

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
MEETING
May 22, 2024
For General Purpose
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 special meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday May 22, 2024

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

ABSENT: Stephen Bielskie

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Code Officer Heather Owens and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk and Borough Supervisor Edwin Begis

OTHERS PRESENT: Joseph Cesari

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

No one spoke.

Finance and Purchasing (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated we received a proposal from Mr. Balsis at Your Choice Energy.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to award the lowest rate with Dynegy for a 36-month term.

ROLL CALL VOTE- Mr. Bielskie (absent) Mr. Fanella (yes), Mr. Chesney (yes), Mr. Motyka (yes), Mr. Hodge (yes), Mr. Novakoski (yes), Mr. Staskiel (yes)
6 YEAS - 0 NAYS

Grants and Recreation (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Motyka stated in the pursuit of the two-million-dollar solar system, RETTEW gave us a quote to put the grant together of \$6,000.00.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to accept the professional service agreement from RETTEW in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Mr. Chesney stated the \$6,000.00 is now going to be changed in order to have that site grant because the stuff from the three politicians has been rejected and their grant writer got back to him or her, whoever it is, and they are going to try and construe a new grant and said that \$750,000.00 is out the window right now. Mr. Motyka replied stating our group has spent

probably 500 hours putting those appropriations together and stated we followed every direction our Senators gave us we got to the end, and they moved the goal saying you can't apply for this one, try this one. Mr. Motyka stated we went through the whole process again, that fell apart. Mr. Motyka stated Senator Musser, Casey and Fetterman, they fully support this application we are moving forward with today. Mr. Chesney stated the problem though, what if that is rejected. Mr. Motyka stated it is a two-million-dollar system, and the government will 100% give us 60% of that system and the other \$800,000.00 we would take out of our budget or take a bond or apply for grants. Mr. Motyka stated even if we need to finance \$800,000.00, the feasibility is still in our favor to make it work financially.

Mr. Chesney stated we are voting for \$6000.00 to research it and there are a lot of doors to open and this is slowly turning into or could be a problem. Mr. Chesney said if we are not guaranteed that \$750,000.00 and then we were supposed to get 70% of that 1.1 million which would have got it down in our pocket for \$345,000.00 that we would have still had to pay, and now we could be looking at over one million that we are going to need to pay. Mr. Chesney stated that array, construction and program support, there is a lot to it. Mr. Motyka stated they did all their math and a spread sheet; it is still favorable for us to move forward with the government paying 60% and us paying 40%, it is still feasible financially.

Mr. Motyka stated they are more than willing to come and discuss with us that spread sheet, if we would like them to come to the next meeting, they would be happy to do that. Mr. Chesney stated he did speak with Tony Mazzatesta and he said they would be happy to come and stated there is another guy with more expertise and it is better to own than to rent. Mr. Chesney stated right now we missed quite a few shots and just wants everyone to know that it is not cut and dry.

ROLL CALL VOTE- Mr. Bielskie (absent) Mr. Fanella (yes), Mr. Chesney (yes), Mr. Motyka (yes), Mr. Hodge (yes), Mr. Novakoski (yes), Mr. Staskiel (yes)
6 YEAS - 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated we had six bidders for several locations in town for storm water.

The Bid Results for the Stormwater project are as follows:

M & J Excavation	\$ 586,446.00
H & P Construction	\$ 640,051.91
Sikora Bros. Paving	\$ 647,199.00
CPA Pavement Structures	\$ 678,014.01
James O'Hare Inc.	\$ 823,455.00
Daniel Shingara Enterprises	\$1,400,698.00

Mr. Motyka stated we have \$850,000.00 in grant money for this project and so we are about \$300,000.00 under our allotment. He stated with the extra money we will do more storm water work.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to award the bid for stormwater to the low bidder, M & J Excavating.

Mr. Staskiel questioned concerns on what the bond. Mr. Motyka stated our engineer looked over and advised us to take the low bid. Mr. Staskiel questioned if he could do the work at that cost. Mr. Motyka stated if he couldn't do the work at that cost, he loses his bond. Solicitor Greco stated he looked over the bids and bonds. Mr. Chesney questioned when we go through that

money, this isn't concrete either, and that bid is not going to have to stay within a reasonable realm of staying as close as possible, add-on's or whatever, you know how that goes. Mr. Motyka stated we are going to have \$300,000.00, our engineers said for the councilman to put their ideas in, where we want the work to be done and we will get that information to the engineers. Mr. Chesney stated that ARPA money, supposedly \$500,000.00.

Mr. Chesney stated the Fir Street project the \$100,000.00 was for Fir Street, that money is gone where we put the culvert in and then we went up the alley with the extra \$50,000.00. Mr. Chesney said DCED said \$175,000.00 and growing greener was \$548,000.00. Mr. Motyka stated most of that goes to storm water retention down the Ramp Field, but there is about \$75,000.00 left, the DCED grant was that H2O grant, \$175,000.00.

Mr. Chesney stated you are saying as of today, that \$586,000.00 is coming. Mr. Motyka stated \$275,000.00 extra. After further discussion, Mr. Motyka stated we could review the numbers with Paul.

ROLL CALL VOTE- Mr. Bielskie (absent) Mr. Fanella (yes), Mr. Chesney (yes), Mr. Motyka (yes), Mr. Hodge (yes), Mr. Novakoski (yes), Mr. Staskiel (yes)
6 YEAS - 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated he is meeting with DCNR next week and stated we have to bid on all materials for the Ramp Field adding we should have all the materials on hand.

Solicitor Greco questioned when the date for bids to be in will be.

Mr. Motyka stated he has a meeting with DCNR and what language we will need and confirm the requirements, the motion would allow us to move forward. Mr. Staskiel questioned if we must advertise for bids. Solicitor Greco and Mr. Motyka replied, "yes."

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Novakoski to advertise for bids for the Veterans Memorial Project.

ROLL CALL VOTE- Mr. Bielskie (absent) Mr. Fanella (yes), Mr. Chesney (yes), Mr. Motyka (yes), Mr. Hodge (yes), Mr. Novakoski (yes), Mr. Staskiel (yes)
6 YEAS - 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated when we set a budget for the cardboard compactor and stated prices have gone up since it was quoted in 2020, it also went up because we are eliminating the raised surface handicap area for the loader machine and adding a conveyor and stated he just wanted to share that, no motions are needed yet. Mr. Motyka stated the quoted prices are at Costar pricing.

Mr. Chesney questioned some additional costs in looking over the quotes; Mr. Motyka discussed with Mr. Chesney his concerns and stated he should have more for everyone at the next meeting and hopefully design is further along, and we could bid that.

Personnel (Bernard P. Novakoski)

Mr. Novakoski stated the street department could use some help with the summer grass cutting and other duties and suggest the borough hires two students part-time to work up to 28 hours, hours as needed. After discussion the council agreed on an hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour. Mr. Novakoski questioned if they must be 18 years of age. Solicitor Greco questioned if they need to

be around equipment, safety wise I would say yes. Mr. Motyka stated we used high school kids for twenty years until it fell apart 10 years ago to mow grass, and questioned why we can't hire to mow grass, and weed whack and use our more qualified workers to patch the roads. Mr. Staskiel stated at the gun club the age is 14.

Mr. Novakoski stated any equipment he thinks they must be 18 because of our insurance. Mr. Motyka stated we have yellow lines to be painted at every corner; this would be a great option.

Mr. Fanella stated we would need to follow child labor laws. Mr. Motyka stated he thinks if we hire at 20 hours per week. After further discussion a motion was made.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to advertise hiring two students part time at \$10.00 per hour not to exceed 28 hours per week.

ROLL CALL VOTE- Mr. Bielskie (absent) Mr. Fanella (yes), Mr. Chesney (yes), Mr. Motyka (yes), Mr. Hodge (yes), Mr. Novakoski (yes), Mr. Staskiel (yes)
6 YEAS - 0 NAYS

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to increase Jason Boyers hourly rate by \$1.00 per hour.

ROLL CALL VOTE- Mr. Bielskie (absent) Mr. Fanella (yes), Mr. Chesney (yes), Mr. Motyka (yes), Mr. Hodge (yes), Mr. Novakoski (yes), Mr. Staskiel (yes)
6 YEAS - 0 NAYS

Service and Facilities (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated the 2016 Dump truck will cost \$17,000.00 to fix it and stated we have a new truck coming in. He stated it is currently at Sunbury Motors. A discussion took place on ideas about what we could possibly do. Mr. Novakoski stated if we would decide to sell it, the money would go back because it was purchased through recycling. Mr. Fanella stated we should have the truck brought back now until a decision is made on what to do.

MOTION- Mr. Staskiel made the motion and was seconded by Novakoski to have Sunbury Motors tow back the 2016 Dump Truck to the Borough Garage so that we do not pay storage fees for the truck to remain at Sunbury Motors.

ROLL CALL VOTE- Mr. Bielskie (absent) Mr. Fanella (yes), Mr. Chesney (yes), Mr. Motyka (yes), Mr. Hodge (yes), Mr. Novakoski (yes), Mr. Staskiel (yes)
6 YEAS - 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated Bucknell University wants to devote 2 classes to a climate action plan and climate inventory in town, they want to know if we are interested the information they collect could possibly be used for future grants.

The council agreed and was in favor of Bucknell Students proceeding with this project.

MOTION- A motion was made by Mr. Motyka and seconded by Mr. Novakoski to accept the resignation of Stephen Bielskie from the KMHJMA board.

ROLL CALL VOTE- Mr. Bielskie (absent) Mr. Fanella (yes), Mr. Chesney (yes), Mr. Motyka (yes), Mr. Hodge (yes), Mr. Novakoski (yes), Mr. Staskiel (yes)
6 YEAS - 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka asked any resident of the borough interested in serving on the Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Municipal Board to please put in their letter of interest submitted to the borough.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Joseph Cesari provided the council with pictures of a tank that would be brought in from Berwick for the car cruise. Mr. Cesari stated the tank equipped with rubber tracks. Mr. Cesari stated John Savitski offered his services to transport it into the borough and return it to Berwick. Mr. Cesari expects this to be a nice addition to the car cruise and is looking into the possibility of gathering some veterans to ride along.

Mr. Cesari stated it is about 15 tons, with the trailer. Mr. Fanella stated heavier trucks go through town daily and did not see a problem. Mr. Cesari stated the tank would come through town and then the car cruise vehicles would come up. Mr. Cesari asked if anyone knew an organization that would supply flags they could hand out and distribute to the spectators. Mr. Cesari asked anyone knowing where he could get flags to get in touch with him.

Mr. Hodge stated the priest just does not want the tank to be down at the church grounds. After discussion it was determined the tank would not be down by the church.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Chesney stated after talking with Heather, the meters to measure and challenge noise, there are too many variables that go along with that as far as temperature, humidity and stated there could then be the question of are you certified on the machine. Mr. Chesney stated what he thinks we should do is, if we get 4 or 5 complaints about a citizen complaining about noise and then an adjacent neighbor complains of noise, there is noise.

Mr. Staskiel stated in Shamokin the police are certified and measure noise complaints and so our officer should be certified and handling that, Heather should not be, she should have nothing to do with it. Mr. Staskiel stated the police officer should be doing it.

Mr. Fanella brought up an issue about the street sweeper signs. He asked the Solicitor to look at that. Mr. Fanella stated that since 2006 we have had signs and have ticketed vehicles but now suddenly, we are not ticketing on one side of the street because the signs are on the other side of the street. Solicitor Greco stated it could be challenged because if you're coming down the other side of the street you wouldn't see it.

Mayor Slaby asked if the signs were missing. Mr. Fanella stated there was never a sign on that side of the street; all signs are where we had a pole or a sign. Mr. Fanella replied they would need a lot of signposts; most signs were erected of telephone poles.

Mr. Motyka stated he feels we don't need those signs in the street, we have an ordinance. Mr. Novakoski agreed, he said we advertise it in the paper, it's an every month occurrence. Rhonda Wilk stated we advertise, post it, on website and on Facebook. Solicitor Greco asked Rhonda Wilk to provide him with a copy of the Ordinance.

Mr. Fanella stated donations were received from Kulpmont Sportsman Association, Inc., Britton Powersports LLC., Attorney Edward C. Greco, John McLaughlin, K of C Council 4281 and West End Fire Association.

Mr. Chesney stated there was another MAP meeting and stated hopefully by June 21st there will be something more definite. Mr. Chesney stated is for us three municipalities to use land use effectively and correctly which will then drift down into zoning. Mr. Begis and Mr. Skavery are heading that.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Chesney thanked all our Military Personnel for their service for today and all throughout our history.

ADJOURNMENT of the May 22, 2024, monthly meeting

Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary

Approval date June 12, 2024