

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
AUGUST 14, 2019  
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Robert Slaby  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,  
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on  
Wednesday August 14, 2019

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Stephen Bielskie, Robert Chesney, Robert Fanella, Michael Sinopoli, Robert Slaby and Walter Lutz

**ABSENT:** Mayor Bozza, Robert Chesney and George Malakoski

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor, Edward Greco

**ABSENT:** Treasurer, Paul Niglio

**PRESENT:** Chief Foust, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graf and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Edwin J. Begis, Sr., Linda M. Begis, Edwin Howerter, Bernadette Fanella, Susan Williams, Hope Masser, Heather Owen, Rob Naylor, Joe Politza, Jeff Gilotti, Rose Bielskie, Martin Zarkoski and Stephen Motyka

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz stated we advertised for Bids for the Paving of the Recycling Parking Lot and also for the Paving of Walnut Street from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Maple Street 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Lutz stated we received one bid for the Street Paving and proceeded to open the bid and announced the bid was received from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company, Inc. in the amount of \$54,037.00.

Mr. Lutz stated there was one bid received for the Paving of the Recycling lot, which is located where the old Wilson Building was located. He proceeded to open the bid and announced the bid was received from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company, Inc. in the amount of \$64,102.50.

**MOTION-** Mr. Sinopoli made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to accept the Street paving bid from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. Inc in the amount of \$54,037.00 and the bid for the paving of the recycling lot in the amount of \$64,102.50 received from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. Inc. subject to the Solicitors review and approval.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (absent), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Lutz stated Mr. Edwin Begis is here this evening and he just called him about the condition of his street and stated the street he asked about is being paved and then jokingly stated “that is what you call customer service.” Mr. Edwin Begis stated he just hopes that when it is being done it is done properly adding it must be milled, not just coated. Mr. Fanella replied it is done to PennDOT specifications adding it will be milled and done right to PennDOT specifications.

Mr. Fanella stated the Maple Street project will not be a full pave, it will be done basically to try and take the water problem away. Mr. Fanella stated in the future Maple Street will be ripped up for the water line.

Mr. Lutz stated Mr. Begis is a graduate of the Kulpmont High School Class of 1964. Mr. Lutz stated that was the last class of the Kulpmont High School. Mr. Lutz joked that his sister Margie was also a graduate of that class adding they closed the school after that.

Mr. Lutz stated Mr. Begis was one of the best football players to ever come out of Kulpmont. Mr. Begis questioned when the paving will start. Mr. Fanella stated the solicitor needs to review and once he does and approves, we will then notify them a motion was made to award them the job and it will be then on their schedule.

Mr. Lutz stated we are on a timeline because the plants close and so we will push at them to get that done. Mr. Fanella added when they do come in, they will pave the streets first because of the requirements where that parking lot does not.

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

Mr. Stephen Motyka said he has a question on the recycling paving and said the state requires a retention pond adding it exceeds 10,000 square feet and so you need a retention pond for water. Mr. Motyka questioned how you are going to cope with that. Mr. Motyka said there is no way you could pave that size; the water will go right down the hill. Mr. Motyka stated if you want something to refer to, up at Coles in Atlas they just put retention ponds in.

Mr. Lutz questioned Mr. Motyka asking him if he is saying the number is 10,000 for this requirement. Mr. Motyka replied that is correct. Mr. Lutz replied we will look into that.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz stated there are some ordinances that we may look at, possibly at the next meeting, we will have the solicitor look over them. Mr. Lutz stated we will continue to tighten up on the property owner stating one of the ordinances will address when a house

is vacant. Mr. Lutz stated a requirement will be that the house is registered and make a requirement that we go in and look at the house adding many homes are boarded up and vacant, who knows what is in there.

Mr. Lutz stated we have a problem with rats. Mr. Lutz stated when there are violations, before these homes are sold, we could make notification of it. Mr. Lutz stated many of these homes are sold on the internet and they don't know what they are getting into, we would be able to say, "this building is about to fall down."

Mr. Lutz stated we have problems with absentee landlords, we recently had one with a landlord out of New York, California and Northumberland County Area. Mr. Lutz stated we intend to make sure these people are property registered and make sure they are held responsible and they follow the codes.

Mr. Lutz stated recently a landlord had evicted somebody and the porch was filled with mattresses and he then came up and said he gave the people 10 days to move the mattresses. Mr. Lutz stated he told him, I don't care what you do, but you have 24 hours. He stated that is the problem we are having, and we are going to tighten up.

Mr. Lutz stated we are having a terrible problem with cats. He stated we are looking at an ordinance that is going to say you can't take care of feral cats. Mr. Lutz added if you take care of feral cats you are going to get fined. Mr. Lutz stated there are cat colonies. Mr. Lutz stated we may get involved with a catch neuter and release program.

Mr. Lutz stated we are having a terrible time getting police officers and so we may look at options by next meeting that we may help with tuition, and possibly even a stipend that when they get out of the police academy they will work for the borough for a couple of years.

Mr. Lutz stated we will go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel issues and possible litigation.

**MAYORS REPORT**- (Nicholas Bozza)

No Report

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

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed on the July 10, 2019 meeting minutes.

**MOTION**- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

**VOICE VOTE**

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from the Kulpmont 100, it was an invite to the Council and Mayor to participate in all activities of the First Responder's Appreciation Day celebration including entry in the Parade and presence at the Picnic at the West End Fire Association Grounds on September 7<sup>th</sup>, Copy to both Mayor and Council.

The Kulpmont 100 request approval for use of the Veterans Memorial Field for a staging and finishing point for emergency apparatus. They are requesting approval of the closure of the 500 block of Chestnut Street for staging of marching units and the closure of Maple Street between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Street and closure of 13<sup>th</sup> Street north of Chestnut to Maple on September 7<sup>th</sup> for the parade and picnic, Copy to both Mayor and Council.

The Knights of Columbus is requesting approval for the use of Veterans Memorial Field for parking for the Wine Fest to be held on Saturday October 12, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 5 p.m., Copy to Mayor and Council.

The Knights of Columbus is requesting approval to close 855 Fir Street between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 12<sup>th</sup> for the Wine Fest. Copy Mayor/Council

**MOTION**- Mr. Sinopoli made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve Kulpmont 100's request to use the Veterans Memorial Field as a staging and finishing point for the First Responders parade and the requested street closures and the Knights of Columbus request for use of the Veterans Memorial Field for parking for the wine fest and the requested street closures.

Mr. Slaby questioned if a permit was obtained from PennDOT to close Chestnut Street. Deputy Fire Chief, Jeff Gilotti replied stating he obtained a permit for the closure of Chestnut Street from PennDOT.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (absent), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau is requesting consent and approval to sell repository property at 548 Chestnut Street, Copy Mayor/Council

**MOTION** – Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to sell the repository property at 548 Chestnut Street.

Mr. Bielskie questioned if this is something that if we do nothing, we can tear it down. Mr. Slaby stated there will come a time where all the debt is dismissed at some point and time, when we get into these tax sales.

Solicitor Greco replied, there are two types of sales, judicial sale and the upset sale. The Solicitor stated the judicial sale is for unpaid taxes. Solicitor Greco then said after three years they go in for an upset sale and when they are purchased the purchaser takes them

as is with any liens and encumbrances. He stated if they go into judicial sale all liens, everything is dissolved and if they don't sell, they go into the repository and you can go to the repository and make an offer. Solicitor Greco stated this is to sell the property and so somebody made an offer.

Mr. Slaby stated somebody made an offer on the repository property and as the taxing property they want to know if there are any objections to it. Solicitor Greco stated that is correct and the advantage to this is somebody is going to buy it and it gets back on the tax rolls.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (absent), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Slaby stated there will come a time when all of the debt will be dishonest? Lower Anthracite Transportation System, Victor Girardi to adopt resolution #7443 – The Borough of Kulpmont to provide LATS local funds in the amount of \$537.00 to match state funds provided in Fiscal year 2019-2020, Copy Mayor/Council

**MOTION**- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve resolution #743 Lower Anthracite Transportation System for fiscal year 2019-2020 and pay local funds match of \$537.00.

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

Rhonda Wilk stated Council received a copy of the Financial statement and bills to be paid a motion is needed to approve and pay the bills.

**MOTION**- Mr. Slaby made the motion and Mr. Bielskie seconded the motion to approve and pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (absent), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

No Report

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – Nathan Foust)

Police Report Attachment #2

Chief Foust stated ammunition is needed for the police department for qualification, 1000 rounds of 9mm and 1000 rounds of 556 ammunition he stated a quote was received from AK Fishing, Andy Klacik for no more than \$500.00.

**MOTION-** Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to spend up to \$500.00 to purchase ammunition for the Police Department.

Mr. Slaby stated he assumes without him going and getting a copy of the collective bargaining agreement these amounts are stipulated in that agreement. Chief Foust replied, “yes.”

Mr. Slaby questioned if this is just to be included in the regular bills. Mr. Lutz replied we will have a roll call adding we would like everyone to be on board.

Mr. Slaby questioned Rhonda Wilk if this is included in the bills to be paid. Rhonda Wilk replied it is not.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (absent), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Raymond Siko)

Fire Chief Report Attachment #3

Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Gilotti stated the fire department is still waiting for Council’s approval for a carport to be placed in the parking lot to cover their emergency squad at no cost to the borough and the size will be determined if it is the one bay or the borough would like to share with the borough and park their vehicle under it.

Mr. Lutz replied the concern as he understands is it will take up a lot of room. Jeff Gilotti replied the size he sent was a two-vehicle adding if the borough does not want to share, they would need the size covering just one. Mr. Lutz asked if it would take up one spot. Jeff Gilotti replied it would take up one spot, just so they could get in and out of the vehicle. Mr. Lutz asked to meet with them briefly next week and they will then come to conclusion on this. Mr. Bielskie asked to get some specs, so they know what size they are going with.

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

No Report

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

Report Attachment #4

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT** – (Russ Moroz)

Report Attachment #5

Mr. Lutz stated the code officer is not here this evening. Mr. Lutz commented code enforcement is a daily thing.

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella announced food surplus distribution will be held on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella stated the Kulpmont 100 received a grant and they are going to be starting on re-doing the basketball court, the fence and removing the barbed wire. Mr. Fanella stated starting tomorrow they will be closing that area and fencing it off. He stated they are going to fix the drainage and replace it with concrete.

Mr. Lutz stated we have an issue up there adding the Degenstein Grant was for \$25,000.00. Mr. Lutz stated it is our responsibility to prep that site for the Kulpmont 100 and Kulpmont 100 will need to spend the full \$25,000.00 for this project. Mr. Lutz stated in prepping the site the surface will need to be cracked up and dug up and hauled away. Mr. Lutz stated using our dump truck it will take for ever and so he stated he is asking for authorization to spend up to \$3,000.00 to secure the service of a haul away company.

**MOTION-** Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to spend up to \$3,000.00 to secure the service of hauling.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (absent), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated we previously approved for the fire department truck room furnace to be replaced for \$6500.00 and the cost will be \$6980.00 and so the amount will be more than what was previously approved.

**MOTION** - Mr. Sinopoli made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve an additional \$500 for the furnace in the truck room.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (absent), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella talked about the Pollination Garden and stated at a prior meeting council approved the garden and they were then to get back with us on where they picked the spot. Mr. Fanella stated we have a plan for some future projects and things we would like to put down there. Mr. Fanella said having future plans, he stated the spot they decided on for the pollination garden in his opinion is not the best place to put the bees. Mr. Fanella stated did speak with with Mayor Bozza and discussed this is not the best location and the Mayor stated he would need to get with State College. Mr. Fanella

stated if we want to put up a pavilion it would be better for the water access, electricity and sewer is close by and it is a nice level spot. Mr. Fanella stated in his opinion this is not a good location and stated he recommends that we move the pollination garden. Mr. Lutz asked if they just need to move it over a little bit. Mr. Fanella stated that is correct. Mr. Lutz stated we will need to get a note to the Mayor that we need to get together on the location and just move it over a little.

Mr. Fanella stated after we get done digging out for the basketball court, we are then going to go down to the Veterans Memorial Field and make the bridge, on the other side ADA compliant.

Mr. Lutz stated if you went down there the area that is East of the Holy Angels picnic grounds is now usable and they parked about 100 cars there for the recent event. Mr. Lutz stated when you go down the slope there is some water that accumulates, but not much and a day after the torrential rains you could park down there.

Mr. Lutz stated J & S did a lot of work over there and we gave them some millings but not nearly enough and stated he would like to see a motion to reimburse them \$1,750.00 for their work down at the field. Mr. Lutz stated if you go down and look at that work it is much, much more. He added now the north side of the bridge is nearly ADA compliant and we have the whole south side we have got to worry about.

**MOTION**- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielski to reimburse J & S \$1750.00 for their work down at the Veterans Memorial Field.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (absent), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated paint is needed for the Street Department, they are painting lines and may not have enough paint to finish the lines and crosswalks. He stated \$200.00 would cover to purchase extra paint to finish.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sinopoli made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielski to spend up to \$200.00 to purchase paint for the street department to finish crosswalks and lines.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (absent), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Slaby stated if someone could contact the state correctional institution for help, he would be willing to pay to have the concession stand re-painted at the Terry Miriello Stadium. Mr. Slaby stated he will gladly pay for it that concession stand was dedicated in memory of his daughter. Mr. Fanella stated we have a form and will contact the state correctional facility to see if we could get some help from them to paint the concession stand with Mr. Slaby purchasing the paint.

**FINANCE/PURCHASING**– (Robert Slaby)

Mr. Slaby stated Thomas J. Anderson and Associates Inc. completed the 2019 Actuarial report and stated this was discussed at a prior meeting. Mr. Slaby stated the amount due is \$4000.00.

Mr. Lutz stated this is regarding the pension plan and then commented it is outrageous and stated we are looking to get it switched over.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Slaby to pay Thomas J. Anderson and Associated Inc. 2019 Actuarial report and preparation of the GASB 67 and 68 in the amount of \$4,000.00.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (absent), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (absent), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)  
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY** (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (George Malakoski)

No Report

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz stated we are trying to get a Cougars Bus trip to the Bucknell /Holy Cross Game and stated he is not sure they will be able to do it because they are having trouble getting a bus. Mr. Lutz stated he will keep all informed on that.

**PERSONNEL**- (Michael Sinopoli)

No Report

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Chesney, Sinopoli and Fanella)

Mr. Lutz stated the meetings last month with the Fire Department and the Police were held last month and stated they were good meetings. Mr. Lutz stated they discussed each other's responsibilities and a few concerns they are working to resolve. Mr. Lutz stated it was a good meeting. Mr. Lutz stated they met with the police and the increase in wages is effective September 1<sup>st</sup> for the police, that is in the contract. Mr. Lutz stated another issue discussed was when the borough purchases uniforms and what not for the police and they leave, they need to come back. He again stated they were both good meetings, the Chief was there, police and Mayor were there.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No one spoke

**OLD BUSINESS –**

Mr. Lutz stated we are working on grants and the building is coming down on Chestnut Street.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Mr. Lutz stated Hope is here from the Crime Watch group and she brought the new crime watch signs and displayed the signs to Council and the citizens. Mr. Lutz commented the efforts of both Police and the Crime Watch Group are making a difference.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming events

\* September 7<sup>th</sup> Kulpmont 100 First Responders Appreciation Day Celebration Parade and Picnic at the West End Fire Association Grounds

\*October 12<sup>th</sup> Kulpmont Knights of Columbus Wine Festival 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Lutz stated Council will now meet in executive session to discuss personnel issues and litigation.

Solicitor Greco announced Council met in executive session for approximately 45 minutes

**ADJOURNMENT**

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Date of Approval \_\_\_\_\_**