

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
December 11, 2018  
7:00 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  
Tuesday, December 11, 2018

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

**ABSENT:** None

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor, Edward Greco and Treasurer Paul A. Niglio

**PRESENT:** Police Chief Nathan Foust, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Official Russ Moroz and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Gilotti, Robert Michalkovich and Barry Fetterman

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

No One Spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz stated Monthly Meeting dates for 2019 need to be scheduled and advertised.

**MOTION-** Mr. Bielskie made the motion to approve the meeting schedule set as the second Tuesday each month at 7:00 p.m. and to advertise the 2019 meeting schedule.

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

Mr. Lutz stated we will need to meet in executive session near the end of the meeting to discuss legal matters.

**MAYORS REPORT-** (Nicholas Bozza)

Mayor Bozza announced the Santa Sleigh will be arriving in the Town Park tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Bozza stated the Sportsman's Club and the Kulpmont 100 is sponsoring this event adding there will be hot dogs and hot chocolate. Mayor Bozza stated a donkey and camel will be there and stated it will be a good time.

Crime watch meeting will be held January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m. at the Holy Angels activity center. Mayor Bozza stated the Crime Watch is coming along and stated they are trying to get their 501c and are now looking for officers. Mayor Bozza asked that anyone interested in being an officer may contact him or Helen.

Mayor Bozza stated Officer Mazzeo in looking into some grants for body cameras. He stated there will be more information on that in the future as he researches what is available. Mayor Bozza questioned status on grants for police vehicles. Chief Foust replied there is nothing out there right now for a vehicle.

Mayor Bozza asked the Council what the alternative is and stated we need to keep that on the top of our list. Mr. Lutz stated regarding the vehicle we need to fully understand the money that was spent this year and we are only 15, 18 days away from year end and then the budgets for next year are being worked on. He stated the initial budget was put out and there has been quite a bit of work being done on reviewing it and so we will have something more to say about that in the next meeting.

Mr. Chesney stated the suggestion to start budgeting for a vehicle, we will need to look into that. Mr. Chesney stated if Council does agree to earmark for replacement of the vehicles, that may be the proper avenue to take adding we will need to look into that. Mayor Bozza commented he does not know how long we have, Bruce would know he works on them and the Officers would know they drive them adding he does not know. Mr. Chesney replied we will just have to wait and look at the budget. Mr. Lutz stated we will discuss this soon.

Mayor Bozza wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Approval is needed on the November 12, 2018 monthly meeting minutes.

**MOTION**- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to approve the meeting minutes from November 12, 2018.

**VOICE VOTE** –  
Unanimous

The 2018-05 International Property Maintenance Ordinance has been advertised and a motion is needed to adopt Ordinance 2018-05.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to adopt the 2018-05 International Property Maintenance Ordinance.

**VOICE VOTE** –  
Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated Correspondence was received from the following;

The Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Municipal Authority, Copied Mayor Council, Kulpmont 100, planned activities report for November and December, Copied to Mayor and Council, Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau correspondence copied to both Mayor Council, A resume/letter of interest to serve on the KMHJMA board was received from Stephen Motyka and was copied to both Mayor/Council, a letter of interest to serve on the KMHJMA board was received from Walter Lutz and was also copied to both Mayor and Council.

Mr. Lutz stated concerning the vacancy on the KMHJMA board, what must happen is the personnel committee needs to get together and speak with or interview those interested. Mr. Lutz stated he is on that committee and so he will recuse himself from that. Mr. Lutz stated we need to do this soon because the position opens in January. Mr. Lutz stated while the personnel committee is having these interviews if anyone wants to come and ask a question, he does not see a problem with that.

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

Mr. Niglio stated everyone received a copy of the financial statement and stated a motion is needed to approve and to pay the bills.

**MOTION**- Mr. Malakoski made the motion and Mr. Slaby seconded the motion to approve the financial statement and to pay the bills.

Mr. Chesney questioned Jeff Gilotti if the work on the fire truck must be done by Kovatch. Jeff Gilotti stated since they purchased it they have always taken it there, he stated he is not saying there are not any other places. Jeff Gilotti stated one thing, when they take it there they always have the parts, other places are not going to do that. but ever since it was purchased in 2000 that is where we have taken it.

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

Mr. Niglio stated at the last meeting Council approved the tentative budget and it was duly advertised and so his recommendation to Council is to adopt the tentative budget as the final budget, we don't have any major changes to be made and our cash carryover will be sufficient to cover the budget for 2019 and so he is not recommending any changes for the General Fund, Highway Fund and Police Pension Fund. Mr. Lutz

questioned what the deadline is for final approval. Mr. Niglio replied it is the 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Lutz questioned if we can then go in and make changes within 45 days. Mr. Niglio's reply was no and he stated that is the situation during an election year, when a new Council could change the budget.

Mr. Niglio stated a budget is a working document and it does not limit you on what you could spend. Mr. Lutz stated it is a working document and stated he has done some analysis on the budget and very briefly what it is saying is there is a cash carryover of \$220,000.00 and what that means is that is a deficit.

Mr. Lutz stated he has done some work and stated he feels the revenues may be higher and the expenses may be lower but as the Treasurer states, it is a working document and so given that he stated he feels we should approve it and continue to work on it. Mr. Slaby stated he would recommend adopting the budget, he stated he has been contacted by the Treasurer and has gone over it and he would be willing to make the motion to adopt the budget.

**MOTION**- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to adopt the 2019 budget.

Mr. Chesney asked that by adopting this, the numbers are not in concrete. Mr. Niglio replied, that is correct and stated the numbers never were in concrete. Mr. Niglio stated it is to let the public know what you are planning to do with the funds to run a government.

Mr. Chesney questioned then his comment on only a new council coming in would have 45 days to re-open or make changes. Mr. Niglio stated a new council would have 45 days to change the budget to their liking. Mr. Chesney then asked if they could then still make changes. Mr. Niglio replied "no." Mr. Lutz then explained we cannot make changes to the budget but because it says we are going to do a cash carryover, eat up to \$220,000.00, that does not mean that we will have to do it, it's a working document.

Mr. Niglio stated an example would be under municipal buildings it says we are going to spend \$46,000.00 but we may not do that, we have money budgeted for a certain line items and something may happen where you may need to expend money in another area. Mr. Niglio stated it is a planned activity for the next year and things change.

Solicitor Greco stated the next item is the Tax Ordinance which generally tells you what your revenue is going to be and as far as that you are stuck with those numbers. Mr. Chesney then stated so it is up to us to then juggle within those numbers.

Mr. Lutz stated he has one last comment, no-one could take us to jail if we don't do exactly that. He stated he is projecting revenues to be up and expenses to be lower and stated he is projecting a deficit of \$40,000.00, not \$220,000.00. Mr. Lutz stated he needs to do some more work on it and stated he talked to the Treasurer and we need to get to the end of the year. Mr. Lutz stated we can then take a good look at it. He stated two of the things that are not on there are the grant we may get from the County, \$62,000.00 and

\$143,000.00 that we are going to get from the recycling. Mr. Lutz stated another thing is that Charles Ross may get himself to the point that he may want to come back to work. Mr. Lutz stated with QuickBooks we could go in and look at it daily and we now have it timelier. Mr. Lutz stated most of our money comes in the first 6 months and so when you get to August 1<sup>st</sup> you need to have enough money to cover everything for the remainder of the year. Mr. Lutz explained that what he has been working on.

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

Mr. Niglio stated at the last meeting there was a motion to advertise the 2019 tax ordinance adding it is the same as 2018 with no change. Mr. Niglio stated it has been duly advertised and a motion is needed to adopt the 2019 tax ordinance.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to adopt the 2019 Tax Ordinance with no changes from 2018.

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

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

No Report

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Nathan Foust)

Chief Foust stated on his monthly report it is only showing 8 traffic citations and 1 non-traffic citation and stated something is going on with that. Mr. Lutz questioned if it is on the spreadsheet. Chief Foust replied it is not it is in the Informant Systems that the officers use, either how it is being searched or how the officers are putting them in to log. Mr. Lutz questioned what is being done to correct that. Chief Foust stated he is going to go get a report from the magistrate.

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

Fire Chief Report Attachment #3

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

No Report

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

No report

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

Report attachment #4

Mr. Lutz stated some letters were sent to some property owners asking for them to come in and chat and tell us what their plan is with some of these properties and if not, we will be aggressive with citations and get some help with the inspectors, fire department and the police and file public nuisance charges which are second degree misdemeanors. Mr. Lutz stated there is a lot of stuff being cleaned up but there is a lot more to go and we will continue working.

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

Mr. Fanella announced the food surplus distribution will be held in the Borough on December 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella thanked Bruce and the crew on the good job in decorating the town. Mr. Fanella stated along with that he would like to thank Mr. Giorgini and Mr. Tamberelli, Kulpmont 100 and the Sportsman's Club.

**MOTION-** Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to purchase tires for the police car for \$528.00.

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

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

Mr. Slaby questioned Mr. Fanella if Mr. Tamborelli is done with his work at the stadium. Mr. Lutz replied he is not. Mr. Fanella stated the only thing he knows that was done is the conduit from pole to pole so far.

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

No Report

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (George Malakoski)

No Report

**GRANTS/RECREATION** - (Walter Lutz)

No Report

**PERSONNEL-** (Michael Sinopoli)

No Report

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

Mr. Chesney stated in the near future we will probably be calling a meeting with the Fire Chiefs to touch base on what is needed and try to earmark specific responsibilities on the fireman's side of the coin and our side of the coin. Mr. Chesney stated they and the police department are doing a heck of a job. Mr. Chesney stated we need to also work closely with the Mayor and the police department, we have to get a little budget conscious. Mr. Chesney stated when safety comes into play, we can't have any excuse for that, but we just will need to be a little bit frugal. Mr. Chesney stated the police department is working and really starting to clean up the town. Mr. Chesney thanked both the Police and the Fire personnel for their efforts.

Mr. Chesney updated everyone on the progress at the mill. Mr. Chesney stated both stacks were tested and neither one tested high for asbestos and so that makes the process of dismantling them much easier. Mr. Chesney stated the biggest hold up has been with Verizon in them getting their wires relocated. Mr. Chesney stated they will take care when taking the stacks down. Mr. Chesney stated Ann from EPA is planning on being here in January to provide an update. Mr. Chesney stated we could all breathe a little easier once the stack is down and the eminent danger will be removed.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No one spoke

**OLD BUSINESS** –

Mr. Lutz stated at the last meeting Mr. Pochakilo was here to speak of an issue he was having with some logging that was being done near his property. Mr. Lutz stated it is a problem what they did with the paper street. Mr. Lutz stated Susquehanna Coal Company subcontracted out the logging and so we will be sending a letter out to Susquehanna Coal Company concerning this. Mr. Lutz stated there is some question on property lines, but we will be contacting them to see what they will do about repairing the street back to the way it was. Mayor Bozza questioned if there is anything about a weight limit with these logging trucks and it is very congested near the Life Geisinger. Mr. Lutz stated we are going to send a letter and hopefully we will get this all squared away.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Mr. Chesney stated with the political correctness in this world today, the signs all around town BELIEVE is really a great idea, it is such an easy solution to get everyone believing in something, whatever you want to believe in, with just one word adding they look great. Mr. Chesney stated whoever had the idea deserves a pat on the back.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Fanella stated he started a project out front where he plans on having a statue of a firefighter, police officer and a coal miner. The Fire Department donated the firefighter which is out front. The whole project will cost \$643.00 and Rock and Block is taking \$200.00 off the cost. Mr. Fanella stated a donation were received from the Sportsman’s Association, himself and Mr. Lutz and so they are down to needing \$195.00 to finish the project, which he stated he is sure they will have by spring.

Mr. Niglio stated he is asking Council for authorization to pay bills up until the 31<sup>st</sup>, any 2018 bills that we pay as they come in, so we do not hold them.

Mr. Lutz commented the checks will need to be signed and they would all be looked at.

**MOTION**- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to pay all the 2018 bills that come in up to January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

Chief Foust publicly thanked the Sportsman’s Association for the donation of the rifle site and the West End for the donation for the rifle site and Mr. Lucas of the Lucas Funeral Home for the donation of the rifle. Mr. Lutz stated the community has been very supportive, we need to send some letters out thanking them.

Council President, Mr. Lutz announced Council will now meet in executive session to discuss legal matters at 7:35 p.m.

The Solicitor stated Council met in executive session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss possible litigation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

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