

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 12, 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 January 12, 2022

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

ABSENT: Mr. Niglio

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin O' Hearn, Ray Siko, Marshall Mirarchi and Joe Politza

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

No one spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated the Acreage, the 40 acres behind the mill is for sale and persons interested in purchasing are talking about having a trailer on the lot. Mr. Bielskie stated they are allowed to be on the land 180 days out of the year, anything after that there would be an issue. Mr. Bielskie stated they plan on riding their 4 wheelers on it. Council discussed the acreage and agreed if they plan to develop the land to go through the proper channels when the time comes.

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert Slaby)

Mayor Slaby requested an executive session with Borough Council to discuss a personnel matter at this time, 7:05 p.m.

Solicitor Greco announced Borough Council met in executive session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss a personnel matter.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed for the December 8th regular monthly meeting minutes, the December 22, 2021, special meeting and the January 3, 2022, re-organization meeting minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve the meeting minutes from December 8, 2021, December 22, 2021, and the January 3, 2022, meetings.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

1. DCED copy of grant approval \$42,500.00, Copy Mayor/Council
2. Correspondence from PSAB was received providing information on a two-day course understanding challenges, laws and regulations that impact the community. The cost is \$125.00 per member, Copied to Mayor/Council
3. PSAB – Bidding Thresholds Increase (effective Jan 1, 2022) contracts below \$11,800 require no bidding, contracts between \$11,800.00 and \$21,900.00 require three written Quotations, purchases or contracts over \$21,900.00 require formal bidding.
4. IRS standard mileage rate has increased for 2022.
5. The U.S. Treasurer Released ARPA Report Portal & User Guide for non-entitlement Units of Local Government ARPA reporting- First Report being due April 20, 2022, Copied Mayor/Council
6. Correspondence was received from TETRA TECH / Quaker Run Stream Sealing Project, SCRA. There is a form included that will need to be signed by Council and returned concerning that project. Copied Mayor/Council
7. Mr. Stephen Bielskie submitted a letter of interest to serve the KMHJMA Board, Copied Mayor/Council
8. Mr. Robert Fanella submitted a letter of interested dated January 5, 2022, to fill the vacant council position, remaining two-year term, Copied Mayor/Council
9. Kulpmont Fire Department sent correspondence in regard to 2022 administration and operational leadership changes- Kevin O’Hearn Chief of Department, Ray Siko II, Deputy Chief and Marshall Mirarchi, Assistant Chief- Copy Mayor/Council.

10. Northumberland County Mental Health Services – conducting a street count of unsheltered homeless people, Copied Mayor/Council/Officer Mazzeo

TREASURERS REPORT – (Paul A. Niglio)

Mr. Bielskie stated Mr. Niglio is absent this evening. Rhonda Wilk stated council received a list of bills to be paid and stated a motion is needed to approve.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve and pay the bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated Municipal Liens were filed against properties in the borough for cutting grass. Solicitor Greco stated he also has some information on the residential ordinance which could be addressed later.

Mayor Slaby questioned if there was any interest on the vacant lots that the borough owns on the 900 block of Chestnut Street. Rhonda Wilk stated we have not received anything although there was an interested party inquiring about it, he owns a property adjacent to the lots.

Solicitor Greco stated the lots would need to be advertised, if someone comes in and makes an offer without advertising that would not satisfy. A discussion took place on advertising the lots located on the 900 block of Chestnut Street to receive bids.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to advertise the Borough lots for sale with the bids being due February 9th by 4:00 p.m. and will be opened at the February 9, 2022, meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

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

Officer Mazzeo stated his report is attached. Officer Mazzeo stated we received ammunition last year and stated he received a quote, MOPEC upgraded their requirement and stated he recommends we purchase the ammunition and at least we have it.

Mr. Bradley questioned if the ammunition is going to be available. Officer Mazzeo stated depending on what type it is, some stuff is available for government and some stuff is just not available if you are government or not.

MOTION- To purchase ammunition at a cost of \$765.73 for the police department by Mr. Motyka and seconded by Mr. Bradley.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Fire Chief report is attached.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report attached.

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

Report is attached. Heather Owens stated she just wanted to mention she wanted to spruce up the place and run the vacuum before the meeting and the vacuum died and stated a new vacuum is needed.

Mr. Motyka asked for a quote to be presented at the next meeting for the purchase of a new vacuum.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley stated Food Surplus will be held on January 20th 8 a.m. until 12 noon at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Bradley stated he does not know much about the food surplus program and stated he is planning on coming into the Borough office and Borough Facilities to familiarize himself more

Mr. Bradley stated he just would like to comment, we all know ice is way worse than snow and just would like to comment he thinks the crew did a great job this past Sunday with the roads.

FINANCE/PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated he just would like to mention we received an invoice from Brinkash for the project at the Veterans Memorial Field, he stated it is not listed on the agenda, but he wanted to mention it and it will be listed for approval at the next meeting.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated in December we advertised Ordinance 2022-02 amending Ordinance 2015-08.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to adopt Residential Ordinance 2022-02 amending Ordinance 2015-08

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley thanked Mr. Dowkus for all his work and research on this. Mr. Dowkus thanked Mr. Bradley and stated it was not only him, but he also worked with the Code Officer, Solicitor Greco, Mr. Chesney and Mr. Bielskie had been working on this and going back and forth. Mr. Dowkus stated he feels we have been doing a real good job with it.

GRANTS/RECREATION – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated the MAP grant for zoning came through in the amount of \$42,500.00 with the remaining cost to be paid by the Borough, Mount Carmel Township and Marion Heights based on population.

Mr. Chesney stated there are other grants we may look at to pursue.

Mr. Chesney stated we are still working with the Covid money and where that money could be used. We will be looking at using some of the funds for water mitigation and looking into options to complete some projects and look for some additional help with funding.

Mr. Motyka stated the SCRA is applying for a grant and with match the grant with \$112,000.00 of their own funds to seal the creek bed of Quaker Run.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion to have the letter of landowner signed for SCRA grant and provide any documents or signatures to work with that grant and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

PERSONNEL- (Mr. Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated he spoke to Mr. Graff today and coordinated with the sewer authority and they will be working with Mr. Niglio next week for plastic pick up.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to accept their recommendation from the Kulpmont Fire Department to accept the leadership changes of Kevin O’Hearn as the Fire Chief, Ray Siko as Deputy Chief and Marshall Mirarchi to be Assistant Chief.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mayor Slaby proceeded to swear in Fire Chief Kevin O’Hearn, Deputy Fire Chief Raymond Siko and Assistant Fire Chief Marshall Mirarchi.

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Mr. Balitchick)

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Deputy Fire Chief stated a storm is rolling through the area and so he reminded to keep the hydrants clear and also stated he is still looking forward to working with past Fire Chief Jeff Gilotti. He stated the heat is now working in the truck room. Rhonda Wilk stated LTS was there to repair today

OLD BUSINESS-

Mr. Bielskie stated letters of interest are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday January 26th to fill the vacant two-year term on Borough Council. And to fill the two vacant seats serving on the KMHJMA Board. Also, Residents are reminded to contact the Borough office and submit your letter if interested in filling the vacant tax collector position no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 26th.

NEW BUSINESS-

Mr. Bradley thinks we should pursue opening a Federal Surplus Account. He stated there is no cost and it will make items available to us.

MOTION- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to open a Federal Surplus account out of Harrisburg.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kulpmont Borough Council will hold the next public meeting on Wednesday January 26th at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The January 12, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Approval date – _____