

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 14, 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 June 14, 2023

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

ABSENT: Treasurer, Paul Niglio

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, Erika Noll and Geraldine Olearnick

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 May 10th and the April 19, 2023, meetings.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the meeting minutes from the May 10th and May 31, 2023, meetings.

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

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from the following:

Kulpmont 100- First Responders Day Sept 9th, 2023, Copy Mayor/Council
Rhonda Wilk stated this was addressed and approved by council at the June 7th special meeting.

A resignation letter was received from Douglas Katalinas, resigning on July 7th Copy Mayor/Council
Rhonda Wilk stated action was taken on June 7th accepting his resignation.

Department of Economic Development and Planning – Notification our application has been awarded contingent upon the full execution of the attached Grant Agreement. (Portion of County’s allocation of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) Copy Mayor/Council

Request from the fire department to use the Veterans Memorial Field on Saturday August 12th, 2023, for their first annual Community Day. Questions should be directed to Marshall Mirarchi III Assistant Fire Chief. Copy Mayor/Council

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney approving the use of the Veterans Memorial Field on August 12th for community day.

Mayor Slaby questioned what time this would be held. Rhonda Wilk replied stating they did not provide time in the correspondence and stated she would contact Mr. Mirarchi concerning the time.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from Holy Angels Parish concerning the Annual Parish picnic to be held on August 4th and 5th, firework display on Saturday August 5th beginning at 9:45 p.m. lasting 15 minutes. Seeking permission. A letter requesting permission to use the field has been sent to the code officer at Mt. Carmel Township as per their request in 2018. Copy Mayor/Council

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve the request to allow the Holy Angels Parish picnic to be held on August 4th and 5th.

Mr. Dowkus questioned permission to close Fir Street for the picnic. A discussion took place, and a determination was made this permission was given at last month’s meeting.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Mr. Bielskie 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 by Mr. Novakoski and seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he is requesting an executive session to discuss possible litigation.

Solicitor Greco stated multiple letters were sent to PPL Utilities concerning the usage and savings, anticipated of LED lights and have yet to receive a response.

Mr. Motyka stated in the last letter sent stated if we do not receive a response, we will contact the Public Utility Commission. Mr. Motyka stated we have seen a 50% savings in electricity and a 4% savings in our bill and stated he thinks it is price gouging and we should proceed with a letter to the PUC.

Mr. Chesney stated unless we send another letter asking why they have not responded. Mr. Motyka asked Solicitor to please proceed with a letter to the PUC and then motioned to do so.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to proceed with a letter to the PUC concerning PPL.

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

Mr. Chesney stated on going back, he does have last month's minutes here and to answer Mr. Dowkus' question, we did give permission in last month's meeting to close off Fir Street.

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

Report attached.

Mr. Dowkus asked Chief Mazzeo if he had any luck with new hires. Chief Mazzeo replied, “no.”

Mr. Chesney Questioned if any of the new guys were in over the weekend. Chief Mazzeo replied, if they were in, they were in to check their equipment.

Chief Mazzeo stated the issue is Shamokin has lost an officer, everything went up, he talked to Chief Siko in the last two weeks, hopefully that will zero out within the next couple months.

Mayor Slaby stated two recruits are coming out of the academy for Shamokin and stated that is going to help considerably and that will help Kulpmont also.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached.

Mr. Dowkus read the comments on the Fire Chief report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report is attached for April.

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

Report is attached.

Solicitor Greco stated we did receive payment for a municipal lien over the past month that was filed.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Residents enrolled in the food program are reminded of the food distribution to be held on June 15, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella stated a quote was received for an HP Desktop with windows 11, keyboard and mouse at a cost of \$925.00 plus \$95.00 per hour installation and to transfer files, set

up with an estimated time of 6 hours. Mr. Fanella stated the camera system is now running off a very old computer.

Mr. Fanella stated this computer would replace Rhonda's computer and her computer would replace the computer used for the camera system.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to purchase the computer at \$925.00 plus as per hour charge at approximately 6 hours.

Mr. Dowkus stated the installation cost of \$95.00 for 6 hours is \$570.00. just so we are clear on the cost there.

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

Mr. Fanella stated the Borough Supervisor phone is not holding a charge and stated he would like to upgrade the phone for the Garage.

Mr. Dowkus stated he would like to upgrade to a smart phone that he would be able to have email, research and have a source of internet.

Mr. Bielskie questioned Rhonda if we are on a government plan. Rhonda replied we do. Mr. Dowkus stated it would be beneficial to take pictures around town, it would be beneficial to him.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to upgrade the phone to a smart phone for the Street Department not to exceed \$500.00.

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

Mr. Fanella stated the Atlas American Legion purchased two benches for the dog park and they asked the Borough to pick them up when they are done. The council questioned where the benches were from. Mr. Fanella replied stating he was told Lancaster.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to allow the Borough workers to pick up the benches in Lancaster for the dog park.

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

Mr. Fanella stated the backhoe alarm is going off and the code will not come up on the panel on the dash. Basically, when that comes up you need to contact the dealer. Mr.

Fanella stated either we need to purchase the code reader, the software or have them come down. Mr. Bielskie questioned what the cost would be for them to come down. He stated he does not remember. Mr. Dowkus stated he thinks it was \$97.00 per hour or something like that.

Mr. Chesney questioned the Supervisor, Ed Begis if he or Greg Wasilewski has any idea on how to handle it. Mr. Begis stated they have not researched that. After further discussion it was decided to contact Medico to come down or to purchase software.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to spend up to \$1,000.00 to have Medico come down or to buy software for the backhoe.

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

Mr. Fanella stated concerning meetings with Aqua on the waterline replacement. Mr. Motyka stated that the public is aware they are looking at doing 1.5 miles of waterline in Kulpmont. Mr. Fanella stated when they are done, we will be the first Coal Region town that has upgraded their waterlines.

Mr. Dowkus questioned if the council should discuss the project in executive session. Solicitor Greco agreed citing it would be a contractual matter.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING- (Stephen Motyka)

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to spend up to \$120.00 to purchase 3 sets of pickle ball weights for the new courts.

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

Mr. Motyka stated we had a very busy spring cleanup project at the Veterans Memorial Field, Lamplight Acres and Town Park. Items were purchased for the volunteer event and various projects including shovels, gloves, sign hardware, paint, rollers, light repair at bridge and were paid for totaling \$452.39 by Mr. Motyka. Mr. Motyka is asking for reimbursement in the amount of \$452.39.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to reimburse Mr. Motyka \$425.90.

Mr. Chesney expressed concern and stated some projects done in the borough were not supposed to cost the borough anything. He stated he does not agree with spending money first and then bringing it to a meeting. It should be brought first to a meeting for discussion.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (no), DOWKUS (yes), FANELLA (yes), HODGE (yes), MOTYKA (abstain), NOVAKOSKI (yes)
5 YEAS – 1 NAYS – 1 ABSTAIN

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated the excavation ordinance was advertised.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to adopt 2023-03 Excavation Ordinance.

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

Mr. Dowkus stated he will need an executive session to discuss possible litigation.

Mr. Dowkus discussed an amendment to the renter's ordinance adding renters must have renters' insurance and those with pets must be registered with the county and have pet insurance.

Mr. Dowkus stated the issue of abandoned wires has been an issue and discussed in the borough. He stated he recently witnessed some of the wires being removed. Mr. Dowkus stated he would like to move forward with advertising the abandoned wire ordinance to be adopted.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to advertise the abandoned wire ordinance.

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

RECREATION AND GRANTS (Mr. Chesney)

Concerning the Low Volume Grant, no bids were received on June 9th by 11:00 a.m. as advertised. Mr. Motyka stated it was suggested to reach out to at least three contractors for interest to bid at a non-prevailing wage. Mr. Motyka stated he does not agree with that and stated he will follow up with Livic and suggested re-advertisement for bids for the next meeting. After a short discussion, a motion was made to re-advertise.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to re-advertise bids for low volume road.

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

PERSONNEL- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

No Report

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

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Geraldine Olearnick stated she lived at 601 Chestnut Street with boyfriend, because of violations they were evicted and had to move out of Kulpmont, according to the Ordinance stating they cannot return for a year after eviction. She wanted to inform the council and the mayor he is still living in Kulpmont on Chestnut Street.

Erika Noll of 745 Chestnut Street spoke and stated she wanted to follow up on what is being done on the 700 block of Oak Street with the rats, unlicensed vehicles. Mayor Slaby stated he stopped there and knocked on the door, the guys did not answer, and he will need to take stronger action.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

Residents are reminded only #1 and #2 plastics are recyclable. The recyclables were full of trash and plastic items that are not recyclable. This causes a problem for our guys and the Coal Township recycling center when it is full of trash. Cameras are in use and will be viewed, violators will be cited.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Father's Day

Council President stated council will now meet in executive session to discuss personnel and possible litigation matters.

Solicitor Greco stated borough council meet in executive session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss personnel and possible litigation matters.

ADJOURNMENT of the June 14, 2023, meeting

Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary

Approval date – August 9, 2023