

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
September 11, 2024
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 September 11, 2024

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

ABSENT: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Treasurer Paul Niglio, Secretary Rhonda Wilk and Fire Chief Raymond Siko

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Solicitor Edward Greco, Code Official Heather Owens, Police Chief Stephen Mazzeo, and Administrative Secretary Jewel Newbern

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Cathy Lacroce, Bonnie Nestico, Joe Politza, Dennis Zarick, John Klokis, Jason Tandler, Lyza Klein, Marshall Mirarchi Jr., Lisa Mirarchi, Brittany Shervinski and Adam

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Fanella stated we will now have opening of the bids.

Opening of the Paving Bids

HRI Inc. \$148,434.85

New Enterprise Stone& Lime \$129,325.45

Dave Gutelius Excavating, Inc. \$136,982.80

H&K Group, Inc. \$151,553.79

Fairchild Brothers, Inc. \$188,753.61

Mr. Chesney stated a motion is needed to award the lowest bidder, New Enterprise Stone& Lime out of Winfield PA, contingent upon solicitor's review and engineer review to complete paving project at \$129,325.45.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve and award New Enterprise Stone& Lime for paving project.

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

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert M. Slaby)

No Report

SECRETARY’S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Administrative Secretary, Jewel Newbern stated a motion is needed to approve the meeting minutes from August 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Hodge made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve the August 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Jewel Newbern stated a letter was received from Greg Sacavage, from Mt. Carmel Area Fraternal Order of Eagles, asking for groups and individuals to donate to sponsor a game. Copied to mayor/council.

Jewel Newbern stated an email was received from Mr. Ed Thompson and stated that Rhonda Wilk responded to him as directed by Service and Facilities Chairman, Robert Fanella. Copied to mayor/council.

Jewel Newbern stated that we received a letter from Benecon, our health care provider, stating that we need an additional employee enrolled by July 1, 2025, or it will be terminated by December 31, 2025. Mr. Fanella reassures us that Benecon includes sewer authority employees as well and the borough only needs one more employee added. Copied to mayor/council.

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Administrative Secretary Jewel Newbern stated all Council received a copy of the financial information and the bills, as well as additional bills to be paid.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka approving to pay the bills and additional bills to be paid.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (yes), STASKIEL (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)

6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Mr. Greco states that we have not received anything regarding the survey yet.

Mr. Greco states concerning he dispute with PPL there is a phone conference scheduled next month.

Mr. Greco states that there was a meeting held here with members from the county housing authority to address blight. He states Mr. Chesney and Heather Owens were in attendance. The meeting was to address at least five properties that need remediation. Mr. Greco states that there are funds available.

Mr. Greco brings up the Lamplight acres property as one of the main properties that is being discussed and includes an offer presented by the landowner to the borough to purchase the property and tear it down with the life funds. Mr. Greco states that he is unsure if there is an outstanding mortgage, which is considered a 'little speed bump' but stated we are moving forward.

Mr. Greco that there is a boundary change question regarding Veterans Memorial, it can be as simple as entering into an agreement with Mt. Carmel Township. If Kulpmont is interested in annexing the field, which adjoins the borough. He stated he suggests council sends a letter to Mt. Carmel Township to explore that.

Mr. Motyka states he would like Mr. Greco to write and send a letter immediately to Mt. Carmel Township regarding the Veterans Memorial Field.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to have a letter sent to Mt. Carmel Township.

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

Mr. Greco states that he will begin the process.

Mr. Greco states that he has reviewed some miscellaneous documents regarding the grants, recycling.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Stephen Mazzeo)

Police Report attached. He stated if there are any questions to let him know.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Report Attachment 2

Mr. Fanella states that we received a check for the damage to the Spartan and stated that the KME is back in service.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (vacant)

Vacant, no report

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report is attached.

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

Report Attached.

Mrs. Owens states that she has spoken to the owner of the property on Lamplight Acres, and he is working on getting her that satisfaction piece. Solicitor Greco asked if that will come from the bank. Mrs. Owens relied, “yes.”

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated that food surplus distribution will be held on September 19, 2024, from 8:00 until 11:00 at the borough garage.

Mr. Fanella stated that we received a card from our summer help and says he hopes they can come back next year.

Mr. Fanella stated the borough needs tires and rims for the two recycling trailers. The lowest quote received was \$1,120.00. He states that when they got inspected last year Paul said that he would give us another year. The holes are a little up long in the rims and that is why we need new rims as well as tires.

Mr. Fanella states that we need a motion to purchase rims and tires for both recycling trailers.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to purchase rims and tires for both recycling trailers for \$1,120.00.

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

Mr. Motyka addresses change order for restoring water budget. Mr. Motyka states that 11th street needs storm water. It was never in the original bid, but the bid came under and would like to add money to the project. Mr. Motyka states he would like to make a motion to improve the change order and add \$99,369 to complete 11th street as part of the storm water project.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to add 11th street to the storm water project for an additional \$99,369.00 to complete 11th Street as part of the project.

Mr. Chesney stated that he has a question before the roll call vote and asked if that is the money we have allocated. Mr. Motyka replied with that number we are \$45,000.00 short because they estimated \$125,000.00 in pending engineering bills, we already paid them \$20,000.00, if we don't take advantage of it now, we may miss the paving season, and we will not have the concrete and 11th Street will sit like that through the winter. He stated without Paul Niglio here, he as finance chairman said he feels we have the money to cover that.

Mr. Motyka stated we have \$75,000.00 left in the Veterans Memorial project and as an option; our engineer said we could take that money and allocate it to these rain guards that were already part of the project and stated we have plenty of money to allocate to 11th Street.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (absent), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (yes), 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)

Mr. Fanella stated concerning Sixteenth Street we are not credited as far as liquid fuels. He stated the Solicitor researched and it is listed in a deed. Mr. Fanella stated a few years ago the borough paved the street, and we will need to do a few things with an ordinance to have it on there to receive liquid fuel credit.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to move forward with an ordinance to have Sixteenth Street added to receive credit for it.

Mr. Chesney questioned if this is from Chestnut Street. Mr. Fanella stated it is actually Route 61 to Maple Street.

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

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Motyka stated to finish our bathrooms we received 1 bid in the amount of \$6,833.07 to buy all the wall materials needed. He stated we received 2 quotes for meter pits and underground plumbing to provide water and sewer. DCNR provided to us a letter yesterday to move forward. He stated we received a \$75,000.00 grant and we used about \$25,000.00, if we include these, we have about \$40,000.00 left in grant money to spend.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to purchase as DCNR direction for a total amount of \$10,926.58

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

Mr. Motyka stated we received a \$50,000.00 grant to do an energy audit on the borough building and fire department garage, and our borough garage. He stated they will use infrared scans and technology to find where any leaks are at. Mr. Motyka stated the grant will pay engineering fixes and any interest on a loan itself, so we will have a no interest loan to fix and deficiencies.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to sign the contract for the \$50,000.000 no match grant.

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

Mr. Motyka stated that work will be done on October 3rd.

Mr. Motyka stated we received a recycling grant, and we received prices on some equipment, he stated the prices that came in were at \$147,707.00 for cardboard recycle equipment and stated he wants to table that because there are some questions for the equipment supplier.

Mr. Motyka stated we applied for a grant for solar and we were not successful on that grant, but we have calls into Senator Casey, Fetterman and Musser. He stated the Governor's office is working on that.

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

No report, Mr. Novakoski requests an executive session at the end of the meeting.

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

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mrs. Nestico of Lamplight Acres commented saying it is fine and dandy you have all of this money for all of these things and asked if the council has driven up Lamplight Acres. Mr. Fanella responded and stated we just received and approved the bids and will be paving Lamplight Acres. She replied saying last time it did not last. Mr. Fanella stated it will pave the right way.

Mrs. Nestico stated concerning that fire house, directing a question to Solicitor Greco and asked him as a lawyer if there is any way he could repay her for the damage the rats have done to her house. She stated her furniture, drywall, the rats just came right in and did so much damage, two years and not a thing has been done. She asked the Solicitor as a lawyer if she has any rights. Solicitor Greco stated he is not here to provide her with legal advice. She replied saying she must get new furniture and is two thousand dollars into Ehrlich for rat control and you sat here doing nothing about it.

Mr. Fanella replied and said that is not totally true, you cannot just take someone's property over; he said he thinks the borough even cut the weeds the one time. A woman stated that was because she called, and it was only cut once. Mr. Fanella stated also the borough does not own the property. A discussion continued and Solicitor Greco explained and stated the borough is working on moving forward to use blight funds and tear it down, he explained part of the delay was due to being part of a police investigation.

Residents Bonnie Nestico, Brittney Shervinskie, Cathy Lacrose expressed concerns and problems with snakes and rodents and their frustration. Solicitor Greco stated the borough is working on trying to rectify by moving forward to tear down. Residents also expressed concern about children playing in that area. Mr. Motyka stated if this does not work, we will pursue criminal charges. A discussion continued on the fines currently being issued and, on the process, and different avenues and options to pursue.

Mr. Motyka stated as a citizen the Sons of the Legion Post 231 here in Kulpmont they have been raising money with a Chicken Barbeque and will have one next Saturday on the highway by Kulpmont Beverage. He stated we are bringing the traveling wall to Kulpmont next year on July 3rd, 4th, 5th 6th and 7th. He stated this is going to cost about \$10,000.00 and that is why they are fundraising and stated he is here to ask Council if it could be set up at the Veterans Memorial (Ramp) Field. Mr. Motyka stated in 2014 he was involved with putting it in Tharptown and there were thirty thousand visitors. He stated it will be guarded 24 hours per day by Boy Scout troops, themselves and Legion members but we need permission so we could start planning.

Mr. Novakoski stated by that time we should have lights down there because it will need to be illuminated 24 hours.

Mr. Motyka stated a letter will need to send stating the field could not be used for baseball July 3rd, 4th, 5th 6th and 7th. Mr. Staskiel stated that will include dog walking.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to allow the Veterans Memorial Field use for the display of the Traveling Wall and a letter to be sent concerning no games to be held on those dates.

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

Mr. Chesney stated we paused for a moment of silence before the meeting began and would like to reiterate back on 911 the horrific event of our country being attacked where 2977 American Citizens were killed by this horrible action and out of that were 344 firefighters, he stated at the Pentagon there were 184 people killed and at Shanksville there were 40 people on that plane.

Mr. Motyka stated on Saturday at 1:00 the Kulpmont 100 is sponsoring a first responder's parade through town and a celebration picnic to follow at the West End Fire Company to pay respect to those and all first responders.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Motyka stated we are having our second annual 5K race all money raised in town is spent in town, last year we had 120 runners. That race will be on the 28th. He stated it was so popular last year we are going to move the start and finish to the Ramp field, there will be live music and vendors from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm stating it was so popular last year we are going to pay for a live band and make it more of a celebration. He asked all to come and celebrate.

Mr. Fanella asked Mr. Novakoski to ask the fire company to change their one practice per month so that there is parking available for our residents wanting to attend our meeting.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to send a letter to the Fire Company for them not to hold their training on the same evening as our monthly meeting making parking available to our resident's wanting to attend a meeting.

VOICEVOTE-

Unanimous

Mr. Bielskie stated Council will now meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Solicitor Greco stated the Council met in executive session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Rhonda Wilk Approval date October 9, 2024
Borough Secretary