

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 11, 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, February 11, 2026

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

ABSENT: Bernard Novakoski

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Edwin Howerter, Erin Stellar, Ed Goodlunus, Tina Treese, Rich Hallick, Mike McCaffery, Ray Siko, R Cooper.

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

Mr. Cooper questioned the ordinance change for occupational tax that he read about in the paper, stating that he would like that clarified, and stated he did not see anything where the Borough was going to go after delinquent taxpayers.

Mr. Chesney responded, stating that today we are searching delinquent tax collectors and that will be separate from this discussion. Mr. Chesney stated the motion was approved and advertised at last month's meeting that ordinance to be presented this evening is going to be ordinance 2026-02 and stated in order to generate additional revenue for lawful borough purposes including but not limited to improving borough services and operating costs and avoiding reductions in services. He added that was brought up at the last meeting that was going to be assessed equally to what our local nearby municipalities are doing at 200%.

Mr. Chesney stated that will generate approximately an additional \$31,000.00 which will help in a few different areas. Mr. Chesney asked if that answers his question. Mr. Cooper replied, stating it does not because even if you double it you come up with \$62,000.00 and will still be short \$42,000.00 if you do not do anything with the other 70%, which is 1,456 taxpayers.

Mr. Chesney replied, stating he is not going to say anything disparaging about the current delinquent tax collector but stated we are still not seeing income. Mr. Chesney stated the county uses Keystone, the school district uses Keystone and later in the meeting we will discuss switching to them and hopefully we could catch up to these taxpayers.

Mr. Chesney stated we don't have big industry knocking on our door or falling from the sky, all we have is you people, the town. Mr. Cooper stated what was in the paper just did not make any sense and expressed penalizing the 30% because you would be doubling and penalizing them, but nothing with the other 70%. Mr. Chesney stated he understands his point and stated he hopes the collecting will improve.

Mr. Chesney stated Mr. Motyka did some research of other local communities and they are collecting at 200% and those are people with industry and business. Mr. Chesney stated it is not that your taxes are going to completely double. Mr. Cooper stated an example would be if you're paying \$50.00 now you would be paying \$100.00, and if you are collecting \$31,000.00 you then would collect \$62,000.00 with the increase if you get the other 70%, you're talking about \$208,000.00.

Mr. Chesney state what we have is renters that some in and stay a few month and are then gone. Mr. Cooper stated that the other 70% are addresses. Mr. Chesney replied, "definitely."

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Robert Fanella)

MAYORS REPORT- (Gregory Sacavage)

Mayor Sacavage stated the police report is attached for the month of January and asked officer Petrovich if he has anything to add to the report. Officer Petrovich replied, stating he does not.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR PROCLIMATION

In accordance with the powers and duties granted in the Borough Code to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Constitution, as Mayor of the Kulpmont Borough I have the duty, honor, and privilege to extend and present Ceremonial Proclamations to honor, celebrate, or recognize events, individuals, or groups within the community. On this date, I happily and proudly do so at the monthly meeting of the Kulpmont Borough Council, by wishing those in our community of Chinese culture and religion and who follow the Lunar Calendar, a happy upcoming Happy New Year. The start of their celebration is known as the Spring Festival and continues from February 17 until March 3. There are 12 animals that are represented in the Chinese Zodiac. This year's animal is the FIRE HORSE, which represents passion, energy, intensity, and perseverance, all the attributes that this community has to offer and demonstrates daily.

Therefore, I join all the residents of our Borough in saying "xin nin kauai le" or Happy New Year to all those following the traditions and customs of this holiday and sharing them with us as friends and family of our community.

Respectfully Submitted on this 11 Day, February 2026

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed for the January 14, 2026, meeting 2026

MOTION- Mrs. Gensemer made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve the January 14, 2026, meeting minutes.

VOICE VOTE –
Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk reported under correspondence received;

1. A letter was received from Erin E. Stellar proposing a food insecurity project to benefit the residents of Kulpmont. Copied Mayor/Council

Mayor Sacavage state he met with Erin a month ago when she stopped into borough hall with a wonderful concept that she brought to his attention. He stated he told her he would pass on the information to borough council. Mayor Sacavage stated Erin is proposing to join in with the many organizations in our town on a grassroots food pantry for those that are in need in the borough. He stated he left his role of Mayor and put his hat on as the chairman of the board of the Susquehanna Central Opportunities organization. They coordinate food banks in a three-county area around Northumberland County. Mayor Sacavage stated he put her in touch with Megan Baer who is the CEO of their organization and stated she met with Erin and has committed to supporting her in her efforts in coming into Kulpmont with bringing materials and supplies into Kulpmont.

Mayor Sacavage stated CSO will be coming in tomorrow into the Kulpmont Holy Angels parking lot with their mobile food bank from 10 to 12 noon. He stated that many places' people must go to the food CSO brings the food to them. He stated he will let Erin speak to council about it.

Erin Stellar thanked council for their time and stated implementing this project would broaden the reach, it is not meant to replace but to broaden the reach of already existing programs in Kulpmont. Many projects require proof on need or restraints that this project would not require. She stated it would be available 24 hours a day, seven days per week and you could donate or take as you want, when you want. Ms. Stellar stated that opens it up to people that may not be available or eligible to take from other resources in the area. Mayor Sacavage questioned if she had a location in mind. Ms. Stellar stated preferably an area on a main street that is accessible by foot or by car and that will not disrupt the flow of traffic. She stated possible at two locations at each end of town. Mayor Sacavage stated possibly Chairman of Service and Facilities Robert Fanella could meet with you at city hall to discuss. Mr. Motyka addressed Ms. Stellar and said once you get your toes in the water and come back a month from now with your needs, we could probably help to support those needs.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hine to approve service and facilities to help Ms. Stellar in her endeavor.

Mr. Chesney questioned what help would be needed from Service and Facilities, setting up or what is it they would help with.

Ms. Stellar stated as in some of the other communities the initial construction of the pantry, which is not a big project, has been done by Eagle Scouts. She stated Megan from CSO stated they have funds and supplies available to construct the pantry, which is not a big project. She stated she would guess it would be just approving the location and then placing it. Typically, if it is not attached to a pole it would need to be attached to a pole and cemented in the ground.

Mr. Chesney questioned if she is talking about a possible structure. Ms. Gensemer stated it would almost be a small shed stating her friends have one and it is a small shed and stated it works well. Ms. Stellar stated she was not talking shed size but more like a kitchen cabinet size that you could open that would have several shelves.

Mr. Sacavage stated being on a main street we could keep a better eye on it.

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

2. Guyette Communications information to upgrade our phone system – Copied to Mayor/Council
3. A letter was received from St. Pauline Religious Foundation requesting use of the Veterans Memorial Field Complex For the Circus. Wednesday July 22, 2026, with shows at 5:00 and 7:00 PM.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Ms. Gensemer to approve Saint Pauline Centers request to utilize the Veterans Memorial Field Complex for the Circus.

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. Rhonda stated on the list of bills that the amount under PPL \$11,666.35 is not accurate and the total PPL should be \$6,921.65 which brings the correct total to \$25,018.29.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve the bills and additional regular monthly bills to be paid.

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

Paul is asking for a motion to solicit area Banks for rates on a tax anticipation note in the amount of \$100,000.00.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve the Treasurer to solicit local banks for interest rates for a tax anticipation loan of \$100,000.00.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT (Anthony Matulewicz)

No Report

POLICE REPORT

Report was made under Mayor Sacavage's report.

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

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)
Report Attached

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT – (Heather Owens)
Report Attached. Heather proceeded to read aloud her report, office calls 90, cell calls were 44, 104 texts received, 7 messages and 45 emails, 5 rental inspections, 8 ordinance-based permits, 61 violations issued and 1 court.

Mr. Chesney thanked Heather and stated he hopes the citizens appreciate the work she does, at times her hands are tied but assured that she works to collect evidence and material so if she does go to court, her batting average is extremely high, and the magistrate cant strike her out.

Mr. Chesney stated the fire department has been kind of busy as the report shows and he thanked the Fire Chief for everything he does with the department and with the training of the fireman. Mr. Chesney stated he thinks we have a super force and hopes to continue to work together to make both entities strong.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Food Surplus Distribution February 19, 2026, 8 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Borough Garage

Price Quote for Police Vehicle Tires –/ Weavers - \$543.20

Price Quote 4 Dump Truck Tires and 2 spare rims/ Weavers - \$1140.00

Total \$1,683.20

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Hine to purchase tires for the police vehicle and dump truck with two additional rims for a total cost of \$1,683.20.

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

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated a motion is needed to accept the ordinance 2026-02 which has been advertised.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to adopt Ordinance 2026-02.

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

Watching the conception and birth of this ordinance over the past month and ½ has caused me great reflection on my duties as the Mayor of the Kulpmont Borough. The challenge I have is exactly what the framers of the Pennsylvania Constitution decided when they formulated the standards of how Boroughs should operate in our Commonwealth.

It said that every Mayor has the duty and obligation to veto an ordinance when it is in the interest of the residents of their community to do so, but at the same time they cannot persuade the members of council to either amend or refrain from enacting at all. The use of the veto by a mayor, like a verdict of a judge, should be thoughtful and judicious.

Although I understand and agree that this ordinance is legally bound and has met all standards and timetables to be lawfully voted on this evening, I do feel the residents did not have enough time to absorb its implications. I wish it would have been included in last year's normal tentative and final budgetary process.

However, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, it is my duty to veto an ordinance when it is in the interest of the residents to do so. The reason for this ordinance is sound, is that our personal assessment is antiquated, it needs to be updated. Waiting another year will not solve any problems; it will just dig deeper holes. In 1986, as a newly elected councilman for the borough, I was forced

to raise taxes 6 mills, because the previous councils failed to pass budgets that adequately reflected meeting the demands of increasing expenses with revenues.

So, I will endorse the ordinance but recommend that in two years when a new council is seated that an undue burden not be placed upon them and force a sitting Mayor to use their due diligence. Mayor Sacavage stated he will endorse this ordinance.

Mrs. Gensemer stated she would like to explain why she voted no on this, in her research in 2022 this tax went from 10% to 100% and now four years later you are going to increase it from 100% to 200% and stated that is a 1900% increase in four years and stated she knows her money did not increase 1900%.

Mrs. Gensemer stated on top of that also in 2022 you also increased the occupational privilege tax from \$10.00 to \$52.00 and stated to some people that may not be a big deal but to someone who has a kid that eats 10,000 calories a day, \$52.00 is a lot of money. Mrs. Gensemer stated she thinks the occupational privilege tax is a joke explaining because if she is not working, she is not eating and neither are her kids.

Mrs. Gensemer stated she cannot consciously ask people to spend more money on this when we have things going on and stated we could discuss more in an executive session, but she stated she thinks there are better ways to look at this. She stated in 2022 it was approximately 21% of the population that was not paying and now it is 70% and stated she does not know how doubling it is going to make more money come in, adding she cannot fathom where you're getting that money.

Mr. Chesney stated that is where the delinquent tax collectors come in. Mrs. Gensemer replied, absolutely." Mr. Chesney used citations issued by the code office; the good people are going to pay. Mr. Chesney stated simply with our straight millage that goes right into our General Fund is getting depleted with all of the services we are trying to provide.

Mr. Chesney stated this is just another way to try and get some kind of income going into the treasury without going to direct mileage. Mr. Chesney stated he would be the first one to say no, no, no, no, but everything has gone up and we live in a mouse trap. He stated we want services and we want police; we are very lucky right now to have a part-time police force which is exceptional in what they are doing. Mr. Chesney stated he understands Mrs. Gensemer's point, but the people working and paying that increase he would hope they understand.

Mrs. Gensemer stated she would like to discuss something she would like to look at doing in executive session.

Mr. Motyka stated he would like to ask the solicitor to gather the information needed to approach the school district to get rid of the occupation tax, it has to be voted by the school district, and we wouldn't need to be chasing these nonpayers anymore. Solicitor Matulewicz stated it is a local tax option where earned income tax goes up and abolishes the occupational assessment; he stated the formula they use is revenue neutral, so it is not a tax increase, for some people it is and for

some people there is a decrease, revenue neutral. Solicitor Matulewicz stated and then it would get rid of the per capita also.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Gensemer to give notice to Statewide Tax that we are going to terminate our contract to institute Keystone as our delinquent tax collector.

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

Mr. Chesney stated for the citizens and audience, Keystone will be the collectors and the ones that will round up the delinquent taxpayers.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Marlin Hodge)
No report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)
No report

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated our first walk works meeting will be Monday at 5:00 here in the Borough meeting room. Mr. Motyka stated some people reached out to him that want to be on that committee.

Mr. Motyka stated we worked pretty hard to get solar power here in the borough and stated PPL contacted us and said we were obligated to pay the full upgrade cost of their substation 1.4 million dollars and that project is on hold. Mr. Motyka questioned how one provider could carry the burden for upgrades.

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

Mr. Fanella stated he did find an accident form to use.

Mr. Fanella stated we interviewed police officers and turned over the floor to Mr. Hine. Mr. Hine stated we interviewed two officers and we do have an officer excited to come on full time, already part of the Kulpmont Community, living in Kulpmont.

MOTION- Mr. Hine made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Gensemer to hire Mariah Vetovich as a full-time officer at the borough.

Mr. Motyka stated the solicitor has looked over the contract we currently have and the solicitor has the information for the sign on bonus, all the information we need. Mr. Fanella questioned

when her starting date will be. Mayor Sacavage stated March 12th and we will swear her in on March 11th.

ROLL CALL VOTE- MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), HODGE, (yes),
FANELLA (yes), NOVAKOSKI (absent), GENSEMER (yes), HINE (yes)
5 YEAS – 0 NAY

Mayor Sacavage stated we are tickled pink or should he say tickled Kulpmont Blue defiantly moving in the right direction and thanked council for their due diligence of work and stated hopeful it is one step in doing the right thing for this town.

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Bernard Novakoski)

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tina Treese questioned if a petition was ever filed for the mill, conservatorship. Mr. Motyka stated that Solicitor Greco had a time constraint in filing conservatorship for the mill property and asked solicitor Matulewicz to do some research in going about to do it and if it is worth us taking ownership in having direction in the future of it. Mr. Motyka stated we can have to solicitor look into it and possibly have an answer for next month. Tina Treese stated after that you must send a letter to the owner that you are going to do this. She said but possibly when you do that, he will get off his butt and do something.

Mr. Chesney stated that it is a very expensive proposition. She stated she agrees but if we could just start something and let the owner know we are not just sitting around. She asked when it's the last time the owner was cited. Heather Owens replied for the last snow. She asked if he paid. Heather Owens stated he has never paid; they then go to the magistrate.

Mr. Cooper stated just a quick note on that conservatorship on the mill; he urged to stay away from that mill because it is going to cost the borough 4 million dollars to tear the building down. Tina Treese said it is not to tear it down; it is to bring it up to code. Mr. Cooper replied it is going to cost more to bring it up to code. Mrs. Gensemer stated it will cost three times as much to bring it up to code. Tina said, "but the thing is to get the ball rolling and let the owner know we are looking into something. Mr. Cooper stated the county is also looking at it through redevelopment as well as others and said again, you're looking at a lot of money.

Mr. Cooper questioned what this tax anticipation loan is. Mayor Sacavage offered to explain and stated a tax anticipation note is a standard procedure of operation. He stated many municipalities do not have enough of a carryover in January until taxes are collected in March, so you're looking for a dry area and some money to use to pay the bills until the tax revenue comes in. He stated it's in anticipation of your taxes collected; you pay it back the same year when your taxes come in.

OLD BUSINESS-

Mr. Chesney reminded citizens to properly dispose of recyclables and the correct items only. Reminding that the recycling program is a service to our citizens and asks for cooperation from all citizens in being diligent in proper items being dropped off or left for recycling.

Mr. Hodge questioned if the amusement tax notices were sent out. Rhonda Wilk replied they were not sent out yet and stated council was reviewing the fees. Mr. Hodge questioned if we collected last year. Rhonda Wilk Replied she is not sure; she was not here most of the year and stated letters were sent out last year.

Mr. Fanella stated last year Mr. Novakoski went around and checked how many devices each had. Mr. Fanella stated he thinks the ordinance does not say the fees, Mr. Motyka stated we were told the ordinance does not need to state the fees; the fees can be changed by ordinance. Mr. Fanella stated we will have someone check the locations for any changes and will then give the secretary an update.

NEW BUSINESS-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Valentine's Day

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fenella thanked everyone for coming and stated council will now meet in executive session to discuss contractual matters possible litigation.

Solicitor Anthony Matulewicz stated council met in executive session for approximately 1 hour 20 minutes for contractual matters and possible litigation.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Borough Secretary

Approval date March 11, 2026