

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 12, 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, February 12, 2025

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

ABSENT: Charles Staskiel

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Code Officer, Heather Owens, Chief Mazzeo, Administrative Secretary Jewel Newbern.

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin P Howerter, Rick Roughton, Chloe Roughton, Leanner Roughton, Joe Politza, Joe James, Ray Siko, Devin O'Hearn, Kevin O'Hearn, Lyza Klein, Dalton O'Hearn, Carol Whary, Gage Hertzog, Trevor Shuder, Albert Rosetta, Ryan Kerris, Heather Rosetta, Alyss Wharen, Desiree Malho, Michael Harwick, Nathaniel Scicchitano, Deb O'Hearn.

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)

Mayor Slaby introduced Devin O'Hearn as the EMA coordinator for the borough and administered the oath of office.

Mr. Chesney addressed Mr. Devin O'Hearn and asked him to explain to everyone here what his duties will be.

Mr. Devin O'Hearn replied stating, basically the EMA coordinator for the Borough locally would be working with the County, State and Federal officials if there was ever an emergency in the Borough I would handle funding coordination.

Mayor Slaby then introduced Ethan Roughton as a part time police officer and administered the oath of office.

The council congratulated, thanked and welcomed both Mr. O'Hearn and Officer Roughton

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Jewel Newbern stated approval is needed for January 8, 2025, regular monthly meeting and the January 22, 2025, special meeting.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve January 8, 2025, regular monthly meetings and January 22, 2025, special monthly meetings.

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

Jewel Newbern stated correspondence was received from Turf Pro concerning renewal of weed control and stated no price or contract was included. Jewel stated Rhonda called and left a message for Turf Pro requesting this information but did not hear back from them as of close of business today. Copy Mayor/Council

Correspondence was received from Northeast Industrial Services, Corp. Copy Mayor/Council

Correspondence from Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance for a 2025 Membership – Copy Mayor/Council

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to renew membership with the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance at a cost of \$30.00.

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

Mr. Niglio questioned if a motion is needed to renew membership, such as to the Mayors Association and such, if it is membership we renew each year. Solicitor Greco stated we should have a motion. Mr. Niglio stated if we put it in the bills to be paid, a motion would be made to approve or an objection at that point.

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. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve and pay the bills.

Mr. Chesney questioned the profit and loss sheet, there have not been any taxes coming in yet and so on the profit and loss sheet is showing. Mr. Niglio replied that it is correct to add that we do not collect any revenue until March.

Mr. Chesney stated at the December 11th meeting we made a motion to pay M & J Excavating application 1 and application 2 over \$633,725.00 and at that time it was said that money we had, and it would be paid and asked if that is still the decision we are in right now. Mr. Niglio replied, yes, it was paid for in 2024, in December. Mr. Niglio stated there was no Borough funds involved in that money. He stated that it was the covid money we received and the grant money.

Mr. Motyka stated he would like to thank Paul, Rhonda and Jewel for all the work they did to move to close out those grants, all on the verge of being cashed out and closed out. Mr. Chesney questioned if that also includes the \$548,000.00 Growing Greener. Mr. Niglio stated those are ongoing. Mr. Motyka stated they are being processed.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he had just received an email from PP&L, it was late in the day and stated we will have a conference call next week and stated he will coordinate that with Mr. Motyka.

Solicitor Greco stated he has not heard back from Brinkash yet on the survey for Kulp Lane.

Mr. Motyka asked if anything ever came about with the property on the 1200 block of Chestnut Street. Solicitor Greco stated the original hearing was contingent because he raised some objections because he did not think they had the proper paperwork together. He stated from the time of the original hearing and the hearing we had last week they provided all of the information and so he sent a letter to the owner of the property and called him three times to see if there was any interest in selling the property so we could acquire and tear it down.

Solicitor Greco stated he is the owner and any ongoing code violations, he needs to be cited every day, if he is going to own it, he needs to clean it up.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Stephen Mazzeo)

Report Attached.

Chief Mazzeo briefly went over the report statistics. Mr. Chesney questioned his coordination with the code, how far does that go as far as your part, the legal side of any infraction to help Heather to enforce this downright negligence of some of the ordinances and our borough code, per say, right across the alley. He asked if there is something you could do to help Heather to enforce ordinance and our borough code. Chief Mazzeo stated depending on the legalities of it, from the ordinances and criminal code. He stated he always does whatever he can do and said he coordinates with her all the time and said he coordinated with her yesterday. Stephen Mazzeo

stated as far as criminal enforcement, it depends on whatever the investigation turns up, depends on where that goes and depends on if it is prosecutable.

Mr. Chesney stated because right now and it is obvious, because you will trip right over it, in that yard right across from where we are sitting, that yard is a complete dump, and it has been that way for two weeks and stated something must be done. Chief Stephen Mazzeo stated it is an ongoing investigation.

Mayor Slaby stated he sat and watched the rats run from the top porch down to the alley. Mr. Chesney stated that it cannot be tolerated and just like we had a situation on the ten hundred block of Chestnut where there is all kinds of crap on that back porch.

Chief Stephen Mazzeo stated the problem is he is BOC certified and so if you can understand I do what I can do as far as within the limitations of the criminal portion of our ordinances and the crimes code, vehicle code, anything I am allowed to do.

Chief Mazzeo stated the public nuisance issues we discussed multiple times, that is difficult to prosecute. He stated that it is prosecuted through the District Attorney Office and stated there are issues the past and present District Attorneys have requirements for and stated he jumps through all those hoops and investigations are up and consuming a huge amount of his time.

Chief Mazzeo stated officer Petrovich has stepped up to help with various investigations and stated we do whatever we can within the limitations of criminal law.

Mr. Chesney questioned the solicitor if there was anything he could add to that and asked if we have legal leg to stand on or does Heather just need to keep cite and cite and cite them.

Mr. Bielskie stated he could get involved in some of it.

Solicitor Greco stated ultimately after several citations and found guilty with no action been taken, it could lead to the filing criminal charges under the nuisance. He stated there must be several citations that are issued and defendants found guilty.

Mr. Chesney asked if the solicitor could give Heather and the Chief a score card, that is if this happens or that happens it goes to the next level. Mr. Bielskie said it sounds easy, but you don't know. Solicitor Greco stated he is always available if Heather or the Chief have a question. Mr. Chesney stated he knows it's not easy

Mayor Slaby questioned if she was invited this past Thursday or Friday to a blight related meeting that was held in Sunbury. Heather Owens replied and stated she did not receive anything concerning blight. Mayor Slaby stated something that was sent to Shamokin Council.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Report Attached

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (vacant)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report Attached

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

Heather Owens stated the report is attached. She stated she would like to meet with the council in an executive session.

Mr. Chesney stated listed on the report is 91 landlords and asked if we have any idea of how many of them are out of town. Heather Owens replied and stated many are from out of town, but the landlord must have someone available locally when they reside so many miles from town.

Mr. Chesney stated we need to get very serious about correcting this downright disrespect of code and ordinance.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated the food surplus distribution to be held February 20th 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Mr. Fanella stated he is kind of confused as to why dump the truck was purchased the way it was, he stated all of the other trucks have center spreaders in the middle of the truck, this one is the left-hand side. He stated the plow is a 10 ft. plow and is a little big for some of our streets. He stated it was also changed from the brand that we had. Mr. Fanella stated to switch the plow, put on the box to match the other dump truck the cost would be \$5329.09. Mr. Bielskie questioned what we will do with the other plow, sell it or what. Mr. Fanella stated it will be swapped out. Mr. Niglio stated it would be paid out of the highway fund.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to swap the new dump truck plow and purchase new plow at a cost of \$5329.09.

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

Mr. Fanella stated he would like to advertise the street sweeper schedule for 2025 and omit October from the street sweeper schedule due to the number of leaves and problem it causes picking up leaves. After a short discussion among council members a motion was made to advertise and omit October from the schedule.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to advertise the street sweeper schedule for 2025.

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

Mr. Fanella stated the part-time secretary was not here when the motion was made for the secretary and the code office to follow the schedule set for the street department for raises and would like to see her included in that.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski for Jewel to receive a 3.5% increase retroactive to January 1st.

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

Mr. Fanella stated he would like to have a buzzer system for the front entry door and is waiting for a quote.

Mr. Fanella stated prices were received for No Parking signs for the former Truist Bank restricting parking for Municipal Building only. 6 signs and 6 posts for a total cost of \$152.94. Solicitor Greco stated we are waiting for bank approval of the signs.

Mr. Motyka stated he had just received a text message from Rhonda that approval has been received for the no parking signs.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to purchase the no parking signs and poles needed to be placed at the Truist bank lot at a cost of \$152.94.

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

Mr. Chesney stated while we are on the topic of parking, he stated he spoke to the Chief about people parking unmotorized vehicles on the street, and stated the vehicles have no engines in them or transmissions laying in the street. Chief Mazzeo stated the vehicle code, he needs the vin # that was posted and he talked to the owner's family. He said he couldn't get the vin # and when he gets it he doesn't know if it will be this week but he will then have it pulled.

Mr. Fanella stated we are working on getting a quote for the front door, very similar to what was put in place at the Sewer Authority and stated it is working out well. He stated there have been a few circumstances here at the borough building where having a buzzer system would have been beneficial.

Mr. Fanella stated he would like to send a request to the Fire Department to use the bank parking lot to make more parking for our meeting nights and citizens wanting to attend.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

No report.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Chesney stated the Amusement Ordinance we currently have; we are looking at updating and making clearer that fee per machine and a description of what machines would be included. He stated it proposes any coin operating machine and the fee being \$50.00 once per year, where right now it is \$100.00 per machine. He stated the draft is a proposal for the council to look at and review. Mr. Bielskie questioned Paul Niglio if it is in the budget for \$100.00. Paul Niglio replied whatever we got last year. Mr. Bielskie stated we will look at it for the next meeting.

Mayor Slaby questioned if there are any new developments with the old mill, he stated the water tank area looks to be coming loose. Heather Owens stated all the violations are being sent back to her and stated she got a new address from Trish and stated she has been sending them to that address and stated she also emails all correspondence but gets no response. She stated the whole back of the building is open now. A resident Edwin Howerter stated a pick-up truck is coming and driving right in there every day and taking whatever they are cutting down, they drive right in there. Mr. Bielskie stated until he was trying to get money to do something but until he gets some type of direction on what he wants to do nobody is going to give him anything.

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Robert Chesney)

MOTION- A motion was made by Mr. Motyka and seconded by Mr. Fanella to advertise bids for machinery to move cardboard roof for 30 days.

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

Mr. Chesney stated on the walk works program, Livic is supposed to take care of all of that and do the paperwork and asked Mr. Motyka if he is on board with that. Mr. Motyka agreed he is.

Mr. Chesney stated there is a resolution #779 to be adopted and stated there is a match for \$30,000.00 and asked if that is correct. Mr. Bielskie stated the resolution has matching funds of \$30,000.00. Mr. Motyka stated He, Willow, Jewel and the lady from Walk Works have been on 20 meetings together and have never seen a match, had said there was no match. Mr. Motyka stated we could just take that part out of the resolution. Stephen Motyka stated the matching funds of \$30,000.00 will be taken out, omitting it from Resolution #779.

Mr. Motyka stated in addition to that he is looking for citizens to attend five meetings over the next two and one half months. Mr. Motyka stated it is to talk about transportation, energy efficiency and waste community resilience and stated that information will go to a local climate action plan and that plan will allow us to apply for more grants and add teeth to our application. Mr. Motyka stated Bucknell is doing this free with a student and stated if anyone is interested in attending a few meetings and after that there is no obligation. Mr. Motyka stated this is tied to the survey everyone has been taken and asked anyone who has not taken the survey to please take it. He stated he believes there are 72 responses. Mr. Chesney

questioned what this will accomplish. Mr. Motyka stated we will have a report on what the borough residents believe is needed for transportation, energy efficiency and stated the survey asks about recycling what you are happy with or not happy with. He stated when we apply for grants it must be what the borough resident's ideas are to make it a worthwhile grant. Mr. Motyka stated if anyone would like to be on the committee for the next two months and offer your input, please let me know.

Mr. Motyka stated the architect we hired for the roof, building, and pad for the recycling cardboard plans are almost complete. He stated he would like to make a motion to advertise that ahead of the next meeting. Mr. Motyka asked the solicitor if we advertised the structure and the concrete to carry the cardboard recycling, how long it needs to be out for bid. Solicitor Greco stated obviously the longer we have it out for bid the more bids we may receive and stated he would say three weeks, 30 days.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka stated he would like to make a motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to advertise for bid once we get the final documents from the architect.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (no), STASKIEL (absent), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
5YEAS – 1 NAY

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to adopt resolution #779 without a match required.

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

Mr. Motyka stated just so everyone is clear the state said we could approve this by resolution or a letter of support.

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

No Report.

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

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Paul Niglio of 415 Spruce Street stated he has a couple of observations from this evenings meeting. He then asked if the street sweeper has an apparatus where you can sweep up the leaves on the side.

The borough supervisor Ed Begis replied to it does not and added the street sweeper has a clutch mechanism inside the machine that must be engaged depending on the amount of leaves. Mr.

Begis stated when he first started he thought he would try it and it jammed up the machine. He stated it tells you in bold print in the manual do not pick up leaves to engage the clutch system, to avoid the leaves. Mr. Begis stated come October people have leaves all over the place and he engages the clutch system and that reverses the airflow that blows the leaves away and sweeps them up on porches and stated he spends the afternoon on a block removing leaves from people's property.

Mr. Niglio stated he delivers bids for a business to various municipalities stating he has probably been in 12 or 15 buildings and then stated a buzzer is inside the building at the second door or at the office they are going to and stated it is never outside. Mr. Niglio stated everyone gets to walk into the building and see where you need to go. He stated if you are contemplating that as a citizen he disagrees to have people standing outside until someone answers the buzzer. He stated we have a vestibule and the offices should be locked. He stated or it could just be at the second door and they could go to the borough office, code enforcement or the police. Mr. Niglio stated that it is just an observation of what goes on outside of Kulpmont.

Chief Mazzeo stated he would concur with what Mr. Niglio said as far as not keeping them outside and added he would request that the second set of doors be secured. Chief Mazzeo stated during the several years he is here he stated there has been multiple instances in this building and stated he discussed that with the borough secretary and Ms. Owens. He stated they need to be prevented from getting to the offices. Mr. Niglio stated he agrees with him, but we have the setup where the two double doors can be secured.

Mr. Niglio questioned who is going to enforce the signs at the Truist Bank parking lot and then questioned the Mayor if he is going to have the officers patrol that three or four times a day.

Mayor Slaby stated when they are on they will be expected to visit that. He stated at seven everything may be fine and at ten if there is a social gathering next door and the next thing you know there goes the parking spaces.

Mayor Slaby stated it will be roll the dice and see what you get, the borough is not doing this to make money. Mr. Motyka stated possibly the signs should say no overnight parking. Mr. Begis stated it is on the sign, no overnight parking.

Mr. Niglio stated concerning the machines, he has been a bar director and whoever has those machines is making thousands of dollars of revenue on those machines. He stated \$50.00 is not enough money on a tax by the borough. Mr. Niglio stated it should be a minimal of \$250.00. He stated and pool tables and whatever, it can't be anything that takes a token; you have to look at the machine if it's mechanical. He stated there should be some machines that should be exempt; because you can't charge \$250.00 for a pool table it's not equitable.

No other citizens spoke.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

Mr. Chesney stated a box of old newspapers was sent to him and he had it here until this afternoon and with the anniversary coming up, he asked that the doors be kept open so anyone wanting to come in and view them could do so. Mr. Chesney stated they are old papers on Kulpmont history, mining history etc... he does not think anyone has been into view them and stated he will put them out again for anyone wishing to view them or anyone wanting to view them to contact him.

Mr. Chesney reminded residents to take care of shoveling snow at your property and garbage at your property.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Valentine's Day

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

Solicitor Greco stated the council met in an executive session for approximately 25 minutes to discuss personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary

Approval date March 12, 2025