

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

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

ABSENT: Stephen Motyka

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fire Chief Raymond Siko, Code Officer, Heather Owens
Borough Secretary, Rhonda Wilk.

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Politza, Edwin Howerter, William Bradley, Jewel Newbern and Lyza Klein.

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated borough meetings will need to be scheduled and advertised for 2025.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to advertise the 2025 borough meetings to be held on the second Wednesday of each month with all remaining Wednesdays being reserved for Special Meetings for General Purpose if needed.

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

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert M. Slaby)

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed for the October 23rd special meeting and the November 13th regular monthly meeting.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the October 23rd and November 13, 2024, regular monthly meetings.

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

Correspondence was received requesting cones to block off the alley as they do in the spring to ensure the safety of the children for the Christmas Pageant to be held at Mother Pauline Shrine on Saturday December 14th.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the Christmas Pageant at Mother Pauline Center and provide cones to block off the alley from traffic.

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

Correspondence was received from the Department of Economic Development & Planning regarding Freedom 40 LLC and was copied to the Mayor and Council.

A letter was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection sewage planning regarding Freedom 40 LLC and was copied to Mayor and Council.

Aqua Pennsylvania Water Co. sent a letter regarding the Borough Garage at 860 Spruce Street notifying the borough of a replacement program for lead and galvanized line replacement and was copied to both Mayor and Council.

Notice of Sheriffs sale of Real Property dated January 16, 2024, was received and copied to Mayor, Council and the Solicitor.

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated financial information and a list of bills to be paid was provided and stated a motion needed to be approved.

MOTION- Mr. Hodge made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve and pay the bills.

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

Mr. Niglio stated a motion is needed to advertise the 2025 Tax Levy Ordinance.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to advertise the tax levy ordinance for 2025.

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

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to approve and adopt the final Budget for 2025 General Fund, Highway and Police Pension with no changes from the tentative budget.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Mr. Greco stated that he has sent two letters to Mt. Carmel Township solicitor regarding an agreement on the annexation of the property. Mt Carmal has taken no action rather than potentially litigate or pursue legal action. He suggests that a Kulpmont Borough committee can offer to meet with a committee of the township along with MAPS. He suggests that Kulpmont Borough should keep lawyers out of it and handle it “man-to-man”. Mr. Chesney adds it would be a good opportunity to bring it up at a MAPS meeting that he has been participating in. He questions why Mt. Carmel wouldn’t want to annex the property to us since we take care of the property. Mr. Fanella adds that the township handles police coverage, and the land is leased to Kulpmont. Mr. Greco says we should send a letter to invite Mt. Carmel township to a meeting. Council members agree to this suggestion.

Mr. Greco continues and says he has nothing back from Brinkash. PPL looks like its proceeding in court, February of next year. Mr. Novakoski mentions how the issue is being resolved after two and a half years.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Stephen Mazzeo)

Chief Mazzeo says the report is attached in the packet. He says calls for service are down, he says the reason is most likely because of the holidays. He says investigations are “way up” along with other numbers. He mentions again that numbers may look different because of the holidays. He says they are getting slammed with child abuse cases and other investigations.

Mr. Chesney asks if there has been any interest in applicants. Chief Mazzeo responds that there has been no one qualified for full time because of the effects from Geroge Floyd. He says that not many people pass background checks. He states that there has been a part time officer employed while Mr. Chesney has been away. He says that there is enough interest in part time positions that more hiring will most likely take place in January.

Mr. Chesney adds a side note to make people aware of more credit card scams and to be cautious when you get emails, letters, etc. Call providers directly to not be scammed and notify them that there is a scam. The discussion continues for a couple of minutes.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Mr. Siko says the report is attached. Calls throughout everywhere have been up lately. 3 nights last week they were at seven calls each day. He says that it is that time again and recommends carbon monoxide detectors. He states that there was an incident involving carbon monoxide last week and if you need help getting them or don't know where to get them contact the Fire Department. Mr. Bielski adds that there is an ordinance against any burning of fossil fuels including Kerosene, propane or heaters in the house unless it is installed in the chimney.

Mr. Siko says he is "putting his other hat on" to answer questions as the Chief of Police in Shamokin. He says he would like to clarify a couple of things that have been questioned. He discusses Shamokin police cars have been in Kulpmont and he is not allowed to explain why but they are in Kulpmont for legitimate reasons.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (vacant)

Vacant

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Mr. Bielski says that his report is attached.

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

Report attached.

Mr. Chesney says to Heather to keep her foot on the gas. He also says, "If people don't have pride, you have to pound it into them, financially... FINANCIALLY".

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella says the food distribution will be held December 19th 8-11 AM.

He says that there was a dead battery on the 2019 dump truck, and it required an emergency purchase for \$314.52.

He adds that they just received the fan clutch assembly parts for the dump truck and adds a little bit more.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella makes a motion for M&J Excavating Application 1 for \$414,779.50 and Application 2 for \$218,946.12 for the Stormwater project.

Mr. Bielskie asks if the project is complete. Mr. Fanella says yes, and Mr. Niglio adds that there will be one more invoice for the project since there were a few more items that needed to be completed. Mr. Fanella makes the motion and is seconded by Mr. Novakoski to pay the amounts. Mr. Chesney says he has one question for Mr. Niglio. He asks about the change orders and what they are caused by. Mr. Niglio explains that yes, it is after the original bid and that the issues were not identified and says it is not an easy replacement. Mr. Fanella says that the engineers make the change orders and Mr. Chesney says that he was unaware of that but now that he knows he wants to clarify that everything will now be paid for. Mr. Niglio stated with the grants that we have had for three years and that this is what the council decided to save the money for. He adds that the council decided to do this since our stormwater was very outdated. The council then proceeded to a roll call vote.

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

Mr. Fanella says that there is a deadline this year for Christmas tree collection. The deadline is January 17, 2025. The trees must be placed in the rear of the property for collection.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

No report.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)

No report.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Bielskie says he would like the ordinance committee to look into an ordinance for generator usage, especially in garages and other enclosed spaces, since the borough had the incident last week.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to adopt and pass ordinance 2024-04 on the trailers.

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

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney says that the list is already in vote and the borough has already begun payments.

Mr. Chesney states that the first one is \$131.25 and quickly moves on to the next item. He says Brinkash has a proposal for land development for an estimated thirty thousand. He mentions the

procedure, it's almost \$770 an hour and with the \$30000 he's proposing it won't give us even fifty hours of work. He then emphasizes that it will probably lead to a change of order.

There is a discussion about what exactly the council would approve of before a motion is made. The motion would be made to approve the engineer proposal for the solar project.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion to approve Brinkash Associates solar project proposal for up to \$30,000 and was seconded by Mr. Fanella.

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

Mr. Chesney mentions the Carboard recycling grant, and that Mr. Motyka requested a meeting with PP&L and Catino Associates to breakdown costs. Mr. Chesney adds that he does not think this grant is the best idea but is willing to break down the costs to see if it will work out for Kulpmont.

He moves to the last item, trusses at the Bathrooms at the Veteran Memorial Field. Mr. Chesney says that the borough will be asking for an extension on the project for 2025. Mr. Chesney then says the council will need to make a motion to pay the reimbursement bills.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion to approve to pay \$10,703.68 for the restroom project and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel.

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

There is a discussion about the outlined costs under the last point and that everything is covered in the \$10,703.68 motion. Mr. Bielskie says that if anyone has any questions to ask Mr. Chesney and he replies "no, don't ask me anything about that. If you want to know about Western Kentucky that is a different story".

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

No Report.

Mr. Novakoski requested an executive session at the end of the meeting.

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

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No one spoke

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

Mr. Chesney adds that he got an email that contains a series of questions regarding the solar project. He says the questions are excellent and should be gone over.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.