

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
January 14, 2026
6:00 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, January 14, 2026

The roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Sacavage, Robert Chesney, Robert Fanella, Beth Gensemer, Mark Hine, Marlin Hodge, Stephen Motyka and Bernard Novakoski.

ABSENT: none

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Solicitor Matulewicz, Code Officer Heather Owens, Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk, Borough Supervisor Ed Begis.

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Dorothy Riffert, Lisa Xander, Carol Whary, Carol Hertzog, Kevin O'Hearn, Matt Siko, Marshall Mirarchi III, Brandi L. Kuhn, Raymond Siko, Devin O'Hearn and Stephanie Niglio.

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

No one spoke.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Robert Fanella)

Robert Fanella announced council met in executive session at 5:30 pm until 6:00 p.m. for approximately 30 minutes to discuss personnel, contractual and possible litigation matters.

Mr. Fanella stated he has completed the committee schedule and distributed.

MAYORS REPORT- (Gregory Sacavage)

Mayor Sacavage stated we have a part time officer that will be coming on duty and stated he would like to welcome him to the Kulpmont Police force, Officer Gregory Hoffman and stated he will be administering the Oath of office to him at another time.

Mayor Sacavage asked Marshall Mariachi, Kulpmont's new Fire Chief, to come forward and proceeded to swear him into office and congratulated Mr. Mirarchi.

Mayor Sacavage then stated he would like to inform council at this time, in accordance with section 1040A, sections B, 2 and 3 of the Borough Code he stated he will hereby notify council of his intentions to perform marriage ceremonies as his permissible duties as a Mayor in the commonwealth and stated he will keep accurate records of the ceremonies and provide them to council on a quarterly basis.

Mayor Sacavage stated Aqua Pa Water is asking all in the service area to conserve water until further notice starting on January 12, 2026, and stated for more information go to aquawater.com

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed for the December 10, 2025, meeting and the January 5, 2026, re-organization meeting.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve the December meeting minutes and the January 5, 2026, re-organization meeting.

VOICE VOTE –
Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk reported under correspondence received;

Several applications were received for the secretary position, and they have been forwarded to the personnel committee. She stated they will be reviewed and interviews will be set in the near future.

Mr. Chesney questioned if a deadline was set for applications, Rhonda Wilk stated there was no deadline set for applications. Mr. Motyka stated we could certainly put a deadline on it.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Ms. Gensemer to set a deadline for applications for the end of this week.

Mr. Chesney questioned if the applicants are not qualified for what we need and we reopen it if we need to advertise. After discussion council agreed they will at that time consider re-advertising.

VOICE VOTE-
Unanimous

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Rhonda stated council received a copy of the financial report and bills to be paid and stated a motion is needed to approve.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE- MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), HODGE, (yes),
FANELLA (yes), NOVAKOSKI (yes), GENSEMER (yes), HINE (yes)

7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Rhonda Wilk stated the 2026 tax ordinance has been advertised and a motion is needed to adopt the 2026 tax ordinance as advertised.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to adopt the 2026 Tax Ordinance as advertised.

Mayor Sacavage asked the question if that is the same as was in the tentative budget.

Mr. Fanella replied, stating that is correct.

ROLL CALL VOTE- MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), HODGE, (yes),
FANELLA (absent), NOVAKOSKI (yes), GENSEMER (yes), HINE (yes)

7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

- Rhonda Wilk stated the Budget was advertised and a motion is needed to approve the 2026 final budget. 2026 General Fund Receipts 915,510.00- General Fund Expenditures the same
2026 Highway Funds Available 107,000.00 expenditures the same
2026 Police Pension Fund Available 523,000.00, expenditures 23,500.00, Fund Equity Balance 499500.00

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the 2026 Final Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE- MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), HODGE, (yes),
FANELLA (yes), NOVAKOSKI (yes), GENSEMER (yes), HINE (yes)

7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

SOLICITORS REPORT (Anthony Matulewicz)

Solicitor Matulewicz stated they met with Pat Mack today at 3:00, that is why it is not on the agenda and stated as a result of that meeting they need for the borough to move forward with the demolition project, he is asking Council President to place on the agenda for that purpose, for the Borough to authorize the Borough to acquire the property located at 639 Chestnut Street Kulpmont, PA in the amount of \$3000.00 pending final search and to authorize Council President to exercise any documents necessary to effectuate said acquisition.

Solicitor Matulewicz stated the reason he asks that it be put on the agenda is spending money, demolition and the final inspected. Mr. Fanella stated all this is coming from our blight fund money from the county.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve proceeding with acquiring 639 Chestnut Street authorizing the borough to move forward with any documents necessary.

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

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Sacavage asked Officer Gregory Hoffman to come forward at this time to proceed with swearing in Officer Hoffman. Council congratulated and welcomed Gregory Hoffman to the Kulpmont Police Department.

Mr. Fanella stated MT. Carmel police department has 3 Tasers, batteries and 8 holsters available, they recently replaced items through a grant and stated the police department would like to acquire these items at a cost of \$750.00 and stated motion would be needed by council to approve purchase.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hine to purchase the Tasers, Batteries and Holsters form the Mt. Carmel Police Department at a cost of \$750.00.

Mr. Chesney questioned if 8 holsters are needed. Council briefly discussed, Ms. Gensemer added holsters wear out a lot faster. Mayor Sacavage stated he thinks Patrick would have kept everything if they didn't get all new stuff.

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

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Marshall Mirarchi, III)
Report Attached.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Devin O'Hearn)
No report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT- (Tri County COG)
Report Attached and a permit.

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

She said you will not see any citations issued only violations issued because she spent most of the month, which was two weeks of December, because most of the month she was off. She added she sent out the letters for rental registrations and stated she is halfway done and has 180

properties and said that is just short of where we were before and she is only halfway done. She stated she feels we are going to have a whole lot more.

Mr. Motyka stated the fire we had on Scott Street; a machine was brought in to take it down and that cost the borough money, did we put a lien on that property for that cost. He stated it was done to make it safe and questioned do we get the money back from insurance or how that works. Solicitor stated any cost for remediating blight properties should go on a citation for restitution. Mr. Chesney questioned what the total was. Mr. Fanella replied \$1200.00.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Food Surplus Distribution January 22nd, 8 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Borough Garage

Price Quotes for Backhoe – Steve Shannon - \$702.38

Weavers Tires - \$740.00

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made a motion purchase the tires for 702.38 from Steve Shannon and was seconded by Mr. Hodge

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

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated there was a discussion of possibility of raising the occupational assessment tax within our budget and stated there is an ordinance that will need to be advertised.

Mr. Motyka stated, just an explanation to our borough, we are just matching what our neighboring boroughs have been doing and adding everyone around us are higher. Mr. Motyka stated there are 2000 names here and we should be bringing in revenue of about \$104,000.00 and currently there is only \$31,000.00 of revenue. Mr. Motyka explained 70% of this tax is delinquent, adding 7 out of 10 occupations working are living in this borough and not paying this tax. He stated it is kind of shameful that this is not being followed by the residents.

Solicitor Matulewicz stated in the ordinance advertisement, it must include anticipated amount of revenue to be collected and justification of the increase. Mr. Motyka stated the justification of the increase is due to the increased operating expenses within the borough.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made a motion to advertise ordinance 2026-02 fixing the occupational tax levy rate for 2026 at 200% and was seconded by Mr. Motyka.

ROLL CALL VOTE- MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), HODGE, (yes),
FANELLA (yes), NOVAKOSKI (yes), GENSEMER (no), HINE (no)
5 YEAS – 2 NAYS

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Marlin Hodge)

No report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

No report

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated we received a \$70,000.00 grant for the project at the Veterans Memorial Field and stated we had to get three bids for everything we did down there and the job is 80% done, we were reimbursed for \$35,000.00 and we are working to close it out and get reimbursed for the remainder, the final \$35,000.00

Stephen Motyka reimbursement request;

8/2025 Scicchitano Ace Hardware locks/chains for restrooms	34.51
8/22/2025 Coles Hardware Drill bit, brass adapter, copper crimp	
Drain Valve	72.51
8/22/2025 Scicchitano Ace Hardware-hammer drill	31.08
10/10/2025 EPSCO – plumbing supplies	50.06
10/25/2025 Jones Hardware – Bolts and wood for handicap area	138.66
10/27/2025 Zimmerman’s- J Channel for handicap	62.75
11/1/2025 Scicchitano -Bolts for handicap area	63.10
TOTAL	452.67

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to reimburse Mr. Motyka \$452.67 for misc. items for the restroom project.

Ms. Gensemer questioned if this reimbursement requested is directly from the grant. Mr. Motyka stated it is direct out of the general fund. Mr. Motyka stated he also gives his borough salary back and has been doing it for a number of years, he stated he is not profiting and does not take a salary from the borough of Kulpmont.

Mr. Chesney stated this is money that came out of Stephens pocket but was for the restroom project and that money being reimbursed to him would that be possibly reimbursed back to the borough through the grant that was taken to build that restrooms.

Mr. Motyka replied stating “no.” Mr. Motyka explained because if he needed a lock and chain to lock it up, he would have had to get three bids, and it was far easier for him to run to Scicchitano’s and get the lock, adding these are just unforeseen costs.

Mr. Motyka stated he knows he mentioned before the contractor should pick up the bill for this and stated there is no contractor because there are fifty people that volunteered down there every time, we did not pay a contractor for any work down there.

Mr. Chesney stated he hopes in the future when we get bids on projects things are covered and the engineers and the architects and all of these people with these terrific degrees understand what makes a building and you need locks on the doors, drain valves, and stated it is just horrible that expenses that keep coming up and that engineers and architects did not foresee the case that you must lock the door when you build the building and have drain valves.

Mr. Novakoski stated the original draft was drawn up by an engineer and there was nobody on the side of the volunteers that were super qualified to go through that and so they put it together and if they missed a few things big whoop.

ROLL CALL VOTE- MOTYKA (abstain), CHESNEY (no), HODGE, (yes),
FANELLA (yes), NOVAKOSKI (yes), GENSEMER (yes), HINE (yes)
5 YEAS – 1 NAYS – 1 abstain

Ms. Gensemer stated she stated she was told it is a DCNR grant and has a question about what Mr. Motyka said about the 3 bids that are required. She asked if that is a DCNR requirement because when she worked with DCNR grants in the past bids were required depending on how much the amount is. Mr. Motyka replied yes and stated he could show her the emails on the correspondence from our grant manager, and that is what has made this project frag out and made it so much more complicated. Mr. Motyka stated he encourages her, come spring as we close out to go down and check out the project.

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

Mr. Novakoski stated he has nothing to add other than his committee will get together and review the applications and move forward to schedule interviews.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Lisa Alexander from Scott Street and stated the policies that we have had where there are things that have not been done with fines, condemned houses, people living in the condemned properties and then questioned if things are going to change with that. She stated she has been here every month at these meetings trying to get something done. Mr. Fanella responded saying we are doing everything we can do right now legally. Lisa Alexander stated when you must live next to this and she has for three years and stated this is something she hopes council is really looking into and will get something done. Mr. Fanella questioned the Code officer Heather Owens if she is familiar with what property she is talking about. Heather Owens responded, stating it is the property the police and the code departments were determining if it is the police

department or the code department to handle. Heather Owens stated she talked to the police officer, and he explained to her what she needed to do and then she spoke with the previous solicitor and he said he was going to discuss with council filing a case and then there was to be an executive meeting to get an approval to let our new solicitor take it and do what he needs to do. Ms. Gensemer asked for the address. Lisa Alexander replied 1139 Scott Street. Solicitor Matulewicz stated it was discussed. Lisa Alexander thanked council.

OLD BUSINESS-

Mr. Chesney stated many of the Veteran Flags are in very poor shape to be displayed and we are looking at ideas and possible options. Mr. Fanella stated anyone who purchased a banner is welcome to come to the borough building to take a look at the banner and they are welcome to take theirs or if in good condition they may be put up.

NEW BUSINESS-

Mr. Motyka stated we received a \$30,000.00 Walk Works grant for deficiencies we have in the borough for transportation we have in the borough, sidewalks and crosswalks and all that. Mr. Motyka stated we need a committee from the borough residents to belong and voice your ideas. He stated any resident interested on being involved and on that committee to contact him or Rhonda at the borough administrative office. Mr. Motyka stated the improvements and design ideas will need to be put on paper. He stated we do have a 1.8-million-dollar PennDOT grant pending so that grant is no matching to the borough it is 100% construction for the borough. Mr. Motyka stated the \$200,000.00 we received from the gaming funds will fund the design of the project. Mr. Motyka stated we will have the design and cross our fingers and get it to PennDOT. He stated it cannot be Councils ideas as a group; he will need help from the borough residents to decide what improvements are needed and urges the residents to contact the borough office to participate.

Mr. Fanella stated we had an emergency repair for the \$2028.02 for the fire department, the alternator seized up on the fire truck.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Ms. Gensemer to amend the bills to be paid to include the emergency repair in the amount of \$2028.02.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Chesney reminded residents to be mindful of the materials to be recycled. He asked no plastic bags to be placed in the trailers stating they are for #1 and #2 plastics only.

He reminded cardboard is for only cardboard, not cardboard covered in any wax. He said to be mindful of no pizza boxes, lottery tickets etc.... he stated the cardboard recycling is there to be a convenience. He stated it is not there to get rid of your garbage.

Mr. Chesney thanked the new businesses recently opened in town. He stated he hopes we could support the new businesses and the people that are trying to do something for our community.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Borough Secretary

Approval date February 11, 2026