

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Walter Lutz
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by body present, Kulpmont Borough Council held
its regular monthly meeting Tuesday February 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Novakoski, Walter Lutz, George Malakoski, Stephen Motyka and Bruno R. Varano.

ABSENT: Clarence H. Deitrick, Joseph A. Winhofer and Nicholas P. Goretski, III.

APPOINTED POSITIONS: Solicitor William C. Cole

PRESENT: Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk, Police Chief Michael Pitcavage, Code Officer Russ Moroz.

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Politza, Barry Fetterman, Bernie Nestico, Nick Bozza, Jeff Gilotti, Matt Siko, Marshall Mirarchi III, Joe Pancerella, Bob Chesney and Joe Meyer.

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

No one spoke

****TAPE MALFUNCTION****

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Bruno R. Varano)

Mr. Varano stated that Bruce Graff contacted him about the rainwater pipe at 11th and Spruce Street. He states that the ground is opening up because the pipe is deteriorating and creating an open void.

Mr. Varano stated that the borough supervisor and street department filled the void and is planning to fix it when Aqua is installing the new water line on Spruce Street in the Spring.

Mr. Varano states that he had a meeting with Karen Leonovich with Area Agency on Aging in the borough office last week and received a list of requirements for the senior center and is looking into meeting their needs for the senior center in Kulpmont to relocate to the new building, using the community room for their organization.

Mr. Varano states that he will keep council informed on the outcome of that meeting.

MAYOR REPORT (Bernard P. Novakoski)

Mayor Novakoski states that he would like to meet in executive session at the end of the meeting for personnel matters to discuss the Auxiliary Police.

SECRETARY REPORT (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk states that approval is needed on the meeting minutes from the January 4th re-organization meeting, January 4th the regular meeting and the January 12th monthly meetings.

MOTION- Mr. Malakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve the minutes from the Jan 4th re-organization, January 4th regular meeting and the January 12, 2016 monthly meeting.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk states that correspondence was received from the Mount Carmel School District. Rhonda Wilk states that she received the JV and Varsity 2016 season baseball schedules and a copy of their liability insurance.

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul A. Niglio, Jr.)

Rhonda Wilk states that everyone received a copy of the financial statement and a list of bills to be paid and that approval is needed to accept the financial statement and to pay the bills.

Mr. Lutz questioned the KPI bill in the amount of \$175.50 on the list of bill's to be paid and asked what that bill was for. Rhonda Wilk replied that it states on the bill that it was for the work to date on preparation of cost estimate for pedestrian bridge.

Mr. Motyka states that he contacted KPI but was not under the impression that the borough would be billed for an estimate and he will look into it.

Mr. Varano commented that any expenditure over \$75.00 has to be approved at a meeting and questions now if they did work the borough will have to pay them.

Mr. Motyka questions if paying that bill could be tabled until he can check into it.

MOTION- Mr. Malakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to accept the financial statement and to pay the bills and to table paying the KPI bill.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DEITRICK (absent), LUTZ (no), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (absent), GORETSKI (absent)

3 Yeas – 1 Nay

SOLICITORS REPORT (William C. Cole)

Mr. Cole states that he has no report other than the request by the Mayor to meet in executive session at the end of the meeting.

POLICE REPORT (Chief Michael Pitcavage)

Police Report attachment #2, Mr. Varano asks if there are any questions for the Chief.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT (Kevin O'Hearn)

Fire Chief's report attachment #3

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Kevin O'Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT (TRI County COG)

Building inspectors report attachment #4

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS REPORT (Russ Moroz)

Report attachment #5

Mr. Lutz states that he saw two escrow checks in the office for signature and questioned Mr. Moroz on what they were about.

Mr. Moroz replied the insurance company issued a check to be held as required by Act 98 until the property is placed into a habitable space or demolished and is satisfactorily inspected and signed off on as were the properties on the 700 block of Scott Street.

Mr. Motyka questioned Russ Moroz on if we have been registering contractors as per the new ordinance.

Mr. Moroz replied that he did not have permits yet and that the registration will be done with the issue of permits.

It was discussed and asked by Mr. Motyka if the contractor registration fee was collected from the contractors for the new building.

Mr. Moroz replied no it was not and stated that was because the borough waived all of the permit fees.

Mr. Motyka states that a registration fee is different than a permit fee and they should pay it.

Mr. Moroz states that at the bid package meeting it was said to waive the fees and if the fees were not all waived the bid package would have been higher.

Mr. Motyka stated that he feels they should have to pay the registration fee.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Joseph A. Winhofer)

MOTION- Mr. Lutz made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Malakoski to pay the East End Fire Company the remainder of their allotment minus the heating oil paid for by the Borough.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DEITRICK (absent), LUTZ (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), VARANO (no), WINHOFER (absent), GORETSKI (absent)
3 Yeas – 1 Nay

Mr. Varano asked where we are going to get the money from.

MOTION- Mr. Lutz made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to give Rhonda Wilk and Bruce Graff a \$1.25 per hour increase, Charles Ross a \$1.00 per hour, and part time regular employee's \$.50 hour increase.

Mr. Varano questioned the motions to spend money when the Treasurer is not here at the meeting and that he did not know where the money will come from.

Mr. Lutz commented that he knew where to find the money and that he has been looking into the budget and states that there was a substantial decrease in insurance and some other areas.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DEITRICK (absent), LUTZ (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), VARANO (no), WINHOFER (absent), GORETSKI (absent)
3 Yeas – 1 Nay

Mr. Lutz commented that there may be a significant potential savings in the consolidation of the police force.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz announced that the food surplus distribution will be held this month on February 18th at 8 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the borough garage.

Mr. Lutz stated that the 2016 street sweeper schedule will have to be advertised and that the salt contract for the 2016 – 2017 seasons has been renewed.

MOTION- Mr. Lutz made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Malakoski to advertise the 2016 street sweeper schedule.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka states that based on information that council received from Lenepe Solar that he drafted a letter that is ready for signature and the Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Municipal Authority will do the same in partnering in the solar project. He stated that this letter will be sent to State Representative Masser, Senator Gordner, Congressman Barletta, Senator Toomey, Senator Casey and Northumberland County Commissioners Scicchitano, Best and Shoch. Mr. Motyka stated that once a design is in hand the project could move forward.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to share in the cost with the Sewer Authority the amount of \$3500.00 to move forward.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DEITRICK (absent), LUTZ (no), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (absent), GORETSKI (absent)
3 Yeas – 1 Nay

Mr. Varano states that during the last snow storm EMA Director Kevin O’Hearn has been corresponding on any reimbursement that may reimburse the Borough for any overtime, equipment and cost related to clean up from the storm. He stated that it looks like the county will be eligible for reimbursement for these costs and commends the Mayor for calling a state of emergency for the Borough.

Mr. Motyka stated that the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance installed him as a director for the organization. Mr. Motyka mentioned that they are doing a creek assessment of Quaker Run to identify all of the issues with the creek. He also stated that the Borough has been a member of SCRA in the years prior and asks council to renew the membership for 2016 and states that he will leave a renewal application in the Borough office.

CODE/HEALTH/SAFETY (George Malakoski)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE (Nicholas P. Goretski, III)

No Report

GRANTS AND RECEREATION (Clarence H. Deitrick)

No Report

Mr. Varano states that when the weather breaks Joe Cessari will be donating \$2500.00 toward the cost of sidewalks up at the playground and states that George Malakoski has already stated that he will donate his services and operate the backhoe for the installation of the sidewalks. Mr. Motyka states that he is sure that between him and possibly Joe Winhofer and anyone willing to volunteer to form out for these sidewalks and install them.

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka announced that no bids were received for the equipment that was advertised in The News Item and discussion took place on if and where another ad should be placed.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Lutz to advertise the taking bids for equipment advertisement again in the Daily Item and the Bloomsburg paper, Press Enterprise.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DEITRICK (absent), LUTZ (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (absent), GORETSKI (absent)
4 Yeas – 0 Nays

Mr. Motyka stated that the ad will be the same as before with only the dates changing and adding to call to make an appointment to view the equipment if desired. Council members had a short discussion on the dates that bid offers had to be in and when they would be open. It was decided by council to be advertised and the bids due in the Borough office February 29th by 4:00 p.m. and then be opened in the Borough office on March 1st at 3:00 p.m.

Council discussed the cost of electricity at the East End building and discussed that this has to be looked into as to why the costs are so high. The March 7th due date electric bill was \$705.00.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (J. Winhofer, B. Varano and C. Deitrick)

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Valentines Day

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Robert Chesney of 929 Pine Street stated that he hopes that council will look into the option and what the cost and potential savings to the Borough may be with the possible merger of the Township and the Borough Police Department.

Mr. Lutz stated that he spoke with Chief Hollenbush and that it is worthwhile to go and see what is what.

Mr. Lutz added that with all of the talk on solar and engineer cost and spending money that it is worth looking into something that will be good for the borough and save some money instead of expenditures.

Mr. Matt Siko of 6th and Pine Street Kulpmont stated that he appreciates the effort of Mr. Motyka and Mr. Lutz for them receiving the remainder of their allotment and putting the issue to rest for them.

A discussion took place between Matt Siko and Council members concerning the borough's desire to receive financial information from the fire company.

Mr. Pancerella of 700 Pine Street the money to be borrowed by the USDA of \$790,000.00, realistically looking at based on the tax increase. He commented on the solar project and stated that it was important to investigate and have a feasibility study and added that obviously the company would have self interest.

President Varano announced that Council will now meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters.

President Varano stated that Council will go back in session briefly before returning to executive session for personnel matters.

MOTION – Mr. Lutz made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Malakoski to hire part time help in the office at \$9.00 per hour for 12 to 15 hours per week.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DEITRICK (absent), LUTZ (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (no), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (absent), GORETSKI (absent)
3 Yeas – 1 Nay

President Varano announced that council will now go into executive session for personnel matters.

The Borough Solicitor William C. Cole states that the board met in executive session for approximately 20 minutes for personnel matters.

MOTION- Mr. Malakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Lutz to adopt the Auxiliary police policy.

ROLL CALL VOTE- DEITRICK (absent), LUTZ (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), MOTYKA (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (absent), GORETSKI (absent)
4 Yeas – 0 Nays

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

**RHONDA WILK
BOROUGH SECRETARY**

DATE OF APPROVAL