

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Robert Chesney
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday April 12, 2023

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Stephen Bielskie, 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 D. Graff, Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk and Code Official Heather Owens.

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Catherine Maciejewski, Jennifer Snyder, Joe Politza, John Maciejewski,
Robert Fanella, Ami Britton, Rev. Andrew Stahmer.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON ANYTHING THAT IS ON THE AGENDA:
No one spoke.

Mr. Bielskie stated the council will now meet in executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Solicitor Greco stated the council met in executive session to discuss personnel issues for approximately 10 minutes.

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 March 8, 2023, monthly meeting.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to approve the meeting minutes from March 8, 2023, meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (abstain), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS- 1 ABSTAIN

Rhonda Wilk stated the Kulpmont Cruise association along with the borough was notified of the approval for the special event permit for the annual car cruise.

Correspondence was received from the following:

A late entry was received from Mr. Shinskie, the K100 on the dog park opening to be held on April 13th at 5:30 p.m.

Robert Fanella submitted a letter of interest for consideration in filling the Borough Council Vacancy, Copy Mayor/Council

A letter was received from Bruno Varano withdrawing letter of interest previously submitted, Copy Mayor/Council

KMHJMA Chairman Robert Fanella, addressing concerns regarding board member, Copy Mayor/Council

Marlin Hodge submitted a letter of interest for appointment to Council to fill the vacancy left by Councilman Bradley, Copy Mayor/Council

Northumberland County Dept of Economic Development, Re: 10 Kulp Lane, Copy Mayor/Council

Housing Development Corporation of Northumberland County, Copy Mayor/Council

Danielle Wolfgang, Spring Carnival May 6th from 11-5, Copy Mayor Council

Council members discussed the request for street closure for the Spring Carnival, concluding the same has been done previously.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to close the street was requested for the Spring Carnival on May 6th from 11 AM to 5 PM on May 6th.

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

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance – 2023 Membership Application – Copy Mayor / Council

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to renew membership for 2023, making renewal permanent with the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance renewing annually.

Mr. Chesney questioned Mr. Motyka about what the amount was. Mr. Motyka replied, it is \$30.00 annually.

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

Northumberland County – Dept of Economic Development and Planning, C PACE, Copy Mayor / Council

Kulpmont 100 sent a request for a donation.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Kulpmont 100 campaign fund and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski.

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

A letter was received from Tyler Dre, Copied Mayor/Council

Mayor Slaby stated he has that letter and is being addressed through his office and the Police Department.

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance, April, and May Field Days- Copy Mayor Council

Mr. Motyka stated we will have 70 students here in the borough Friday, learning about the Coal Region History and then they will be back in May.

John Motyka – 2 patron parking signs, permission to paint a yellow line on 10th Street- Copy Mayor/Council

Mayor Slaby stated he is asking the police to access the street for parking.
A short discussion took place.

Bernard Novakoski submitted a letter of interest to serve on the KMHJMA Board should a vacancy occur/ Copy Mayor/Council

Mr. Motyka stated he wants to make a motion based on the letter received from the KMHJMA that the borough act to replace the individual. Solicitor Greco stated he just wants to make it clear that was not voted by the authorities and that was an informative

letter. A discussion took place by Mayor and Council on the active role taken by the individual, not serving on a committee and consecutive absences.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to remove Mr. Lutz from the KMHJMA board based on consecutive absences without notification.

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

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to appoint Mr. Novakoski to fill the vacancy on the KMHJMA Authority

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

Mayor Slaby then stated he has the right to swear him in. The solicitor agreed.

Mr. Chesney stated for the open position on the council he would like to nominate Mr. Fanella to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Bradley. Mr. Chesney stated Mr. Fanella has interest in and is knowledgeable in all aspects of the borough.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made a motion to nominate Mr. Fanella

No second on that motion

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to accept Mr. Hodge's resignation and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes),
DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)HODGE (abstain)
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS – 1 ABSTAIN

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to accept Mr. Hodge letter of interest to fill the vacancy for the remainder of Mr. Bradley's term and appoint to council.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (no),
DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
4 YEAS – 1 NAYS

MOTION – Mr. Chesney made the motion to appoint Mr. Fanella to fill the open position on borough council left by Mr. Hodge for the remainder of his term, the next several months, based on his experience and skill and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes),
DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bielskie stated Mayor Slaby will swear in Mr. Novakoski, Mr. Hodge and Mr. Fanella at the end of the meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Attached financial statement and bills to be paid, approval is needed.

MOTION- A motion was made to pay the bills by Mr. Dowkus and seconded by Mr. Novakoski.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes),
DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he did circulate a very rough draft of the street excavation ordinance, again that was just a rough draft and asked members of council if they have any notes, we can look at those changes. Mr. Chesney stated we can incorporate changes in the future to be made by resolution by incorporating that into the ordinance and discussed some points to be considered in that ordinance. Solicitor Greco asked for any questions or comments to be given to him.

Mr. Dowkus questioned if we could go ahead and advertise, stating he just needs to make some insertions into the ordinance. Solicitor Greco stated it may be a little premature yet, we need to have this available for public inspection adding he does not want to rush it. Mr. Dowkus agreed to hold off considering advertising for now for the final document.

Solicitor Greco stated the other item was a letter sent out concerning the streetlights and PPL and asked Mr. Motyka to elaborate on that. Mr. Motyka stated several years ago and received a 40% reduction by switching and stated he thinks they made their money back long ago and we should be sharing in that 40% energy reduction savings. Solicitor Greco stated he did not get a response to the letter, but despite the changes we only received a 40% reduction and stated although energy use went down 40%, adding that Mr. Motyka did a lot of work on this research on the streetlights, the letter went out and so we hope to hear from them.

Mr. Dowkus questioned the solicitor if he heard anything from Service Electric. Solicitor Greco stated we did not hear anything and stated he would follow up. Mr. Motyka questioned if he is still reviewing the Fir Street right of way. Solicitor Greco replied, “yes, he is.” He then commented although nobody is parking down there now.

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

Report attached. Chief Mazzeo stated we are still waiting on a few uniform shirts.

Mr. Chesney commented asking citizens to contact the police department with any unregistered cars or un-licensed plated cars to the department. Mr. Chesney asked everyone including citizens to be persistent with the grass and garbage and stated we must get control of our town.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Kevin O'Hearn)

Report attached.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O' Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report is attached.

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

Report is attached.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Bernard Novakoski)

Mr. Novakoski stated food surplus will be held on April 20th from 8 am until 11 am at the borough garage.

Mr. Novakoski reminded residents the street sweeper is scheduled to run now through October.

Mr. Novakoski stated he has not any additional contact from the gentleman with the semi pro team from Harrisburg that contacted the borough on possible use of the field for their games.

After brief discussion it was agreed that the field would not be suitable, there are no adequate bleachers for a semi pro football team, 12-year-olds rip up the field and so men would really rip it up. The field is not adequate for a semi pro team.

Mr. Novakoski stated the 2011 dump truck was in for inspection and it needed 2 tires, the mount, balance and disposal totaled \$777.00 and are on the list of bills that were approved for payment.

Mr. Novakoski stated the Mayor makes an announcement and designates directional parking and stated he has noticed vehicle parking. He stated he noticed parking on the hill is not in the proper direction. Mayor Slaby is taking care of that, during the wintertime, but this time of the year parking must be in the proper direction. Mayor Slaby stated he will send something to The News Item.

Mr. Dowkus stated Monday they took care of installing new sand and mulch up in the playground. A discussion took place about opening and closing the playground once our staffing situation is taken care of.

Mr. Novakoski stated the lighting outside is not working properly and we need to address that. Mayor Slaby agreed. Mr. Novakoski stated we may need an electrician to look at it. Mayor Slaby stated he is concerned for public and police safety. It was agreed that this matter be investigated and corrected after a brief discussion.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to relinquish the fee for cleaning the center we charge to the county.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Novakoksi questioned about the transformer up at the field with lights and questioned if we are getting charged for that, because that could save us some money. Mr. Motyka stated we will figure it out and investigate that.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING- (Stephen Motyka)

S.A Comulale sent an agreement to be considered by council for the 5th year sprinkler inspection and to Hydro test, 5th year FDC. Mr. Motyka stated he checked into this and recommends we proceed with Comunale to do the 5-year service. Mr. Bielskie commented, "I think the insurance company would require this."

MOTION - Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to sign the contract for S.A. Comunale to do 5-year service on the system at a cost of \$1,380.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated we also did not find a solution to find the 600 people not paying their share of taxes. Solicitor Greco questioned if he checked with Keystone. Mr. Motyka stated he got an email back from Keystone and Statewide and they will not do any research outside of their realm. Mr. Niglio suggested checking all the rentals. Mr. Niglio stated the school district did it back in the 70's and 80's then they stopped doing it. Chief

Mazzeo stated whenever he gets names he forwards to Heather. Heather Owens stated there are issues with homeowners renting rooms and you are getting a wide variety of transients, that come and go and are not registered or reported.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated he would like to amend the condemnation permit to include as a municipal permit that adding \$1000.00 fine to the post placard for these houses. Mr. Dowkus stated the Code officer is going through and posting houses uninhabitable, unsafe and they are just removing these signs. Mr. Dowkus stated he knows about Mr. Bielskie's business and the state there is a fine if you remove the sign.

Mr. Motyka questioned the Solicitor if that will be a resolution to the ordinance or if we are going to need to amend. Solicitor Greco replied stating he would need to look at the ordinance. Mr. Dowkus stated he does not have it. Solicitor Greco stated if the ordinance could be modified by resolution, chances are we need to amend that ordinance. Solicitor Greco stated we need to pursue looking at that.

Mr. Dowkus stated he would like to make a motion to add Kulp Lane to the Borough Street Ordinance. He stated on all of the documentation from the property owners building the garage they have the address Kulp Lane, but it is not on our street ordinance. Mr. Motyka questioned if that would need to be investigated if it could be amended or done by resolution. Solicitor Greco stated that is correct and told Mr. Dowkus he would need a copy of that ordinance also.

GRANTS/RECREATION – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney spoke about a grant to receive funds to possibly help with blight and properties that are uninhabitable. He stated hopefully we will receive that and get help from the county on that. Mr. Chesney stated we have some properties on our bullseye. Mr. Motyka stated we have the full match. Mr. Chesney stated that is correct.

Mr. Motyka stated Friday April 21st with the rain date of April 28th for the Coal mining History and Environmental Impacts Project.

Mr. Motyka stated May 19th with rain date of May 26th the Veterans Memorial Field Green Building Techniques and Rain Garden Build will be held.

PERSONNEL- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to accept the union contract between the personnel and laborers' union.

Mr. Dowkus stated it is a 3-year contract with raises in the first year of \$1.50 and the 2nd and 3rd year of 3.5 %. He stated there is some verbiage updating, no health care changes, just some changes for vacation time for time vested.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes),
DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Bernard P. Novakoski)

Mr. Novakoski stated there have been bills submitted and are on the list that were approved for payment.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Jennifer Snyder from 551 Chestnut states she is having a problem with the attached 549 Chestnut Street. She stated 30 plus cats are coming over to her side, they are urinating. Jennifer Snyder stated she rents rooms out to people we have no idea who they are, they have criminal backgrounds, they are trespassing and stated she has had damage. She stated she does not follow any ordinances; nothing is being done. Jennifer Snyder stated they are doing work at all hours and obviously Chief Mazzeo is not available early in the morning hours and so when she calls Stonington, they don't send anyone out.

Catherine Maciejewski spoke and stated her patio is downstairs and stated she has cloth some kind of tent staples and that is where her cats are. She stated she lived here 55 years and can't even sit on her patio because of the smell. Heather Owens stated she has been in contact with the ASPCA since August of 2022 and she stated the SPCA is supposed to do something in two weeks which will be next week.

Heather Owens stated if she does not hear from them, she will contact them. Mr. Bielskie stated he will go down with the Code officer. Mr. Chesney stated we do have an animal ordinance. Heather Owens stated she is being cited for a public nuisance for the cat and blight.

The mayor questioned if she lives there and rents in the same building. Heather Owens replied, yes, she lives there and rents rooms and so it does not fall under the rental ordinance and there is crime, so they would have been out.

John Maciejewski stated this lady's garbage is picked up on a Thursday and on Sunday it is overfilled, and the garbage is in the entry way, and it is an eyesore and stated he does not know w/how they get away with this. He said they can't open the window because it stinks. Heather Owens stated the ordinance states the garbage can only be put out the night before picking up and so that could probably be easily addressed so that after picking up the receptacles are taken to the back of the property.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

Mr. Motyka stated they put in about 8 hours in and probably have about 3 more hours to put in up at the baseball field and we will then have three new pickleball courts.

Mayor Slaby then performed the swearing in of Bernard Novakoski to the Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Municipal Authority Board and Marlin Hodge to the remainder of Mr. Bradley's term on council and Mr. Robert Fanella to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term through the year end created by Marlin Hodge resigning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The April 12, 2023, Meeting was adjourned by the call of the Chair.

Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary

Approval date – May 10, 2023