

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
September 10, 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, September 10, 2025

The roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Robert M. Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Robert Chesney, Robert Fanella, Stephen Motyka, 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, Kevin O'Hearn, Heather Rosetta, Greg Sacavage, Tina Treese, Rich Hallick, Aldo Mirarchi, Mark Hine

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert M. Slaby)

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Jewel Newbern)

Ms. Newbern stated approval is needed for the minutes from the meeting on August 13 and 27, 2025.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve meeting minutes from August 13 and 27 meetings.

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

Ms. Newbern stated that the machine delivery for the upcoming election on November 4 is scheduled for October 30th in the morning.

Ms. Newbern stated that the KFBA sent an email requesting permission to hold a bonfire on September 27th.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to allow the KFBA to hold a bonfire on September 27th.

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

Ms. Newbern stated that a family is requesting for an autistic child area sign on the 600 block of Scott St and that there is a letter attached to the request as well. Mr. Chesney asked Solicitor Greco if the county has to decide on that or if it is up to the borough. Mayor Slaby added that he has no issue with council approving this and the issue should be resolved as soon as possible and if the street department needs any assistance to let him know. Mr. Motyka added that the letter also states that there is an issue with people disregarding the one-way street signs and asked if there could be anything done about that as well.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski approved to put an autistic child area sign up on the 600 black of Scott St.

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

Ms. Newbern stated that she has the TextMyGov proposal from last month's interest and that the cost for a three-year contract would be \$4,000 a year and the first year there would be a \$2,000 set up fee. She explained that broken down the cost per month would be approximately \$333. Mr. Chesney asked how we would benefit from this even though we already have a Facebook page. Ms. Newbern explained that this would be a text message that gets sent straight to the person's phone and the borough would not have to rely on our citizens to see a post update when they open the app. She also mentioned that the Facebook page isn't really beneficial because citizens still call the borough daily about updates that have been posted on the Facebook page and they respond that they will not be doing that, so this gives an alternative for those people. Mr. Motyka replied that he would like to table this idea and that maybe we could use the recycling grant funds to send out a newsletter. Mr. Niglio added that he is the one that asked her to bring the cost, but he does not think the budget could handle the cost and it most likely would not be worth it for the small borough. A small discussion about other options went on for a few minutes and council moved on from the idea.

Ms. Newbern stated that St. Pauline would like to thank the borough for the use of the facilities, including the restrooms and water, for the circus.

Lastly, she stated that there was a letter from the Department of Economic Development & Planning regarding the Freedom 40 LLC which was copied mayor/council.

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 he believes the brough should slow down on the spending.

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

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)

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

Mr. Greco also stated that he would still like to meet with council for blight issues so the borough can decide on the best way to spend the money.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT

No Report.

Mayor Slaby stated that Francis Petrovich is the officer in charge, according to PA law the borough needs an officer in charge or chief of police. He said after this month, Officer Petrovich should have a report for council. He stated that there is also another officer that is preparing to start working for the borough.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Report Attached.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Devin O’Hearn)

No report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

No report.

Mr. Bielskie stated that there have been no permits or reports. He stated that there have been properties posted, and the next step is to shut off the power.

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

Report Attached Mayor/Council.

Mrs. Owens apologizes for the report being late.

Mr. Chesney told Mrs. Owens to stay diligent and to keep it up.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated that the food surplus distribution will be held September 18, from 8 AM – 11 AM at the borough garage.

Mr. Fanella stated that New Enterprise will be here on the 16th to begin the paving project. He added that he does not know when the pipe job on 7th Street will begin and he has not heard anything from that contractor.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated that the borough received a price for the cardboard recycling building gutter and spouting for \$1625 and would like to move forward so the building has rain gutters on it. Mr. Chesney asked why the rain spouting was not included in the plans in the first place. Mr. Motyka explained that multiple people looked at the plans and they were just overlooked and missed. Mr. Chesney replied that it is frustrating and the people we hire should know what they are doing. There is a conversation about whether rain spouting should be on the borough to pay for because the contractor missed it. Mr. Niglio added that we have built a garage, and you don’t put spouting on it unless you ask for it and that it is not standard.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to purchase rain gutters and spouting for cardboard recycling building for \$1625.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (no), STASKIEL (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
6 YEAS – 1 NAYS

*While voting no, Mr. Chesney commented “let it fall to the ground”.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)
No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)
No Report

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Robert Chesney)
No Report

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

Tina Treese asked if there has been any update on the mill since two months have gone by. Specifically, to pursue conservatorship and blight. Solicitor Greco replied that it is a long-term solution and that the borough could potentially use the blight money for it and that it is not done overnight. He added that is the reason he would like to meet and that the money available won't solve all the issues to find the most efficient use for the blight money. She asked if the owners know that this is being looked into, Solicitor Greco replied not by himself. Mr. Bielskie added that the owners don't respond and that their office has moved from New York to Pennsylvania. Tina also asked why Kulpmont doesn't publish their code citations in the paper. Mayor Slaby said it is up to the borough whether they want to do that or not. Council stated that they have never done it in the past. Mr. Motyka said that he will ask the News Item if they self-report or if the borough would have to send it. He added that nothing is working and that maybe “shaming” them could help. Mr. Fanella stated that he believes the fine amounts should be raised. Mr. Motyka asked the code officer if she thinks it would help if the fine amounts were raised. She explained that when the amounts were up there were only a few big issues but now that they are lowered and “different people” moved in it is different. She explained that it was \$100 to start, and the \$25 fine amount is now the “warning”. Mr. Bielskie and Mayor Slaby discussed that this may not be the answer since the people getting the fines can barely afford to pay for the garbage collection. Mr. Motyka asked how council would go about raising the amounts, Solicitor Greco explained that there will have to be an amendment to the current ordinance and propose it at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Chesney reminded people to remember 9/11 tomorrow and Mr. Motyka added that there will be a free concert in remembrance at the legion.

Mr. Bielskie stated the council will now meet in an executive session to personnel matters. Solicitor Greco stated the council met in an executive session for approximately 10 minutes to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Jewel Newbern
Borough Secretary

Approval date October 8, 2025