

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
January 8, 2025
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, January 8, 2025

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

ABSENT: Mayor Robert M. Slaby

Jewel Newman stated Solicitor Greco is attending today by phone.

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Assistant Fire Chief Kevin O'Hearn, Code Officer, Heather Owens, Chief Mazzeo, Administrative Secretary Jewel Newbern.

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter and William Bradley

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 M. Slaby)

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Jewel Newbern stated approval is needed for the December 11, 2024, regular monthly meeting.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the December 11, 2024, regular monthly meetings.

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

Jewel Newbern reported a letter was mailed to Mt. Carmel Township requesting to meet to discuss forming a joint agreement to annex the property at the Veterans Memorial Field.

A brief discussion took place concerning the possible meeting with Mr. Carmel Township to discuss the situation at the Veterans Memorial Field. The council agreed to further investigate the matter and stated we are looking into it. Mr. Fanella stated we have a lease for the property which is to be used for recreation. Mr. Fanella stated we need to sit down and stated we need to have a conversation since we have an investment down there that we could have our police patrol it and take care of matters that may arise down there.

Correspondence

Jewel Newbern stated under correspondence a letter was received from the County of Northumberland Department of Economic Development & Planning regarding the (SWMO) Northumberland County Stormwater Management Ordinance and copied to Mayor/Council.

Another letter was received from County of Northumberland Department of Economic Development & Planning regarding (SALDO) Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, copied Mayor/Council

Mr. Motyka questioned if we need to take any action, County planning said we have to use their stormwater and land development. Mr. Bielskie stated we need to investigate this; he said we have a choice on this and stated we can have our own engineer enforce this or it would go to county.

Mr. Bielskie stated it is ridiculous, for someone wanting to replace a roof over their deck with no additional water they still want to have the fees paid and look at it. He stated we could have our own ordinance and stated we should table the matter until the ordinance committee looks at it.

Mr. Bielskie stated Mt. Carmel Township opted out of it and we should investigate it also. He said the application form SALVO is about 75 pages long. Mr. Bielskie stated most municipalities have their zoning go through and that is it. He commented Ralpho Township has their own water management laws and stated they make anyone building a home put an on-lot wastewater system on the lot.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to table the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

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

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. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to approve and pay the bills.

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

Mr. Niglio stated the 2025 Tax Levy Ordinance has been advertised and a motion is needed to adopt the 2025 Tax Levy Ordinance. Mr. Niglio stated same as last year.

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

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

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Nothing on Kulp Avenue from Mr. Brinkash. He stated we are still trying to come to some sort of resolution with PPL, if we cannot come to a resolution, we will be moving to a hearing on that. Solicitor Greco stated he is working on language for a sign for Borough parking at the old Truist Bank and stated he has looked at miscellaneous items on solar and financing.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Stephen Mazzeo)

Chief Mazzeo says the report is attached in the packet. He stated any questions or concerns to let him know. Mr. Hodge asked for the status at 549 Chestnut Street. He stated the hearing is set for the 15th. Chief Mazzeo stated she owns the house so we can't just throw her out. Mr. Hodge stated, yes, but without any heat. Mr. Bielskie stated the house is condemned and by law she can't live there. Mr. Chesney wondered what was holding up the procedure. Mr. Bielskie stated he has a hearing with PPL tomorrow concerning this matter.

Mr. Chesney questioned the Chief about the report asking at the bottom it says total service 2022. Chief Mazzeo stated that is us, not the state police, just us.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Report attached.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (vacant)

Mr. Motyka stated we had a great applicant that applied and questioned if we can move on this, naming Emergency Management Director. Mr. Bielskie stated we have never discussed it at a meeting yet. Mr. Motyka stated the last couple of meetings it was discussed to review the application. Mr. Motyka stated Bucknell had just done those surveys for the Borough of Kulpmont and stated they said the improvement would be great if we appointed someone to that position, they think we are lacking in that position. Mr. Novakoski suggested bringing it up on

the floor and take a vote on it, everything seems to be in order. Mr. Chesney stated Devin had a very good resume and seems to have met all the requirements.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to bring Devin O'Hearn in for the position of Emergency Management.

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT- (Tri County COG)

No Report

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

Report attached.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated the Food Surplus Distribution will be held on January 16th 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the borough garage.

Mr. Fanella stated Christmas trees will be collected through 1/17/2025. He stated trees must be placed at the rear of the property for collection.

Mr. Fanella stated an emergency purchase for repair of the Fire Truck Room garage door was completed and stated that is all taken care of.

Mr. Fanella stated concerning the cameras at the Terry Miriello field, on top of the highest pole they were not sending a signal down here. He stated everything is still being recorded, just not sending a signal.

Stanley Steamer will be here to clean the vents on February 21st. from 8 am until 1 noon. He stated our staff will be working.

Mr. Fanella stated he needs to get with our committee on the dump truck, he stated all of the trucks we have a V plow, and this last one was ordered a ten-footer straight plow which make it a little tight on our streets. He stated something with the tarp system does not work properly. Mr. Fanella said to switch the plow back, because it was not used yet. Mr. Fanella stated it will cost an additional \$5,000.00. Mr. Fanella stated this is not on the agenda tonight and stated we will need to act once we discuss it.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

No report.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Chesney stated he spoke to former Representative Masser and stated some people have been asking for some information concerning the mill. Mr. Bielskie stated he understands people are taking stuff out of the mill daily and stated he does not have a permit and they are in the illegally as far as he is concerned. Mr. Bielskie stated it would be nice to see a plan of what they would like to do.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

No Report

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Motyka thanked all those who volunteered their time to work on the restroom project. He stated we have grants pending and many coming up. He reported we had a nice meeting with Senator Culver. He again thanked all the volunteers.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to pursue DEP Share Engineer Manager free of charge.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

No Report.

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

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Bradley of Kulpmont spoke and stated he does not agree with having to take the Christmas trees out to the back of their property. The Borough Supervisor Ed Begis explained how they handle that and asked if a problem exist to call the secretary and let her know. Mr. Fanella stated the Borough will pick them up in the front and asked that it be posted on Facebook to let residents know.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

No Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Report

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

Mr. Bielskie 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
Borough Secretary

Approval date February 12, 2025