

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
May 13, 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, May 13, 2026

PRESENT: Mayor Sacavage, Robert Chesney, Stephen Motyka, Robert Fanella, Beth Gensemer, Mark Hine, Marlin Hodge and Bernard P Novakoski.

ABSENT: NONE

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Scott Hayes, Donny Uujanovic, Tara Purcell, Rita Poplaski, Willow Perkins

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated we are going to change things up some and asked Mr. Motyka to speak at this time on the active transportation plan by Livic. Mr. Motyka stated for several months now we have been meeting with members of the community and have had surveys which we then used to come up with a draft for a transportation plan.

Mr. Motyka stated you all have a copy of the draft and stated there will be an opportunity for public comment on the 28th at Sully's Sit and Sip coffee shop here in the borough. He stated the community could come, view this plan and provide comments. Mr. Motyka stated we also provided our neighboring municipalities with a copy of this plan to view and for their comments. He stated at the June meeting we would like for council to act and to adopt this plan as drafted and edited.

Mr. Motyka questioned Willow Perkins form Livic concerning posting this on our website as a draft. She agreed and stated we then can post the final as well. Willow from Livic Civil stated just so council is aware Kulpmont was awarded \$30,000.00 to create this plan and within that time frame we used GIS tools to put together some surveys that basically used mapping which enables a community member to go on the survey and map problem areas in regard to active transportation, walking, biking ADA compliance. She stated they use that data along with the sidewalk inventory data, Geisinger data and a few other pieces to try and figure out the priority

of the projects we want to focus on in Kulpmont. Willow Perkins stated this draft was submitted to Walk-Works whom the grant was awarded and stated we are waiting for comments from them but wanted to introduce this to council and stated they would really appreciated feedback and if there are any suggestions for the plan she asked council to feel free to email her and stated as Mr. Motyka stated there will be an open house at the coffee shop here on the corner and stated they will present the mapping on a larger scale so everyone could see it and answer any final questions as well as get suggestions from the public.

Ms. Perkins stated hopefully everyone will like this plan and will see how it could be useful for future funding for community collaboration and borough safety for community members and stated June 10th is when we would like to see this in action. Mr. Motyka asked if anyone has any questions for Ms. Perkins, our municipal planner from Livic Associates.

Mr. Chesney questioned whether the \$30,000.00 is just to get this started developing this plan and asked to clarify if there is no money put aside to take any active utilization of anything, it is just to develop the plan. Mr. Perkins responded and said “yes.” Mr. Chesney said we are not obligated to continue with this in the future if we decide it can’t work in Kulpmont then case closed.

Mr. Chesney stated this \$30,000.00 is going to take care of initial footwork and design with nothing up front. Ms. Perkins replied stating no projects are being done, no funding going toward projects. She said this could help in the future if we wanted to look at funding opportunities we could submit this plan and say this is adopted in the borough and possibly one of those projects correspond with whatever grant application we would be going for. Ms. Perkins stated this plan is just guidance it is not set in stone with anything we must do or do this plan by this date or anything like that.

Mayor Sacavage stated having this plan is basically having one foot in the door adding most times when you apply for anything state, federal or even nonprofit organizations they are looking for a plan and having something like this we are one step ahead and then complimented Willow Perkins on her work and everything she has done.

Ms. Perkins stated lastly there are some segments highlighted that need to be completed, one of those is stakeholder interviews and she stated she has talked with the owner of Sully’s Café and she offered to do an interview which is basically asking questions to business owners and asked council if they have any suggestions who to talk with to please let her know.

Mr. Motyka stated if there are no additional questions we will get this posted for comments over the next few weeks and hopefully will be adopted at the June meeting. Mr. Motyka stated the Mayor has done a great job in seeing how important this is for future funding.

Mr. Fanella stated he was contacted by Pen DOT and paving for Route 61 and Sixth Street will not be done this year, the only thing we will see done is subbase repairs until 2027.
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

MAYORS REPORT- (Gregory Sacavage)

Mayor Sacavage stated the police report is attached and stated we had 26 calls and texts, 4 incident reports, 53 parking tickets, 3 traffic tickets, criminal arrests 2, 348 patrol miles.

Mayor Sacavage stated he has a few Proclamations stating the first is celebrating the accomplishments of Teachers and Nurses Residing in our community thanking them for our service.

Mayor Sacavage stated this past Sunday was Mother's Day and recognizing the Institution of Motherhood and thanking both living and deceased mothers for their service to their families and our community.

Mayor Sacavage stated this May 25th, Memorial Day we extend special recognition to those individuals and their families who died in service for our country that resided in our community.

Mayor Sacavage stated our park is named Veterans Memorial Park in recognition of the service to our community by our Veterans.

Mayor Sacavage reminded the community of the Street Sweeper scheduled to operate on – May 27th, 28th and 29th. He asked the public to put that on their calendars and stated it is posted on the street; in the borough, it was also in the newspaper and posted on our website and Facebook.

Mayor Sacavage stated there is not going to be a Kulpmont Car Cruise with the passing of Joe Cessari. Mayor Sacavage stated unless there is an objection, the Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday June 20th 8 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with a rain date of June 27th. Mayor Sacavage stated we will have more tentative information concerning Chestnut Street and the Yard Sale after speaking with council and more information will be forthcoming as we get closer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed for the April 8, 2026 and April 29, 2026 meeting minutes

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hine approving minutes from April 89th and April 29th 2026.

VOICE VOTE –
Unanimous

Correspondence:

Rhonda Wilk stated **Holy Angels Parish – Annual** Parish Picnic July 31 and August 1, 2026 – Firework display Saturday August 1st 9:45 p.m.- requesting permission by Mayor and Council

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Ms. Gensemer granting Holy Angels permission concerning the request for the Parish Picnic and the closure of streets.

VOICE VOTE-
Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated **Kulpmont Winery** correspondence was copied to Mayor and Council concerning the 3rd. Annual Street Fair- June 27th asking permission to close the road, 10th and Ash Street for the event at the winery as in past years.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney approving the closure of Streets as in past years for the 3rd Annual Street Fair.

VOICEVOTE-
Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, concerning the LSA Funds and stated that was copied to Mayor and Council.

Mr. Motyka stated this is the grant we got, the local share account for \$200,000.00 of design work for Chestnut Street revitalization, we haven't received money yet. Mr. Fanella stated there is no action needed.

Correspondence was received from Seven Mountains EMS Council – RE: EMS WEEK May 17-23, 2026, Rhonda stated that was copied to Mayor and Council.

Rhonda Wilk stated Kulpmont Sportsmen Association send correspondence for support and a list of Events planned for 2026, this was copied to Mayor and Council

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to continue the support and to donate \$100.00 as in the past.

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

Rhonda Wilk stated lastly correspondence was received from Freedom 40 LLC – RE: Waiver Request and this was copied to both Council and Mayor.

Scott, one of the owners of Freedom LLC stated they have been here in the community fort two years now and have been working with their engineer and the county doing engineering and surveying trying to design a plan for their small little campground. He stated they realized between surveys and drawings they will need a waiver to do sewer holding tanks because they cannot connect to city sewer because of elevations. He stated the issue is the elevations and stated he is not sure if council reviewed the letter from his engineer so they could get a waiver to use holding tanks on the property, and stated they also spoke to a local sewer pump out guy and is willing to do a monthly contract with them to maintain those tanks. Scott from Freedom LLC distributed the information to council for review. Mr. Chesney questioned if a sand mound would be possible. Scott replied, stating they looked at that and the soil is not acceptable to do that. Mr. Chesney asked if we have to supplement the ordinance. The Solicitor stated this just came in yesterday and so we need to review it. Mr. Chesney stated he understands but just to give Scott an answer prior to them leaving even if we must make an amendment to the Ordinance that we make it that this is an exception due to the topography and basically on the outer limits of the town and the tanks maintained and cleaned out. Scott from Anderson LLC stated they don't even anticipate monthly they don't come up that much; this is not full time

stating they use it for a vacation spot adding they love the community and stated it is a slow process with Saldo. Mr. Chesney stated our solicitor will need to review. Scott from Freedom LLC stated all of the water from Kulpmont passed through their property and stated he does not know if council is aware of that, there is a valley there and once the surveyors came out and with the topography and elevations where the main sewer line that comes through the property, they just cannot maintain the distance underground to where the main sewer line passes.

The Solicitor stated it is complex and we can't just do it tonight. Mayor Sacavage asked how many people you have down there. Scott replied five owners and so typically if they are all there with the kids there could be 10 or 12 people there. Mayor Sacavage expressed concern with a safety factor adding he knows you have a gate down there and would like to see that the fire department and police department have access to a key to the gate so that in the case of an emergency and if something does happen, they would have access.

Scott from Freedom LLC stated he agrees and then told Mayor Sacavage the sewer authority does have access to the combination for the gate. Mayor Sacavage asked if the KMHJMA was involved or in contact and then questioned the solicitor if they were involved or were we the only entity involved. Mr. Fanella stated they were the first ones involved with it. Scott stated the sewer authority did some design work and permits, and the county commissioners have been great, but it is a lot of work. Scott stated they have permits with DEP.

Scott stated they have storm water that they need to deal with because they get Kulpmont's entire run-off. He stated Aqua gave them water, but they are running generators and have been approved by PPL and working with Mr. Bielskie. Paul Niglio stated historically if you look at the maps that is a tributary of Quaker Run and stated it just so happens the storm system carries the water, but it was going there anyway, a natural drain.

Mr. Niglio suggested council entertain a motion to spend money because for the solicitor to do some work here it is going to cost money; it is not just one or two hours of work. Solicitor stated he agrees that it is going to be involved.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Gensemer to authorize the solicitor to move forward with the steps needed.

Mr. Chesney questioned the solicitor if it may be better for them and everybody else for the municipal authority to do research on that or because it is within the borough limits, we must handle the legality of that. Solicitor Matulewicz stated it is before his time, but he believes they cannot utilize them and stated he said it would be by far cheaper. Mr. Fanella stated the authority already said if they could hook up to their main, they gave them the okay.

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

Mr. Fanella then told Scott he would keep in touch with him. Scott from Freedom LLC left an extra set of prints for Steve Bielskie.

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Council members received financial information and bills to be paid and stated a motion is needed to approve and pay the bills listed and any regular bills received.

MOTION- Mr. Hine made the motion and Mr. Hodge seconded the motion to approve and pay the bills.

Mr. Chesney questioned the treasurer if we have money to pay the bills that are pending. Mr. Niglio replied saying “yes.”

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 he is requesting an executive session for legal issues and possible contracts.

POLICE REPORT

Police Report was reported under Mayor Sacavage’s report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Marshall Mirarchi, III)

Report attached, Attachment #2

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Devin O’Hearn)

No report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report attached, Attachment #3

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

Report attached, Attachment #4

Heather Owens stated she had 151 office calls, 105 cell phone calls, 20 texts, 22 private messages, 105 emails, 7 inspections, 15 based ordinance permits, 50 violation tickets issued, 6 citations issued, 4 courts, we have 265 current rental properties and 92 landlords.

Mr. Chesney questioned if there is an update on the mill. Heather Owens replied, “No.” Mr. Chesney asked if there is an update to the 600 Street project, there seems to be a PPL issue that hassled down the project. Heather Owens stated she does not think it is an issue, she stated she thinks there is a work order and PPL has not disconnected the power and until they do, they cannot move forward. Mr. Chesney stated the 1200 block of property, the guy from Pottsville, please continue to site him, fine him we should be able to arrest this guy go to Pottsville and throw him in handcuffs, he is not doing anything the floor is getting more rotted and kids walk past there every day, this is a major problem it has been this way for years.

Mr. Chesney asked about the fire house on the 1300 block of Scott. Heather Owens stated that they are almost done and as a matter of fact one property owner had told her it should be done tomorrow and asked when they then could expect to receive their check. Solicitor Matulewicz answered when it is brought up to the borough specifications basic minimum standards of the ordinance criteria for returning the \$ secure and stable. Mr. Bielski will know criteria and check them off.

Mr. Motyka stated the four structures have been removed and two of the foundation walls remain and the floor slabs have been taken out and backfilled. He recommends council to drive by.

The solicitor stated as far as returning money, not until it is to the borough specifications and stated Mr. Bielskie will know that.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated the Food Surplus Distribution May 21st at 8 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella stated concerning the Code Officer he wants to see a motion to follow union contract raise rate for a three-year contract to the expiration date of the union contract

The Solicitor questioned if this is to make her part of the union. Ms. Gensemer replied “no,” this is to follow the raise pay schedule as the street department.

Mr. Motyka questioned the record if Ms. Gensemer could repeat what this raise would be. Ms. Gensemer stated it would be \$1.80 per hour each year for the three-year contract.

MOTION- Ms. Gensemer made the motion for the code officer and full-time office personnel to receive the same hourly pay increase scale as the street department and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski.

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

Paul Niglio questioned for the record this motion is for full time. Ms. Gensemer replied, “Yes.”

Mr. Fanella stated he would like to meet in executive session to discuss contractual matters.

Mr. Chesney said he would like to say we do have to slow down with what we are spending, we just have to be realistic, and we must understand what our budget is and what our requirements are. He stated everything that comes down the line we are grabbing like a kid in a candy store

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney said he would like to say we do have to slow down with what we are spending, we just must be realistic, and we must understand what our budget is and what our requirements are. He stated everything that comes down the line we are grabbing like a kid in a candy shop, grabbing at everything that comes down. Mr. Chesney stated we must really think about where we are heading and what each project is going to give to us. He stated we still have a limited number of projects that are not done and so let’s just be careful.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Marlin Hodge)

No report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

No report

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated we were unsuccessful with the Penn DOT transportation set aside money, Shamokin was successful, Kulpmont was not.

Mr. Motyka stated there is a resolution and waiver that was provide to council for the DCED TASA – Resolution / Waiver to be approved. He stated this was a zero match.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to adopt this resolution and was seconded by Ms. Gensemer.

ROLL CALL VOTE- MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (abstain), HODGE, (yes), FANELLA (yes), NOVAKOSKI (yes), GENSEMER (yes), HINE (yes)
6 YEAS – 1 abstain

PERSONNEL- (Beth Gensemer)

Mr. Fanella stated council will meet at this time in executive session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual matters.

Solicitor Matulewicz stated council met in executive session for approximately 40 minutes regarding legal issues regarding the mill, and potential contract issues with the street department and The United States Government

MOTION- Mr. Hine made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to draft a letter of interest to ICE

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

Ms. Gensemer stated she just wants to say if anyone has gone by town park Ed and the guys have fixed up the benches and they are very nice.

MOTION- Ms. Gensemer made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to hire the two young men back for the summer at \$10.00 per hour and for not more than 25 hours per week.

Mr. Motyka questioned Ms. Gensemer if we were able to track our street department's hours so we could use the liquid fuel to pay their salaries. Ms. Gensemer replied stating "I am not sure." Mr. Motyka stated you were able to track those hours, that is all he wanted to know.

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

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Bernard Novakoski)

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tara Purcell stated she lived in the borough for twenty years and stated she never had too much to complain. She stated about five years ago the street department came to Second Street and looked at the holes and did their painting and stated she has not seen them since.

Ms. Purcell stated she woke up Sunday morning to get in her car and now has a ding in her windshield. She said in front of a car there is a hole so bad that the police officer that parks there, you could add another half of a car, and it would all be in the hole.

Ms. Purcell stated that is only one between Second and Oak Street and stated there are two more. She said the street sweeper does not even go down her road for seven or eight years and now when is going to have to pay to have her windshield fixed. Ms. Purcell said she would like to know if the street department will come and fix her street, it is very bad. She said the street plows do come through and what was there overtime got worse. She said the secretary had her information and said she was in on Monday morning and stated she now has a bill she should not have for parking at her house.

Ms. Purcell said it was not malicious; it is just from people pulling out from the light and it is shooting up behind right at her car. Ms. Purcell said she has waited five years and it is now bad and when the street sweeper does not even go through you know you have got a problem. She said she is basically asking for the street department to come out and fix their street and said it would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Fanella stated Rhonda did call him and inform him of this and got on the phone with Ed and stated he would come up with the sweeper to get the loose stuff up and as soon as the hot patch is available, we are going to try and patch it up. She said good luck with that there are three holes in that street, it is bad,

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Saturday at 9:00 the Legion will be replacing flags at five cemeteries. Mr. Motyka stated Memorial Day will be held on Monday May 25th and stated we will start at the Legion and go down Pine Street and stated we usually ask that one side be no parking for Fire Trucks and baseball teams and them coming down Chestnut Street and we usually post for the walking baseball teams and such. He stated there are plenty of organizations that would love for you to walk with them. The Mayor and Mr. Motyka discussed no parking and after discussion Begis stated both sides are posted no parking usually 8:00 until noon.

Mr. Motyka announced there will be a spaghetti dinner on Tuesday election day at the Post 231 and stated the Sons of the American Legion are hosting it.

Ed Begis stated there will be no parking on Chestnut Street on Friday from 7:30 to 4:00 pm and the street department will be installing flags and banners.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Borough Secretary

Approval date June10, 2026