

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
SPECIAL MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSE
January 2, 2019**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Robert Chesney
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the Special Meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday January 2, 2019 at 8:30 p.m.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Bozza, Stephen Bielskie, Robert Chesney, 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: Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Michalkovich, Bernard Novakoski and Bruno Varano

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

No One Spoke

Mr. Lutz stated Council will meet in executive session for possible litigation.

Solicitor Greco stated Council met in executive session for approximately 5 minutes to discuss possible litigation.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz talked about the audit and budget briefly and stated there are some issues with overtime and some other issues just to get that on the record.

Mr. Lutz stated he would like to have a motion to reinstate the salaries of the Fire Chiefs Siko, Gilotti and he and Councilman Chesney, Sinopoli and Bielskie.

The Solicitor discussed some concern on a motion and vote to reinstate salaries of Councilman that will be voting on the motion and collectively if all abstain it will not pass. The Treasurer stated a motion would not be needed because there is an ordinance on the books setting the salaries and if anything, a motion would be needed to again forego the salaries. Mr. Niglio stated as far as his office is concerned this year they would be paid.

It was agreed no action is needed to reinstate the salaries. Mr. Slaby questioned Mr. Niglio if there is then an Ordinance. Mr. Niglio replied yes.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Michal Sinopoli)

Mr. Sinopoli stated two letters of interest for appointments to the KMHJMA board were received one from Mr. Stephen Motyka and the other from Mr. Walter Lutz.

Mr. Chesney stated interviews were held with two individuals on December 17th and 18th of 2018 the Committee did meet, and each were asked six identical questions which the committee formulated and discussed prior to the interviews. He stated the questions were general in nature and centered on facts the committee felt that were relevant to the position being sought. Following each interview, the committee discussed and weighed the answers given by each candidate.

Mr. Chesney stated after discussion and comparison of the questions and answers the committee voted on which candidate the committee would present to borough council. Mr. Chesney stated just for clarity when Mr. Lutz was interviewed he did step down and disregarded all association of being a councilman and so he was just a regular citizen, an applicant at that time with just the committee interviewing him. Mr. Chesney stated they did have a recommendation.

MOTION – Mr. Chesney made the motion to nominate Walter Lutz to fill the vacancy on the KMHJMA board and was seconded by Mr. Slaby.

MOTION- Mr. Malakoski nominated Mr. Motyka

A short discussion took place on a nomination not requiring a second.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (Lutz), BIELSKIE (Lutz), CHESNEY (Lutz), FANELLA (Lutz), MALAKOSKI (Motyka), SINOPOLI (abstain), SLABY (Lutz)
5 LUTZ – 1 MOTYKA -1 Abstain

Mr. Lutz stated concerning the budget, at the next meeting we will talk in detail explaining that at the beginning of 2018 the General Fund was at \$295,925.00 and stated as of this morning the General Fund balance was this morning\$32,963.00, increased \$33,705.00 and stated that money will be useful for any deficit.

Mr. Lutz stated he would appreciate a motion and a second for a \$3,000.00 grant for the West End. Mayor Bozza questioned what the grant is for. Mr. Lutz replied it is for the West End. Mayor Bozza questioned for what. Mr. Lutz replied it is for the operations and oil and things like that and then asked Mayor Bozza to please ask to be recognized. Mr. Slaby questioned Mr. Niglio what the amount of the grant was for 2017 to the West End. Mr. Niglio replied \$3,000.00

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve a grant of \$3000.00 for the West End

Mr. Lutz stated the truck room where a lot of the borough equipment is garaged is 2,000 square feet. He stated one bay is used for the street sweeper and the other is for lawn equipment and the other is for the fire truck that is back in service and stated there is all kind of fire apparatus and stated the room needs to be heated so that everything is ready to go.

Mr. Lutz stated his notion is that in the surrounding area we couldn't even get close to that in a monthly fee of \$250.00 per month for 2,000 square feet and in addition we would have a hard time finding a garage for the size of the equipment. Mr. Lutz stated the alternative would be we could go ahead and build a new fire station for \$200,000.00 and stated he does not think that would be the wisest course of action.

Mr. Bielskie stated he talked to Marty Mariano and he owns a lot of properties and in Bloomsburg he is getting \$4.50 per square foot and in Shamokin he is getting \$3.00 per square foot and stated it is a deal for what they are getting it for.

Mr. Lutz stated he does not know what other alternatives there are.

Mr. Slaby questioned if Borough Council over the last 15 years if they ever discontinued the stipend. Mr. Niglio replied no.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), SINOPOLI stated he is the president of the West End and he votes (yes), SLABY (yes)
7 YEAS 0 NAYS

Mr. Lutz stated for the record he is the financial secretary at the West End and Mr. Fanella and Mr. Bielskie are directors. Mr. Lutz stated there is no monetary what so ever, no dinners nothing like that.

The Solicitor stated he would like to say for the record there is no second needed on a nomination.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lutz stated Council would like to have town hall meetings at least twice per year and they would be advertised in the paper

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Chesney stated with the Federal Shut down the action will be slow at the mill. There may still be some action, but it will be low key and done at a slower pace. Mr. Chesney stated he thinks the removal of the brick stack will be on hold but will be done eventually.

Mr. Sinopoli stated he would like to announce that we had some visitors come through Kulpmont that were homeless and in need of a place to stay and were offered to stay at the West End. Officer McHugh came down and during the investigation found they were in possession of drugs. Mr. Sinopoli stated he just wanted all to be aware.

Mr. Fanella stated on the Fir Street Pipe job, he met with Chantel from the Conservation District and she said the dirt and gravel grant may be something that we could use to help us out, this is something we would need to get the engineer involved in and stated he would like permission to get them involved.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to spend up to \$300.00 to purchase a liner for an ice skating rink.

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

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary

Date of Approval _____