

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
October 8, 2025
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Robert Chesney
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present
Moment of silence for the passing of Joe Cesari,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday, October 8, 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: Joe Politza, Edwin Howerter, John Laboskie, Lisa Xander, Dot Riffert, Anthony Peipher, Mark Hine, John Maciejewski, Jennifer Snyder

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie explained that there is an issue with “homemade” Jeeps causing havoc up and down the hill to Marion Heights as well as running the red light in town. He stated he spoke to the mayor about it, so the police are informed. Mr. Bielskie also announced that there is a meeting regarding the data center at the Natalie Fire Company this Sunday at 5:30 PM.

Mr. Bielskie stated there needs to be an amendment made to add New Enterprise paving bill to the agenda under the treasurer’s report.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to amend the agenda and add New Enterprise paving bill under the treasurer’s report.

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

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert M. Slaby)

Mr. Slaby announced that Kulpmont will have their trick or treat on November 1, 2025, from 6-8 PM. He stated that if you wish not to participate make sure your porch light is off. He stated that police will be doing extra patrols. Mr. Slaby also announced that the parade will be October 23, 2025. Mr. Fanella asked if it would be possible to close the street from 12th Maple up to the Town Park on Chestnut Street on October 23 to help with parade congestion. Mr. Slaby said that should not be an issue.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Jewel Newbern)

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve meeting minutes from September 10th meeting.

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

Ms. Newbern stated the Department of Economic and Planning sent a letter requesting a land development application or a waiver request again for the Cardboard Recycling Building. Mr. Greco asked when the letter was received because in the letter it mentions 30 days, Ms. Newbern responded she's not sure, but it would not have been over the 30 days. Mr. Greco asks if Ms. Newbern can send the waiver request and Mr. Motyka added that he could also call and do that as well. Copied Mayor/Council. Ms. Newbern stated that the Department of Economic Development and Planning sent a review of three properties, as well as one for Freedom 40 LLC. Copied Mayor/Council.

Ms. Newbern stated that we received the Guyette Maintenance Service Contract, and it needs to be approved for the year. Mr. Chesney asked if the \$360 was for the entire year, Mr. Motyka replied yes. Copied Mayor/Council.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve Guyette Maintenance Agreement.

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 Kulpmont Lions Club requested a donation for their Halloween Parade and mentioned that last year council donated \$100.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to donate \$100 to Kulpmont Lions Club.

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 resident brought up a parking concern regarding the 700-900 Oak Alley. She explained that the complaint came with photos with the problematic vehicles. Mr. Motyka said that this has been an issue for years and we have to find a lot for them to go to because right now we have no option. Council discusses how the vehicles are too large for typical towers to come and get them and that the owner of the vehicles is able to move them but still insists on having them parked on the street.

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated list of bills, including New Enterprise's paving contract for \$94,898.56, needs to be approved. He mentioned that the contract is actually less than what the original cost was.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel 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

Mr. Niglio also stated that he has the MMO completed for the pension funds. He stated that the police pension has no bill and the pension for borough employees (PMRS) is \$7635. He stated that this does not need approval and just needs to be in the minutes.

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Mr. Greco stated that there was a blight meeting yesterday with Patrick Mack. In the meeting they discussed that there is \$100,000 to use for blighted properties and that there was discussion on whether the money should be spent on the mill or a few properties on Chestnut. Mr. Greco mentioned that if the borough does not use it by the end of next year, we will lose it. He added that there will be another meeting regarding this on November 12th.

Mr. Greco requested an executive session about PPL UC matter. He announced that in 2005, Kulpmont went into a property rehabilitation to give homeowners the ability to fix their home. He stated the property 1329 Chestnut's mortgage is satisfied and that council needs to authorize the president to sign the closing property papers.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to authorize Mr. Bielskie to sign the commissary note for closing papers to show the mortgage is satisfied for 1329 Chestnut St property.

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

Mr. Motyka asked if now a good time is to add an RFQ for a new solicitor. Mr. Greco responded yes and to add it to the website for beginning January 3. Mr. Greco told Ms. Newbern he could help her with the language.

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 he has talked to the guy who is buying the old church and turning it into apartments. Mr. Bielskie also stated that he has a meeting with two investors next week regarding the mill and that they would be able to invest the money into the building.

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

Report Attached.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated that the food surplus distribution will be held October 16, 2025, from 8-11 AM at the borough garage. Mr. Fanella stated that instead of a buzzer system we should look into changing Heather's office door so she can have people speak to her in the hallway before allowing them in and that Jewel's office is built to where she can have the door shut and still help residents. When council asked Heather what she thought she said that she's in and out of the office all day and if someone wanted to harm her, they would have the opportunity to do so when not in the building. Mr. Fanella explained that there have been numerous incidents that have happened inside the building.

Mr. Fanella stated that the street department needs to purchase an air compressor for \$400.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to purchase air compressor for \$400.

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

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated that the borough received quotes for the restroom rain gutters, and the cost will also be approved through DCNR. He stated that the lowest bid was from Scott Miller Contractor for \$2161.00.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to accept Scott Miller Contractor's bid for restroom rain gutters for \$2161.00.

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

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

Mr. Bielskie mentioned that there is a new sandwich shop in town and the owners, from Philadelphia, own two other shops as well and should be opening soon.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

No Report

Mr. Bielskie mentioned that the committee should consider working on adding a NO GENERATOR USAGE ordinance, that generators are allowed ONLY in the event of a power outage or construction usage.

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Robert Chesney)

No Report

Mr. Motyka stated that the WalkWorks grant was awarded to us for \$30,000 and this will be used for planning purposes for the town.

Mr. Motyka also announced that LIVIC is in the process of applying to a \$1.3 million beautification grant for the borough with no match but there needs to be a motion to allow submission. Mr. Chesney asked what would be involved in a beautification grant, Mr. Motyka responded that the borough would work on the sidewalks on Chestnut or we could change the light posts or really anything to make it look better.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Staskiel to approve LIVIC to submit the \$1.3 million beautification grant.

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

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

John Laboskie came to discuss the paving work on 1300 block of Oak. He explained that New Enterprise did not go all the way up to his property and did not seal the blacktop properly. He expressed concern for a tripping hazard as well as a flooding issue. He would like to know what could be done about it either by New Enterprise or the borough. Mr. Fanella said he and Ed Begis went to look at it and came up with a plan to fix the issue for him.

John Maciejewskie discussed the issue he has been dealing with for three years now, 547 Chestnut Street. He stated that the generator runs constantly, day and night. Mr. Bielskie explained that the only ordinance we have is the noise ordinance and the generator does not go over the decibels. He also explained that the borough is working on order to vacate which would give them 15 days to get out on their own or the police can go in and arrest them. Mr. Bielskie also added that there is not much they can do currently because they have to follow the law.

Lisa Xander came to speak about a property she is having issues with 113 Scott St. She explained that although the property has been posted they will not leave and now there is an issue with rats and more animal feces. Mr. Bielskie explains that the person is trying to appeal the postage, which is going to be a waste of her time and money. Lisa said that this has been an issue for three years now.

Anthony Peipher came to discuss property as well, 1046 Spruce Street. He stated that there are homeless people living in a posted house and that there is a rat issue now. He added that even more people are moving in. Mr. Bielskie stated that he would check on it, but he has not seen anyone there.

OLD BUSINESS-

Mr. Chesney brought up that he thinks there is an issue with SALDO, and it is becoming unfair to the property owners. Council discussed and agreed there will have to be something to replace it and to look into what Mount Carmel Township has for theirs.

NEW BUSINESS-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Chesney thanked Webby's Outdoor Service for all the volunteer work he has been doing around Kulpmont, especially the mill.

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

Solicitor Greco stated the council met in an executive session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to hire Zach Howell full-time according to the Union Contract.

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

ADJOURNMENT THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Jewel Newbern
Borough Secretary

Approval date November 12, 2025