Graff stated they do two of them, one for the Cougars and one for the Halloween parade.

Mr. Motyka stated he rescinds his motion until we get more information next month. Bruce Graff stated he can get the pallets and drive the backhoe. Solicitor Greco commented with West End permission. Mr. Dowkus stated the KFBA will need to reach out to them.

**TREASURERS REPORT** (Paul Niglio)

Treasurer Paul Niglio stated Council received a copy of the financial statement and bills to be paid and approval is needed to pay the bills.

**MOTION**- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he is requesting an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss litigation matters. He stated the Red X Ordinance will be addressed under Mr. Dowkus committee.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Report attached. Chief Mazzeo stated he has nothing additional.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached. Under comments the new squad is at Rapid 911 in Annville for lighting upgrades, plumbing changes and new letting. The new squad should be back in the station in early August. At that time, Engine 215 (Sutphen) will be taken out of service to allow for the movement of equipment over to the new squad. Four members traveled to the National Fire Academy on July 29 through July 31 to attend the PA Fire Weekend in Emmitsburg, MD. The members attended the 16-hour course of Health and Safety Program Manager. This course is meant to provide a broad prospective of all the dangers associated with Fire/EMS service and to provide insight to reduce injuries or death.

Mr. Dowkus stated he appreciates them for keeping us safe. Ray Siko questioned the Hahn that is at the West End has been taken out of service years ago and stated he is trying to find out who is maintaining that, paying the insurance and for fuel. Mr. Motyka replied it was earlier in spring we gave a three-month deadline to have both of those trucks off our insurance and stated that came and went. Mr. Motyka stated he has not been given an update from the West End on what their plan is adding he thinks they plan to donate both, but we are currently paying insurance on both trucks.

Ray Siko stated he had two complaints of the fire department out joy riding with the current gas situation. He stated that is not the fire department, that is a privately owned piece of equipment by the West End Fire Association.

Ray Siko stated if their members take it for joy rides, he wants the public to know it is on them and they are joyriding their firetruck. He stated that is a privately owned piece of equipment and stated if they take it on joy rides it is on them.

Ray Siko stated the Sutphen, engine 215 is now at the West End and the new squad is in house, some work needs to be done on the new squad and stated the guys working are working diligently. He stated with the way the world is, some things are here in six weeks and some in three months and don’t want that piece out of service.

Ray Siko stated he wanted to rectify the problem with the West End fire engine because that engine was placed out of service by our fire department for safety concerns and so if they are out riding around in it, that is on them, and he wants the public to know. He

stated the black fire truck is not owned by them or the borough and whatever they do with it they do with it.

Ray Siko stated the course they took was PTSD, suicide prevention how to respond to a crisis situation and not just physically outside but mentally pertaining to our members and stated the class was phenomenal.

Mr. Motyka asked Rhonda if she could send a letter to an official at the West End asking the status on the fire trucks, we are paying insurance on. Mr. Bielskie stated the fire truck was not joyriding, it went down and watered the garden.

Mayor Slaby stated if you put signs up on every telegraph pole in Kulpmont some people will still not understand. Mayor Slaby stated that truck has been part of Kulpmont adding he is not going to state how old he is, but longer than he has.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT**– (Tri County COG)

Mr. Bielski stated report is attached. They issued a few permits this month.

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report attached.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley stated the food distribution will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 11 a.m. at the borough garage.

Mr. Bradley stated the street sweeper muffler needed to be replaced at a cost of \$500.00.

Mr. Bradley stated Batteries at a cost of \$300.00 were purchased for the 2011 Dump Truck.

Mr. Bradley states there was an issue on his block where a women’s granddaughter was accidentally locked in the car. Mr. Bradley stated he called 911, Chief Mazzeo and talked to the mayor and that was when they realized they need some equipment. Mr. Bradley stated he made the purchase for that equipment and will submit a receipt for reimbursement.

Mr. Bradley stated the police department needs some equipment and stated he spoke to the Chief to put together a list of items and asked that council approve \$1700.00 to purchase some needed equipment for our department. Mr. Bradley addressed Mayor

Slaby and stated he does not want him to think he is stepping on his toes. Mayor Slaby stated he agrees with him absolutely 100% and stated he would tell him if he was out of line. Mayor Slaby stated for the record, not having the equipment is no reflection on Mr. Bradley or himself and stated the equipment wasn't here before either of them was on council, it now needs to be taken care of now. Mr. Bradley stated the items listed that were put together will bring us semi-up to date.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to spend \$1700.00 on the purchase of needed equipment for our Police Department.

Mr. Slaby questions how Mr. Bradley is to be reimbursed. Solicitor Greco stated he would need to present a receipt and could then be reimbursed.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated there was a battery purchase made in the amount of \$175.00 for the police Tahoe battery.

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated we did use pothole killers and did fill as many potholes as we could. Mr. Motyka stated we are debating on how to move forward. He stated what was approved in the spring was \$30,000 for the milling machine and water tank, so that is \$35,000.00 we may be able to hold off on because Mr. Bradley has an idea to use another piece of equipment at very little cost to the borough.

Mr. Motyka stated we discussed how we maintain the streets we have and stated if we don't seal what we have and do the best we can every year, we are going to just keep losing these streets. Mr. Motyka discussed some sort of a paving crew and stated we priced a tar buggy and broom.

Mr. Bradley stated this is a step in the right direction adding a broom could be used for numerous things. Mr. Bradley stated if we fix anything, it must be sealed. Mr. Bradley stated eventually we will have all we need to do the work ourselves and we will not need to rent anything. Mr. Bradley added and to get Bruce some help and stated this is step one in a multistep stage.

Mr. Motyka stated so even though our motion was for \$80,000.00 in April, questioned if we need a motion for this purchase. Mr. Niglio stated yes, you need an itemized motion. Mr. Motyka stated Medico is a Costar dealer and added the borough is tax exempt. Mr. Niglio stated for the tar buggy the cost is \$15,200.00 and the angle broom with the wire harness is \$10,200.00



**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to move forward to purchase a tar buggy and broom.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Ray Siko stated he has one additional thing, the steering box that is bad on the former squad. He stated the company doing it will not do the work unless they are paid in advanced. Ray Siko stated the cost is between \$6,500.00 and \$7,500.00. Mayor Slaby stated his opinion is it is the Borough's truck we either get it fixed or let it sit. Mr. Bielskie stated if they need their payment now, just have them give us an invoice now.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion to spend up to \$7500.00 to repair the steering box and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Niglio asked if that is the new engine. Mr. Dowkus replied stating it is the old red one.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated he and the committee met with the tax collector. Mr. Motyka stated personal occupation tax is based on occupation assessment and the population is about 2800 people in the borough and stated only 1600 are registered. He stated 600 of those are under 18 and don't qualify. Mr. Motyka stated 600 people in this borough are not paying, they are not paying their fair share. Mr. Motyka stated we need to really look at how to get them registered.

Mr. Niglio stated the school districts are allowed to request from the department of revenue a listing of everyone who files taxes in the school district. He stated that is the only way you could determine who is making money in the district and is earning money. Mr. Niglio stated you would manually compare the list. He stated he does not know if anything changed by years ago, he was told this information from Mr. Bush at Berkehimer. Mr. Niglio stated people come and go, you have renters who may not be on the tax rolls. Mr. Niglio said he will look into it.

Mr. Motyka stated we will look at other avenues also, many municipalities in the state pay \$52.00 annually, \$1.00 per week for people that work in the municipality. Mr. Motyka stated we do not have that.

Mr. Motyka stated as recent as 2006, 2007 the borough had borough debt of 1% millage. Mr. Motyka stated that 1% could save the property owners hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay off early. Mr. Motyka stated he does not want all the burden to fall of the people that take nice care of their property.

Mr. Motyka stated Muncy pays 100% of the occupation assessment rate, in Kulpmont it is 10% of that rate. Mr. Motyka stated we talked about 24-hour police coverage and stated the burden should fall more on the individual that lives in the borough and not just the property owner.

Mayor Slaby questioned Paul if the borough does not have an ordinance that is imposing the \$52.00. Mr. Niglio stated we receive money for people that work in the borough, \$10.00. Mayor Slaby stated he recalls a discussion when the mill was up and running, the money we could get. Mayor Slaby then stated those days are gone.

Mr. Niglio addressed Mr. Motyka and stated he has been here since 1984 and stated we never had a tax debt. Mr. Motyka stated every year we have a resolution for tax and stated some previous one with a debt tax on it. Mr. Niglio stated we never had a debt tax, not in this borough.

Mr. Motyka stated we looked at Milton and surrounding boroughs, it calls out your assessment rate on occupation. Mr. Niglio stated he understands all of that, but we never had a line item for a debt tax. Mr. Bradley stated last month he said we need to seriously discuss raising taxes.

Mr. Motyka stated we are applying for the Wood Street Grant a low volume grant and thanked Councilman Mr. Novakoski, he sat down there and counted cars. Mr. Motyka stated a \$15,000.00 grant and we match \$20,000.00 and stated we did a negotiation with Mt. Carmel Township where they would pay of the \$10,000.00 and we would pay \$10,000.00. Mr. Motyka stated the grant which is due on the 17<sup>th</sup> we need to commit to \$20,000.00 to fix that street and then we will work out the details with the Township.

Mr. Bielskie questioned what the street is going to cost us. Mr. Motyka stated the engineer stated \$50,000.00 is a good number for proper storm drainage for that one street. Mr. Motyka stated the alley would gain center drains, because it is pitched to the center it would get the water off the surface.

Mayor Slaby questioned if it will drain to Poplar Street. Mr. Motyka stated 11<sup>th</sup> and Wood Street and we also have all the other stormwater areas and be contained. Mr. Motyka stated this should be straightforward. Mr. Motyka stated we need to commit \$20,000.00 to the matching of this grant. Solicitor Greco questioned if it would be contingent upon us getting the \$10,000.00 from the Township.

Mr. Motyka stated he thinks we need to commit the \$20,000.00 either/or and then work out the details with the Township commenting he does not know how else we could do it.

Mayor Slaby stated the Township does nothing and never have done anything. Mayor Slaby stated he is telling it like it is and stated he lived there for 35 years. Mayor Slaby directed the statement to Mr. Motyka stating if it was not for him, the Kulpmont Police, Fire Department and so forth the Township would not even know that road exist. Mayor

Slaby stated there is a lot of traffic up there. Mr. Novakoski replied to Mayor Slaby and stated, "not on that street, he stated there was 20 cars that turned, they didn't come down there." Mr. Novakoski stated 3 cars came down that street the time he was there.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion to commit \$20,000.00 to the matching of Low Volume Road grant and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

Mayor Slaby questioned Solicitor Greco if we commit to \$20,000.00 and we don't get the grant, we don't write the check. Solicitor Greco replied, sure.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated we are working with the Township on Zoning and comprehensive plan and will team up with this and we also received research on a grant for regional police and so they are working with us, and we have a good thing going on other things.

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY**- (Marlin Hodge)

Mr. Bradley stated there is a home on Scott Street, where pigeons got in through the roof and are now living in the house. Mr. Bradley stated he has been in touch with several Amish men that are interested to get in and trap the pigeons.

Mr. Bradley stated they need to get into the house, and it is privately owned and asked the Solicitor what we do. Solicitor Greco stated we cannot give permission for someone to get into somebody else's home. Mr. Bradley stated there is a hole in the roof the size of a basketball.

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated the Red X ordinance has been advertised and this is going to cover all the condemned or unsafe properties for any of our police, EMT's or anybody to be around these buildings. Mr. Dowkus stated if they are on fire, entrapment or collapsing anything like that we are going to be able to put stipulations and make an itemized list on how to go about to remediate the whole situation.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to adopt the Red X Ordinance 2022-04.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus stated he and Mrs. Owens have been working back and forth on some properties and have a pretty good list of which ones are at the top of the list and which we are going to be handling as the ordinance outlines. He stated currently there are 15 to 20 properties we are going to be taking care of and asked all to be patient.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

No Report

**PERSONNEL**- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

No Report

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Janine Beury 1144 Poplar Street she stated she is attached to a property at 1146 Poplar Street and stated they have not left a day. Mr. Bielskie stated they are working on that. Janine Beury stated she has no solutions to their dogs urinating all over their property every single day. She stated this is the second summer she has dealt with this.

Ms. Beury stated they play their surround sound so loud every single day that she cannot hear her own. She stated if she runs her vacuum, they bang on the wall continuously stating she calls the cops, and they are not there when she calls usually at nighttime.

Mr. Bielskie stated with the stuff that we have been doing we are going to act. Ms. Buery stated they are living in this condemned property right now.

Mr. Bielskie stated they have had time to clean it up, the smell is still there. Ms. Buery stated it is more than a smell, the hole in the front is gapping and stated she is surprised it did not cave in.

Mr. Bielskie stated the paperwork should probably be ready for that tomorrow and stated he is ready to call children and youth adding there should not be any children in there. Ms. Buery replied this has been three weeks and they are still in there.

Ms. Buery questioned if property owners must have fire insurance. Solicitor Greco replied if they are renting out the property or pay mortgages. Ms. Buery questioned if they are fined after 10 days if they get fined again and again. Heather Owens the code officer replied they are fined again but it is never 10 days because she stated she does not concentrate on that specific situation. Heather Owens stated she repeats with the first violation and then again.

Ms. Buery stated so with the noise ordinance and her quality of life, they are devaluing her property and..... Heather Owens stated as far as the noise ordinance, she does not work at night. Ms. Buery stated the noise and surround sound is all day and her wall shakes and is curious if they keep repeating. Mr. Bielskie stated last year he was

supposed to take care of the urinating problem and he ended up in jail. Ms. Buery stated she cannot even walk on her own sidewalk because she is taking that then all into her house (as she shows a picture). She stated they are breeding dogs and there are about 6 dogs in the house right now. Mr. Bielskie stated there are 6 dogs in that house we verified that, 4 puppies and 2 dogs.

Mr. Bielskie stated she will see action this week on it. Mr. Dowkus added action is already in motion and documented, with the Red X program being passed... Ms. Buery questioned what exactly that will do. Mr. Dowkus stated for properties condemned and unsafe for habitation, it is protecting everyone involved. Mr. Dowkus stated it is slow coming because everything has been neglected over the past 9 or 11 years and stated we are on the mark to get this stuff nailed down. Ms. Buery stated the property they came from before there are cars all over the property down along the Township, there are multiple.

Tara Brokenshire of 1140 Poplar Street Kulpmont stated to piggyback on what Janine was saying. She stated when this all started about three weeks ago, she never had a problem with mice or rats and has been here for four years and now could show the damage done by rats trying to chew through and get into.

Ms. Brokenshire stated she is a mandatory reported and stated there is a child in that home that she was told children and youth was going to be contacted and so she stepped back. Mr. Bielskie stated he gave them time. Ms. Brokenshire stated had she known they were going to be given time, she would have called children and youth herself. She stated the child should not be in that house, it is a bad situation there.

Mr. Bielskie stated they just went through one in the borough, the house was a dump and a fire hazard and children and youth would not take them, he stated he had to push for them to take them out. Mr. Bielskie stated there is a procedure. Ms. Brokenshire stated she talked to them and was told they were going to be out of the house by Monday and so she thought okay, there is something going on. Mr. Bielskie stated they posted the house on a Friday, and he took the signs down. He stated Monday they went back and told them if he takes them down, he will be arrested.

Mr. Bielskie stated he was given a week to get it cleaned up and stated he then happened to have some medical problems. Ms. Buery questioned if they will be made to put up a fence. Mr. Bielskie stated their dogs are probably going to be gone from there because we are going to close it down. Mr. Bielskie stated last year he was going to put up 6 ft. high fences up.

Ms. Buery stated she has seen fences up at the other property that he owns and stated she was excited and tries to find decency in him, but she does not find much. Mr. Bielskie stated they are taking care of it. Ms. Buery questioned how they could get an update on the situation. She was told to contact the code office for updates.

Mr. Motyka questioned Chief Mazzeo when a criminal code could be used against these people. Chief Mazzeo stated when they fail to comply to codes. Ms. Buery stated they are ignoring them. Mr. Bielskie stated they have public nuisance in the property maintenance ordinance.

Ms. Buery asked if she could call the cops when he is pounding on her wall when she is vacuuming. Chief Mazzeo stated he could try to talk to them if they are doing it before 10 pm. Chief Mazzeo stated he can come, but if he does not answer the door, he can't cite him because he does not know whose music it is. Ms. Buery questioned if he can come into her house to hear it. Chief Mazzeo stated he could but still, who does he cite in front of the Judge. Chief Mazzeo stated adult probation was there today and stated which ever one that is on probation would need a home plan and if the house is condemned, they need a new home plan.

Mr. Dowkus stated the police regionalization grant meeting is on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at the Mt. Carmel municipal building. Mr. Bielskie stated he would like the mayor to sit in on that.

Mary Kay Bartol stated she would like to thank all the council, Mayor Slaby, officers, and the fire department for their cooperation for the Holy Angels picnic. Ms. Bartol stated she ran into a situation today very similar to the condemned properties and questioned if there is an ordinance that if water has been turned off in a home if the building is then condemned.

Mr. Bielskie replied to it would be uninhabitable. Ms. Bartol questioned if that is enforced. Mr. Bielskie stated if we don't know we don't enforce it. Heather Owens stated she finds out through Trish or by accident will fall onto that and then looks to verify. She stated, she will post the property and those people just stay in their house.

Heather Owens stated this was her problem when the Red X program started, she stated they post properties and they stay in them, cops knock on the door, and they don't answer. Heather Owens stated they stay in their homes and said she sends fines, and they get sent back to her. Heather Owens stated we have a house in the borough on Chestnut Street with no water and no sewer for three years and the guy is still living there and now there is a couch on his porch. Heather Owens stated she sends fines, and they then get sent back to her.

Ms. Bartol asked how we are going to enforce this, because we are looking to clean up this borough and get good quality citizens here. She stated if we are not enforcing something like this.... Those are the people not paying their water bills and getting their water shut off. Mr. Bielskie stated when we find out we post them uninhabitable. Ms. Bartol replied, "but they are still here." Ms. Bartol stated right now she is fearing for her life because of an incident today. Mr. Dowkus directed Ms. Bartol to contact officer Mazzeo. Ms. Buery stated she did talk to him and then questioned council if we have any cops on at night. Mayor Slaby replied, "I can't tell you that."

Joe Cesari from Kulpmont asked for Council to give some consideration to the renaming of the playground at the Stadium Complex. He stated in 2012 he moved back here from Ashland and was looking for a safe playground for his grandchildren to play when they visited. Mr. Cesari stated the playgrounds were deplorable and dangerous. He stated he mentioned this to the Kulpmont Cruise Association and asked them if they were game to construct a modern playground and they were.

Mr. Cesari stated they went to a council meeting and at that time they asked what they could do and how they could do this. Joe Cesari stated Myron Turlis was the mayor at that time and they gave permission for them to check the plans out and then decided the best location was the area inside the stadium because it was already fenced in.

Joe Cesari stated with Council's blessing and with the help of Myron Turlis, Stephen Motyka and Clarence Deitrick the plan was put into motion. He stated we were successful in obtaining a state grant with matching funds, which was called "in kind funds," and it did not cost the borough hardly any money.

Joe Cesari stated our organization was successful in getting a Degenstein Grant to support the project and thanks to many Unions and volunteers this labor of love became a reality. Joe Cesari stated today thousands of youngsters use that playground and stated the Kulpmont Cruise Association continue to help maintain that playground.

Joe Cesari stated every year before the winter sets in he goes up and paints the metal on the equipment and fence, anything that is rusted. Joe Cesari stated they also pull the weeds and do what they can do to keep the playground safe. Joe Cesari stated Nolans Lumber Company was the one that donated the fence that goes around to make it doubly safe for our kids. He continued to say in the spring they clean it up and refurbish the mulch to keep it safe.

Joe Cesari stated he congratulates the kids and the parents stating the ribbon was cut on that playground on June 12<sup>th</sup> of 2013 and there has been very little damage. He stated he is asking Council to consider renaming the playground The Kulpmont Cruise Association Playground. He stated there will be no expense to the taxpayers of the borough all cost incurred will be the responsibility of The Kulpmont Cruise Association.

Mayor Slaby questioned if this is just the playground. Mr. Cesari stated just the playground. Mr. Bradley stated there is nobody's name on it now. Mr. Cesari stated there is a sign the Terry Miriello Playground. Mr. Paul Niglio stated it was Terry Miriello Field before the playground. Joe Cesari stated the Field is Terry Miriello, the playground is also Terry Miriello.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka stated he makes a motion to recognize all the contributions the Kulpmont Car Cruise Association did and to put their name on the playground.

Mr. Bielski stated we need to investigate it and see what is. Joe Cesari questioned if this needs to be discussed at an executive session. Solicitor Grecco replied, "not necessarily,

but just look into it.” Mayor Slaby stated when he was Mayor the first time there was a big to do up at the stadium, the Terry Miriello Stadium. Joe Cesari stated playground, he is not talking stadium. Mayor Slaby stated we did not have a playground then and stated when he was gone for 10 years you guys did that playground and stated it is a beautiful playground for the kids. Mr. Motyka stated he rescinds his motion until the next meeting. Mr. Bielskie stated Service and Facilities committee will investigate it.

Mr. Joseph Wolkowski stated in reference to storm management a storm drain is needed on South 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Motyka stated that street is on the agenda for the \$600,000.00 project. Mr. Wolkowski stated he is getting a lot of water in the basement. Mr. Motyka stated he will make sure the engineer knows that.

Mr. Edgar Thompson of 500 Chestnut Street and resided there for the last 35 years. He stated he has always paid his taxes on time, donated to local charities, donated countless hours to football and wrestling and supported local fire departments. Mr. Thompson stated he has always taken pride in his property he has not been a burden to his community or a nuisance to his neighbors. He stated he has and will stand up for what is right and that is why he is here tonight.

Mr. Thompson stated on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, a vehicle ran into the front of his house and left a hole in the cinderblock wall 8’ x 4’ and stated he was not home at the time. Mr. Thompson stated no one from the borough bothered to call him and tell him this happened or hang a piece of plastic to protect his property and belongings, or to call DEP and inform them that the fluids from the vehicle drained into the storm drain.

Mr. Thompson stated the code officer never came by to see if there was any structural damage or to verify if there was a safety hazard and stated that is part of her job description, which he obtained through a Right to Know request on July 22, 2022. He stated on July 7<sup>th</sup>, the minute the repair of his house began the code enforcement officer decides to call and say he needs a permit, there was no interest prior.

Mr. Thompson stated he came to the borough and questioned why he needs a permit and she showed him the ordinance. Mr. Thompson stated he informed her he was not building or constructing anything and that he was repairing the damage the borough had no interest in for the last two months. Mr. Thompson stated she then told him she was trying to be nice and if he didn’t get a permit, she would fine him \$250.00.

Mr. Thompson stated he will not be intimidated or threatened to get a permit that is not required, he stated there is International Residential Code 2018 of PA R102.4.1 conflicts is clear that if conflicts of codes exist the provisions of this code apply, which says you do not need a permit for repair. Mr. Thompson stated this takes him to R105.2.2 which clearly states that application to building official is not required for ordinary repairs to structures, clearly a permit is not needed.

Mr. Thompson stated on July 15<sup>th</sup> he received a citation in the mail which resulted in him writing the following letter:



Dear Ms. Owens,

Please receive this timely correspondence in response to your erroneous citation. As stated, prior there was no construction performed at the addresses you list on your erroneous citation. (A vehicle struck the property while I was away it took down the stop sign located at 5<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut and left a hole in the wall. No one from your office or the Borough even had the decency to contact me to say hey there is a hole in your wall and your property is exposed to theft, rodents, and weather no one from your office or the Borough even attempted to hang a piece of plastic to at least provide a little protection. But the day the REPAIR started in your very own words “you were trying to be nice” by calling me to tell me I needed a permit. I will state it once again the wall was repaired, and no construction occurred.

I am deeply disturbed by the fact that you would issue a citation on the 7<sup>th</sup> and not place it in the mail until the 12<sup>th</sup> the post office is less than 2 blocks away. In addition, there are no instructions to plead not guilty so please provide. Kulpmont Borough is located in the United States of America where a man is innocent until proven guilty, and you offered no proof.

I have enclosed copies of the citation and envelope that you forgot to mail and also, the definitions of construction and repair and lastly the copy of ordinance 2015-03 which you provided, and it clearly states any construction. I eagerly await your response.

Very truly yours,  
Edgar H. Thompson

Mr. Thompson stated until this day he has not received a response to this letter. Mr. Thompson stated while picking up multiple Right to Know request he inquired about the letter and was told the citation would be turned over to the magistrate and stated he does not know how a timely request could be ignored. He stated he has no problem requesting the information through the Right to Know act and stated, “you will get that tomorrow.”

Mr. Bielskie responded to Mr. Thompson stating he is the building inspector and stated nobody came to him for a building permit for that project and that is construction. Mr. Thompson replied, “that is not construction, it is a repair.”

Mr. Bielskie responded saying he does not know where he is getting his information from, we use the UCC and it states and it is required.

Mr. Bielskie stated the UCC states anyone that plans to repair, or construct needs a permit. Mr. Bielskie stated our Borough ordinance states the construction, repair requires a borough permit.

Mr. Bielskie stated he is a Master Code Inspector and stated he goes through this all the time and stated she did not do anything wrong and is just doing her job and that is construction. Mr. Thompson stated, “well, I disagree.”

Mr. Bielskie stated Council will now meet in executive session to discuss litigation matters.

Solicitor Greco stated Council met in executive session to discuss litigation matters for approximately 30 minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS-**

None

**NEW BUSINESS-**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on September 14, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The August 10, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date September 14, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Stephen Motyka  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday September 14, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Mike Bradley, Joseph Dowkus, Marlin Hodge, Stephen Motyka and Bernard Novakoski

**ABSENT:** Stephen Bielskie and Robert Chesney

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Chief Stephen Mazzeo, Code Official Heather Owens, and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nicholas Boscolovich, Nicholas J. Boscolovich, Edwin Howerter, Joe Politza, Jennifer Snyder, Branden Snyder, Nick Bozza Sr. and Pete Lentini

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

**MAYORS REPORT**- (Robert Slaby)

Mayor Slaby stated the borough is required by resolution to certify provision of local match for state operating financial assistance for the Lower Anthracite Transportation System (L.A.T.S) and stated the Boroughs match for 2022-2023 is \$622.00.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to adopt Resolution #759 certifying local funds in the amount of \$622.00 to match state funds for fiscal year 2022-2023.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval of the August 10, 2022, meeting minutes is needed.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the meeting minutes from August 10, 2022.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Rhonda Wilk stated under correspondence we received the following:

Correspondence was received from Tara Stever, Kulpmont Football Baseball Association- Bon Fire October 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm – 9 pm, Copy Council/Mayor

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski for approval of the bonfire to be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

Statewide tax recovery, LLC, provide update on collection accounts older than 7 years contact representative and phone number provided, Copy Council/Mayor

Kevin O’Hearn, Fire Chief – Update by email dated August 11<sup>th</sup>, Engine 215 will remain in service at this time as work continues to be completed on the new squad. The Fire Department along with the West End will notify the Borough when Engine 215 will be completely out of service. Hahn is retired and insured for nonemergency status such as parades and public events. Copied Mayor/Council

Kulpmont Fire Company apparatus parade request use of the Veterans Memorial Field from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and no parking on Chestnut Street and the South side of Scott Streets from 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Streets from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and requesting to be posted no parking. Members of Council and Mayor are invited to the housing ceremony at approximately 2 p.m. September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans Memorial Field.  
Copy Council/Mayor

**MOTION**- Mr. Hodge made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to allow use of the Veterans memorial field and post street routes, posting the North side of Scott Street and not the South side.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Northumberland County Board of Elections – Re: Machine delivery and polling locations, Copy Council/Mayor

A letter was received from Erika Noll of 745 Chestnut Street and addressed to both Mayor and Council requesting signs to be placed to make it safe for autistic children being picked up by busses to help slow down traffic making it safer. She stated this is a door pick up only.

Mr. Motyka suggested to forward this on to PennDOT since it is their Right of Way. Mr. Dowkus stated we will look into that and possibly reach out to have a different pick-up site on the odd side of the street, so it is not using Chestnut Street. Mr. Bradley stated we will need to contact PennDOT on that.

A letter was received from Charles and Pamela Lucas seeking the release of a paper street that borders their residence, copied to Mayor and Council.

Solicitor Greco stated typically what happens with a request if Council chooses to move forward, we will direct the homeowner making the request to pay for a survey for the property in question.

Solicitor Greco stated once the survey is completed then council could vote to vacate the portion of that street. Mr. Novakoski questioned what becomes of the property the borough owns beyond that street adding it becomes landlocked. Solicitor Greco agreed and stated it does become landlocked unless you vacate the entire portion.

Mr. Bradley questioned if we have maintenance on that property. Bruce Graff replied we cut the grass there, with liquid fuel money you would be taking money out of our pockets. Mr. Bradley questioned if we long term lease it to them and questioned if a long-term lease would still allow us to get liquid fuel money. Solicitor Greco stated it is still a borough property, but if they put a swing set or...., it's hard to stay it is a street. A short discussion took place, and it was decided by council to investigate it.

**TREASURERS REPORT** (Paul Niglio)

Treasurer Paul Niglio stated Council received a copy of the financial statement and bills to be paid and approval is needed to pay the bills.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated DCED sent us a tax manual, and we discussed last month, he questioned Mr. Niglio if he has had any success with the school district. Mr. Niglio replied he has not, he was unable to contact. Mr. Motyka questioned if we decide to address occupation taxes and adjusting the taxes, what month we need to do that by. Mr. Niglio replied, “before the new year.” Mr. Motyka stated we will work on that.

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated we sent a notice regarding the franchise concerning renewing it and the correspondence received from them questioned what changes if any the borough would like to see. Solicitor Greco stated one change specifically was we wanted to add in there that we want the wires unused to be removed. Solicitor Greco stated this is just a reminder if the Ordinance Committee wants to look at it for any changes.

Mr. Motyka stated 6 months or older unused to be removed. Solicitor Greco stated the language he must look at is abandoned cable in the boroughs right of way that has not been used for 180 days or more. Solicitor Greco stated that is one change we want to see, but he does not want to send it in if there were other changes we would like to see. After discussion Mr. Dowkus stated the committee will look at it and it was also discussed to consider Verizon as well in an Ordinance.

Solicitor Greco stated he has sent PennDOT a letter regarding their letter addressed to Mayor Slaby and stated he did not hear anything back on that.

Solicitor Greco stated Mr. Slaby for the city has provided him some information of change to the fireworks law and stated there are Ordinances that we could put some teeth into an Ordinance and do some permitting and regulation fees. Solicitor Greco stated we could pass that onto the Ordinance Committee if they would like to look at that, now would be the time. Mr. Dowkus stated they can look at that absolutely.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Report attached. Chief Mazzeo stated he has nothing additional. He stated stats are up in August. He thanked members of council for the approval to purchase some equipment for the police department. Chief Mazzeo stated they have received the equipment.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT-** (Tri County COG)

Mr. Dowkus stated the report is attached. He stated a few permits were issued this month.

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report attached.

Mr. Bradley questioned Heather on the letter she wrote to the people with the pigeons and questioned if she received a response for that. Heather Owens replied that she has not and added a public nuisance fine has gone out. Mr. Bradley stated properties are being destroyed on Scott Street because of pigeons and stated he is open for suggestions.

Mr. Bradley stated there is a hole in the roof and you can watch the pigeons going in and out of the house and the roof will eventually fall in over the winter and we are going to get stuck with this property. He stated he read the letter and it was terrific and covered pretty much everything and stated if it is addressed now, it would probably save the building but if it is let go over the winter.... He stated we are getting no response and asked what we could do about this.

Solicitor Greco stated we could use the Red X program to address the issue. Mayor Slaby commented that is for safety. Mr. Motyka commented, abandoned buildings. Solicitor Greco agreed for safety issues, but as Mr. Motyka said, public nuisance. Mr. Dowkus added we will document and have a paper trail.

Mr. Bradley stated it is an enormous problem and stated he is seeing it every day. Mayor Slaby stated you are talking of a problem on Scott Street but there is a pigeon problem galore in the 1400 block of Chestnut Street and stated a problem is developing where he lives. Mayor Slaby stated a neighbor of his put a new roof on their house two years ago and the pigeons are destroying his roof.

Mr. Bradley stated this is costing the taxpayers of Kulpmont an enormous amount of money stating a minimum roof today is \$10,000.00. He stated something must be done. Solicitor Greco stated he thinks the Red X Ordinance that we passed has the greatest teeth of what we have in our arsenal. Mr. Motyka stated the fire victim on the 500 block of Spruce, possibly we could help him out with the Red X Ordinance as well. Mr. Bradley stated he is willing to buy the property and pay to have it torn down and is getting nowhere. Mr. Dowkus added we will document and have a paper trail on these issues.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley stated the food distribution will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8 to 11 a.m. at the borough garage. Mr. Bradley stated the guidelines have changed and feels many more people in Kulpmont may qualify and should apply.

Mr. Bradley stated an application must be completed and encouraged the residents to look into this program. Mr. Bradley stated he would even volunteer himself to go up from 6 to 7 in the evening on the same day as the distribution if it would help out. Mr. Dowkus also said he would be willing to help and stated it is something they could look into.

Mr. Bradley stated the recycling trailer needed tires.

Mr. Dowkus stated the quote for the red light from Kreco Electric was for \$4,325.00 for the controller and the labor cost \$250.00. He stated the state came in and ran a survey and with that completed we can lengthen our red and yellow lights. Mr. Dowkus stated this will provide a safer intersection.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to spend \$4, 325.00 for the controller and labor for Kreco to proceed with the up grade on the red light.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated the recycling tires were purchased in the amount of \$495.00 for the recycle trailer adding the trailer needed them to pass inspection.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made a motion to ratify the purchase of the tires for the recycling trailer and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus stated we have not been able to come to a conclusion concerning the recycling containers for cardboard and paper bins with Coal Township because of the off-set times of their meetings being a Thursday before our meeting and so they were removed. Mr. Dowkus stated we are currently researching how we may still provide that same service and to provide it as cheaply as we can or as it was before.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka stated he would like to make a motion to advertise for a service to provide a dumpster for paper, magazines and cardboard and transfer them to the



recycle center, so we have a quote, and we would receive the money for the reimbursed cost to recycle the cardboard and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Motyka stated we could include a 6- or 9-month contract. Solicitor Greco suggested we could say 6 months with the option to renew monthly after that.

Mr. Bradley stated the most profitable item we have would be the cardboard and stated it fluctuates like the price of gas fluctuates and stated he feels a six-month contract would be doable adding he does not think we would want to go much longer than that because we would be losing money.

Mr. Motyka stated we talked to several recycling companies and stated he feels this is the best approach to have them provide us a service and provide us the profit to reimburse us for our services as we go door to door for our recycling program.

Solicitor Greco agreed and added we should have something that they are all going to use for the proposal, so they quote apples to apples. Solicitor Greco stated such as to pick up weekly or twice per week. A discussion took place concerning it to be decided on how often they be picked up and stated he thinks it would be easier to say they must be picked up a certain amount of time per week and suggested to discuss with Bruce concerning how often they be collected and how many bins. Solicitor Greco then an advertisement could be made once decided.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio questioned where we are going to advertise. Mr. Bradley questioned Rhonda where she normally advertises. Rhonda Wilk replied normally in The News Item.

Mr. Dowkus questioned if we could possibly put the advertisement on our website or are we able to send out the advertisements to the companies to solicit a quote. Solicitor Greco stated to advertise in multiple papers could be expensive.

Mr. Bradley commented it would be unlikely that someone from out of the area would be interested because we really do not have a lot. Mayor Slaby stated Bloomsburg has a nice recycling program. Bruce Graff commented on that they are very strict. Solicitor Greco stated we would need to advertise in a newspaper for general circulation and so The News Item would cover it.

Mr. Novakoski stated he would like to discuss the cameras and problems we are having. Mr. Novakoski stated the camera system we have up at the field, every time we have something that happens at the field we come in and try to review footage and cannot get it up and running. He continued to say last time it was four days to get the footage to come up.

Mr. Novakoski stated he does not know who is interrupting or what is happening, but it should not be adding someone is tapped into the line. Mr. Novakoski stated he is looking to get in touch with the man that installed the system and have him come in and see what is happening that the signal is being interrupted. Mr. Novakoski stated his theory is that someone is in the back door, also you could get on your phone and monitor this, and it is not for the public, we could get sued for that. Mr. Novakoski stated it is to be a secured line. Mr. Novakoski stated it is nonsense and we need to secure this line.

Mr. Niglio stated the problem is you don't have a line, its being broadcasted and is open to the world. Mayor Slaby stated he has been told by the installer that someone is tinkering with the system and have been for some time. Mr. Novakoski stated as far as someone tinkering with it, if you code it out, they don't have access you would need to spend hours to figure it out.

Mr. Motyka stated just to offer some history, the Kulpmont 100 received \$25,000.00 grant from Degenstein before they did any work up there, they fixed the camera system and that was within the last two years and so it is a newer system and should be able to be fixed again.

Mayor Slaby stated he will provide contact information for the cameras to Mr. Novakoski. Mr. Novakoski agreed to contact him and get this figured out.

#### **FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated last year as a personal citizen he had purchased the lot on the 900 block of Chestnut Street and stated Bucknell intern came to him with a design and get community input to make it a park. Mr. Motyka stated this intern started working on this project and stated he thinks with Bucknell's involvement that will go a long way to getting a grant to fix the property up.

Mr. Motyka stated he would donate it back to the Borough tomorrow, but with certain DCNR requirements, it needs to be appraised and such. He continued to say it will be coming back to the Borough as a park. Mr. Motyka stated the same student is going to apply for a \$50,000.00 T-Mobile grant for the same property.

Mr. Motyka stated working on an economic development as we should all do as council and mayor. He stated we wrote a letter to the seller agent for the Truist Bank and asked if it must be voted on for all council and mayor to sign. Mr. Motyka stated we looked at a half dozen of Real Estate agents, Banker agents, leasing agents and this where all our direction has gone. Mr. Motyka stated we sign the letter form council and mayor and go from there.

Mr. Motyka stated we have a month and a half to get this recycling grant in, up to \$300,000.00 grant in. Mr. Motyka stated under grants and recreation and asked that with Mr. Chesney out that Service and Facilities take over this and spearhead this grant and take over as what is needed. Mr. Motyka stated and once we have a list of improvements

such as a compactor up there or other options such as a gate and to monitor who comes and goes, even a pickup truck for our curb-to-curb operation.

Mr. Novakoski stated he would make a motion for Service and Facilities to take over moving on this grant because the man heading the grant committee is not available right now and this must be done. Solicitor Greco replied, there are other members on the committee, there are two others and in Mr. Chesney's absence it is alright for Mr. Motyka to get it done. Mr. Motyka stated he is on that committee and asked if it would then be alright to pull a member from another committee to help with that. Solicitor Greco replied, "yes."

Mr. Motyka stated last Wednesday Senator Casey's regional manager was in town and he stated he got to show her what Kulpmont is about. Mr. Motyka stated he reached out to her on the pollution reduction act and how that could benefit our small borough. He stated she is getting back to him as the puzzle pieces get put together.

Mr. Motyka stated the Seventh Street storm drainage, the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance wants to do the water and retaining pond for a first real storm water in Kulpmont. Mr. Motyka stated they want to do the work below Seventh Street and that will be all paid for through them, it will be on our borough land. Mr. Bradley questioned if it was a matching grant. Mr. Motyka replied, "no," it is all paid for by them.

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY**- (Marlin Hodge)

No report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated he has a laundry list of things that will be taken care of this week.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

No Report

**PERSONNEL**- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus stated he, Chief Mazzeo and Mr. Bielskie was in on the call concerning Police Regionalization Study that is currently going through. Mr. Dowkus stated everything is running in the right direction and the gentleman that is spearheading and doing the study has an extensive resume and has great success.

Mr. Dowkus stated the gentleman has done it for 40 or more municipalities and stated our issues between Kulpmont, Marion Heights and Mt. Carmel Township lack of police force is not anything he has not seen yet. Mr. Dowkus stated we have all our information and ducks in a row.

Mr. Dowkus stated we were already awarded the grant, the agreement is for DCED, everything is outlined for that \$170,000.00 and the whole budget is flexible.

Solicitor Greco stated this will need to be acted upon and stated this is an agreement saying that the Center is willing to provide the municipalities at this point limited to Kulpmont and Mt. Carmel Township technical assistance by providing them with the material, data and information determined by the consultant.

Solicitor Greco continued to say to permit the consultant to determine his/her hours of work and the center is responsible for the wages, travel cost and related expenses of the consultant.

Mr. Dowkus stated this is a study to see what we can do and what other avenues we are able to do. Mr. Niglio questioned the extensive report that he and Chief Mazzeo completed on our end and questioned if that is part of this. Mr. Dowkus agreed and stated that is correct.

Mr. Dowkus stated the gentlemen we are working with was not aware we got the grant. Mr. Niglio stated he did not know if Mt. Carmel Township did complete the report on their side. Mr. Dowkus stated everything is going well with that.

Solicitor Greco stated this needs to be acted on, the Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance Articles of Agreement needs to be acted upon by the borough and by the Township.

Solicitor Greco stated at the Marion Heights meeting last evening, they asked if they were including in this. Mr. Dowkus stated they are included in it as a service to Mt. Carmel Township, they are currently in contract with Mt. Carmel Township so at the time of the application, they opted out. Mr. Dowkus continued to say they would be under the contract through Mt. Carmel Township.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion to sign and approve the Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance Articles of Agreement and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mr. Nicholas Boscolovich of 1042 Spruce Street questioned if anyone on this council instructed code official Heather Owens to never notify individuals of violations before? Solicitor Greco replied, there is a presumption that everybody is supposed to keep their

property in good order, maintenance, and repair. Solicitor Greco stated if they don't, then our code officer goes out and issues a notice of violation and if they don't comply after that violation, then those penalties are up, that is contained in the ordinance.

Mr. Nathan Boscolovich stated with in respect of what happened to him, it did not happen in that order and stated he is wondering why. Mr. Nathan Boscolovich stated he went and paid for what needs to be taken care of and came back and spoke to her face to face and the instruction he was told was basically she was told by her superior that she does not need to notify anybody before fining.

Mr. Dowkus stated our ordinance if you pull it up, there is no warning. Mr. Dowkus stated ignorance is not an exception to the law. Mr. Nathan Boscolovich stated a notice is a notice and a violation is a violation, so which is it.

Solicitor Greco stated again, there is a presumption that generally everyone is going to keep their property in order and if she comes by and sees a violation and issues a citation for whatever it is, high weeds, grass or whatever it is, and she cites you because it is 12" high she does not have to come to you and say, "your grass is high." Solicitor Greco stated he does not know what the violation is and is again stating the general-public should keep their property in order.

Mr. Boscolovich asked if there is a better way to go about that situation and stated the same way she mailed the citation and photograph, that would allow him time to go and do that and get it done. He stated he is just one of those people and stated he does not have the time to get that specific thing done, he could only get one objective done in that day and stated he is not getting a time span before he can be cited for not doing anything at all.

Mr. Bradley asked Mr. Boscolovich to shed some light on the situation and be more specific on what is going on. Mr. Boscolovich replied it was a trash violation and stated he is a native from here, born and raised here and stated he moved back and got himself a house. Mr. Boscolovich stated he is still catching up on things adding he has only been here for five months since he moved here. Mr. Boscolovich said it was about trash and stated he walked and evaluated streets and has seen trash bags put out fresh and have watched dozens of birds come down and within five or ten minutes there is trash all over the street, whether it is in a bag or a can without a lid or set out because the trash man may be coming.

Mr. Boscolovich questioned if that means she drives down the alley right after the birds attack that bag and takes a picture that she has the right to just turn around and write a citation. Heather Owens answered no and explained the ordinance reads 24 hours before it is fined and stated it sat there longer than 24 hours.

Mr. Boscolovich stated the photographs that were presented to him through a FOIA request for, it was only one day. He stated it was on the same day and stated if she did this after 24 hours, there would be two sets of photographs, two sets of dates and two sets

of times. Solicitor Greco stated to Mr. Boscolovich that he could plead his case to the magistrate. Mr. Boscolovich questioned what about board of appeals and questioned if he could appeal this. Heather Owens stated he was cited under quality-of-life ordinance. Solicitor Greco stated he would go to the magistrate.

Mr. Boscolovich questioned what if he does not consent to the citation. Solicitor Greco again stated he would then go before the magistrate. Mr. Boscolovich stated if he does not consent to the citation then there would be no summons. Mayor Slaby stated the magistrate has a right to issue a warrant for your arrest. Mr. Boscolovich replied, "for something that is not an actual crime?" Mayor Slaby replied, "for a civil matter." Mr. Boscolovich stated it is a civil matter but not a criminal offense. Mayor Slaby replied, "no, but it would be disrespectful to the courts." Mayor Slaby stated anything in regard to an ordinance in any municipality is covered under a civil procedure before a magistrate.

Mr. Dowkus stated council will review his situation and if there is anything additional that comes to light on this. Mr. Dowkus then told Mr. Boscolovich he has his right to go before the magistrate.

Mr. Brandon Snyder of 551 Chestnut Street stated Officer Mazzeo and Heather Owens has been made aware of the situation they are having with their neighbors at 549 Chestnut Street. He stated they do not know what to do anymore adding they are banging on the walls with hammers all day and all night, blaring music, stomping.

Mr. Snyder stated his wife had three brain surgeries and stated she needs rest and cannot sleep at night, at all. Mr. Snyder asks what they can do. Mr. Bradley questioned if they have filed a complaint with the police. Mr. Snyder replied, "yes, they filed reports."

Mr. Snyder stated it all started when the neighbor's daughter trespassed onto their property to go swimming and stated so they got a citation. He stated after they got the citation in the mail, the mom threatened his wife and daughter with text messages adding Officer Mazzeo has the text messages and the code officer Heather Owens.

Mayor Slaby stated if he has contacted the Kulpmont Police Department, which he is the supervisor. Mayor Slaby stated he would like to recommend that we end the conversation here and he and his wife, the Chief of Police and himself and if necessary, the code officer meet with them privately this week. Mayor Slaby stated he can set something up tomorrow or the next day, whatever is convenient for them and for the Chief of Police. Mayor Slaby stated he does not like to discuss this type of business in a public forum.

### **OLD BUSINESS-**

Mayor Slaby stated he has been asked

## **NEW BUSINESS-**

Mayor Slaby stated he has been asked if there is movement on the burned-out property on the 600 block of Pine Street. Mr. Dowkus stated Tri County Cog has reached out to the property owner and the hired demolition contractor and stated they are on the move and started to put cones out.

Mayor Slaby stated he had a conversation with the demolition contractor today and he said he was waiting on the go ahead from Kulpmont. Heather Owens stated she spoke to Mr. Bielskie today and stated he said the demolition contractor said there is a stall on their end, they are not waiting on anything from Kulpmont or from Tri County Cog. Heather Owens stated they have a contract, and it was to be done within six weeks, the stall on the contractor end.

Mayor Slaby questioned Heather Owens if this is the same contractor that he and she talked about. Mayor Slaby asked that the contractor is not Rob Knoppel from Shamokin. Heather Owens replied, "no, he is doing the 700 block of Spruce Street." Mayor Slaby stated he was led to believe he would be doing that one up there and if he could get permission from council.... Heather Owens replied, "she had never heard this." Heather Owens stated the other contractor already has the permits for Pine Street. Mr. Dowkus stated the permits are taken care of, the contractor for Pine Street was at Tri County Cog and that is all taken care of. Mr. Dowkus stated he will contact that contractor on the Goretski property tomorrow, this has been going on far too long.

Mr. Motyka stated he pulled out the blueprints for the playground for 2012 and stated there is no obligation why they call it the playground within the Terry Miriello Field, the Terry Miriello Playground. Mr. Motyka stated he feels the playground would not be there for ten years if it was not for the Car Cruise Association.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion to for the Car Cruise Association to put their name on that playground and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Motyka stated the Kulpmont Cruise Association is a 501c3 group. Mr. Dowkus asked if they are going to manage the playground. Mr. Hodge stated someone stole the sign that was up there already.

Mayor Slaby stated you're not changing the name of the stadium, your talking playground. Mayor Slaby stated he went up there to see it for himself and on that sign, it says about playground and asked that now it is going to be called Kulpmont Cruise Playground.

Mr. Bradley explained, "you must understand the Kulpmont Cruise Association contributed a lot. Mr. Novakoski stated a sponsor for this ground, it is not like it is their whole project and stated he wants his local on there and stated they had 15 guys up there doing all the construction work and asked what about the laborers local they had 10 or 15

guys up there and asked if they don't count. Mr. Bradley replied we all count. Mr. Novakoski stated they may have donated a couple of dollars but there was a lot of people doing the work. Mr. Bradley stated there is a Terry Miriello sign to be put up, it is going to be an archway sign. Mr. Hodge stated that is for the stadium.

**SUBSIDIARY MOTION**- Mr. Hodge made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to leave the name as it is on the playground.

Solicitor Greco stated there is a motion and a subsidiary motion with a second and so the subsidiary motion gets voted on and stated that is to leave the name as is.

Mayor Slaby stated somehow, they got their name on that fence. Mr. Bradley questioned who does. Mayor Slaby replied he did not put it there.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), BRADLEY (no), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (no), HODGE (yes)  
3 YEAS – 2 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated some months ago a young lady hurt her finger at the playground and stated council was supposed to get a new playground sign with the rules and asked Bruce Graff if the sign is still up there and if we need another one. Bruce Graff stated he did not get one, he needed the wording. Mr. Motyka questioned if we get a standard off the shelf one and questioned if that would be good enough for our playground.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to spend up to \$200.00 for playground rules signs.

Bruce Graff stated we should get two, one for each gate. Chief Mazzeo suggest three one for each entrance and one for the fence. A discussion took place on suggestions where to place the sign.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (absent), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Hodge stated back to the issue of the playground sign, someone stole the sign and questioned how we get that back. Council agreed if we get the cameras working, we could review the cameras. Mr. Motyka stated there was a DCNR sign and a sign with recognition of donors.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on September 22, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The September 14, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date September 14, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OCTOBER 12, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Stephen Motyka  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday October 12, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Marlin Hodge, Stephen Motyka and Bernard Novakoski.

**ABSENT:** None

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul Niglio, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Chief Stephen Mazzeo and Code Official Heather Owens.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Edgar H. Thompson, Edwin Howerter, Joe Cesari, Al Riedel, Luke Darrup, Thomas Bielski and Ron Smith.

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

Mr. Joseph Cesari stated he is addressing something printed in the newspaper after the last meeting, which went something like this, “just because this organization put in a couple of bucks into the building of the playground, they want it named after them.” He stated the Kulpmont Cruise is here to catch everyone up on what happened back in 2012 when they built that playground.

Mr. Cesari stated there was an article in there that the sign at the playground was stolen. He stated he would like to say, every year usually around October he goes up and checks equipment. Mr. Cesari stated he has paint in his garage. He stated he sands and makes minor repairs and touch ups to the equipment for the winter months. Mr. Cesari stated the sign was in need of repair and some touch up, the bolts were rusted, and they were replaced. He stated the sign was taken down with the help of his friend Bobby Adams and then he took it to his garage to be cleaned up, the sign was removed and repaired. Mr. Cesari stated so, the case of the missing sign is solved adding he took it off and feels it is his responsibility and so he makes minor repairs.

Mr. Cesari stated most people never even realized the sign up there reads, “the Terry Miriello Playground.” He added they are two great people and residents of Kulpmont but stated they had nothing to do with the building of that playground.

Mr. Cesari stated it was a brainchild of the Kulpmont Cruise Association adding they had a meeting, and they gave him permission to pursue the labor of love as they called it and build a safe playground for the kids of Kulpmont.

Mr. Cesari stated he met with some councilmembers, and he worked with Clarence Deitrick who was at the time in charge of grants. He stated in his position at North Schuylkill where he was the Administrator and in charge of grants and so he knew a little bit about this. Mr. Cesari stated they began to pursue a DCNR grant and applied for a grant and were awarded \$40,000.00 and with it being a matching grant and having to come up with \$20,000.00 we sat down and worked out to use in kind money, which was using our borough secretary, Mr. Malakoski and his group of people and equipment was put toward that \$20,000.00 and so money was not taken from the taxpayers for this playground. Mr. Cesari their organization applied for a Degenstein Grant; Mr. Smith put us in touch with Attorney Apfelbaum. He stated that money was put in and we were then ready to build a playground.

Mr. Cesari stated when he moved back here from Ashland he searched for a safe playground for his grandchildren and there was none. Mr. Bielskie stated we have a two-minute limit and stated he is sorry, but he cannot let him tell the whole story. Mr. Cesari replied the whole story is important. Mr. Bielskie replied, "I will give you another two more minutes, but that is it and again said he was sorry."

Mr. Cesari continued and said Mr. Steve Motyka was very important in this, he ran with it we got the money together and people to help and volunteer. He stated it was more than a couple dollars that they put into it. Mr. Cesari stated the Kulpmont Cruise Association indirectly, directly they give money every year, \$1,000.00 each year to the KFBA and have been doing that for twenty years.

Mr. Cesari stated they purchased the sign for the Veterans Field, just donated and gave a check to Dave Bango for the Halloween parade he said not only for the playground, but they put a lot of money into many things that happen in Kulpmont or the Mt. Carmel School District where our kids are involved.

Mr. Cesari stated he was really surprised after the last meeting he read in the paper that was voted down, which was like a kick in the pants or a slap in the face after everything they have done in this borough, for the borough. Mr. Cesari stated he will not take anymore time up but stated they have been a very important group in the borough and as he said it was like a kick in the pants and a slap in the face for that vote that was taken.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

**MAYORS REPORT-** (Robert Slaby)

Mayor Slaby announced Trick or Treat in the borough will be held on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> in the borough from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Mayor Slaby stated the Hazzard Mitigation Plan is on the agenda. Solicitor Greco stated municipalities not adopting their own plan or the County plan, they may not quality for financial relief in the event of a flood, hurricane, or something like that without a plan in place.

Solicitor Greco stated the county is asking us to do is either adopt our own plan or to adopt the county plan. Mr. Bradley questioned if this is something the fire chief needs to know about. Mayor Slaby stated if there is a disaster somewhere we will need to show proof that the borough adopted this. Mr. Dowkus stated Kevin O’Hearn is our Chief and EMA and stated he is sure it came across his desk.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to adopt resolution #760 Northumberland County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**VOICE VOTE –**  
Unanimous

Mayor Slaby stated he received a certified letter from PennDOT and stated he has shared this with all of council regarding the placement of the clock on Chestnut Street by Kulpmont 100 at no cost to the Borough of Kulpmont. Mayor Slaby stated he has spoken to the Senator and State Representative from our district concerning this.

Mayor Slaby stated PennDOT is saying no to this clock. Mayor Slaby stated the solicitor responded with a letter and expressing the borough will accept all liability for the clock to be there. Mayor Slaby stated as of today he has made several phone calls to PennDOT and stated he is asking them to come to Kulpmont and mark where this clock may be placed because there have been comments made that if the clock is placed, they will come and take the clock down and charge a fee. Mr. Bielskie stated they have a contact and phone number and will try to get in touch with them tomorrow.

Mayor Slaby stated if you do a survey from this end of town to that end and if you live on Chestnut Street maybe your porch is in PennDOT right of way and questioned why PennDOT does not come by and jerk their chain like they are jerking the Kulpmont 100, he and Council’s chain.

Mr. Novakoski stated in November he watched the survey and stated it was a joke adding he does not know how they could give K100 a hard time on this clock. Mr. Novakoski said the survey was done 4 or 5 months ago.

Mayor Slaby stated there are places in this community that he knows because people have said to him there is legal action brought against them and it has been bounced back

and forth with PennDOT for five or ten years now. Mayor Slaby stated he does not have a vote but stated if he had his vote would be to put the clock there. Mr. Dowkus stated we will reach out to the contact person and try to move forward from there.

Mayor Slaby stated all we want is for someone from PennDOT to come down here and put the tape in the middle of the highway where the yellow lines are and then measure whatever it is and we will supply the paint, just ask for PennDOT to put the dot where it is supposed to be and the Kulpmont 100 is willing to do this because it is unofficially figured that 1 ½ to 2 feet is what is at stake here and it is an awful lot of commotion.

A short discussion continued. Mayor Slaby stated Kulpmont 100 wants PennDOT to put the mark.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Treasurer Paul Niglio stated a motion is needed to approve the meeting minutes from the September 14, 2022, monthly meeting.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the meeting minutes from September 14, 2022.

**VOICE VOTE**-

Unanimous

Correspondence was received from the following.

PA Department of Environmental Protection – RE: abandoned oil and gas wells, Copied Mayor/Council

PA Department of Transportation, Municipal Liquid Fuels and Turnback – RE: estimated Liquid Fuels allocation for 2023, which is \$85200.49. Copied Mayor/Council/Treasurer

Letter concerning Kulpmont Cruise Association and Joseph Cesari President, Copied Mayor/Council

Department of Economic Development & Planning, RE: correspondence for 10 Kulp Lane, Copied Mayor/Council/Solicitor

Keystone Collects, RE tax EIT and LST for upcoming 2023, updates must be submitted to DCED prior to December 1, 2022, Copy Mayor/Council/Treasurer

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection/Inspection Due of Underground Storage Tank – Copied Council/Mayor/Borough Supervisor

Mr. Bradley stated this tank needs to be removed. Mr. Bradley stated Bruce Graff can't seem to get in touch with the guy concerning removing the tank. He stated Bruce has quotes on getting it removed but maybe the guy went out of business, he can't seem to get in touch with him. Mr. Bradley stated we are in violation because we have an underground storage tank and will start getting fined. Mr. Bradley stated we are obligated to remove that tank ASAP. Mr. Bradley stated Bruce Graff is pursuing it. Mayor Slaby stated he has a guy that he uses and asked if he wants his name. Mr. Bradley replied Bruce is not here but stated he is in contact with someone.

Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Municipal Authority, RE: 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO), Copied Mayor/Council

Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, RE: PURTA distributions, Copied to Mayor/Council/Treasurer

Pennsylvania Lions Club – RE-2022 Halloween Parade sponsored by the Lions Club will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm / Rain date Monday October 31, 2022

Kulpmont Lions Club – Thank You letter for past years support of the annual Halloween Parade, asking for donation and continued support – Copied Mayor/Council

Mr. Niglio stated in the past the Borough has donated \$100.00.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to donate \$100.00 to the Lions Club for the Halloween Parade.

Mr. Niglo stated the parade will be held on Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Municipal Authority KMHJMA on December 31, 2022, Copy Mayor/Council

Mr. Niglio stated the letter is notifying the Borough of Mr. Fanella's term on the board of KMHJMA will be expiring on December 31, 2022, Mr. Niglio stated no action would be taken at this time and stated an appointment would be made in January. Mr. Dowkus questioned if that were something we would advertise. Solicitor Greco replied what we have done in the past was to request letters of interest be submitted by a certain date to fill the vacant position.

**TREASURERS REPORT** (Paul Niglio)

Treasurer Paul Niglio stated Council received a copy of the financial statement and bills to be paid and approval is needed to pay the bills.

**MOTION-** Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SOLICITORS REPORT-** (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated the Act 57 is something that became effective on the 11<sup>th</sup> and stated municipalities have 90 days from that date to adopt an ordinance or resolution providing a waiver to someone who purchased a home that has not received taxes in time or tax collectors that waive the penalties and interest. He stated they must provide a written request, tax notice that was not received, a copy of the deed showing date of the transfer and copy of the title if it was a mobile home.

Solicitor Greco stated if you have a closing at the beginning of the year when the taxes are printed out or at the end of the year causing them not to receive them in time and would allow them to be paid at face value. Solicitor stated no action must be taken on this tonight; it is not something we must do but if it is something Council wants to do, we only have 90 days to do it. He stated it would give taxpayers a break.

Solicitor Greco stated he provided copies of proposed ordinances on fireworks, there has been a change in the law.

Solicitor Greco stated there was a municipal lien that was satisfied this month for \$277.50 for lawn mowing and stated again, putting liens on we will slowly get that money back.

Solicitor Greco stated he provided a waiver for any volunteers for any projects to Mr. Motyka for review.

Mr. Dowkus stated our tax collector is here this evening and asked Mr. Darrup if he has anything to add concerning the ACT 57 that Solicitor Greco spoke of. Mr. Darrup stated he certainly does not know anything more than the Solicitor described and stated it would give them a small break if this were something the buyer would end up paying. Solicitor Greco stated it is a small window, but it does happen and would give them a break.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Report attached. Chief Mazzeo stated he has nothing additional.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached

Mr. Niglio stated it is noted on the report the squad will need to be inspected and arrangements are being made to take it to Carl's. Mr. Niglio stated he does not know what vehicle the squad is, and they are not here this evening. Mr. Dowkus stated with an inspection there may be other things that will need to be fixed on it.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O' Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**– (Tri County COG)

Mr. Bielskie stated the report is attached and stated a few permits were issued this month

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report attached. Heather Owens stated concerning the pigeon issues, she has gone to the code committee because there are many complaints coming in for property damage on the 1300 block of Chestnut Street because people are routinely feeding the birds, it is an issue.

Mr. Dowkus stated the 1000 block of Scott Street has an issue and stated it is everywhere.

Heather Owens stated someone is going on another person's property and feeding the birds. She stated the property owner took down the feeder, but this person is still feeding the birds and stated she was told he is feeding the birds at 11 p.m.

Mr. Bradley commented on the damage and stated something needs to be done and said we must do something. They are picking the stone off the roofs and destroying roofs throughout the borough and stated we must manage the pigeon population somehow.

Mr. Bradley stated he has done some research and stated there is a way of controlling pigeons, it is not poison or a transferable toxin. He stated it is approved by the Fish and Game but as the borough we could not buy this stuff. Mr. Bradley stated he feels this is something we should try. Mr. Bielskie asked Mr. Bradley if he could get a meeting with Ehrlich and get some information on a cost. Mr. Bradley replied he did not feel he was able to pursue it until he talked to the rest of council.

Mr. Bradley stated another option is for a catch, the person will catch pigeons for \$1.00 and said \$1,000.00 for 1000 pigeons would be another option and stated he is putting it out there, its another option.

Mr. Dowkus stated under the word pest in the property maintenance code, there is no verbiage on pigeons, but under the word pest they are flying rodents and questioned if he had anything on that. Mr. Bielskie stated the international code has that if you move into a place and it is infested the landlord is responsible, but if you are in there for three months that is your problem.



Mr. Bradley stated the Borough of Mt. Carmel adopted a code ordinance in harboring wild animals and stated he said to Heather Owens weeks ago with the holes in the roof, he would think that is harboring wild animals. Mr. Bradley stated these people are doing nothing to keep these animals out, there is a hole in the roof, and you can watch them go in and out. Mr. Bradley stated he is talking about the house on the 1100 block. Heather Owens stated that property gets fined on public nuisance and stated she did issue to that property and one on the 500 block of Spruce has been given letters introducing them to the Red X ordinance, all of that is started and will now just need to be followed through.

Mr. Dowkus questioned an ordinance for feeding birds. Mr. Bielskie replied or feed any animals of any type. Heather Owens stated the problem she sees with feeding the birds this mixture that was talked about by Mr. Bradley, certain birds are going to eat it get angry and leave but if someone else is feeding the birds just more are going to come. Mr. Bradley stated this is supposed to be humane and not kill the birds it affects their central nervous system, he said he will get more information for the next meeting on this.

Mr. Bradley stated concerning 526 Spruce Street, the question he has is Bob Scicchitano the house if burned down and they have six or several thousand dollars of his escrow money, but the guy next door had no insurance and stated he does not understand that you should have to give us something until the house is torn down. Solicitor Greco stated the escrow money is their homeowner's insurance. Mr. Bradley replied he understands that and stated he did not have any homeowner's insurance. Mr. Niglio stated we don't get nothing.

Mr. Bradley stated this guy has no intention to cooperate with Mr. Scicchitano and stated in fact he has threatened a lawsuit against him if he takes his house down and scratch's paint on his property. Solicitor Greco stated we site that landowner for the nuisance. Mr. Dowkus added the Red X program would help; the house is in disrepair.

Mr. Bradley stated the guy has no intention to tear the property down and stated Mr. Scicchitano came to him and questioned what he could do. Mr. Bielskie stated he was up the same week and posted it and sent a certified letter to him. Mr. Bradley stated if he is not responding what is the next step. Solicitor Greco stated we keep on issuing citations. Heather Owens asked at what point does the Red X program move forward, who sends the letter. Solicitor Greco stated the code officer, Heather would send the letter and asked if the time for the action is over. She replied stating it has been a month. Solicitor Greco stated so we need to follow up with the Red X.

### **SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley stated the food distribution will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 11 a.m. at the borough garage. He stated he is still working on getting some volunteers to deliver food and stated there was the mention of a waiver for volunteers and so he will look at that. Mr. Bradley stated the income limitations have been increased and stated more people may now qualify and he hopes for them to take advantage of this.

Mr. Bradley stated the bottom deck is worn out on the Street Sweeper it is 16 years old and we have not needed to spend a lot of money on it yet adding it is remarkable shape thanks to Bruce maintaining it. He added it is going to need a valve, hoses and vacuum tube replaced at a cost of \$2,271.20 to make it operational for next year. He stated if we don't do this it is not operational.

Mr. Bradley stated the tub itself is starting to rust through and a new tub is \$30,000.00 which is out of the question. Mr. Bradley stated possibly a local welding shop could access it and seal it up and we may be able to get another 10 years out of it. He commented all this stuff is maintenance, things wear out. Mr. Motyka stated in September we approved for an emergency purchase of \$1,125.20.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to spend up to \$3,500.00 to fix the street sweeper

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated October is the last month for scheduled street sweeping.

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

No Report

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY**- (Marlin Hodge)

No report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated we touched base during the Solicitor and Code Officers reports on some issues and stated we will be looking at what angles we may go with the different issues.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated he did send a memo to everyone last month to have some things read and stated there is an ordinance that we are utilizing and can revisit. Mr. Chesney thanked Mr. Motyka for setting up and attending the meeting that was required to qualify us to apply for the 902 Recycling Grant.

Mr. Chesney stated we need to advertise that we are applying for it, it does not mean we will be awarded the grant, but we will need to decide on what it is we will apply to purchase with the grant. Mr. Chesney stated you can't put the cart ahead of the horse and so not to purchase anything not knowing if we will be awarded the grant. Mr. Chesney

stated with the amount of money needed to supplement that we need to make sure we understand that.

Mr. Chesney spoke of another mailing we received, information on a grant for less than 5000 population the match could be 20%.

Mr. Motyka stated we had a meeting on the 902 grants, and we discussed the possibility of applying for a pickup truck and inquired on applying for a dump truck. The gentleman stated we may qualify for the pickup truck, that would need to be investigated, but we would qualify for a dump truck. Mr. Motyka stated the preliminary meeting went well and he liked our approach and stated that must be in by the 26<sup>th</sup> and the advertisement could happen after that fact and so we have time on that as well.

Mr. Niglio stated we received a request from some people that would like to play pickle ball and are requesting the painting of lines on the basketball court. Mr. Dowkus stated he was stopped and so he investigated it and does have plans which is basically lines and is looking into that.

Mr. Motyka stated the work has started below Seventh Street.

**PERSONNEL**- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus stated on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. you can call in and follow along with the presentation from the study on Police Regionalization, he stated the results and presentation will be presented, he stated he knows the Mayor, Chief is aware and reminded members of council of the presentation if they are able to call in. Mr. Dowkus stated he has a request for an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a contractual matter.

Mr. Chesney stated he has one more thing he would like to mention pertaining to grants. He stated he does not know how far we have looked into the recycling explaining he has missed a few meetings because of prior engagements.

Mr. Chesney stated problems we have had with recycling and stated Coal Township has said they will charge \$100.00 for each bin of recyclables to be processed. He stated council has looked into some options and he stated he has done some research on that and stated recycling right now, what we have been doing in Kulpmont has been a major help to our citizens.

Mr. Chesney stated we don't want to pay it and stated we have looked at starting our own little recycling and stated Knoebles has an 80,000.00 square foot area for recyclables and it's not big enough for them and explained some information he received in talking with some others concerning recycling. Mr. Dowkus interjected and stated what was decided is that \$30,000.00 is not in the budget for Coal Township to haul out recyclables and stated the committee is working on and has been getting information and options. Mr.

Dowkus suggested Mr. Chesney to forward any information he receives or he gathers to the committee.

Mr. Chesney replied he did send a memo out before the last meeting, and it was not brought up and so that is why he thought he would bring it up. Mr. Chesney stated if you guys have it under control, well good but stated he just wanted to present it again, he stated prices have plummeted on recyclables and it takes a lot to make up for machinery, building, extra employees and so he asks to take it all into consideration and make the best logical decision.

Mr. Niglio offered information to the public for people that don't know, Waste Management on 901 accepts all recyclables for free, they do not need to be separated and just as ours you must make sure there is no trash put in the bins. Mr. Niglio stated he has been using it as Kulpmont seeks options. Mr. Niglio stated Coal Township still has their center open two, three days per week.

Mr. Chesney stated taking it to Coal Township does not benefit us, they benefit from it, but it does not affect our recycling grant.

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mr. Ed Thompson a 35-year resident and taxpayer here in Kulpmont stated on July 27, 2022, he filed a right to know request asking the name and listing of credentials for the current Kulpmont Borough Code Enforcement Officer to include but not limited to any and all trainings attended, certificates attained, periodicals and/or trade related journals read or published, and highest level of education attained and from what educational institution. Starting rate of pay and what date as well as current rate of pay. Mr. Thompson stated the response to his request was as follows.

No document listing credentials for current Kulpmont Borough Code enforcement Officer exist. Course attended, Registration Course BCO101, Group name IPMC 101.

No document RE: education attained

Current Code Official starting date and rate – 9/30/2019 at starting rate of \$16.38 per hour Full Time 40-hour work week – Current hourly rate remains at \$16.38 per hour.

Electronic document attached – Registration for Course Name BCO 101 (training only, no certification)

Mr. Thompson stated that was only the registered and stated he does not even know if she attended the class. He stated the response to the right to know clearly tells him that she is

not certified. Mr. Thompson stated which leads him to this point, section 401.3 certification required, a person may not perform a plan, review of construction documents, inspect construction, equipment or administer, enforce the Uniform Construction Code without being currently certified or registered by the department applicable with the work to be performed.

Mr. Thompson stated clearly, she is not certified to enforce the UCC Code. Mr. Thompson stated he went back in the video of the meeting he attended two months ago and stated Mr. Bielskie stated at that meeting he did not know where he was getting the information.

Mr. Thompson stated Mr. Bielskie said the borough uses the UCC and stated that is exactly where he is getting his information. Mr. Bielskie responded and said, "your time is up, your incorrect and stated he personally knows she was at the BCO class." Mr. Bielskie stated he is the building inspector in town and stated you (Mr. Thompson) did not get a permit from him.

Mr. Bielskie stated she is the property maintenance person and code enforcement person in Kulpmont and stated she does have the authority not to be the inspector but to require the permit. Mr. Bielskie stated once he would get the permit from the borough you then would call him so that he could inspect it, which you never did. Mr. Bielskie stated he is the UCC inspector. Mr. Thompson replied, "it did not require a permit, it was a repair from an accident." Mr. Bielskie stated it requires a permit.

Mr. Thompson replied a car ran through the house; it does not require a permit. Mr. Bielskie replied, "yes it does." Mr. Thompson stated right here is the code that says a permit is not required for an ordinary repair. Mr. Bielski replied that is not an ordinary repair. Mr. Thompson stated cutting away a load bearing wall portion of a wall, removal or cutting any structural beam, none of that happened and stated none of that happened adding there were 20 cinderblocks replaced.

Mr. Bielskie stated your worked on the foundation of the building on the corner that was holding the roof and questions Mr. Thompson if that is correct. Mr. Thompson replied, "no you are incorrect." Mr. Thompson stated there are steel beams holding the roof up. Mr. Bielskie stated it is all with that foundation holding that up.

Mr. Thompson asked why then nobody came and checked if the house was going to collapse during the accident, why didn't somebody zip up the house because he was away, why was it left open what if a child walked in there with all that rubble and asked Mr. Bielskie if he is okay with that. Mr. Thompson made the following statement to Mr. Bielskie, "you said she did not do anything wrong." Mr. Bielskie replied, "she didn't do anything wrong, when she seen it, she told you about it." Mr. Thompson said the only time she seen it was when he was doing a repair and stated all she wanted was a check and could care less about safety and said to Mr. Bielskie, "honestly you are the same."

Mr. Bielskie stated to Mr. Thompson, “your time is up.” Mr. Bielskie stated we will see you at the magistrate. Mr. Thompson replied, “I will be there.”

Mr. Joseph Cesari questioned what they would need to do to put the request in again about renaming after their group. Mr. Bielskie stated to put a letter in to Service and Facilities to have them bring it up. Mr. Cesari questioned if it could be brought up this evening in front of the full council here.

Mr. Bielskie stated it is not on the agenda so we couldn’t do it. Mr. Cesari stated it was not on the agenda last time, Steve made a motion and there was a subsidiary motion and was voted on it. Mr. Cesari questioned legally what they would need to do. Solicitor Greco responded to Mr. Cesari directing him to send a letter. Mr. Cesari then questioned it would be at the next meeting. Solicitor Greco replied saying you’re welcome to come to the meeting. Mr. Cesari then questioned they would have the full council vote on it, okay. Solicitor Greco responded by saying, “if council wishes to vote on it. Mr. Cesari responded saying just so we know what the procedure is.

### **OLD BUSINESS-**

Mr. Bradley stated he checked back in his notes and there were a few things that were brought up at meetings. He stated we talked about the out of state landlords and talked about penalizing or raising their taxes because they are out of state. Solicitor Greco stated that was a different state and stated after he looked at it in PA, we are not eligible.

Mr. Bradley stated full time police was another thing they talked about and then nothing happened and so he stated he just wanted to bring it up.

Mr. Motyka stated at last months meeting we drafted an advertisement for bins, providing bins for cardboard and magazines. He stated he talked to several recycling companies that will give us a price. Mr. Motyka stated we approved to advertise but we need a date to look at those bids. He said he talked to several that will give us a price.

Mr. Chesney stated over Jeffs so as long as they have a hitch to pull up on a flat bed, they will take anything and stated he will take anything that we have and there would be a fee but then we would get something back. Mr. Dowkus stated we talked with him and stated Mr. Motyka is asking for a time and deadline for the bids.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion to advertise for bids to be in by 4:00 p.m. November 9<sup>th</sup> and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Hodge asked about the monument to be relocated and asked when that may happen, stating they passed that long ago. Mr. Motyka stated he did not get the chance to pour the concrete yet.

### **NEW BUSINESS-**

Mr. Chesney stated he feels as council a letter should be sent to Representative Masser for all he has done, he is retiring.

Mr. Niglio questioned if that is not his job. Mr. Chesney stated he thought it would be a nice gesture but of course that is up to you guys.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on November 9, 2022.

Mr. Bielskie stated Council will now meet in executive session to discuss contractual matters.

Solicitor Greco announced Council met in executive session for approximately 25 minutes to discuss contractual matters.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The October 12, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date November 9, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 9, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

1. Opening Prayer (Joseph Dowkus)
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Roll Call
4. Opportunity for Citizens to be heard on anything that is on the agenda
5. **Elected Officials Reports**
  - A. **President's Report** (Stephen Bielskie)  
No Report
  - B. **Mayors Report** (Robert M. Slaby)  
No Report
6. **Appointed Officials Reports**
  - A. **Secretary's Report** (Rhonda Wilk)
    1. Approval of the October 12, 2022, meeting minutes

**Correspondence**

    1. **DCED** – Re: to draw attention to boundary change reporting processes recently amended through Act 21 of 2022.  
-Re: Act 57 of 2022 – effect of failure to receive tax notice  
- 2023 Municipality and County Forms filing information – Copy  
Council/Mayor/Treas./Sol.
    2. Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) Thank you for support, Copy  
Mayor/Council
    3. Kulpmont Cruise Association – Copy Council/Mayor
    4. PA Department of Transportation – Re: proposed project on S.R. 61 Copy  
Mayor/Council
    5. Storage Tank Registration/Permit Invoice, Copy Service and Facilities/B Graff
    6. Department of Economic Development & Planning, re: 10 Kulp Lane, Copy  
Mayor/Council/Code
  - B. **Treasurers Report** (Paul Niglio)
    1. Attachment #1 – Financial statement / bills to be paid
    2. Budget



C. **Solicitors Report** (Edward Greco)

No Report

D. **Police Chief Report** (Chief Stephen Mazzeo)

Report attachment #2

E. **Fire Chiefs Report** (Report Kevin O' Hearn)

1. Report – attachment #3 ***\*\*see comments on report\*\****

***\*\*Note-*** *The new squad (2007 Spartan) has officially been placed in service. Additional equipment mounting and other work will continue as the department becomes accustomed to the vehicle. We would like to thank the borough for their continued support of the fire department.*

2. For some time now the entry door in the alley has been an issue. It is to the point where it hinders entry and most importantly exit. With the Borough Council's permission, the fire department would like to have this repaired and/or replaced. This would be at the fire department's expense.

F. **Emergency Management** (Kevin O' Hearn)

No Report

G. **Building Inspector's Report** (TRI County COG)

No Report

H. **Code/Health Enforcement Officer's Report** (Heather Owens)

1. Report Attachment #4

7. **Committee Reports**

A. **Service/Facilities Committee** (Wm. Mike Bradley)

1. Residents enrolled are reminded of Food Distribution – November 17, 8:00 am until 11 a.m. at the Borough Garage
2. Sherwin Williams – 10 - 5-gallon buckets yellow paint quote \$1211.50
3. Ehrlich, Pigeons
4. Red light controller – (J. Dowkus)

**B. Finance/Purchasing (Stephen Motyka)**

1. Occupational Privilege Tax – consider increase from \$10 to \$52
2. Occupation Assessment Tax from 10% of county assessed rate to 100%, consideration
3. Amusement tax letters
4. Police Regionalization

**C. Code/Health/Safety/Building (Marlin Hodge)**

No Report

**D. Ordinance Committee (Joseph J. Dowkus II)**

No Report

**E. Recreation /Grants - (Robert Chesney)**

1. Pickle Ball update – invest up to \$500.00 into project
2. DCED Funding to K100 for Terry Miriello
3. Terry Miriello progress update
4. Low Volume Road Grant
5. Growing Greener Grant
6. PEMA Grant
7. DCED Small Water and Sewer Grant
8. Formal Survey for Park on 900 Chestnut Street
9. Playground mulch and sand

**F. Personnel - (Joseph J. Dowkus II)**

1. Requesting Executive Session for personnel and contractual matters at the end of the meeting
2. Police

**G. Fire/EMA/Police Committee – (Bernard Novakoski)**

No Report

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next regular monthly meeting Wednesday December 14, 2022

**ADJOURNMENT**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH**  
**Special Meeting for General Purpose**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2022**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Stephen Motyka  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday November 16, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney by teleconference, Joseph Dowkus, Marlin Hodge, Stephen Motyka and Bernard Novakoski.

**ABSENT:** None

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Rhonda Wilk Borough Secretary and Code Official Heather Owens.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** NONE

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

None

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated he, Mr. Hodge, Bob Chesney and the treasurer met on Monday and went through the last several years of taxes and stated we operated on about \$100,000.00 deficit each year, operating on a carryover from years ahead to pay for that deficit. Mr. Motyka stated the treasurer stated that is not a good way to run a budget that does not meet our intake. Mr. Motyka stated our current budget is \$800,000.00 and change and current intake is \$650,000.00. He continued to say at the last meeting he presented two options for funding.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to advertise for potential approval to increase LST tax from \$10.00 to \$52.00 and the Occupation Assessment fee from 10% to 100%.

Mr. Bielskie questioned what kind of fees we are talking. Mr. Motyka replied if we keep it the same the 700 people, we have now we would probably increase it from \$6,000.00 to \$60,000.00 per year. Mr. Bielskie asked what the cost per person would be.

Mr. Bradley commented, that is a big question. Mr. Motyka gave the example stating as a carpenter rate he pays \$18.00 and stated \$5.00 off the top and so he stated he pays

\$13.00 and so it would be about \$100.00 increase. Mr. Bradley stated that is the question everyone is asking they see that 10% to 100% and stated people are asking, they think their taxes are going to go up \$1,000.00. Mr. Bradley stated curious people are asking and he couldn't explain because he did not know. Mr. Bradley stated he does not know how we could explain this to people.

Mr. Motyka stated if council approves, the county has a list of occupation assessment rates, and we could post on the borough Facebook for anyone who wants to see it.

Mayor Slaby agreed and stated he feels we should. Mayor Slaby stated when you compare the Borough of Kulpmont to a community such as a borough in Schuylkill County, how you compare to other communities. Mayor Slaby stated he is not pushing for a tax increase, but you must be realistic.

Mr. Motyka stated Kulpmont is at \$270.00 per person to run the town. Mr. Motyka stated he did that comparison and shared it with Council, he stated Ralpho Township is over \$400.00 per person and Shamokin is over \$500.00 per person to run the city. Mr. Motyka stated he has all the surrounding municipalities listed in that comparison and stated we are underfunded. Mr. Motyka stated we would have to raise our mileage on Real Estate 8 mils to even match Mt. Carmel. He stated he did all the research so we may make an informative decision.

Mr. Chesney asked to explain just a summary what each tax is. Mr. Chesney stated to give an example on how the taxes would be increases and what they would be representing. Solicitor Greco stated there is no vote to approve or not to approve these taxes. Solicitor Greco stated the only vote tonight is to approve to advertise it for potential approval or nonapproved at our next meeting.

Solicitor Greco stated Mr. Motyka and the Mayor suggested to put it on our Facebook page so people could look at it before the next meeting. Solicitor Greco stated the advertisement would be an ordinance of the borough amending the tax rate for LST from \$10.00 to \$52.00. Mr. Chesney stated that is understandable and asked to explain the advertisement for the next one. Solicitor Greco stated it is an occupational tax proposing to increase from 10% to 100%.

Mr. Chesney asked for an example. Mr. Motyka replied stating he pays \$18.00 a year as a carpenter and \$5.00 of that is off the top and so \$13.00 goes to this tax and it would increase to less than \$130.00 per year. Mr. Chesney stated he has expressed his concern so that everyone understands.

Mr. Motyka stated there are 650 people in this borough that are not paying the tax and stated they are cheating the system and stated we need to do our best as a body of seven and find these people to make sure they pay their fair share.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated solicitor Greco prepared the opposed resolution to increase the rental registration fee from \$50.00 to \$100.00.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski and was seconded to adopt Resolution #762 increasing the rental registration fee to \$100.00 per unit.

Mr. Bielskie stated we had the fee set at \$100.00, we dropped it not long ago to \$50.00. Mr. Novakoski replied, "that was a mistake." Mr. Chesney expressed concern about all landlords having this fee increased. Mr. Bielskie replied, "it must be the same for everyone."

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (no), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)

6 YEAS – 1 NAY

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The November 16, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date December 14, 2022**

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
DECEMBER 14, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Marlin Hodge  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday December 14, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Marlin Hodge, Stephen Motyka and Bernard Novakoski.

**ABSENT:** None

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul Niglio, Chief Stephen Mazzeo, Rhonda Wilk and Code Official Heather Owens.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Edwin Howerter, Bernie Nestico, Jan Nestico, Raymond J. Siko, Nick Bozza.

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

**MAYORS REPORT**- (Robert Slaby)

No Report

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated a motion is needed to approve the meeting minutes from the November 9<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, monthly meetings.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the meeting minutes from November 9<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Rhonda stated meeting dates will need to be advertised for 2023.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to advertise 2023 regular monthly meetings as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with remaining Wednesdays of each month advertised for meeting for General Purpose if needed.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Correspondence was received from the following:

An email was received from Matthew Smith to the Solicitor regarding Fir Street right of way and was copied to Mayor and Council.

Solicitor Greco stated he is asking for the Borough to mark it, specifically. Mr. Motyka stated we need to follow up with a surveyor and get a price quote, this will protect a \$100,000.00 investment made in improvements. Mr. Motyka asked Solicitor Greco to respond to him to let him know we are contacting a surveyor.

ARRO Consulting Inc. sent correspondence informing of their services available and was copied to Mayor and Council.

Northumberland County Elections and Voter Registration office sent correspondence regarding the election to take place on January 31, 2023, to fill the remaining term of Senator John Gordner, asking for confirmation to allow the county election on January 31<sup>st</sup> at Borough Hall and was copied to both Mayor and Council.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to allow the county election on January 31, 2022, at Borough Hall.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Correspondence was received from PennDOT – December 9, 2022, correspondence was received on the proposed project for State Route 2026 Section 006 State Route 61 to Ash Street and was copied to Mayor and Council.

Mr. Dowkus stated we are only responsible for the repainting of the lines. Mr. Motyka replied, they should be responsible for repainting lines on the state route. Mr. Niglio commented saying “they usually do paint them.” Mr. Dowkus questioned if we want to reach out to them and contest the correspondence. Solicitor Greco stated the letter does read the Borough would be responsible for any parking or crosswalk lines and stated we don’t have that. Mr. Dowkus stated we have 6<sup>th</sup> Street up to Marion Heights. Mr.



Motyka stated on 61, Chestnut Street we have crosswalks. Solicitor Greco stated we could respond to that they are asking for comments. Mr. Bielskie stated he believes 61 will be done in 2026. Mr. Motyka stated in the same letter we could ask about all of the piping for stormwater.

**TREASURERS REPORT** (Paul Niglio)

Treasurer Paul Niglio stated Council received a copy of the financial statement and bills to be paid and approval is needed to pay the bills.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (abstain), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS – 1 ABSTAIN

Mr. Niglio stated at this time there is no change from the tentative budget to the final budget and a motion is needed to approve the final budget for 2023.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion to approve the budget for 2023 and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (no), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio stated approval is needed to Advertise Ordinance 2023-01, Tax Levy Ordinance fixing the rate for 2023, which in the budget remains the same.

**MOTION**- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to advertise Ordinance 2023-01, Tax Levy Ordinance fixing the rate for 2023.

Mr. Niglio stated for the record it is 17 mils for general purposes and 3 for fire and 3 for light.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio stated a motion is needed to pay all 2022 bills through December 31, 2022.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to pay 2022 bills through December 31, 2022.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated as he said a letter was sent out to Mr. Smith last month after our meeting indicating not to park vehicles on the right of way and he responded.

Solicitor Greco stated concerning the Service Electric franchise agreement, now is the time to send what council would want in that franchise agreement. He stated he knows it was decided about those unused lines and if there is anything else he would suggest sitting down and list anything to add to the agreement.

Mr. Motyka questioned Mr. Niglio on the fees asking if they have gone up. Mr. Niglio stated the amount goes up and down, it is not a fixed amount it is based on subscribers. Mayor Slaby questioned if we have ever hired a law firm to negotiate with Service Electric. Mr. Niglio replied saying our Solicitor could negotiate with them. Mayor Slaby stated they will keep giving the minimum unless you shake the tree. Mr. Niglio stated that is all they need to do; it is the law.

Mayor Slaby stated it is not straight across the board, other municipalities are getting more. Solicitor Greco stated whatever we would negotiate as a higher fee would be passed on to our subscribers, it is an indirect tax. Mr. Niglio stated it is based on the subscribers. Solicitor Greco agreed and stated we could negotiate a higher fee; any fee would then be passed onto the subscribers.

Solicitor Greco stated PMHIC Cooperative sent correspondence which he reviewed, and approval will be needed to amend language in the agreement explaining this is an administrative amendment. Solicitor Greco stated they are all very minor changes, and the sewer authority will be doing this as well.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to amend the PMHIC cooperative agreement and approve the administrative amendment.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Solicitor Greco stated there were some tentative drafts for ordinances, other than that he has nothing more.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Report attached. Chief Mazzeo stated he has nothing additional.

Mayor Slaby stated he has discussed with Chief Mazzeo on a potential contract and spoke with Mr. Dowkus and stated they will sit down with the right members of the personnel committee in the coming days.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached

Raymond Siko stated there has been major problems at the 911 center over a period. He stated anything from the way to dispatch and to wrong apparatuses being sent to no apparatus being sent. Raymond Siko stated all Chiefs confronted County Commissioners concerning the situations at hand. He stated the 911 coordinator requested to be placed back as dispatcher and is no longer the 911 coordinator. Raymond Siko stated they had an incident in town about 2 weeks ago with a call that did not go well and stated he will not go into details. Raymond Siko stated Mr. Jeffries is temporarily doing duties as director and 911 coordinator. He stated he wants everyone to be aware they are trying to correct the problem. Raymond Siko stated the problem was with management, however there are some things with the equipment that would revert to management.

Mr. Bradley questioned if there are any alternatives or solutions for the citizens of Kulpmont. Raymond Siko replied stating one of the solutions have been addressed. He stated what he would recommend to the citizens to contact the fire department with any questions on a response time or an on-scene time to contact a fire chief. He continued to say there could be reasons for a delay, but they want to know about this because there have been several incidents they investigated.

Raymond Siko stated if anyone has a question to please come to them with questions or concerns. Raymond Siko asked to please keep fire hydrants open during snow and stated he is concerned about residents using secondary heat sources and asked to use extreme caution with these heaters. Raymond Siko stated to please use smoke detectors and if there is a resident that does not have a smoke detector to contact them and if he must, he will come put it in for them, he does not want a fire in this town.

Mr. Bielskie also reminded all that Kulpmont has an ordinance against using space heaters. Raymond Siko stated if they find them as in the past, they notify code immediately.

Raymond Siko stated in August a comment was made after they received a donation a comment was expressed that he heard sitting here and all 25 members heard it when played it back on Facebook. He asked all to stop listening to people that are not affiliated with this fire department. Raymond Siko stated unfortunately there will come a time when people are going to get embarrassed. He stated he is speaking on behalf of those 25 volunteers and stated they have mutual aid with multiple companies. He stated people that don’t understand the operation of a fire scene or are former members need not make comments. Raymond Siko stated he is the easiest person to find if you want to talk about something. He asked before comments are made, please know the facts.

Mr. Bradley stated morale is a very important thing and stated if there is anything he could do to help boost morale to let him know. Mr. Hodge questioned if the fire department s dispatched to all cardiac arrests. Raymond Siko replied, “yes.” He explained the procedure and requirements and then stated there is a program that they follow on every response. He stated they have adopted this where the 911 center receives a call of a cardiac arrest they respond, what is called AED response. He stated every piece of fire equipment has an AED on it and everyone is trained on it. Mr. Motyka stated several years ago when we moved into this building it was discussed to have an AED in this building, but the response was there is one next door. Raymond Siko stated he was unaware of that and said he will make some calls and see if we could get an AED in this building.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT**– (Tri County COG)

Report attached.

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report attached.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley stated we had an issue with a gas odor and when they checked the gas odor, they realized there are no smoke detectors or carbon monoxide detectors in this building and stated he would like to have a motion to purchase these. Mr. Motyka stated before we make a purchase for those, we have a contract with McClure and they service our unit on the roof and stated if there is smoke the units then turn off, he said we could have that checked and have them survey the area.

Mr. Niglio stated in his home they are all connected and if one goes off, they all go off. Mr. Chesney questioned that when this building was built there were no smoke or carbon monoxide detectors installed. Mr. Bielskie replied, “no,” adding they were in the units themselves and the building has a sprinkler system.

Mayor Slaby suggested to have a motion to have the building measured and find out from the fire chief what is adequate for the size of the building. Mr. Motyka stated we will come back to this next meeting, run numbers, and come back to it.

Mr. Bradley stated the food distribution will be held on December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8 to 11 a.m. at the borough garage. Mr. Bradley stated he wants to remind everyone starting in January we will have a delivery service and every month the athletic department of the Mount Carmel High School will help with delivery food for people that cannot make it

and stated Casandra Niglio from the athletic department is all about this and so is he. He stated they are covered under a blanket insurance policy through the athletic teams.

Mr. Bradley stated concerning excavation permits and asked the Solicitor to explain it to him. He stated he went around and took measurements and evaluated what the water company did and stated there are several items he does not understand. Mr. Bradley stated he is not sure if he is right on the excavation fees and questioned the charge of \$50.00 minimum and the \$1.56 per ft charge is, he stated he read it and it does not make sense to him in his opinion.

Mr. Bradley stated when he talked with Rhonda the fee is based on the size of the opening, and she said that is the way it is priced. Mr. Bradley stated on the excavation pricing he does not know if he is right but feels we are leaving a lot of money on the table and that money goes right into the general fund, because he feels the cost should be based on the size of repair but is not sure it is worded that way. Mr. Bradley stated what are we charging \$1.56 for if it is the size of the backhoe bucket that is irrelevant it should be the size of the repair. Solicitor Greco agreed to look at it.

Mr. Bradley stated the sidewalk is another issue, the repairs these utilities are doing. He stated in the sidewalk ordinance there is nothing specific about the finish and stated in his opinion the utility companies in his opinion are not repairing the sidewalks properly or matching the finish of the sidewalk they repair.

Mr. Bradley stated you could walk down Scott Street and see where the water company put the main in, they just throw some mud in the hole, and they don't put expansion joints in or edge it. Mr. Bradley stated people spend thousands of dollars to put the sidewalks in and the water company comes and destroys them and don't repair them properly and stated he does not think that is fair to the taxpayers of Kulpmont and thinks we should be doing something about this. Mr. Bradley said he will leave it up to council.

Mayor Slaby asked if anyone has tried to talk to them. Mr. Bradley stated Aqua does not even do it, they subcontract it out. Mayor Slaby agreed and said they subcontract out and again asked if anyone tried to talk with them. Mr. Novakoski stated he has talked to them and stated when they did his sidewalk, he and the neighbors water main were a foot apart and when they had to out the sidewalk in between he and the neighbors he put a T in and when they had to rip it up, they did not do any of that.

Mr. Bradley stated they are going to be doing a lot of work this summer or next summer and stated he does not think it is fair that sidewalks be repaired this way and stated he thinks we should put some pressure on them to do a better job. Mr. Bradley stated people pay thousands of dollars to put a sidewalk in and they come in and destroy it. Mr. Bradley stated it is easy, just walk down Scott Street and look at where they put the water mains in, the sidewalks are a disaster and is not done very professional. Mr. Bradley stated he thinks they should be required to do a better job. Mayor Slaby stated he understands what he is saying, but it is his experience with them is, who you talk to in Aqua that you will get positive results. Mr. Bradley stated he thinks we need to change

the ordinance because who you talk to today may not be there tomorrow and stated he thinks we need something solid in writing, so they do a good job. Mayor Slaby suggested to Mr. Bradley to talk to the contact he has and stated he is the guy that runs Aqua in Shamokin and stated if he wants to sit and talk with them, he will arrange it. Mr. Bradley stated he has no intention to talk with this guy and stated it is not about talking to anybody. Mr. Bradley stated he wants them to do a better job and to require it. Mr. Bradley stated there is nothing longevity about it, it's a quick fix. Mr. Novakoski agreed and said you can see the stone; they don't leave a finish on it.

Mr. Bradley stated the gas tank needs to be removed and said it has been bouncing back and forth and we are going to be in violation and start to get fined. Mr. Bielskie questioned if anyone attempted to get a price. Mr. Bradley asked if we put it out to bid and questioned if we talked about it. Mr. Bradley stated Bruce is not here he called and said he was sick; he was supposed to reach out to somebody. Mr. Bielski suggested somebody at Millers Gas and Oil may know.

Mr. Bradley stated he will get with Bruce tomorrow and see if he got anywhere, and stated he thinks we should put it out to bid. Mr. Motyka stated he thinks it was going to only be a couple thousand dollars and asked Rhonda if she would get three phone quotes. Rhonda replied, she will if he would provide her with contacts. Mr. Motyka replied, "yellow pages."

Mr. Bradley stated there are issues with that, they basically need to be accredited to remove tanks and stated there is more involved than just digging a hole. Rhonda replied, "exactly," and added she does not know anything about that. Rhonda Wilk stated she recalls a meeting or so ago Mayor Slaby addressed Mr. Bradley and Bruce Graff of a contact he has for possible removal of the tank and stated he has someone in Shamokin that may be able to remove the tank. Mayor Slaby stated if you would want, he will call him. Mr. Bradley stated we still need to put it out on bid. Solicitor Greco replied, we could get quotes adding the numbers been bumped up.

Mr. Bradley stated a quote was received for 2 – 4 section Elgin Broom at a cost of \$273.00

Mr. Bradley stated we are going to have an emergency purchase; we had a turbo charger that went bad on one of the trucks. The truck is currently at Sunbury motors, and it is not going to be cheap. Mr. Bradley stated we have two working plow trucks.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to purchase the brooms at \$273.00

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated we advertised and raised the occupational privilege tax. Mr. Motyka stated he shared an email and asked if council will be in favor for a letter to be sent from the Borough to The News Item asking for a side-by-side municipality to municipality comparison to be done and published.

Mr. Chesney questioned if this would be comparing apples to apples with the size of each municipality and population. Mr. Bielskie stated that is all broken down with population. Mr. Motyka asked Mr. Chesney to please read the email he sent him this afternoon. Mr. Chesney said he has read it and just wants to make sure it is a fair comparison.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to send a letter from the borough requesting a side-by-side comparison for occupation tax.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated the only other thing he has concerning the occupation tax, there are about 600 people skating by and not paying tax at all. He stated the school district is also missing out on 600 people not paying tax in the school district. Mr. Motyka stated he cannot believe we are not pressuring the school district or that they are not pressuring us to find these individuals.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus he would like a letter sent to the school district asking to work together to get the names of these approximately 600 people.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio stated back in the 80's and 90's the School Dist. When they had summer help, they would do a census and they would go around and see who is living where. Mr. Niglio stated since there is no more County money for summer help that stuff has not happened in 20 years. Mr. Niglio stated that is really the only way to do it and asked if renters are required to register and said we would find them that way. Mr. Motyka replied, yes, they must register. A short discussion took place, but there still is the question of what their occupation is. Mr. Bielskie suggested to tax at the highest rate, and they will call. Mr. Niglio stated when you are retired you are required to fill out a form. Mr. Bradley stated nothing has changed since the 70's and now carpenters make as much money as doctors and so the whole point is everyone should just be paying the maximum. Mr. Motyka stated we can't make that change on the local level; the county

assigns all the values. Mr. Motyka stated the reason for asking the school district is because they need help as we do.

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY-** (Marlin Hodge)

No report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated Ordinance 2022-06 and 2022-07 have been advertised.

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion to adopt 2022-06, Local Service Tax Increase Ordinance from \$10.00 to \$52.00 and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to adopt Ordinance 2022-07 increasing the Occupational tax levy rate from 10% to 100%.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**MOTION-** Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to redact Resolution 762 that increased the rental registration fees from \$50.00 per unit to \$100.00 per unit and revert back to \$50.00 per unit.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus stated we will be sitting down with the code officer to review the fine schedules. Mr. Dowkus stated in the near future the committee will be meeting to review some ordinances.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated Mr. Motyka has been doing a fabulous job on the Grant Committee and research and stated he would like to have Mr. Motyka speak under the Grant and Recreation Committee.

Mr. Motyka stated there is more money available for stormwater and we will apply the application is due next Wednesday. Mr. Motyka stated we need to adopt resolution 766 and there is a \$100.00 application fee. Resolution 766, which states in a roundabout way



we want \$175,000.00 and we are going to use it for stormwater from the ARPA money. It's a DCED grant and there is a \$100.00 application fee.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to pay application fee of \$100.00 for the Grant and adopt resolution 766.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated in addition to the resolution 766 for the \$175,000.00 request it says we guarantee that we will use the \$600,000.00 set aside we are already have dedicated to stormwater as match money if we get this grant.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to adopt a letter of commitment for the project.

Mr. Motyka stated if we get the grant, we already have the money set aside to commit to the project.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated he measured and averaged out the sand and mulch we need for the playground. Mr. Motyka stated a quote including delivery, was received and he would like us to purchase it now before the summer and any price increase.

Mr. Hodge questioned if they spread it also. Mr. Motyka replied they will not spread it; they will deliver it and stated we may get prisoners to spread it.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to purchase mulch and sand from Rock n Block for the playground at a cost of \$2,138.40.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**PERSONNEL**- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus stated the committee will be meeting Monday regarding Chief Mazzeo's contract and the street department.

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

None

**OLD BUSINESS-**

None

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Mr. Dowkus stated there is in the grade of sidewalks, something in the grade of sidewalks in the BOCA code standards. He stated that may have the verbiage we may need that may not be in our ordinance. Mr. Bielskie stated BOCA was the original code and now it is the IBC code. Mr. Bielskie stated you could look in the IBC and see what the code is.

Mr. Dowkus stated the verbiage may be in there and our issues covered under that ordinance. Mr. Bradley stated he was not aware of this, but the water company came and did some repair work and they put amesite in the sidewalk and stated they have no intention on pouring a sidewalk and stated he does not think we should have allowed that. A short discussion took place on amesite being used for sidewalks and again repair concerns.

Mr. Dowkus stated all the issues we are having may already be in the IBC and stated he will look into it. Mr. Motyka questioned how we will enforce the BOCA or the IBC Code if we have no inspector to inspect it. Mr. Bradley stated all of the problems in the streets are from repairing and we are going to have to do something. Mr. Niglio stated the water company has a bond and if something is not done properly it would go against the bond. Mr. Bradley and Mr. Novakoski agreed in saying the utility companies are taking advantage of us.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The December 14, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date January 11, 2022**