

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
October 9, 2024
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 October 9, 2024

The roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Robert Fanella, Charles Staskiel, Stephen Motyka, Marlin Hodge and Bernard P. Novakoski.

ABSENT: Robert Chesney

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Treasurer Paul Niglio, Solicitor Edward Greco, Borough Supervisor Ed Begis, Code Official Heather Owens, Fire Chief Raymond Siko, and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Joe Politza, John Klokis, Susan Klokis, Jason Tandler, Jewel Newbern, Jennifer Snyder, Catherine Maciejewski, John Maciejewski, Marshall Mirarchi III, Kevin O'Hearn, Heather Rosetta, Alyssa Wharen, Trevor Shuder, Dalton O'Hearn, Natalia Leschinskie, Sydney Siko, Christian Urbanowicz, Brian J. Balchunas, Paul Rider, Matt Siko, Albert Rosetta, Greg Gensemer, Daniel Lesko, Douglas Katalinas, and two other participants.

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

Marshall Mirarchi Deputy Fire Chief of the Kulpmont Volunteer Fire Company. He stated he is representing all volunteers of the Fire Department addressing councils demand to move their training sessions due to parking concerns. Mr. Mirarchi stated written correspondence indicates a vote by council was conducted; it is clear by the live video footage of the meeting that a councilman demanded they make this change.

Mr. Mirarchi then stated this decision feels like an overreach to the members that volunteer their time to protect the lives and property of the borough citizens and surrounding communities. He stated this demand was made at a meeting that the members did not attend because they were attending ceremonies remembering horrendous attacks on America on September 11th a day that carries a profound meaning to Americans and especially First Responders.

Mr. Mirarchi stated the fire department sees this as a lack of appreciation for their dedication, traditions, sacrifices and a significant role they play in ensuring the safety of our community. Mr. Mirarchi stated being demanded to change a long-standing tradition particularly without adequate discussion or input is preserved as another example of the elected and appointed officials of the borough not fully understanding the operational and cultural needs of the fire service.

Mr. Mirarchi stated this includes the failure to appreciate volunteers that that have again for over three decades changes their work schedules, family events, daily routines and more to be able to attend trainings so they could be better prepared to deal with emergency situations for free. He stated changing this night may seem like a small adjustment or insignificant to some but can jeopardize their preparedness when responding to emergencies.

Mr. Mirarchi stated the members have always been mindful of the public spaces and respectful to the community's needs. He stated they do not believe this is an unsolvable problem as improved communication about parking availability could be explored without disrupting their training sessions. Mr. Mirarchi stated they are not opposed to construct a dialog and are willing to collaborate with council to address any genuine concerns about parking but ask this be done in a way that respects our volunteer's long standing tradition and operational needs and not through demands. He thanked council for his time.

Mr. Motyka stated the bank lot is becoming a junk yard and stated he would like to see a letter sent to them asking for them to vacate the lot of the junk vehicles and ask for their permission for the borough to utilize the lot for our meeting nights.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to send a letter to the bank and ask for the parking lot to be vacated of disabled vehicles and for permission for the Borough to use the parking lot for meeting nights.

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

Mr. Bielskie questioned if we think they are going to want financial compensation to use it. Mr. Novakoski stated he does not think they would have a problem with us. Mr. Motyka stated until we hear back from them do, we want to allow them to continue to have their meetings every Wednesday.

Mr. Novakoski asked what about parking for our citizens they also have a right to be here and stated it is just this place where we are at just doesn't have a lot of parking. Mr. Novakoski stated we will send the letter and see where we are at.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated we had a resignation on the KMHJMA and received a letter of interest to be appointed to the board from Mr. Russ Moroz.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to appoint Russ Moroz to the KMHJMA board to fill vacancy remaining until December 31, 2026

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

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert M. Slaby)

Mayor Slaby stated Trick or Treat will be held the last Saturday of the month on October 26th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to approve trick or treat to be held on October 26th and the Halloween parade on October 24, 2024.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

MOTION- Mr. Hodge made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to approve the September 11th and the September 25th meeting minutes.

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

Rhonda Wilk announced we are set up to accept credit card payments now in the borough, we have received our first two payments and everything seems to be going along fine.

Rhonda Wilk stated we received correspondence from Guyette Communications for the maintenance service contract covering the phone system and equipment.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the Guyette contract for the phone system for the amount stated annually.

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

Rhonda Wilk stated we received a contract for the automatic delivery. Rhonda Wilk stated she discussed the payment terms in the contract and explained to them our bills are approved to be paid at the monthly meetings.

She stated the contract also reads a credit card must be on file and was told by them that would not be necessary, so the contract is basically for the automatic delivery to continue.

Mr. Staskiel questioned what the going rate is right now. Mr. Niglio stated we don't have a fixed rate.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve and sign the B & B contract for automatic oil delivery as same terms as of now.

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

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from the Lions Club, the parade will be held on October 24th at 7 PM, and they requested support as in the past. Rhonda stated we previously donated \$100.00.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve a donation of \$100.00 for the parade to be held on October 24th at 7 PM.

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

Rhonda Wilk stated a letter was received from the KFBA for a bon fire to be held on the 19th at the West End grounds, she stated she was notified today the date would be changed to October 17th.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve the KFBA Bon Fire for October 17th at 6 p.m.

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

Rhonda Wilk stated a letter was received from Northumberland County and Economic Development and Planning that was regarding a project review for 55 South Fifteenth Street and stated that was copied to Mayor and Council.

Rhonda Wilk stated we received correspondence from Service Electric regarding product updates and rate adjustments for everybody and that was copied to Mayor and Council,

Mr. Motyka requested to reply to that with a copy of our Wire ordinance be sent to them in response, any wire not in use for one year or more.

Rhonda Wilk stated a letter was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation notifying of our 2025 estimated Liquid Fuels allocation and stated that amount is \$84,670.44 and that was copied to Mayor and Council.

Rhonda Wilk stated that a letter was received form the Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau for the 2024 judicial tax sale petition and distribution, that was copied to Mayor and Council.

Rhonda Wilk stated a letter was received from Northumberland County and Economic Development and Planning that was regarding SALDO, for Freedom 40 LLC, Copied to Mayor and Council.

Mr. Motyka stated we received a late email today requiring signatures for a change order from Livic, for Eleventh Street, he stated he thinks it was mentioned we were \$20,000.00 under budget or something like that.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to approve signing the final change order for Eleventh Street and was seconded by Mr. Fanella.

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

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated everyone received financial information and the bills to be paid and stated we will need a motion to approve.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve the bills to be paid.

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

Mr. Niglio stated concerning the financing and loan for the recycling grant. He stated the heavy equipment, the bailer and such, the building is going to require some cash flow. He stated we did some research, and we are limited to certain amounts based on our revenues for the simple fact at this point in time its October, any short-term borrowing, an anticipation loan must be paid off in the same year and so we won't really be able to do anything.

Mr. Niglio stated this would be a short-term loan, because the equipment is going to be reimbursed by the state. He stated it is going to be in excess of \$100,000.00 and stated we don't have that kind of cash flow, the truck we get \$40,000.00 and we could handle that but when you're talking \$100,000.00 it is a different situation and stated he does not know how we would handle that.

Mr. Motyka stated the purchase of the equipment is 30% down and 30% halfway through production which it is a 20-week production and then the remainder of that. He stated so 30% of \$147,000.00 or what the final number is what we will need. Mr. Motyka stated if we hold off to the New Year we have until October 3rd of 2025 to complete the project. He stated the weather protection and the roof to keep the water off the equipment is still in design and probably could not be bid until next year anyway for the building and stated we would need about \$50,000.00 right now to get the ball rolling and asked do we have that.

Mr. Niglio replied it depends on how fast we go through the funds for the drain project. Mr. Niglio stated there is cash in there from the ARPA money, but it is just late in the year and we are coming into January, February and March and the tax bills aren't due and so there is no revenue coming in until April. Mr. Niglio stated 15%, we may be able to do.

Solicitor Greco stated if we had to go for some short-term funding say under \$125,000.00 and pay off less than 5 years that is a small borrower. Mr. Niglio stated we would have it paid off when we get reimbursed from the grant. Mr. Niglio state there is another wrinkle coming up and that is the Solar financing and that is going to be big money and so we have to watch what we are doing with the cash flow. Mr. Motyka addressed Mr. Niglio stated they will need to meet and stated they could look at other options or just wait until the new year and if we need a special meeting we could call a special meeting.

Mr. Niglio stated concerning the MMO for the police pension and the non-uniform pension plans. The Non uniform our obligation for 2025 the plan is zero dollars and for the police pension our obligation would be \$9104.00. Basically, it is the same as last year, the state reimburses us for our costs and so we really don't have any obligation. Mr. Niglio stated in our police pension fund so far, we have earned more than 10%, which is over \$50,000.00.

Mr. Niglio stated our investments are safe and are not high risk. He stated there are a lot of people out there making a lot of money and a lot of people making a fuss that this economy is terrible and stated just so you know our investments are doing well.

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he did send letters out on the annexation of the Field to the Township Supervisors and stated they are going to look at it and hopefully get back with us.

Solicitor Greco stated he did a draft resolution on the hiring of Police and placed a draft in the mailbox of each member of council for review for consideration at the next meeting unless council is comfortable and wants to move forward at this time.

Solicitor Greco stated he has no report on the survey of Kulp Lane.

He stated the PPL, PUC there is a phone conference and that is scheduled for next week.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Stephen Mazzeo)

Mr. Motyka expressed his desire to keep hiring of a full-time police officer front and center and stated we received the sign on bonus grant and since then there is quarterly reporting to be done, and it is a shame to not use it.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to advertise for two full time police officers at \$30.00 per hour with \$5,000.00 bonus, advertisement to run once per week until the next meeting.

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

FIRE CHIEF REPORT - (Raymond Siko)

Chief Siko stated it appears that the “no parking” sign on Maple Street was vandalized for emergency parking and stated he is not sure. Chief Siko stated a posted no parking sign must be through ordinance correct. Solicitor Greco stated that is correct. He stated someone should report this to the police department.

Mr. Motyka stated it is an existing sign and already would have been approved and directed the street department to just replace the sign. Chief Ray Siko stated he wanted to mention the front ramp; there is a lot of cracking. Borough Supervisor Ed Begis stated that is on the agenda to be repaired.

Chief Siko asked Rhonda Wilk to provide the gentleman’s contact information to him regarding the smoke testing

Chief Siko stated the Spartan will be going out for inspection the middle of this month.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - (vacant)

Mr. Bielskie stated he has a home he posted condemned and stated he has an issue with a generator running in the garage and stated there was talk to move it into the home and stated his concern is that the carbon monoxide threat. Chief Siko stated he investigated it a little further

after speaking with Mr. Bielskie and stated there is nothing stating it is illegal and you cannot. He stated that will need to fall under the code. He stated if it becomes loud and obnoxious, the police may need to get involved for disorderly conduct, the only problem with that is it would only be a summary offense. He stated the manufacturer statistics of a generator state not to do it, but there is no law saying you cannot.

Solicitor Greco stated potentially it could be causing or risking a catastrophe. Mr. Bielskie stated he needs to get with Chief Mazzeo on an administrative warrant and see about him taking them out, he stated this is going on for over a year. For Chief Raymond Siko agreed and stated people down there are having major issues. Neighbors then spoke out and expressed their frustration with the situation and the timetable. A discussion continued and the Solicitor asked Mr. Bielskie to continue to work with him and Chief Mazzeo.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT- (Tri County COG)

No report

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

Heather Owens stated the report is attached and stated there is an appeal scheduled for tomorrow concerning an eviction.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES - (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated that food distribution will be held on October 17th from 8 am until 11.

He stated we covered the bonfires to be held at the West End.

Mr. Fanella stated the paving that was out on bid will start on Monday, which is Lamplight Acres, Ash Street from 10th to 11th and Fifth from Chestnut to Spruce Street.

He stated the contractor doing the drainage work will be back in town next week.

Mr. Motyka stated there was a truck restriction when all the culverts were caving in, all the work we did to fix that culvert. Mr. Motyka stated it would be beneficial to lift that restriction; it would probably benefit that truck to come up that alley rather than to come up through town.

MOTION-A motion was made by Mr. Motyka and seconded by Mr. Fanella to lift the truck restriction. and subject to review minutes.

Paul Niglio questioned if it is possible that road could be widened. A short discussion took place.

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

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

No Report

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

No Report

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE - (Robert Chesney)

Next month we will get more information about the walk works grant.

Mr. Motyka stated there is a share grant application out and Livic said they will submit it on our behalf.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to pursue Share Grant and do the resolution.

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

Mr. Motyka stated there is a DCED grant Livic is looking at. It is a \$50,000.00 grant, requiring a \$12,000.00 match and is due November 15th.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the Motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to move forward with the DCED Downtown Beautification Grant.

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

Mr. Motyka stated he would like to pursue the Low Volume Road Grant; the deadline is December 31st. He stated he would like to pursue that for Oak Street, 300 – 400 Oak Street.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to apply for the Low Volume Grant for 300-400 Oak Street.

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

Mr. Motyka stated on the MORE grant, energy efficiency we are moving forward with that and more information will be coming on that.

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

Mr. Novakoski stated he wants to meet with the personnel committee to interview a police officer candidate.

He also said a letter of interest was received from Devin O'Hearn interested in the EMA position for the borough and stated we will review his information.

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

No Report

Mr. Mirarchi stated they the Fire Department will have the area lit at 8th and Chestnut Street and will have personnel to cross for Trick or Treat.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Kevin O' Hearn stated on the 17th Beaverdale will be there for the Bon Fire and Strong.

OLD BUSINESS-

Mr. Motyka stated the improvements at the stadium are coming to and the Kulpmont 100 worked with DCED to obtain a\$160,000.00 grant. He encouraged everyone to go see what has been done up there adding there is a new scoreboard, a batting cage, and the pavilion is finishing up and stated it is amazing what was done up there and he then thanked the K100.

NEW BUSINESS-

Mr. Motyka stated next week in Ranshaw from 6 to 7:30, DEP choose our community as a rural hub across the state and stated they have funds for new electric stoves for people who want them and funds for home efficiency improvements. He stated that is October15th at the Brady Fire Company. October 15th.

Bucknell Students will be doing a climate action plan study and will be interviewing residents to see what improvements are needed in this town. He stated if you are approached it is not a scam it is a survey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Halloween

Mr. Motyka stated they will be down at the Ramp Field on the 19th and 20th putting the walls together for the new bathrooms and asked If anyone wants to learn along with them to put the walls up, they will be there on the 19th and the 20th.

Wine Fest will be this Saturday, enjoy the day out its 1:00 to 5:00 pm and VIP's get in at 12:00 noon.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary

Approval date November 13, 2024