

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
November 12, 2025
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Marlin Hodge
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

The roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Stephen Bielskie, Robert Fanella, Marlin Hodge, Bernard Novakoski, Charles Staskiel

ABSENT: Robert M. Slaby, Robert Chesney, Stephen Motyka

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, Greg Sacavage, Dot Riffert, Lisa Xander, Beth Marie Gensemer, Andrew Horan, Santiago Millan, Kevin O'Hearn, Marshall Mirarchi, Lyza Klein, Tina Treese, Rich Hallick

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)
Mr. Bielskie requested an executive session.

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert M. Slaby)

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Jewel Newbern)

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve October 8th meeting minutes.

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

Ms. Newbern said council received an email from a muralist asking if the borough would be interested in having one done in the borough. She said the muralist would like to find ways to beautify the community and is open to any ideas or locations. Mr. Millan, the muralist, answered a few questions the council members had and said he will send a few ideas he has, and they could vote on the idea next month. Mr. Bielskie said he thinks it would be a great thing and he has no problem with it. Copied Mayor/Council.

Ms. Newbern said the borough received a letter from the Department of Economic Development and Planning approving a review of the property 909 Pine Street. Copied Mayor/Council.

Ms. Newbern stated that the borough received a formal complaint from residents in town regarding an issue involving noise, propane and parking. Newbern added that she also sent this complaint via email but is attached in their packets as well. Mr. Bielskie said they would discuss the complaint in the executive session. Copied Mayor/Council.

Ms. Newbern said council received a letter from the Kulpmont- Marion Heights Joint Municipal Authority regarding Stephanie Niglio's term of expiration and they are looking to see when and if she is reappointed or someone to fill her position. Council said they will decide at next month's meeting. Copied Mayor/Council.

Ms. Newbern stated that the waiver request was approved for the Recycling Center building at the Department of Economic Development and Planning meeting, but there is an outstanding \$50.00 application fee still. She said she listed the application fee under the list of bills to be paid. Copied Mayor/Council.

Ms. Newbern stated that she received an email and phone call from a resident wanting to know if it would be okay for his existing three autistic child area signs from one block to another, since he and his family moved. Council asked if the street department could handle it, Street Supervisor Ed Begis said they would be able to they just need the new street/ locations. Newbern said she will provide a letter to him. Copied Mayor/Council.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to allow the three autistic child area signs to be moved to the new locations added in the email.

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

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

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

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

Mr. Niglio said there is a budget attached to council's packets. He stated that it is tentative, but council needs to approve general fund receipts and expenditures of \$915510, highway fund of \$107000 and for the police fund receipts of \$523000 and expenditures of \$23500. Council asked if there will be any tax increase, Mr. Niglio replied no he does not intend on there being an increase.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the expenditures and receipts for 2026 tentative budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (absent), STASKIEL (yes), MOTYKA (absent), HODGE (yes)

5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Mr. Greco said the waiver was approved through the county for the recycling center building.

Mr. Greco addressed the PUC vs. PPL matter. The judge was going to schedule a hearing in December or January but because of his new position beginning early 2026 he asked for the hearing to be delayed until mid-January- February so the new solicitor can handle the case, while having enough time to get prepared.

Mr. Greco stated there was a blight meeting today and the owner of 639 Chestnut Street is looking into selling his property to Kulpmont for \$3,000. Mr. Greco explained that the borough will use blight money to purchase and demolish the property but in order to do that he needs permission to complete a title search on the property.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to authorize Mr. Greco to complete a title search for property 639 Chestnut Street.

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

Mr. Hodge asked if there was any update on Kulp Lane regarding the survey that was completed. Mr. Greco said it's now up to the borough to decide what to do and council can look into it for next month.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT

No Report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Report Attached.

Mr. Siko added that the annual fund drive is in progress and any donations and support would be greatly appreciated.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Devin O'Hearn)

No report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report Attached.

Mr. Bielskie stated that the property with a large number of cats was taken care of but there is now another property in town that is presenting issues which are being worked on.

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 November 20 from 8-11.

Mr. Fanella stated the police has brought a “wish list” of office supplies to his attention and he believes that we should get them the necessary supplies for them to succeed. He said the department is disorganized and with all the work they have done we should give them what they need.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to order all necessary police supplies.

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

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)
No report.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie said council needs to make a motion to purchase blighted property.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the purchase of 639 Chestnut Street for \$3,000 using blight funds and tear the property down.

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

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated the committee has been reviewing and revising the noise ordinance, amusement tax ordinance and fire ordinance. He added the noise ordinance will include generator usage and the amusement tax ordinance will include clear costs.

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Robert Chesney)
No Report

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

Mr. Novakoski requested an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss hiring a new solicitor for next year.

Mr. Fanella asked Mr. Greco if there could be an amendment to add an item to the agenda for the SHARE grant.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to amend the agenda and add SHARE grant application.

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

Mr. Fanella added that he has worked with police department and Justin Skavery to apply to the SHARE grant for new police equipment, including a police vehicle, tasers and some other

necessary improvements. The grant application is due at the end of the month and requires a \$100 application fee.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to apply to the SHARE grant and pay \$100 application fee.

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

Mr. Fanella also added he received an application for a full-time police officer who will be graduating from the academy on November 20th and said he turned it into the police department for OIC Petrovich to review.

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Bernard P. Novakoski)
No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tina Treese asked if there was an update on the mill and if the borough had filed for a conservatorship and/or told the owners the borough will be looking into it. Mr. Bielskie said nothing like that is in writing and all conversations have been face-to-face. He said that there are multiple parties interested in purchasing at least one part of the building. Mr. Greco said since there is active interest in the property the borough is holding off on using blight money to pursue a conservatorship on it and the borough is seeking smaller numerous projects to work on instead.

Lisa Xander, 1137 Scott St. came to speak about a property she is having issues with 1139 Scott St. She asked if there was any update. She said there are now harassment charges against the person living there and she has to go to court. She would like to know if there is a time frame of getting her out of the property. Mr. Bielskie said that he has been talking to the district attorney for eight months trying to figure out a plan. He said they are working on getting a court order filed to close the property. Mr. Greco added that the property needs to be cited or fined every day while waiting for the court order.

Kevin O'Hearn, East End Fire Company, said he is willing to work with Mr. Fanella to revise the fire ordinance and mentioned that he has been sending templates to work with for the last 20+ years. He said he would like to be involved in the revisions since it would be affecting the fire department, which he is a part of.

Andrew Horan, Mi Steaks owner, said he would be willing to work with the borough to purchase properties to knock down in the borough. Mr. Bielskie said purchasing the properties isn't the issue the money issues arise when knocking them down. Mr. Horan said he would be interested in helping with that as well. He added he would like the community to look nicer and if he could help with that he will.

OLD BUSINESS-
No Report.

NEW BUSINESS-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Thanksgiving.

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

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Borough Secretary

Approval date December 10, 2025