

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 12, 2020
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
Wednesday February 12, 2020

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Bozza, Stephen Bielskie, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Robert Fanella, Stephen Motyka, and Robert M. Slaby

ABSENT: Michael Sinopoli

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Politza, Rose Bielskie, Edwin P. Howerter, Barry Fetterman, Linda Rodak, Marsha Karnes, Jeff Gilotti, Jim Cipriani, Diance Graff, Ann Martino, Maryjo Pancher, Brendin Pancher and Mike Benner

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

No one spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Robert M. Slaby)

Mr. Slaby stated Mr. Motyka and Mr. Dowkus would like to attend training through PSAB. Mr. Slaby stated the cost of the training for the two councilmen will be \$270.00. Mr. Dowkus Questioned if mileage would be reimbursable. Mr. Slaby replied a motion for our two new councilmen to attend this training and for mileage at the IRS rate.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella for Mr. Motyka and Mr. Dowkus to attend the training through PSAB the cost of the class and mileage reimbursement.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

MAYORS REPORT- (Nicholas Bozza)

Mayor Bozza stated the crime watch meeting this month will be held on February 27th at 7:15 p.m. at the Holy Angels Activity Center and stated he is looking into CPR classes and First Aid. He stated they are trying to contact some organizations that would be able to donate free CPR certifications.

Mayor Bozza stated the pollination garden is moving along and stated he and Mr. Motyka met with Tri-County Master Gardner's and stated what they are trying to do here in Kulpmont will be the first time any community ever did this in the Tri-County Area. Mayor Bozza stated they have some plans drawn up and they will put some concrete in adding everything will be donated. Mayor Bozza stated some research is being done on what plants and flowers can go in, what animals would damage and issues like that. Mr. Motyka added Penn State is going to examine the soil and let us know what plants will work best down there.

Mayor Bozza stated there is a problem with people littering at the bus stops, there are piles of cigarettes at the bus stops. Mayor Bozza questioned the Chief if a person could be cited for throwing cigarettes and trash on the ground. Chief Foust replied yes, it would be a summary charge. Mayor Bozza asked the citizens to please not litter in the Borough or at the bus stops.

Mayor Bozza state he was pricing computers and then questioned Rhonda on what the cost would be to install computers if we were to purchase two new computers for the Police Department. Rhonda Wilk stated she spoke with Liquid Technologies and they gave a price of \$85.00 per hour to set up the computers, the files and transfer all the data they need. Mayor Bozza stated he thinks we could get two new computers for \$1,200.00 or \$1,400.00 from Best Buy and with the labor cost from Liquid Technologies to set them up and transfer the data.

Mayor Bozza asked Council if they would like to look into prices on two computers from Liquid Technologies. Chief Foust stated they are old computers and the one is running on Windows 7 adding they are outdated. Paul Niglio stated when we purchased the computers we have now, they were purchased through Liquid Technologies. Mr. Niglio suggested we get a bid from them before just going out and purchasing something off the shelf.

Mayor Bozza asked Rhonda Wilk to contact Liquid Technologies and get a price quote. It is discussed if a motion should be made not to exceed a certain amount so we can move forward. Mr. Niglio stated we need to determine what we need and what kind of software we need. Chief Foust replied we need windows 10 and office. Mr. Slaby asked if it is out of service. Then Mayor replied it is not out of service, but it does keep crashing. Rhonda Wilk was asked to contact Liquid Technologies until a decision could be made.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed for the reorganization meeting on January 6th and January 8, 2020 the regular monthly meeting minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the January 6, 2020 and January 8, 2020 meeting minutes.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated Hometown Hero Banners are being accepted until February 28th for the 2020 season. Rhonda stated the cost is \$200.00 payable by check or money order and added application forms are available at the Borough office Monday through Friday. Rhonda Wilk stated anyone interested in having their banner displayed for this season is encouraged to have their applications in by February 28th to be submitted.

Rhonda Wilk stated we received correspondence from Matt Siko the president of the Fire Company concerning scheduling a meeting in February, Copied Mayor and Council.

Mr. Motyka asked the solicitor if for an informational meeting and we are not going to act or do any business if all seven council members could meet with the fire company. The Solicitor replied he would prefer that it just be advertised for information no action because it is a meeting with a quorum present. Solicitor Greco stated he would prefer to error on the side of caution and advertise for the purpose of informational.

Mr. Motyka asked if everyone else agrees to just ask Matt if he wants all members of council there. The Solicitor stated again if there is not a quorum it does not need to be advertise but if there is it should be advertised as an informational meeting with no action. Mr. Slaby stated he would prefer that we utilize the committees and let that committee meet with Mr. Siko and then share the information with all members of council. Council agreed to utilize the committee to meet with Fire Department.

Rhonda Wilk stated Nittany Engineering sent correspondence to the Borough introducing the company and its services, copied Mayor and Council.

Rhonda Wilk stated Service Electric Cablevision Inc. sent correspondence for the franchise renewal, copied to both Mayor and Council.

Correspondence was received from St. Pauline Foundation on the Zerbini Family Circus that will be held on June 3, 2020 with shows at 5 and 7 p.m. There is a request to use the Veterans Sports Complex for this event, copied Mayor and Council.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve St. Pauline Circus use of the Veterans Memorial Sports complex for the June circus.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources sent information of DCNR recreation and conservation grants, copied Mayor and Council.

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance sent correspondence on grant information and additional information on the DCNR grants, copied Mayor and Council

Mr. Chesney commented that all these grants will be looked into.

Rhonda Wilk stated Kulpmont 100 sent a brochure and calendar of events for 2020 along with a donation request form, if Council would like to make a donation.

Mr. Slaby questioned the Treasurer if the Borough has donated in the past. Mr. Niglio replied no they have not.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to make a \$100.00 donation to the Kulpmont 100.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Chesney stated there is a request to nominate for bright light grant and stated he believes the site is listed in their announcement and stated if he understands it right, we could forward that to nominate them a recipient for a \$100,000.00 grant which has no match. He stated it is a competition to see what communities are extremely active and this PPL Grant would award these communities.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to nominate Kulpmont 100 for PPL Bright Light Grant.

Mayor Bozza stated the more entries the better. Mr. Motyka stated the grant committee could meet and then act. Mayor Bozza stated we need to move quick. Mr. Chesney stated this is a request to provide their name for a recommendation for the grant asking us to nominate them in order to qualify for the grant.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated there is one more correspondence that came in late today. She stated PPL is providing trees to any community interested and ordering opens on April 22nd. She stated it was copied to both Mayor and Council

Mr. Chesney commented the key word is “give us” trees if we could utilize and suggested we may look up at the football field on the bank, we will get together with the committee and discuss that.

TREASURERS REPORT – (Paul A. Niglio)

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. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve the financial statement and pay the bills

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he reviewed the two proposed ordinances that will be discussed later, and a few other issues have come up throughout the month, but nothing further to report.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Nathan Foust)

Police Report Attachment #2

He stated they now need to qualify with duty ammo which will be a cost increase.

Chief Foust stated the check oil light came on in the Tahoe and it needs changed. Mr. Slaby questioned him what then happened when the oil light came on. Chief Foust stated it needs to be changed that is it. Mr. Slaby asked if it has been taken care of. He said yes.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Jeff Gilotti)

Fire Chief Report Attachment #3

The Fire Chief stated the fire department purchased new energy efficient LED lights for the station adding it was a much-needed upgrade. The Fire Chief Gilotti stated this past weekend they worked with the IBEW and they installed the lights which should be a cost savings. The Fire Chief stated this was all done with no cost to the Borough adding the

Fire Department picked up the expenses. Mr. Slaby commented that is a good group of people the IBEW in Shamokin.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report Attachment #4

Mr. Bielskie stated there were two permits issued from his office in December.

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

Report Attachment #5

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated the food surplus will be held on February 20th from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at the Borough Garage.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to advertise the street sweeper schedule for 2020

Mayor Bozza questioned if that starts in March. Mr. Fanella replied yes, March 25th begins the Street Sweeping for 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)

6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated American Flags that are hung in the Borough from one end of town to the other, we need 35 of them and the total cost is \$775.09 and 6 poles. Mr. Slaby asked where they are purchased at. Mr. Fanella replied they are ordered from Raleighs Outdoor Décor, Bethlehem PA.

Bruce Graff stated normally we get two year out of them; they get hung up on the poles and shredded. Mr. Dowkus asked if they are going on every other pole. Mr. Fanella stated they will be hung on the poles with the lights on them.

Mayor Bozza suggested the Borough purchase the flags and asked if there was an objection to him sending out letters for possible donations to be used for the purchase of the flags. Mayor Bozza stated he knows that in the past we have received donations toward the cost.

Mr. Chesney questioned if there were any other options for the American Flags, something like the Hometown Hero Banners. Mr. Chesney stated not that they do not look nice blowing, but something that would not get so ripped up so quick.

It was then discussed the issues with cables and the splinters on poles that catch the flags and cause them to tear.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to purchase the flags and poles and also to have letters sent out for possible donations.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated the KME Fire Engine was out to Ashland Diesel for service and change of oil filters which can to \$1060.09. Mr. Fanella stated they found the Engine is in need of additional repairs. A big part of the expense is that new brakes are needed along with some additional repairs. Mr. Fanella stated the engine is needed and so the parts were ordered because it may take a week or two to get in.

Mr. Slaby commented the bottom line is that the truck belongs to the Borough and the Borough needs a fire truck. Mr. Fanella agreed and said it is twenty years old but there is only 15,000 miles on it and the truck is in pretty good shape. Mr. Slaby questioned the Chief if that truck held up pretty good. Chief Gilotti replied it is twenty years old and goes out for 100 calls a year, there has been some major expense to it already adding it is the first truck to go out.

Mayor Bozza commented it has got to be fixed. Mr. Slaby agreed.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to have the KME Fire Engine repaired not to exceed \$6,500.00.

Mr. Dowkus questioned if this is just for all the brakes. Mr. Fanella replied correct, slack adjuster, tension, air conditioner needed attention those are some of the main items. He added once they get the parts he will call, and we will set up a date. Mr. Fanella stated it is just down to emergency use now because it will not pass inspection with slight crack in the brake shoes.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated there was a problem with the backhoe and asked Bruce Graff to explain. Bruce Graff stated while he was using the backhoe a code came up on the dash, which is the clean burn for the DEF, the sending unit was bad. Bruce Graff stated when that goes bad it enables it to work so you can't drive it to do more damage. Bruce Graff stated he got stuck with it twice. He added the first time the guy came he reprogrammed all the software and apparently that was not the problem and then the second guy came and put the sending unit in.

Bruce Graff stated from what he was told it should be covered under the emissions warranty, we would pay for the labor and travel time. Mr. Fanella stated for both of them calls total \$1,276.97. Mr. Fanella stated it is \$549.00 just for the guy to come down here and spend a little bit of time for a \$36.00 part. Mr. Slaby questioned Bruce Graff if we may be reimbursed for that. Bruce Graff replied he does not know; he did not see any billing. Bruce Graff stated he was here last Friday so that should be the last billing we got.

Mr. Fanella stated the problem is the dealer is 60 miles away. Mr. Slaby commented they provided a service; we have a bill and have to pay them. Mr. Fanella stated he just wants to point out it was \$1,200 and nobody broke the machine, it happens and there are expenses with machines. Bruce Graff stated he was told that a municipality does not get charged mileage.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to pay Backhoe repair bill for \$1276.97 to Medico.

Mr. Slaby asked Mr. Fanella to pursue if there is a warranty. Mr. Fanella agreed to do so.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion to purchase 35 gallons of yellow and 25 gallons of white at a cost of \$1014.00.

Mr. Slaby questioned if the expense will come out of the Highway fund. Rhonda Wilk replied “yes.”

Mr. Fanella stated concerning the gas pump overflow alarm, the guy came in to inspect our tank at the Borough Garage and for some reason he could not get into the tank and there is an overflow device there. He stated he then suggested we go with the newer system which will cost \$800.00. Mr. Fanella stated we need it fixed because it did not pass inspection.

Mr. Motyka questioned if that contains diesel fuel. Mr. Fanella replied it is gas. Mr. Motyka questioned what the cost is to inspect the tank each year. Mr. Fanella stated he would not know without looking at it. Mr. Fanella stated when he asked about just getting cards for the police for the fuel they use, the biggest expense would be to take the tank out and depending how the soil is. Mr. Fanella stated the guy that was here said the tank looks new, but he does not know for sure. Mr. Fanella stated if the soil and the ground is not contaminated.

Mr. Fanella stated he talked about that before about just getting a credit card. Mr. Slaby stated he could check into that and get some information. Mr. Fanella stated the pump has some problems sometimes it needs to be turned off and on just to get it to work. Bruce Graff stated he was told just to tear the tank out it will cost \$10,000.00 and if the soil is contaminated it may cost more.

Mr. Bielskie stated his office uses a company from Sunoco where the taxes are taken out before you get the bill. Mr. Slaby stated we could get connected with Costars for the gas cost for government.

Bruce Graff stated the alarm needs to be on the tank to pass inspection and we have 60 days to get it done and the inspection ran out December 22nd so February 22nd. Mr. Bielskie questioned how much gas is in the tank. Bruce Graff replied 900 and some gallon. Council discussed if they could shut them down with the tank full. Mr. Slaby commented it will be okay.

Mr. Fanella stated an estimate was received from Ehrlich to spray back where the bleachers were, adding we did not do it last year. Mr. Slaby asked what the cost was. Mr. Fanella replied \$852.00. Mayor Bozza stated it was not just for weeds, it was for snakes also and asked if that is correct. Mr. Slaby replied he does not think so, Ehrlich has the pest and stated he just got this bill the other day and stated if they did not do it last year.... Mr. Slaby asked councilmembers if anyone wanted to do anything. Nobody replied and so council moved on.

Mr. Fanella stated the bids should be coming in on the Oak Street sewer project and added he received a call from the water company they may want to piggyback to put in a new waterline.

FINANCE/PURCHASING– (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated the union contract on uniforms states will abide by past policy and then stated it does not give an item by item what past policy was. Mr. Motyka stated he checked with the Sewer Authority and their policy is quite extensive with cleaning.

Mr. Motyka stated Bruce is asking for a pair of jeans/pants to wear for work. Mr. Motyka stated he explained to him they get a coat every other year between him and Doug. Mr. Motyka stated we have done this in the past and so I think we should buy him a pair of jeans or pants at \$36.99. Bruce Graff then corrected Mr. Motyka that he is requesting seven pair.

Mr. Motyka asked if anyone knows better what past policy was to speak up stating he does not know. Mr. Motyka stated three jackets for the guys, 3 hoods and 3 shirts and jeans for Bruce for a cost at \$701.18. Mr. Motyka stated if we want to put something down on paper, so we know next time. Mr. Slaby asked if that policy could be amended if that is what Council's desire is.

Solicitor Greco stated that is part of the bargaining agreement. Mr. Fanella stated there is nothing in the contract other than the boots, past practice is they just come and ask, there were no set amounts. Mr. Dowkus stated we do not have anything previous and the agreement with the union is whatever previously happened.

Mayor Bozza stated here is the way he feels, we have been doing this for years and suddenly you want to stop and its questionable. Mayor Bozza questioned with that price how long that will last.

Bruce Graff stated when he was hired they said the Borough supplies uniforms, now they wear jeans and the way they have been working it he and Doug have alternated years, one year he gets jeans and the next year Doug gets jeans adding they alternate years.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to spend \$701.18 to purchase 3 jackets, 3 hoods, 6 shirts and 7 jeans for Bruce and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

Mr. Chesney asked if that is seven jeans for him and seven for the other guy. Bruce Graff replied that Doug will get them next year. Mr. Chesney stated if things are really worn out, they will replace them but if they are not really worn out..... Bruce Graff replied every year they may not get seven pair, but he has holes, crouches out and has duct tape on them. Bruce Graff stated he approached Mr. Fanella about getting a jacket and hood for the part time worker adding that is all he is getting and if he leaves that stays with the Borough.

Mr. Chesney stated he does not know why it is seven pair of jeans. Bruce Graff replied seven days in a week.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (no), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
5 YEAS – 1 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated he read the article from the Brady Fire Company where that guys life was saved by AED, we visited the same topic a few years ago but since the price came down. Mr. Motyka stated it would be good to have in our building since it houses all of our employees and the senior center. Mr. Motyka replied in that case they called 911 and were talked through the use of the AED, even though they are pretty automated, but they can save a life.

Mr. Fanella questioned if we have one in our truck room. The Fire Chief replied yes. Mr. Fanella asked if we could make them easier access. Mr. Motyka questioned if we could move one over here in the hall. Jeff Gilotti replied he will need to check adding one he knows is on the apparatus. Mr. Gilotti stated he knows one they have is self-explanatory and the other you need to know what you are doing. A discussion continued and Jeff Gilotti stated Matt Siko was going to get him some information on them.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated the committee had a meeting and went over two ordinances stating the verbiage was outdated on the reserved parking and application for the reserved

parking. The updated ordinance and application were given to all council for review and was forwarded to the solicitor to review.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and Mr. Chesney seconded the motion to accept the reserved Parking Ordinance 2020-01 to be advertised.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus stated the Quality of Life Ordinance was reviewed by the committee and again there was some outdated issues, additions and some concerns that were brought to light and needed to be added and clarified. Mr. Dowkus stated the members of Council were provided a copy of the proposed changes as was the solicitor.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to advertise the Quality of Life Ordinance 2020-02

Mr. Slaby stated he has reviewed the Ordinance and stated he agrees with the change and asked if anyone else has any questions.

Mayor Bozza said it stated cannot be used in a residential house as a heating system and questions if that would mean you cannot use it at all. Mayor Bozza asked if it should say primary. Mr. Dowkus stated it reads, “Permanent Heating System – A fixed permanently installed heating system, whether system is Coal, Oil, Gas or Electric that is able to maintain a room temperature of 68 degrees at a point 3 feet above the floor and 2 feet from an exterior wall. The installation of one or more portable space heaters shall not be used to achieve compliance.”

Mayor Bozza asked if we are covered under that. Council agrees we are. Mayor Bozza questioned a non-occupied home and somebody comes in and throws two heaters on and leaves, it does not say cannot have any space heaters ran if the house is not occupied.

Mr. Bielskie replied it does not need to say that, it is saying PERIOD. Mr. Chesney stated that would assume the role of a permanent heat if there is no other heat. Mr. Dowkus stated the installation of one or more portable space heaters shall not be used to achieve compliance, you cannot use two space heaters to meet compliance.

Mayor Bozza stated when the committee was considering this he spoke to many people in the Borough and a lot of people use kerosene heaters to keep their pipes from freezing. Mayor Bozza stated if this said you cannot use a kerosene heater in your home, he would be totally against it. Mr. Dowkus replied, it is not as a primary heating system. Mr. Bielskie commented that we were not going to go sniffing for them, but if we get a complaint this ordinance will give us the teeth needed to enforce it.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated he has been doing some research on overhead wires and stated since 2004 100% of homes had telephones in their houses and now it is about 40% but ATT and Verizon never moved one wire from the sky and so there is all of this clutter in the sky. Mr. Motyka questioned if it is as simple as us passing an ordinance to get them to remove the overhead wires. Mr. Motyka stated he would like to amend the service electric agreement that would require them to remove all lines.

Mr. Motyka stated everywhere you see a satellite dish; they don't have service electric and we could potentially get 60% or the lines in the sky taken down. Solicitor Greco stated we probably have a long-term franchise agreement with them and that is why the notice is here, to try and renegotiate now, they may not allow us, there is an ordinance that would prohibit that. Mr. Bielskie stated they have been replacing a lot of lines in Kulpmont and they take their own old lines down when they replace them. Mr. Motyka stated there are streets where there are just rolls coiled up just lying. Mr. Motyka stated he will pass the information to the ordinance committee to look at.

GRANTS/RECREATION – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated he had met with Representative Kurt Masser and his Associate. Mr. Chesney stated he is going to look into the near future if he can help us in some way, there may be something he could do for us in the recreational area or possibly something else. Mr. Chesney stated he asked for some ideas and stated he did tell him some things would be our storm drainage, the wall up at the Terry Miriello Field and our situation with blight we would like to continue. Mr. Chesney stated in the future we may get some help.

Mr. Chesney stated we did receive a reimbursement through the grant for the paving that was done at the recycling center.

Mr. Chesney stated they will check into the DCNR grant, the small community development grant, Shamokin Creek Restorations, the Lions Grant, Commonwealth Finance Authority Act 13 grant and others we will investigate. He stated our main goal is to look at grants, but not all grants are needed, especially when they require matching funds if they are not needed. Mr. Chesney added we are trying to look for those 10% and 20% match grants and those wonderful Free grants.

Mayor Bozza questioned the grant that included the dump truck and asked if we got that yet. Mr. Chesney stated that is all part of the Recycling Grant. Mr. Fanella stated the truck should be done sometime in February, we will then need to pay for it and submit for reimbursement.

PERSONNEL- (Michael Sinopoli)

Mr. Slaby stated Mr. Sinopoli is not here this evening and stated the personnel committee met over the last month. Mr. Slaby asked Mr. Dowkus to speak briefly on the recommendations for changes in the non-uniform employee policy.

Mr. Dowkus stated the non-uniform employee policy was discussed to be amended to match the union contract which would change some verbiage and match the holidays and vacation time and updating the policy verbiage to match the union contract. One change is the half day becoming a full day for Good Friday.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to grant Rhonda Wilk a fifty cent per hour pay raise.

Mr. Slaby stated it is his understanding that Rhonda Wilk did not receive a pay increase for two years.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka questioned if we need to make a motion to advertise for open vacancies.

Mr. Chesney asked the news reported to put it in the article the vacancies Health Board/Physician, and Vacancy Board.

The appointment for the vacancy board was discussed by council before a motion was made to appoint Mr. Niglio to the vacancy board.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to appoint Mr. Paul Niglio to the vacancy board.

Mr. Slaby stated he understands Mr. Niglio is willing to accept that position.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to revise the non-uniform policy and change the language, holiday and vacation schedule to match with the Union Contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated he just wanted to mention the Fire Engine price is \$5,796.73 and stated he has the list if anyone is interested.

Mr. Fanella thanked the Fire Chief for taking on the light project in the truck room and stated they are very nice.

Mr. Fanella stated Matt Siko replied back to him on some meeting dates and stated he will get with the other two committee members and set that meeting up.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Dorothy Riffert of 1137 Scott Street, stated she has issued with the neighbor next door since they moved in. Ms. Riffert stated the roof is coming down and the wall in the hallway is crumbling and coming down because of the issue. She stated they cannot fix it, because he has got to fix his roof. Ms. Riffert stated a roofer came and gave her an estimate and told her it her damage is absolutely from him, he put tarps up and nailed into her roof. She then stated they have complained about this and need something to be done. Mr. Slaby questioned her if it is a Borough problem or is this a civil matter. Mr. Slaby continued to say he sympathizes with her and will refer this question to Solicitor Greco but still questions if this is a Borough problem or a civil matter.

Ms. Riffert replied at this point she said she does not know. Ms. Riffert stated the home is vacant, he has no homeowner's insurance and they have a joint wall that is crumbling because of his property. Ms. Riffert said if they go ahead and repair it will just happen again unless he fixes it. Solicitor Greco responded to Ms. Riffert and said any damage by putting holes and screws in her roof that is a civil action that you have against him. Solicitor Greco continued to say if there are code violations, the appropriate citations will be levied against the landowner adding many of those violations go by day.

Linda Rodak of Kulpmont questioned if there is anywhere in Kulpmont, she could take flags for flag burning. Mr. Chesney replied there is a mailbox drop off for flags at the American Legion and stated after 4:30 p.m. or early in the morning somebody is usually there. Linda Rodak thanked Council. Mr. Slaby advised Ms. Rodak if by some chance that does not work for her there is a box for flags in front of the Coal Township Municipal building.

Linda Rodak asked about the litter and cigarette butts that were discussed under the Mayors agenda. She asked if it is school bus stops that the Mayor was referring to. Mayor Bozza replied it is school bus stops and is mostly the parents. Linda Rodak replied that she picks up high school kids and there are no parents there, but the kids on her stop do not smoke and she does not see that problem.

Mr. Chesney addressed the Mayor and stated he knows that it is hard to schedule to have an officer on duty to patrol the bus stops while school is in session. Mr. Chesney stated he feels that it is very important.

Jim Cipriani stated he has talked with the Code Officer about the same person that Ms. Riffert has the problem with and stated he knows how she feels, because citations do not mean anything to this guy. Mr. Slaby stated he is being cited and that is the only ammunition we have. Mr. Cipriani said he understands that, but he needs to go to jail.

Mayor Bozza asked Mr. Cipriani if he has been contacting the police when he sees activity there. The Code Officer stated he is allowed to be in there now. Mayor Bozza replied "I know that." Mayor Bozza told Mr. Cipriani if you see activity in that building you need to let the officers know that. Mr. Cipriani stated he sees cars coming and going at 2:00 a.m. and that tells him something is going on there.

Mr. Cipriani stated he knows that citations are the only approach to this, but if you are going to cite him and he is not going to pay his fines, he needs to be in jail. Mayor Bozza replied, that is not our decision. Mr. Cipriani replied he knows that is the District Justice decision. He added there is garbage piled up and tires piles up all creating a health hazard. Mr. Cipriani stated this is devaluing their properties and other properties around.

Mr. Chesney asked the public concerning the recycling bins to just please separate items properly and make sure cardboard is flattened before placing in the bin and asked if you see something not being done properly with the recycling or items being placed in the bins please ask them not to do that. Mr. Chesney stated the recycling is a great thing and we need to stay on top of using the bins properly.

Mr. Chesney stated HPCI Construction will soon be getting down to the Veterans Memorial Field to replace the roof on the concession stand.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mr. Chesney stated our previous code officer Russ Moroz has retired but he will be going to court and asked how he will be compensated for his time when he needs to be at court. Mr. Slaby and Council agreed he should be paid hourly at the rate he was when he left the position.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to be paid hourly at the rate he was when he left the position.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

NEW BUSINESS-

Mr. Motyka stated he sent the group an article from last week's News Item about the Community Connections luncheon at the Community Partner and Alliance and stated he plans to attend that luncheon on March 5th and stated if anyone would like to drive down with him it will be from 11:15 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and stated the cost to attend is \$25.00.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slaby wishes all a Happy Valentine's Day and thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURNMENT

**THE FEBRUARY 12, 2020 MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF
THE CHAIR**

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Date of Approval _____