

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 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 July 12, 2023

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

ABSENT: Joseph Dowkus

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Solicitor Edward Greco, Borough Supervisor Ed Begis, Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk and Code Official Heather Owens.

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, John Grinaway, Sandra Tosca, Joe Politza and Erika Noll

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

Sandra Tosca stated she sent a letter to the mayor and council recently and then spoke on the rat condition next to her parents' home. She stated she is here concerning 728 Oak Street which is next to her parents' home. She stated they had lived at the property prior to the people moving in to 728 Oak adding it was her grandparents' property. Ms. Tosca stated it is absolutely a shame, the deterioration that has occurred and the garbage that is piling up to the point that rats are in the property next to her parents. She stated yesterday her 87-year-old mother was cleaning out her garden shed where she stores birdseed for her father, because one of the things he enjoys is watching the birds and a rat had got into it.

Ms. Tosca addressed the mayor and council, then stating, "you are elected to protect the citizens of this community and the health and safety of the citizens." Sandy Tosca stated the property next door is blighted, disgusting and the odor that comes from there, something needs to be done it is a health issue.

Heather Owens the code officer stated this property is 728 Oak Street and stated she has said several times we should board it up, he is a squatter and does not belong there. Heather Owens stated she posted it, and he took it down and stood in front of her car one day not letting her leave, flipping out like a lunatic.

Mayor Slaby questioned Heather if this was the property, she contacted him regarding that property. Mayor Slaby stated he wants to confirm he did receive her letter and assured her he has gone numerous times over the last couple of months to that home. Mayor Slaby stated he had not gotten anywhere. Mayor Slaby agreed it is atrocious down there and stated based on what the code officer sent to him; he is going to discuss it with the Solicitor because something must be done.

Ms. Tosca stated she saw a young man walk out of the house yesterday and stated she has seen him take a baby in there, which she cannot believe there could be a child in there and stated people come and go there all the time. Mr. Bielskie questioned if the property was posted. The code officer replied, stating she has posted it, but he keeps taking the postings down.” Mr. Bielskie stated he will go and post it and then will call PPL and have the power disconnected.

Mr. Chesney stated he has seen individuals going in and out and stated right now the grass is 8” or 10” tall or more. He said it is time we become super aggressive with these issues throughout town. Mr. Chesney stated he does not know if we could publish it in the paper, but if we could he would even help to pay for it. Mr. Chesney stated you put in the paper Pig Pen and their name after it and that you are a disgrace to the heritage of Kulpmont. Mr. Chesney stated the solicitor would need to investigate this if we could do that.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert Slaby)

Mayor Slaby stated he just wants to say he hears what Mr. Chesney is saying, loud and clear. He continued to say surrounding communities have the same problem and stated he is not passing the buck.

Sandra Tosa stated she would just like to say she understands how hard it is to be in these positions and stated she worked in state government for 35 years and had to take on very unpleasant situations because people were not following their regulations. She stated at the same time, if she did not take them on, it only would have cause safety issues to the traveling public and people could have been killed. She stated allowing blight to continue in a community only propagates blight.

Chief Mazzeo stated he spent 10 years working in Sunbury and stated they had a much larger code department and most recently talked with someone from Sunbury. Chief Mazzeo stated the next step may be something people in this town dont want to hear but would be Administrative Search Warrants by Codes and the Solicitor. He stated some people will not leave stating 1027 Chestnut Street was a long-drawn-out process but is now boarded over. He stated that is what worked in Sunbury and where he is from. Mayor Slaby assured Ms. Tosca again, he would do whatever he possibly could do.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated a motion is needed to approve the meeting minutes from the June 7th meeting.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the meeting minutes from the June 7th, 2023, meeting.

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

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from the following:

Weist, Muolo, Noon, Swinehart & Bathgate – RE: Mt. Carmel Dist. Industrial Fund, Inc. additional account identified, \$6,385.52 after legal fees \$5,785.52 check to the borough.
Copy Council/ Mayor

Solicitor Greco stated just to clarify the Mr. Carmel Dist. Industrial Development Fund, Inc. was petitioned in court some years ago to distribute that between 6 municipalities. The Court approved splitting equally between the six municipalities and as far as we know there are no more additional funds.

Kulpmont 100 – Thank you letter for the fund drive donation – Copy Council/Mayor

Sandra Tosca – Regarding property owned by her parents at 727 Chestnut Street, concerning issues with Oak Street Property, Copy Council/Mayor

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated the financial statement and bills to be paid are attached and approval is needed.

MOTION- A motion was made to pay the bills and accept the financial statement and approve payment for the Actuarial Report, Preparation or GASB 67 schedule and 68 Schedule by Mr. Motyka and seconded by Mr. Novakoski.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated we received a municipal lien payment for 1017 Chestnut Street, a lien of \$540.00, \$54.00 interest and \$22.50 file fee for a total of \$616.00. Solicitor Greco stated the filing of the liens are working and payments have started to come in.

Solicitor Greco stated there was a discussion on PPL last month, he said he did send a complaint to the Public Utility Commission, and we did receive a response and said he forwarded that to Mr. Motyka. He stated it is through the informal complaint process at this point and time.

Solicitor Greco stated we talked about Kulp Lane, and following procedures of Borough Code and stated letters will be going out to adjoining landowners.

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

Report attached.

Chief Mazzeo stated he distributed an accurate monthly report and stated the numbers are up.

Mr. Hodge questioned the Chief if any of the part-time officer's work. The Chief replied Scandle worked twice this week and stated when Shamokin's overtime goes down, we should see some additional hours by the part timers. Mayor Slaby stated right after we announced officers from Shamokin was going to be helping us, Shamokin lost 2 full time police officers and so it has caused the city to have overtime. Mayor Slaby stated with Shamokin putting on two new full-time officers we may get a little bit of help now, adding something would be a heck of a lot better than what we have now.

Mr. Motyka stated there has been a lot of action on the ten hundred block of Chestnut Street adding the stabbing in Sunbury came back to Kulpmont, a lot of other incidents and questioned if an arrest warrant is served on a property if that is considered an incident on that property. Solicitor Greco replied, "yes."

Mr. Motyka stated just by what he reads in the newspaper the 3-strike rule should apply adding, he guesses it is not a rental. Chief Mazzeo stated he is there everyday and said the neighbors have cameras and are very cooperative. Chief Mazzeo stated the owner is wanted by Schuylkill County and the father has control of the property. The Code Officer, Heather Owens stated it is not a rental but now the owner is on the run and is going to be incarcerated for a long period of time, the deed holder no longer lives there and will now fall into a rental.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Kevin O'Hearn)

Report attached.

Mr. Chesney stated he would like to make a motion to pay West End \$3,000.00. A discussion took place. Solicitor Greco stated it should be on the agenda including a dollar amount. Mr. Motyka questioned if it is on the agenda West End, if we could not approve it. Mr. Motyka stated we approved the budget, and so why could we not approve it. After discussion It was decided to place this on the agenda for the August meeting including a dollar amount.

Ray Siko questioned Mr. Chesney for clarification on what it means fire department money. Mr. Chesney explained the borough receives money from the state Mr. Niglio interjected and stated we don't get money from the state, the money comes from the borough right from the general fund, taxpayer money.

Mr. Chesney explained since he was here, he said every year we gave the West End \$3,000.00 and thought it was from the state and each entity gets \$3,000.00. A conversation took place and Mr. Niglio stated the money does not come from the state it comes right out of the general fund. Mr. Chesney stated every year since he has been here the money was given to the West End and he thought it came from the state, he then said he stands corrected and that it was a misunderstanding on his part.

Raymond Siko stated he believes since the fire department's equipment is housed here, no money goes there at all. Mr. Niglio replied, no because we pay all the bills. Mr. Niglio stated it is just a general allotment.

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 is attached.

Heather Owens stated the number for a rental property and the landlords, since we have been looking into the missing taxpayers, the rentals went up by 18 new landlords.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Residents enrolled in the food program are reminded of the food distribution to be held on July 20, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella stated the Hahn has been moved to the Schuylkill Historical Society and we received the plates back and so it could be removed from the insurance policy.

Mr. Fanella stated that he received pricing to compare to the current cost of the dumpster, which is \$120.00 vs \$149.50, which is a savings.

MOTION – Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Motyka to switch to Brents Trash Service for dumpsters.

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

Mr. Fanella stated he received the best price from Meckley's and stated we are planning to get a ton of hot asphalt and tar to see how it works. Mr. Fanella stated we will see how it works with some of the deeper potholes. He discussed a motion to purchase and see how it works. A short discussion took place and Mr. Niglio stated it is regular maintenance and stated he does not think we need a motion. Mr. Fanella stated we will need a propane tank to do this, and stated Lowes came up with \$200.00 for the tank.

Mr. Fanella stated the street sweeper was repaired by Brents and stated the repair cost was \$200.00.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to pay Brents \$200.00 for the Street Sweeper repair.

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

Mr. Fanella stated the bobcat window needs to be repaired and the price we have is \$476.25.

MOTION – Mr. Fanella made the motion to purchase a window and have it installed in the Bobcat and seconded by Motyka.

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

Mr. Fanella stated we need the tire repaired or replaced on the backhoe. To Repair it will be \$450.00 to \$500.00.

MOTION – Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to repair the backhoe tire from Weavers.

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

Mr. Fanella read the letter from the West End Fire Association submitted by Mike Sinopoli. Mr. Fanella stated I will read the letter and it reads as follows.

The West End Fire Association has purchased a side-by-side vehicle with the intention to be used as an off-road rescue and brush fire vehicle. As Borough has the final say in the

decision to put this apparatus into service, we are asking for approval to do so. The unit will then be outfitted to be ready for service, adding a skid unit with a pump, water tank, lighting etc. Once the vehicle is ready to be put into service a letter to the 911 center will need to be provided by the Borough Council approving the vehicle to be put into service as part of the fire company.

Mr. Fanella stated once it is ready, we need to write a letter to the 911 center and put it on the FOX calls.

Raymond Siko stated the Fire Department is unaware of any of this and a letter will not be sent to the com center because that needs to be done through the fire department. Raymond Siko stated someone did this on their own and stated they have never been officially notified of this. He continued to say the only way they knew of this was because Mr. Sinopoli had been filling them in. He stated this is a dream that happened, and he is here tonight because he this is what he heard was going to happen.

Raymond Siko stated the fire department officials are responsible for the fire department in this town, not the West End Fire Association. He stated he does not know how this came about but stated we best will have a meeting with our fire department representatives because he knows a letter to the COM center will not be accepted because that is not their policy, that comes from the fire chief of the Borough. He stated he does not know how this came about but he highly recommends that we have a meeting with the fire department to sort this out because ultimately your fire chiefs in this town are responsible for the emergency services in this Borough.

Raymond Siko stated if that is recognized as a fire department unit, you must be a member of the fire department, not of the West End Fire Association. Raymond Siko questioned Solicitor Greco if that is an ordinance. Solicitor Greco replied he is looking at it right now. He stated he highly recommends that and said he cannot speak for the other chiefs, but they were not made aware of this.

Mr. Chesney responded and said he understands his point but thinks a valid point that must be discussed is that in the fire department the chiefs and everybody else oversee that, the practices and everything that goes along. Mr. Chesney stated we are so benefited by everything that happens in that fire department, but he stated he knows for years we have been saying we have a fire department with two units.

Raymond Siko stated in 1992 the Kulpmont Volunteer Fire Department was formed and the active firefighters from Kulpmont Fire Company #1 and the West End Fire Association # 2 if they met the requirements were members of the Fire Department as active firefighters having all their training in place.

Raymond Siko stated the West End Fire Association no longer has any firefighting equipment. He stated the equipment is next door, as a consolidation to get in one building and all the equipment housed in one place. Raymond Siko then asked if we needed this, don't you think we would have one by now. He stated we could have alleviated all this instead of circumventing the system, we could have alleviated all this

by meeting with the fire officials and stated he said it time again you need to include the fire officials when decisions are being made about active members of the departments firefighting equipment. Raymond Siko stated what your being told as far as letters being sent does not happen. He stated he intercepted the emails about what they want to call it and those numbers no longer exist, you have one station in the Borough of Kulpmont, station 200 and that is it. Raymond Siko stated that is recognized by the County, Emergency Management Agency, the Northumberland County Fire Chiefs Association and Mutual Aid Companies. Raymond Siko recommended we need to have a meeting.

Mr. Chesney stated since he has got on council and has had a couple meeting with him, he cannot understand in a community like this where our fire department is so crucial part of the safety of the community, we are so blessed that we have such an active fire department, according to what he has found out in his own investigation, the final decision on any borough activity for the safety of our community comes from this body right here, not a fire chief.

Mr. Chesney stated the same day he saw Raymond Siko helping an individual with his truck, he also spoke to our county emergency official, and he said it would be a very terrific piece of equipment to have. Raymond Siko asked who that would be. Mr. Chesney replied saying it was Stephen Jeffries. Raymond Siko asked Mr. Chesney if he would like him to get him on the phone. Mr. Chesney replied, "hell yeah." Mr. Chesney stated he said searching for lost hikers, someone in the woods or if there were a fire in that area it would be a useful piece of equipment to have.

Raymond Siko responded saying there are six of them surrounding us that already respond to calls and asked who it is that will man this piece of equipment. Mr. Chesney replied saying, "The people from the West End Department." Raymond Siko replied, "no, they are not a member of the fire department." Mr. Chesney asked why aren't they? Raymond Siko replied to him stating it is because they have no active people, they have two that come to run with them, that's it.

Raymond Siko stated now there are Facebook post "we need members." Raymond Siko said he does not care if 7,000 people join at the West End, he would wish them the best of luck, but they are still not members of the fire department, members of the fire department that are covered by our workman compensation. Raymond Siko directed a statement to Rhonda saying you have a list of the members of the fire department as well as apparatus operators.

Raymond Siko stated this is what he means, they knew nothing and could have alleviated all of this. Raymond Siko stated no disrespect intended but he has said it once and will say it again, when you have a pothole you go to Ed, when you have a crime, you go to Chief Mazzeo, when it is time for something from the fire department you forget about us.

Mr. Chesney stated he disagrees and stated it is extremely frustrating and everything else, there are so many things he does not understand about the history of this and stated it

seems to him that personality is the biggest issue we are facing. Mr. Bielskie suggested a meeting with the fire department. Raymond Siko asked if we could have this meeting as soon as possible. Raymond Siko stated he will be placing a call to Mr. Jeffries in the entryway, unfortunately, he is the emergency management coordinator not the director of the 911 center. Mr. Chesney asked Raymond Siko if he wanted him to come with him to make that phone call.

Mr. Bielskie stated he will talk with Mike Sinopoli and see how fast we can get a meeting. Raymond Siko replied, "sure, Mike has been keeping them in the loop."

Mr. Motyka commented to Council President, Mr. Hodge, Mr. Dowkus and Novakoski are on the Fire/EMA/Police Committee.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated we had a meeting a few months ago and received a list which was turned over to our tax collector. Mr. Motyka stated the tax collector said the list was very helpful. Mr. Motyka stated we could go back five years for the found taxpayers. Mr. Motyka stated the council will need to decide how far back we are going to go back for the for-occupation assessments. Mr. Chesney stated the gentleman that was here said that could be difficult and said getting them on now and going forward.

Mr. Motyka stated he also said the statute of limitation is going back five years and asked why wouldn't we, these individuals have been not paying their entire lives since they have turned 18 and stated it is councils decision as a democratic vote going forward from this year..... Mr. Chesney interjected saying, possibly going back one year, but going back five he thinks will open a rabbit hole.

Mr. Motyka stated we have spent the past year trying to find these missing taxpayers, they have never paid and asked do we want to get some of the money or do we just want to move forward. Mr. Chesney replied, "whatever makes sense." The council looked to the solicitor for some clarity. Solicitor Greco said during that meeting Jason Lawson did indicate there would be some difficulty going back five years. Mr. Motyka stated he also was the one that said there is a five-year limitation. Solicitor Greco stated he also recognized the difficulty and said certainly it is the council's decision.

Solicitor Greco stated you may get bogged down fighting those appeals, spinning our wheels vs. getting our money and moving forward which is still a boost to the borough. Mr. Niglio questioned if they would not be classified as delinquents. The solicitor stated if you classified them as delinquents, they have not received notice and with penalties and interest, they haven't received notice. Mr. Motyka stated if we give them notice and they don't pay the two, three or five years whatever the council decides, then a year from now they will become delinquent and asked if that was correct.

Solicitor Greco stated they will get notice this year but to say they are delinquent for four or five years, that could be difficult. The solicitor then said he would do whatever the

council decides and asked the Treasures, Paul Niglio what he thinks. Paul Niglio asked who was going to do this, and asked are we were going to have our solicitor do it and pay him a large sum of money and gain nothing vs. or would the earned income tax collector do this, and it would cost us nothing.

Mr. Motyka questioned if our current tax collector would do it and take his fee out as he does with collecting taxes now. Mr. Niglio stated he can't, his responsibility ends this year at the end of the year and stated he is not liable for any past taxes due and so he may not be able to collect them. Solicitor Greco suggested we reach out to Jason Lawson again and find out if we decide to go back, how do we do it and what is the approach.

Mr. Motyka stated it should be a democratic vote but added he personally would like to see them pay for what they haven't paid for in twenty years. Mr. Motyka stated even last year is a complication from what we are discussing now. Mr. Motyka asked if we talk to Jason over the next month, if we could act upon this at the August meeting. Mr. Chesney agreed if we had total plans and reality that it would be possible, that's going to be tough.

Solicitor Greco stated he will talk with Jason Lawson. Mr. Motyka stated we found these individuals and we don't know if they are on the high-end Lawyers, Doctors, etc.... or Laborers. He asked do we classify them on the high end and then they appeal.

Mr. Niglio stated if they are not assessed correctly, they would call down to the county and you have it changed. Mr. Niglio stated the assessor is the county. Mr. Niglio stated our tax collector is not an assessor, he does not assess anybody; our tax collector is not an assessor. Mr. Motyka questioned if these calls would be fielded by the county. Mr. Niglio replied, "they would have to be fielded by them since that is where they come from.

Mr. Motyka stated that there are a lot of questions and stated we need to have another conversation with our tax collector and the recovery firm as well. Solicitor Greco stated he will contact Jason Lawson. Mr. Motyka stated this was a long road and just wants to make sure we do it right from now on and to the agreement of everyone in this room.

Mr. Motyka stated he would like the finance committee to meet next week, Mr. Chesney, Mr. Hodge and himself, and then asked the Treasurer Paul Niglio to get together and look at the grant numbers and get it all on paper before the next meeting. Paul Niglio agreed and said he will be back on the 30th. Mr. Niglio stated he will be back on the 30th.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Joseph Dowkus)

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to adopt the Overhead Wire Ordinance 2023-04.

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

Mr. Motyka asked the solicitor to send a letter to ATT, Verizon, Comcast and Service Electric, the ones that have wires above our streets and households.

RECREATION AND GRANTS (Mr. Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated the grant that was awarded as you seen and was explained in the paper over \$300,000.00 to help with some of our recycling needs. He said we still need to discuss that further but there is a good chance we will be getting a compactor to take care of cardboard and things of that nature.

Mr. Chesney asked Mr. Motyka if that efficiently or if there is something more that needs to be thrown into that.

Mr. Motyka stated the grant could be reviewed, adding we are purchasing a dump truck to be used with our recycling trailer, curbside recycling bins the borough has been out for some time now and advise as soon as the grant is signed, we establish to order the bins, in addition to the dumpsters and compactor there are professional services and engineer architect to design the weather protection for the piece of equipment, the compactor.

Mr. Bielskie questioned if it is a pole type building. Mr. Motyka stated it is more weather protection. Mr. Bielskie suggested something Mount Carmel did when looking for a building which included stamped prints and cost \$600.00. Mr. Motyka stated money is in the budget for this and suggested we solicit an architect for the bid specs.

Mr. Motyka stated since the Infrastructure ACT and Inflation Reduction ACT was signed by congress, he has spent hundreds of hours tracing where this money is and where it is going. Mr. Motyka stated he had a meeting on Friday with Oak Ridge National Energy Laboratory, and they asked him to put an application in for tomorrow to finance some solar power for the Borough. Mr. Motyka states he would like to recommend that he pursue that.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to authorize Mr. Motyka to submit a pre-application for solar tomorrow.

Mr. Motyka stated this is a pre-application and then we would move one. Mr. Chesney questioned if we meet all the qualifications. Mr. Motyka stated this a 100% grant, no match and stated this grant was made for small communities such as Kulpmont Pennsylvania. Mr. Bielskie commented that a lot of people are putting them in.

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

Mr. Motyka stated we received the bids for Wood Street, this includes a \$30,000.00 grant that would be split 50/50 with Mt. Carmel Township. Mr. Motyka questioned the solicitor stating Livic has determined the low bid from Sokol is a responsible bid that came in at \$39,173.00 and questioned if we could make a motion to accept the bid contingent upon Mt. Carmel Township's approval. Solicitor Greco agreed.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to accept the bid from Sokol \$39,173.00, \$1400.00 deduct, contingent upon the township's approval.

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

PERSONNEL- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

No Report

Mr. Motyka stated concerning the police contract, we made the motion to hire police and the FOP said you need to negotiate with us first. Mr. Motyka stated his advice is to submit the last contract adding a line, we are allowed to pay above and beyond, that money could be determined at that time. Mr. Motyka stated he feels that is common sense and how it should be said, to put it in writing we could pay above and beyond.

Mr. Niglio stated we don't have a bargaining unit; Steve has a contract. Solicitor Greco stated he does not disagree with that, the letter from the FOP, there should be a contract because we agreed to hire some employees, even part time. Solicitor Greco stated that is what he gathers the FOP has issues. Mr. Niglio replied, "we don't need to go by that."

Mayor Slaby addressed Paul Niglio saying, let's go back a few years and you have been here longer than me and when did we ever have part time police officers covered by collective bargaining. Paul Niglio replied, "never, they are at will employees and come and go." Solicitor Greco stated it seems they are trying to bargain for a unit that has no members. Mayor Slaby stated as far as he is concerned there is no collective bargaining unit until we hire full time police officers.

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

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

John Grinaway stated his garage is still blocked off and the last three meetings it was brought up by most of the gentlemen there is an ordinance against blocking a garage. Mr. Grinaway stated he has a difficult time getting out and cannot see traffic coming from the right and has almost been T-boned many, many times. Mr. Grinaway stated he spoke to Mr. Chesney last week and was almost hit again. Mr. Grinaway stated it is a Borough

Ordinance, you can't park behind a garage, yours or someone else's. Mr. Grinaway stated it is also a state law. He stated he checked with the DMV, and they said you can't park behind a garage. Mr. Grinaway stated he stopped at the State Police, and they said the same thing and said to see the Borough Officials. He said he told them he did, and they said the other thing you could do is see the District Attorney and stated he was gracious enough to give a few minutes to talk to him.

Mr. Grinaway stated a letter was sent to the Borough solicitor from his attorney in June. Solicitor Greco acknowledged he received it and responded to his attorney.

Mr. Grinaway stated you can't get out and all you people agreed there is an ordinance and asked that they do something about it. Mr. Grinaway stated he does not want himself or his daughter to be hurt or get into an accident. Mr. Grinaway stated as Bernie once said they fly through his alley and stated they fly through his alley also.

Mr. Bielskie stated he has the same problem, someone new moves in and they don't know until you catch them and talk to them. Mr. Bielskie stated and sometimes you get a cocky one and then you must call the police. Mr. Grinaway stated he called the police chief on June 8th and he came down and looked at it and said he didn't have a problem with how they parked. Mr. Grinaway stated Mayor Slaby has been down and he didn't see a problem, the 1200 block of Scott is very congested.

Mr. Grinaway stated it was also suggested he put in for a handicap sign and park out front and asked why he should do that, he has a parking spot and said let them move out front where there are spots and said it is not his problem that they have a second vehicle and can't park in their garage. He stated they need to stand in the alley and watch the traffic side, so he does not get run into and stated he does not feel this is right and stated, "enforce the ordinance."

Mr. Grinaway stated he has also talked to the code officer about other issues with garbage such as smells, garbage, etc... Mr. Bielskie stated he lives up to him and stated he will also keep an eye on it.

The Borough Supervisor Ed Begis stated on behalf of the street department he would like to thank Mr. Chesney for the shelves he donated to be used at the borough garage and Mr. Motyka for donating cabinets and lockers they will be able to utilize. Ed Begis also thanked Mr. Fanella and Mrs. Wilk for being there to answer questions when he needed answers and stated he appreciates it.

Mr. Begis stated also with street sweeping one-way streets they will go in the direction of the street on the right side first and come back and do the left. Mr. Begis stated just so everyone knows the traffic pattern may have changed, following the direction of traffic flow.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

Mr. Fanella stated they started down at the sewer authority to take payments with credit and debit cards. There are no fees to the authority the customer is charges a fee and would just need to let them know they would be charged a fee. He stated he has the information and just to let everyone know we will check into it for possible use here in the borough.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT of the July 12, 2023, meeting

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Approval date – August 9, 2023