

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

July 9, 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, July 9, 2025

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

ABSENT: Robert Fanella

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Solicitor Greco, Treasurer Paul Niglio, Code Officer Heather Owens, Borough Secretary Jewel Newbern, Fire Chief Ray Siko and Borough Supervisor Edwin Begis.

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Kevin O’Hearn, Joe Politza, Devin O’Hearn, Greg Sacavage, Rich Hallick, Tina Treese

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

No one spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated that Resolution 781, which provides Treasurer Paul Niglio the authorization to make transfers from the StoneX account for police pension accounts. He read the entirety of the resolution and Mr. Niglio added that he has been the authorized person to do this for years but needs to provide StoneX proof again since the company has changed. He stated that the money is transferred from one account right to another and he does not actually touch the money.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to pass Resolution 781, authorizing Paul Niglio to make transfers from StoneX.

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

Mr. Bielskie announced that the borough will be opening the pipe job bids for 7th street. He stated that the borough only received one bid from HPCI. Mr. Greco read the amount of the bid: \$29,438.50. There is a discussion on whether the bid is set at a good price, but Mr. Staskiel said that it needs to be done and can’t keep going like it is.

MOTION- Mr. Staskiel made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to accept HPCI’s bid for 7th street pipe job contingent on Solicitor Greco and engineer’s review.

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

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert M. Slaby)

Mayor Slaby announced that Stephen Mazzeo retired as chief of police from the borough. He stated that Mr. Mazzeo submitted paperwork to get off payroll and for pension funds to Mr. Niglio. Mr. Niglio stated that Mr. Mazzeo does not receive police pension funds because he did not pay in to it. Mr. Novakoski asked Mr. Slaby if Mr. Mazzeo returned all his Kulpmont police uniform belongings. Mr. Slaby said that he will reach out to ensure that he does not have anything. Council let Mr. Slaby know that there was a motion to accept Mr. Mazzeo's retirement at the special meeting on July 2, 2025.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Jewel Newbern)

Ms. Newbern stated approval is needed for the June 11 and July 2, 2025, meeting minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve meeting minutes for June 11 and July 2, 2025, meetings.

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

Ms. Newbern asked for the council's permission to purchase a new desk chair for the office. She stated that one of the chair's arm rest fell off and now is a good time to purchase one because of Amazon Prime deals.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to purchase a new desk chair for the administrative office.

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

Ms. Newbern stated that a letter arrived from the Department of Economic and Planning regarding the Stormwater Management Ordinance and that was copied mayor/council.

Ms. Newbern stated that Pennsylvania DEP with Susquehanna Coal Company sent information regarding a surface mining permit and was copied mayor/council/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. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve and pay the bills.

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

Mr. Niglio stated that the borough received the next contractor's invoices for the recycling building and the electrical work. He stated that the general contract amounts due are \$8640 and \$6926. He stated that the electrical amount due is \$6052.50. Mr. Bielskie voiced his concerns about the electrical work and the work that has been done to make the ramp accessible for the building. He stated that he thinks the borough should hold off until they have a plan to solve the problem. Mr. Staskiel said that the work that has been done needs to be paid for and then there can be a solution. Mr. Motyka stated that, in the near future, the borough should start collecting cardboard so the street department can train with it. There was a discussion on whether the cardboard could get wet or not, Mr. Motyka stated that the company that collects the cardboard said that it could be. Mr. Chesney voiced concerns about signage and rules for the building, Mr. Motyka stated that it will be a learning process.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to pay the contractor for the work that has been completed for the cardboard recycling building.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Mr. Greco stated that he has to schedule a meeting with Brinkash regarding the Kulp Lane survey.

Mr. Greco stated that he has sent a letter and called the property owner adjacent to the field and has gotten no response.

Mr. Greco stated that he would like to adopt an ordinance regarding properties but has not met with the ordinance committee yet.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT

No Report.

Mayor Slaby stated that hopefully next month the part-time officers could have a report ready.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Report Attached.

Mr. Bielskie thanked the fire department for their assistance with the Traveling Veteran Memorial Wall and other Kulpmont 150th festivities this past weekend.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Devin O'Hearn)

No report.

Mr. O'Hearn stated that the EOP is complete and has been sent out. He stated that at the next meeting there should be a resolution to adopt it.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)
Report Attached.

Mr. Bielskie stated that Mr. Weber is interested in purchasing the mill, but the current owners keep changing their price.

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

Mrs. Owens added for Lamplight Acres residents that Robbie Knoepfel will be demolishing the property late this month or in August.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)
Mr. Bielskie read Mr. Fanella's report.

Mr. Bielskie stated that the food surplus distribution will be held July 17, 2025, from 8 AM – 11 AM.

Mr. Bielskie stated that the skid steer needs new tires. Mr. Begis, street department supervisor, listed the amounts for the four quotes he got, Weavers had the lowest cost at \$840 total.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to purchase skid steer tires from Weaver's for \$840 total.

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

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)
Mr. Motyka stated the 'Big Beautiful Bill' that was passed by Donald Trump put stipulations on the solar project. He also stated that the interconnection agreement with PPL is third in their queue to be approved. Mr. Bielskie added that solar is changing and that PPL is going to raise their distribution fee so they can make more of a profit.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)
Mr. Bielskie expressed concern that the mill needs to be shut down and the owners cannot just slap boards up and call it good. Mr. Motyka asked if there are liens on the property for all the grass maintenance that the borough has been doing for years. Mrs. Owens stated that it has been getting cleaned up privately and not by the borough. Mr. Motyka brought up the fact that the street department just mowed and cleaned it up before the 150th anniversary festivities. He told Mr. Begis that he would like him to make a spreadsheet with how many hours they worked on it and equipment usage so the borough could put a lien on it. Mr. Motyka asked Mr. Greco how to find the cost for the equipment usage, Mr. Greco stated that it would be like an equipment rental

cost and Mr. Slaby added that he has a template that may help. Mr. Motyka told Mr. Begis that if he needs help with it to go to him.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

No Report

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Motyka stated that he applied for the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative grant last year and was denied but they have recently reached out to see if the borough would like to resubmit a grant application. He stated that the grant is for a \$350,000 request that would help with the solar project. He asked the council if the borough should reapply.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to reapply for the Healthy Homes Initiative grant for \$350,000 to help with the solar project costs.

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

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

Mr. Novakoski stated that the personnel committee interviewed the two applicants for the street department and would like to hire Zachary Howell starting at \$15 an hour on a 3-month probation. He stated that he believes Zach would do a good job with the responsibilities that come with the job. Mr. Niglio asked if Zach has a driver's license, Mr. Novakoski replied yes. Mr. Niglio asked if he has a CDL license, and the council responded that the borough does not have any vehicles you would need a CDL license for.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to hire Zachary Howell for the street department full time at \$15 an hour on a 3-month probation.

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

Mr. Slaby thanked Mr. Novakoski, as the head of the personnel committee, for communicating with him after Stephen Mazzeo's announcement of retirement.

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

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tina Treese asked Mr. Greco if he would recommend Kulpmont a conservatorship on the mill, which he recommended to the City of Shamokin. Mr. Greco stated that Shamokin has entities that help with legal fees, which Kulpmont does not have, and the borough would have to front the legal fees to be able to do that. He added that he would not feel comfortable using taxpayer dollars to do that. Mr. Motyka said that there needs to be something done about the mill though

and this may be worth the investment if he believes it will get the owners to do something. Mr. Bielskie agreed, especially since he knows someone is interested in the property.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to pursue a conservatorship on the mill.

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

OLD BUSINESS-
None.

NEW BUSINESS-
Mr. Niglio requested an executive session for the end of the meeting.

Mr. Chesney asked Ms. Newbern if she could post the speech regarding the Veteran Memorial Wall on Facebook. Mr. Motyka said that there is a video from the past weekend that he would also like to post on the borough's Facebook.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mr. Chesney reminds the public that in town the speed limit is 25 miles per hour, and people need to start obeying it.

Mr. Bielskie stated the council will now meet in an executive session to discuss with Treasurer Paul Niglio.

Solicitor Greco stated the council met in an executive session for approximately 5 minutes to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Jewel Newbern
Borough Secretary

Approval date August 13, 2025