

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
August 13, 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, August 13, 2025

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

ABSENT: Marlin Hodge, Bernard Novakoski, Charles Staskiel

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Solicitor Greco, Treasurer Paul Niglio, Code Officer Heather Owens, Borough Secretary Jewel Newbern, Fire Chief Ray Siko, EMO Devin O'Hearn

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin P. Howerter, Joe Politza, Deborah Yeager, David Yeager, Kevin O'Hearn, Tina Treese, Rich Hallick

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 782 needs to be passed, which approves and adopts Kulpmont Borough's latest Emergency Operation Plan, which was prepared by appointed Emergency Management Official Devin O'Hearn. Mr. Chesney asked Mr. O'Hearn if the plan he prepared is standard, approved and utilized in other communities. Mr. O'Hearn says that it is standard and official.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to pass Resolution 782, approving and adopting EOP.

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

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert M. Slaby)

Mayor Slaby received a letter from the Kulpmont 100 seeking permission to close Fir Street from 8th and 9th street from 8 AM to 6 PM during the Winefest on October 11, 2025. Mayor Slaby added there should be no issue granting permission.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the street closure on October 11, 2025.

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

CHESNEY (yes), STASKIEL (absent), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (absent)

4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Paul stated that there may be a revisit next month and that the location may change but the same time and day.

Mayor Slaby requested an executive session pertaining to personnel matters. Mr. Bielskie accepted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Jewel Newbern)

Ms. Newbern stated approval is needed for the minutes from the meeting on July 9, 2025.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve meeting minutes from July 9, 2025.

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

CHESNEY (yes), STASKIEL (absent), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (absent)

4 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Ms. Newbern stated that Keystone Collections asked if council would be interested in receiving tax collection entirely from them instead of both Keystone Collections and Berkheimer and copied the proposal mayor/council. Mr. Chesney asked Treasurer Paul Niglio what he felt about the proposal, and he replied that he has not had a chance to look at it. He explained the difference between the two companies and says that he will look over the proposal to see if it would be worth it.

Ms. Newbern stated that we received a letter from the Department of Economic Development & Planning regarding the recycling center and that they are requesting a letter with Kulpmont's decision to either proceed with submitted a Land Development Plan or request a waiver for said plan. Mr. Motyka stated that council should send a letter requesting a waiver and had a conversation with Mr. Chesney about why it is best to do so. Solicitor Greco asked for a copy and stated that he will send the letter.

Ms. Newbern stated that Kulpmont Borough received three letters from the Department of Economic Development & Planning with a land development plan for Freedom 40 LLC and two reviews of projects for two separate properties. All three were copied mayor/council.

Ms. Newbern stated that the Susquehanna Valley Law Enforcement Camp Cadet sent a letter requesting a donation for their camp. Mr. Chesney asked Treasurer Paul if the borough has ever donated, he replied no. The request was copied mayor/council.

Ms. Newbern stated that TextMyGov inquired to see if the borough would be interested in scheduling a meeting to learn more about the program. She added that the program would send a text alert, of any borough related update, to residents that sign up for it through our website. Treasurer Paul asked if Ms. Newbern knew the cost, she replied no, and the email was pretty generic and was just seeking a meeting if council was interested. Mr. Chesney asked the public if they would be interested and suggested that Ms. Newbern schedule a meeting. The inquiry was copied mayor/council.

Ms. Newbern stated that she would like to bring up a discussion regarding the circus, so it is in the minutes. She stated that council was okay with allowing the Zerbini circus to use the restrooms at the Veteran Memorial Field and a water hookup. Mr. Motyka added that he will go next week to add a hose hook up and the restrooms will be open for them the night before and day of the circus.

Ms. Newbern stated that the Kulpmont 100 sent a thank you letter for donation and support for the anniversary weekend. Mr. Chesney and Mr. Motyka thanked them for making the events a success.

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. Mr. Chesney said that all the bills seemed to look normal.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve and pay the bills.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Mr. Greco stated that there is no update on the PUC hearing that we requested.

Mr. Greco requested an executive session regarding litigation issues.

Mr. Motyka asked Mr. Greco when he leaves, will he still be handling the borough's ongoing issues that are in progress. Mr. Greco replied no and that they will go onto the next solicitor for the borough.

Mr. Chesney asked Mr. Greco if a house gets their water/sewer shut off, what happens. Mr. Greco and Mr. Bielskie explained to Mr. Chesney that once someone's water/sewer is shut off they have thirty days and then the power gets shut off, if they do not leave after that they will get arrested. Mr. Chesney stated that there are properties that do not have water or power, and they remain in the condemned houses so what can the borough do. Mr. Bielskie stated that with a police department willing to make arrests it will help.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT

No Report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Report Attached.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Devin O'Hearn)

No report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report Attached. Mr. Bielskie stated that there are permits listed.

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

Report Attached.

Mr. Chesney asked Mrs. Owens to explain a document from the code book. Mrs. Owens explained that there have been complaints about a resident intentionally graffitiing their property. She added that by doing so the property value decreases and gives a negative perception on safety and security. She stated that in 2018 the borough adopted the International Property Maintenance Code and Article 302.9 describes defacement of property, public and private property including graffiti and that she will use this article in the future. Mr. Chesney said that people can not get "artistically overstimulated" and could project a negative image and the ordinance states that you can not do this and it is on the property owner to bring it back to its

original state. Mr. Bielskie and Mr. Greco discuss that the borough should be using the latest version of the International Property Maintenance Code and Mr. Bielskie informs Mrs. Owens that he will bring a copy in for her.

Mr. Chesney stated that in the last month or so bad properties are slowly being taken care of with some incentive from the owner. He stated that there are still multiple bad properties and if there are any other properties that he asks the citizens to let him know. He stated that grass, weeds, concrete are all up to the private individual and all the borough can do is cite them. He asks that people have pride in their property. Mr. Chesney added that he is in contact with the county to see if the borough can use some blight money to fix some issues, especially the mill. He said that the mill is now a huge nuisance property, and the owners need to come and close it back up, so people stop entering and destroying things. He added that we can put liens on properties, but the borough loses every single one. Mr. Greco added that he would like to discuss this in the executive session and that he looked into what Mr. Motyka suggested from last month's meeting.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated that the food surplus distribution will be held August 21, 2025, from 8 AM – 11 AM at the borough garage.

Mr. Fanella stated that the street department worked on the potholes last month and hopefully people are happier because they did a nice job.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated that the borough received the annual McClure Company planned maintenance agreement for the HVAC system in the building. Mr. Chesney asked if there are any other companies that do this and that the company seems to be a little relaxed. He stated that this was “an abortion” to begin with but if it is our best deal than it is what it is. Mr. Motyka said that there are things they should be doing and to call them if they are not promising in their agreement.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to accept McClure planned maintenance agreement.

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

Mr. Motyka stated that by the borough wanted the bathrooms completed by the time the Veteran traveling Wall came him, and Amy Herb had to make out of pocket purchases to get them completed. Mr. Chesney asked why the paint and other fixtures were not included in the bids for the restrooms. Mr. Motyka has to explain that the borough only received a grant for the restrooms and everything else has been 100% volunteer work so when they need to purchase something really quickly someone has to run to the store and purchase it. Mr. Motyka said that he would rather the rest of the grant money go towards something to help the community rather than a small fixture.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to reimburse Amy Herb for the out-of-pocket paint expense for the restroom project.

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

MOTION- Mr. Faella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to reimburse Stephen Motyka for out-of-pocket expenses for the restroom project.

Mr. Chesney asked how much the total was. Ms. Newbern replied that she totaled the amount wrong on the agenda, but all the receipts Mr. Motyka turned in are attached to their packets and when she writes the check it will be broken down to each receipt so it will be the correct amount. Mr. Chesney seems hesitant to accept the motion and abstains from voting. When Solicitor Greco explained that the motion would not pass because Mr. Motyka HAS to abstain Mr. Chesney changes his vote to yes.

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

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

No Report

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney explained that the borough has a lot of blight money but there are a lot of specifications when using it. He said that the blight money will most likely be used on buildings that desperately need it.

Mr. Motyka stated that the borough was awarded the WalkWorks grant for \$30,000 and that there are more grants that the borough has applied to and we just have to wait.

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

No Report

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

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Deb Yeager, 1266 Scott Street, has an issue with the renters on either side of her property. She would like council to look into updating or revising the following code issues: noise complaints, occupancy, animals and animal waste and garbage. She said that her neighbors have a lot of people in each house in and out and that one neighbor has vicious dogs.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

Treasurer Paul Niglio stated that Mr. Hodge is having medical issues and that is why he could not attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Motyka stated that, on behalf of Sons of American Legion he would like permission to hang directional signage on 6th and Ash Street and 9th and Chestnut Street. Mr. Bielskie said to make sure the signs are according to the state laws. Mr. Motyka said that they have done their research.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to allow the Sons of American Legion to hang directional signs at the two locations.

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

Mr. Motyka reminded the public of the dog festival on August 23, 2025, from 12 to 5 PM, at the dog park.

Mr. Motyka asked council for official permission to hold the annual 5k run on September 27th with entertainment after at the Veteran Memorial Field.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the 5k run on September 27, 2025.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Newbern reminds citizens that the borough is now accepting cardboard in the trailer at the borough garage. She states that the cardboard must be clean and that there should be NO garbage, pizza boxes, plastic, tape or anything else that is not cardboard. She added that it is rude and inconsiderate and unfair to the street department employees, and the borough just bought a brand new and expensive machine, and it is already getting mistreated. Mr. Chesney added that plastic pick up and the trailer should only be filled with #1 and #2 type plastics and should not be put into the trailer in plastic bags or boxes.

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

Solicitor Greco stated the council met in an executive session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Jewel Newbern
Borough Secretary

Approval date September 10, 2025