

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
APRIL 13, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mr. Chesney  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday April 13, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Stephen Motyka and Marlin Hodge.

**ABSENT:** none

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul A. Niglio, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Official Heather Owens and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** John S. Maciwsieski, Joe Politza, Edwin Howerter, Luke Darrup, Madison Mengel, Tyler Owens and Nick Bozza.

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

**MAYORS REPORT**- (Robert Slaby)

No Report

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval of the March 9<sup>th</sup> and the March 30, 2022, meeting minutes is needed.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve the meeting minutes from March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 30, 2022.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

Rhonda stated additional donations for the American Flag purchase for Chestnut Street was received from K of C Council, Sons of the American Legion Post 231 and Home Association Small Games of Chance.

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from The Kulpmont Car Cruise, a date for the cruise planned for June 19<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rhonda Stated action is needed for the request of borough council to apply for a special event permit from PennDOT. Copied to Mayor/Council

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion for the borough to proceed in applying for the special event permit for the car cruise and was seconded by Mr. Chesney.

Mr. Dowkus asked Officer Mazzeo to reach out for traffic control and safety. Officer Mazzeo agreed to do so.

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

The Annual Fight the Blight Golf Tournament will be held at Indian Hills Golf Club on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Copied to Mayor/Council

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to sponsor a hole for the tournament in the amount of \$150.00.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation sent correspondence, starting March 7, 2022, traffic counting on municipally owned roads will be placed and data to be available on PennDOT Traffic Information Repository website (TIRe) Copy Mayor/Council

SCRA send an informational letter with goal and projects outlined for 2022, Copy Mayor/Council

Northumberland County Elections and Voter Registration sent a letter to notify the borough of the primary election to be held Tuesday May 17, 2022, voting machines to be delivered the week before. Copy Mayor/Council

Winnie the Pooh Daycare is Partnering with the Mother Pauline Center, hosting children's Spring Carnival event on May 14, 2022, from 12:00 to 5:00 pm at Mother Pauline Complex. Copy Mayor/Council

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve the closure of the 1100 block of Maple Street for the Daycare Spring Carnival on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Correspondence was also received from Kulpmont 100 thanking the borough for the donation to support the organization and helping to make future events successful. Copy Mayor/Council

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation sent a letter to notify the borough of yearly maintenance of the traffic signal. Copy Mayor/Council/Borough Supervisor

Mr. Dowkus stated he thinks the timing is wrong on the traffic light and is unsafe and questioned how we reach out to them to have that corrected. Mayor Slaby state he just dealt with this a few weeks ago and stated there should be documentation in there as to how long that should operate when flashing, the green and the red.

Mr. Dowkus stated the green light turns to yellow then red. Mr. Dowkus stated when you come up the hill on Sixth Street, you can't see if any cars are coming West from Mt. Carmel. Mr. Dowkus asked anyone who has a contact to reach out. Mr. Dowkus stated with that study we may see how many cars are coming through there. Mr. Bielskie agreed to reach out concerning the red light.

PSAB sent a reminder of the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held on May 22-25, 2022, Hershey/deadline April 15<sup>th</sup> or until sold out- Copy Mayor/Council

Nick Bozza sent letter of notification for Earth Day- Pollination Garden – request consideration for a donation to help defray the cost of plants. Copy Mayor/Council

Mr. Dowkus asked Mr. Bozza what we are looking at as far as the plants and how the borough can help out. Mr. Bozza stated the master Gardner stated the cost will be between \$300.00 and \$500.00 and stated he is going to reach out to other organizations as well. Mr. Bozza stated they are the ones that will help us to get this garden state certified adding we are close.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to donate \$250.00 toward the pollination garden to continue the plantings.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Also, correspondence was received from PSAB Energy Procurement Program – navigating the evolving Electric Vehicle charging landscape. Copy Mayor/Council

**TREASURERS REPORT** – (Paul A. Niglio)

Council received a report which is attached and a list of bills to be approved for payment.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he has been doing some title work on the property on the corner of Scott and Fifth Street, by the creek. He stated he is going back in deeds researching if there is an easement or a right of way.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Officer Mazzeo stated the report is attached. Officer Mazzeo asked Council to let him know if there is anything they are not seeing on the report that they would like to see.

He stated the burglaries we had in town, the people we thought it was, it was them. Officer Mazzeo stated the State Police are doing the case and prosecuting. Officer Mazzeo stated the State Police got a break in the case.

Mr. Chesney stated he had a call from an Elderly woman and stated she was hit heavy with a phone scam and stated he just wants to warn everyone to be careful with people contacting you requesting information and account numbers.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT**- (Tri County COG)

Permits were issued and the report is attached.

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

Report attached.

Mr. Novakoski stated he sees work being done around town, but they don't have the permits hanging. Mr. Novakoski questioned the post office and the one down the road putting a roof on. Heather stated they have permits. Mr. Novakoski asked if they are to display them. Heather replied they should be displayed.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley reminded residents the food distribution will be held this month on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Bradley asked Bruce if the cutting edges on the agenda have been posted. Bruce replied they have been purchased.

Mr. Bradley stated the playground is now open.

**MOTION-** Mr. Bradley made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to purchase a new slide at a cost of \$836.08.

Mr. Dowkus stated last year he tried to repair the slide. Mr. Bradley stated with a hole in the slide it creates a liability and that is why he would like to see it replaced.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus suggested to put something there to deter kids from using the slide until replaced. Bruce Graff stated he put gorilla tape all over it and right now it is holding, there are no sharp edges and stated in his opinion if we remove the slide, he feels they will still go up there and possibly try to jump off.

Mr. Chesney questioned Bruce Graff on if he was able to find out what the wire was that was down. Bruce Graff replied, "I don't want to be mean; I am tired of everyone telling me about it." He stated he made the calls that he makes concerning that and stated he received so many calls on this. Bruce Graff stated he went up with a ladder and pulled the wire up above the roof line so that it is not blocking anything. Mr. Chesney replied, "well, good, thank you."

Mr. Bradley stated he would like to suggest expanding the maintenance building and stated we need a place to keep our stuff, we are paying rent and getting bounced around. Mr. Bradley stated he talked with Steve Motyka.

Mr. Bradley stated the biggest expense in building a building would be buying the land, we already own the land. He stated he thinks this is something we should pursue to eliminate paying rent to other people. Mr. Chesney asked if we would need bids on it. Mr. Bradley stated, "we need to take it to the next level."

Mr. Motyka stated he talked to his engineer and stated they would just hire an architect and mark it up and so he recommended we just approach an architect. Mr. Motyka stated he does not think it will meet the \$20,000.00 but we still need a document to bid out.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to pursue a designer to proceed with the expansion of the maintenance building.

Mr. Dowkus stated we have our engineer and stated he is sure they would point us in the right direction. Mr. Motyka stated it is very simple, if we go through an engineer, we are going to pay a mark up and then stated he recommended we don't do that.

Mr. Chesney then questioned if this will be totally enclosed. Mr. Bradley replied, "yes." Mr. Bradley stated we have to keep the street sweeper in there and Bruce keeps the recycling trailer in there and stated he is hoping it will be big enough that we can still utilize all of that.

Mr. Bradley stated he just feels it makes good business sense to gradually expand our own property and not to pay rent to somebody else. Mr. Bradley stated this is the first step.

Bruce Graff questioned why we cannot put a pole barn for storage down at the duck pond and stated we own that property. Mr. Chesney questioned what we pay for rent each year. Mr. Bradley replied, "over \$3,000.00."

Mr. Bielskie stated, "let's get this correct, they only get a stipend at the West End." Mr. Bielskie added it is not only for storage and stuff, but the fire company also has their stuff in there. Mr. Bielskie stated the cascade system is in there and that stipend does not even pay for the three-phase service that the cascade requires and stated they are not making money on that.

Mr. Bielskie stated the truck is coming back when they are done with it, and we are going to be selling two of the trucks. Mr. Bielskie stated there is going to be room there again.

Mr. Bradley stated it seems to him that this is becoming an issue and that is what he is trying to eliminate. Mr. Bradley stated Bruce should not need to search around where he is going to put the street sweeper, he should be able to park it anywhere he wants. Mr. Bradley stated if we own the property, it would be a minimum expense to put a lean-to off that building and stated he would feel we would be foolish not to do it. Mr. Bradley stated this is not up to him, he is only suggesting.

Mr. Chesney directed a statement to Mr. Bradley and stated we need numbers to see as opposed to what the rent is. Mr. Bielskie stated and the treasurer, Paul is not here. Mr. Chesney stated you need to use an educated guess and turn that guess into facts.

Mr. Dowkus stated the motion is to get an architect to draw up a plan and see what it may cost up to put this lean-to up. Mr. Bradley stated to see where we are at and then to put it

out to bid, that sounds good. Mr. Chesney stated with two trucks going to be sold, there is more room and so at \$3000.00..... Mr. Dowkus interjected and stated we don't need the Hatfield's and McCoy's from 100 years ago between the Fire Companies, we need to make the best decision for our guys. Mr. Dowkus stated we are wasting time going back and forth trying to find things and stuff get moved around over the winter.

Mr. Bradley stated possibly there is another valid suggestion as to another place we could put a pole barn up. Bruce Graff stated his stuff is packed in the garage, you can't even walk in there and stated he even has tires stored in the Municipal Building. Mr. Bradley stated there should be one place to store everything in there. Solicitor Greco stated a motion is on the floor. Mr. Chesney stated it is to pursue the idea.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated prices were received for the body cameras and questioned if the \$500.00 includes the set-up fee for the servers and such. Mr. Dowkus state he has not reached out to liquid technologies to hold all the information the cameras would get.

We received a quote for \$440.00 including the clip. A discussion took place and Officer Mazzeo stated he is not a computer guy and would suggest having Liquid Technologies install.

Mr. Motyka stated he would recommend we purchase the hardware from Liquid Technologies as well. Mr. Dowkus stated the company is in Pennsylvania and stated he would suggest purchasing the camera and the clip and then go forward to contact Liquid Technologies for a quote.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion to purchase the Camera and the Clip not to exceed \$500.00 and was seconded by Mr. Motyka.

Mr. Motyka questioned concerning a body camera policy as far as releasing a video to prosecutors or defense. Officer Motyka stated this is technology involving a huge amount of liability. Mr. Motyka asked for some research to be done. Mr. Dowkus agreed and then stated he is sure the state has one that covers us.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated he would like to congratulate the Fire Company and stated they did a great job fundraising and purchased a beautiful truck. Mr. Motyka stated it was added to our insurance and the cost is \$1,600.00 annually.

Mr. Motyka stated the West End plans to get rid of two trucks and stated he would like to give them three months to do so and to cover those trucks on the insurance for three

months. Mr. Motyka stated he would like to give the three months so this does not drag on and stated he would like to let the West End know that we will cover those two trucks for 3 months and then they would come off the insurance. Mr. Motyka stated it is about \$300.00 to keep those two trucks on for three months.

Mr. Dowkus stated the only thing he would be worried about is how long the Gladiator will be.....Mr. Motyka stated we could re-visit it in three months.

Mr. Bradley questioned if they are out of service and stated possibly the insurance premium could be less if they are out of service just while waiting to sell them.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion to insure the two trucks for the fire dept for three months and then re-visit and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated over the years Bruce's cold patch is a waste of money and it does not hold up and it is just work on top of work on top of work.

Mr. Motyka stated he got prices for asphalt paving equipment. He stated the quote is over the top because they quoted an 18" and a 24" milling machine, we don't need both. Mr. Motyka stated we have one more year of payment on our backhoe and so we can use 15% of our liquid fuel money for financing and stated we could look at financing.

Mr. Motyka stated the Road saw we could get later and the tar buggy; we should spend a week at the end of the year tarring. He stated the 24" milling machine is not much more than the 18" one. Mr. Motyka stated with the two brooms and the water tank, he stated those cost fifty-nine thousand and change.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to spend up to \$80,000.00 to create a hot asphalt paving crew in our town.

Mr. Bradley stated this is something they have done research on and there are some other issues to be addresses but the first thing is to get the stuff in house. Mr. Motyka stated we received \$65,000.00 from UGI getting gas lines, that money was to maintain the roads and if we spent that money somewhere else that is shame on us.

Mr. Bielskie asked Mr. Motyka first of all where are we getting the money from and stated the treasurer, Paul Niglio last said we have about \$50,000.00 to spend. Mr. Motyka stated we had \$100,000.00 cash carryover and Paul gave him a number we had \$85,000.00 to spend, plus the \$85,000.00 in liquid fuels we will get this year.

Mr. Motyka stated we went years paving a street every year and so we paved a street while the rest fell apart. Mr. Motyka stated he does not think it is a good approach that we pave one street per year. Mr. Bradley asked Bruce Graff how much cold patch they used already this year. Bruce replied that he can honestly say that the material they are

using is staying, it is the rest of the road that is falling apart. Mr. Bradley stated he is not criticizing what kind of work they are doing but they are just putting a band-aid on a bullet hole every time we do this. Bruce Graff stated this to him is to much for what we want to do. Mr. Bradley replied stating they discussed that and know if we do this you are going to need help.

Mr. Bradley stated the first step is getting this equipment and the second step is let's see what we need to do to fix all the streets in Kulpmont. Mr. Bielskie stated what about if this year we rent the equipment and see how it goes, and how long it takes you.

Bruce Graff replied when you rent equipment you only get it for a week and the first, second and third week we have recycling and food give away and the fourth week we have sweeper and rain and grass cutting between there.

Mr. Bielskie stated he spoke with Mark Lyash from Ralpho and they have a bigger area than we do and they just rent the equipment from Vought's Equipment. Bruce Graff stated he they are and stated usually when you rent the equipment it is for a week and then if you get rain....

Mr. Bradley asked Bruce how much it was to rent the tar buggy. Bruce Graff stated he thinks it was \$5,000.00 plus the cost of the tar. Mr. Motyka stated, "you're getting a brand new one here for \$13,000.00."

Bruce Graff said purchasing the equipment if something breaks then who do you get to work on it. Mr. Bradley replied we are not trying to create work here for you Bruce, you have enough to do. Bruce Graff replied, he has enough to do.

Mr. Bielskie stated the crew do a great job there is no if ands or but's about it adding he is just looking financially as to what Paul told him is available to spend.

Mr. Motyka stated if we finance this equipment, we are going to spend less then we will spend renting it yearly. Mayor Slaby asked Mr. Motyka about the equipment we will pay off how much that is.

Mr. Moytka stated one year on the backhoe and was not sure the amount. Rhonda Wilk stated the amount is \$15,000.00. Bruce Graff questioned where we are going to store all this equipment. Bruce Graff stated we will need something bigger than a lien-to.

Mr. Bradley stated he likes the idea about the other property, that is something he did not look into. Mayor Slaby asked how much room the food program occupies in the building. Bruce Graff replied he would say probably about 4' off the wall, you cannot squeeze another thing in between the truck and the wall and then there are all of the freezers we have in there.

Bruce Graff stated in his opinion we need another building and not just a lien-to. Solicitor Greco stated it is just a suggestion, but do you think we could get Paul Niglio on

the phone. Mr. Chesney stated he feels this needs a lot more research and this matter should be tabled until we figure it out.

Mr. Motyka suggested to make a subsidiary motion to table this and stated in the meantime he will get some information from banks on what it would be to finance the equipment.

Mr. Novakoski stated the streets are deteriorating more and more and stated we need to do fix it once and fix it right.

Mr. Bielskie stated the problem we have in Kulpmont is no drainage system. Mr. Motyka stated we are having eighty-five hundred feet of watermain replacement this year and so we will have approximately 9 blocks of asphalt in our town, and we are also looking at \$600,000.00 stormwater and we will talk about that in a minute but that will be another upgrade to our streets.

Mr. Motyka stated we really do not need to take liquid fuels money and pave a street this year we could do without.

**SUBSIDIARY MOTION**- Mr. Chesney made a subsidiary motion to table the purchase of the equipment until it is investigated more, and we have all the figures right.

Solicitor Greco asked if there is a second to the subsidiary motion. There was no second and so we go back to the original motion due to lack of a second.

Mr. Bielskie called for a roll call vote on the original motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (no), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
6 YEAS – 1 NAYS

Mr. Motyka state we should see our allocation from the ARPA money this money and a motion will be needed to proceed with design. Mr. Motyka stated he questioned the \$600,000.00 price tag, if it included design and was told it did.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to proceed with design.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated he wrote a lengthy email on meeting with the Conservation District on Dirt Road and low volume road grants. Mr. Motyka stated if we could connect the 400 block of Maple, we would have a good intention for a dirt road grant. Mr. Motyka stated

he talked with the engineer, and he could give us a design we could have in our pocket if we needed.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to have the engineer proceed with design.

Mr. Bradley questioned if we need the design first before we could get the money through the grant. Mr. Motyka replied, “no.” Mr. Motyka added the design will connect Maple.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated to elaborate, an email was sent to Mt. Carmel Township, the 1100 block of Wood Street is half in the Township. Mr. Motyka stated he did not have a response from Mt. Carmel Township to split the cost and so he would like to send a letter.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to renew our membership with SCRA in the amount of \$30.00

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY**- (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated the Tax Collector is here this evening and stated he asked Mr. Darrup to attend the meeting this evening and explain some of the issues he is coming up against.

Mr. Darrup stated the current tax collector fee schedule Ordinance. Mr. Darrup stated the returned check fee is listed at \$15.00 each and stated his charge for a return item fee is \$20.00. Mr. Darrup asked if Council would consider raising the fee to \$25.00. He stated there is extra work involved as well going back in to records because the bills would be marked paid when in fact they are not.

Mayor Slaby stated that is dirt cheap and the tax collector should not have to pay anything toward a fee and would suggest raising it to at least \$30.00. Mr. Motyka stated he just looked up the average fee and it is \$35.00. After discussion the new fee would reflect \$35.00.

Solicitor Greco stated we will amend the ordinance and include any additional changes would then come by resolution. Solicitor Greco stated he could have that done and so we would need a motion to advertise. Solicitor Greco stated we could have this done and advertised; it is a small minor change.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion to amend Ordinance 2021-02 Establishing compensation to the tax collector and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Solicitor Greco questioned Mr. Dowkus if he had anything under ordinance on the Service Electric.

Mr. Motyka stated he would be available to Mr. Dowkus if he would like to get together and research the matter. Mr. Dowkus stated he did research and reached out for information in the past and will follow up with that. Mr. Dowkus asked any Councilmembers that have any contacts to reach out as well.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated Mr. Motyka had sent out a DEP media event for Veterans Memorial Field, which was discussed lightly.

Mr. Chesney stated the Creek Project is on the agenda. Mr. Motyka stated he gave a good description on what is going on and there is no Borough money associated with that project.

Mr. Dowkus commented April 23<sup>rd</sup> we are having a clean up at the Veterans Memorial Field, Pollination Garden. He continued to say they will be doing some planting in the Pollination Garden. Mr. Dowkus stated the last couple of years they have been knocking it out of the park and people have been noticing it and taking care of business on their own. Mr. Dowkus stated please reach out to us on other areas in town that we could help clean up.

Mr. Motyka, we approved at the last meeting to get the backstop fixed and commented it looks very nice.

Mr. Motyka stated most of our volunteers are Saturday Hero's and would like to make a motion to pay Bruce Graff for a Saturday's pay to run that backhoe and dig the footers because it is not going to get done without the backhoe and Bruce is busy enough.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to pay Bruce Graff for a Saturday to work the backhoe for a day.

Mr. Bradley stated it would be following the collective bargaining agreement.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**PERSONNEL**- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus would like to meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters at the end of the meeting.

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Former Mayor, Nicholas Bozza stated he would like to thank the council for the donation for the pollination garden. Mr. Bozza questioned what steps council is taking to get more police in the Borough.

Officer Mazzeo stated he has been recruiting guys and there was a guy that was supposed to start last week and didn't. Officer Mazzeo stated some other things are being considered.

Mr. Bozza questioned Paul Niglio how much money is in the budget for police officers. Mr. Niglio replied there is enough for three officers, \$180,000.00, \$200,000.00.

Mr. Bozza stated there must be some kind of carry over in the budget. Mr. Niglio replied the council is spending it as you see, all the spending going on here is not in the budget.

Mr. Bozza stated how much in the police budget. Mr. Niglio stated there is no carryover in the police budget, it's a general fund. Mr. Bozza stated he is just wondering because he has been talking to some young individuals that would like to go through the academy.

Mr. Bozza stated the problem here is the pay and if you have the money, even to put one or two more people on why you can't boost the pay up. Mr. Motyka stated our total budget for police protection is \$274,000.00.

Mr. Bozza directed a statement to Mayor Slaby and said this summer his phone will ring off the hook, adding he knows this because his did and it is going to get brutal.

A discussion took place, Mr. Bielskie commented we are at \$25.00 per hour and are one of the highest paying now. Mr. Niglio stated at \$25.00 per hour that equates to about \$80,000.00 per officer. After additional discussion, Mr. Bozza stated his opinion is we could bump it up a bit. Mr. Bozza asked Mayor Slaby if he had some people apply in

Shamokin. Mayor Slaby stated there were three applications on his desk as of this afternoon and he stated he has three in the academy that will be coming out. Mr. Bozza asked his question is how could some borough, township or city do it three times better. Mr. Bielskie questioned Mr. Slaby on what the starting wage is in Shamokin. Mayor Slaby replied \$58,000.00. Mr. Bielskie replied that is higher than most.

Mr. Bozza stated we must consider Steve and these volunteers are doing such a good job to beautify this borough and if we don't have these guys to protect it what is the sense of doing it. Solicitor Greco stated he does hope when Council meets in Executive session, we may come out with something a solution.

Mr. Chesney commented we need to understand Mt. Carmel Township Area, Coal Township and Shamokin all have industries that feed into their coffers. Mr. Chesney stated Kulpmont Borough does not have industry feeding into the coffer.

Mr. Chesney stated Kulpmont Borough does not, they have Sue, Mary and Joe that are paying their taxes and their checks are bouncing because they do not have the money now to pay the taxes where they are.

Mr. Chesney stated we need to keep that in mind, realistic logic. Mr. Chesney stated you must understand, when you spend money, you need to know where it is coming from who is paying for it and the longevity of that spending.

Mr. Chesney stated we have seen time and time in this borough after two or three years the officers leave because we are the minor leagues of police and stated he guesses we will always need to stay that way because we cannot pay \$50.00 per hour.

Solicitor Greco asked if any other citizens would like an opportunity to speak.

No one additional spoke.

### **OLD BUSINESS-**

none

### **NEW BUSINESS-**

Mr. Motyka stated the SCRA for them to apply for Federal Grants they need an address for three letters a year and cannot be a P.O. box and asked if it is possible for them to establish a Physical address, using possibly 9 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Suite B.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to create an address of 9 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Suite B for SCRA use.

Mayor Slaby stated he feels this should be checked out with the post office and you may also need to check with the county on a new physical address.

Mr. Motyka stated he will do all that leg work. Mr. Dowkus suggested a locked mailbox outside. Mr. Niglio stated we have one mailbox outside for us, fire, and police. Mr. Mazzeo stated to put a second mailbox outside you would need to clear the post office and the county. Mayor Slaby commented, we need to make sure that one knows what the other is doing.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Hodge stated a decision has not been made concerning the placement of the monument discussed at the last meeting.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to place the monument out front of the municipal building.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated concerning the 2016 dump truck with the new emission control system, these trucks idol around town and stated the filters get blocked up because they are driving around town all the time.

Mr. Bradley stated a quote for a diesel filter is \$5,373.00. He stated when the exhaust system gets hot the carbon burns out of the system. Mr. Bradley stated this could solve the problem. He stated he suggested to Bruce to take the truck once an awhile and run it up and down the Natalie Mountain, this will help to burn the carbon out.

Mr. Bradley stated he suggested to take that truck if he needs to go to Home Depot or somewhere to try and burn that out and stated we should do that will all the trucks. Mr. Bradley stated if we are lucky that may solve the problem.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular monthly meeting is May 11, 2022

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

Solicitor Greco stated Council met in executive session for approximately 40 minutes.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to reconvene on Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for General Purpose concerning individual candidates.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes),  
CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)  
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The April 13, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date – May 11, 2022**