

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
SPECIAL MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSE
JANUARY 26, 2022
7:00 PM**

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 January 26, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Treasurer Paul Niglio, Secretary Rhonda Wilk, Borough Supervisor, OIC Stephen Mazzeo, Code Officer Heather Owens.

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Joe Politza, Diane Graff, Luke Darrup, Marlin Hodge, Bob Fanella and Ben Britton.

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

No one spoke

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated we received three letters of interest from persons interested to fill the vacancy of tax collector. Letters were received from Jennifer Shannon of Kulpmont, Paul R. Miller III from East Cameron, Luke Darrup of Kulpmont.

MOTION- A motion was made by Mr. Chesney to appoint Jennifer Shannon as tax collector and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (no), MOTYKA (yes)
5 YEAS – 1 NAY

Mr. Dowkus stated letters of interest to fill the vacant two-year term for Borough Councilperson were received from Robert Fanella, Marlin Hodge, Mark Timothy Hine and John Motyka.

NOMINATION- Mr. Dowkus Nominated Mr. Marlin Hodge to fill the vacancy on Borough Council.

NOMINATION- Mr. Chesney Nominated Mr. Fanella to fill the vacancy on Borough Council

Mr. Chesney stated he would like to make a nomination based on a few things. Mr. Chesney state out of the list of candidates Mr. Fanella is probably the most qualified and stated he lost during the election by a few votes which show the community supported him. Mr. Chesney state he did numerous things for the Borough on his own time and is a person of experience who understands roadwork and issues like water runoff. Mr. Chesney went on to say we sometimes let personalities get in the way and personality should not interfere with running Council.

Solicitor Greco stated if there are no additional nominations, nominations will close and roll call will be taken for the candidate.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (Hodge), BIELSKIE (Fanella), BRADLEY (Hodge), CHESNEY (Fanella), DOWKUS (Hodge), MOTYKA (Hodge)
4 Hodge – 2 Fanella

Mayor Slaby proceeded to swear in Mr. Marlin Hodge. Mr. Hodge then took a seat with Borough Council.

Mr. Dowkus stated there were two letters of interest received to serve on the KMJHMA and there are currently two five-year terms available. A letter was received from Mr. Stephen Bielskie, and a letter of interest was received from Mr. Richard Cooper.

Mr. Motyka Nominated Mr. Bielskie to the KMHJMA Board to fill the open five-year term.

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

Mr. Motyka Nominated Mr. Cooper to the KMHJMA Board to fill the open five-year term.

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

Mr. Dowkus thanked everyone who submitted letters of interest for the positions open within our government.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to purchase a vacuum cleaner not to exceed \$250.00 and was second by Mr. Dowkus.

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

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion to appoint check signers and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus as Stephen Motyka, Stephen Bielskie, Robert Chesney and Paul Niglio as check signers.

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

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to pay \$1240.00 out of the grant account to Brinkash Engineering for the project at the Veterans Memorial Field.

Mr. Motyka stated there is 17million dollars at the County, they are asking for projects that will fall in the 159 day that qualify for the American Recovery Act. Mr. Motyka stated he distributed to council the projects and would like to have councils' approval for all the submissions. Mr. Motyka stated he will go through them one at a time, the amount we are asking for and where the match is coming from.

Mr. Motyka stated there was \$11,000.00 allocated for the Kulpmont 100 Terry Miriello Field.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion that the Borough submit a grant request for \$11,000.00 to match that and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

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

Mr. Motyka stated Social Distancing and Recreation under the American Recovery Act. The Borough allocated \$10,000.00 for the expansion of the Terry Miriello Field.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to match the \$10,000.00 50/50 grant with what was allocated to the Veterans Memorial Field.

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

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to include \$100,000.00 match, request \$500,000.00 from the county covid funds and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

Mr. Motyka stated we previously submitted request from the County for \$500,00.00 from County Covid Funds. With previous submitted \$100,000.00 with our engineer, after the

fact we might have to match with other covid money we have. Mr. Motyka stated so for now its \$500,000.00. Mr. Chesney questioned Mr. Motyka is he is saying we have \$100,000.00 for that now. Mr. Motyka replied, "correct." Mr. Motyka stated we also have \$279,000.00 that was allocated minus the premium, hazard pay that was paid to the employees so we have about \$268,500.00 left that we could possibly match some of these other grants or fund some stormwater with.

Mr. Dowkus questioned Mr. Motyka if this is all part of the information you sent to us in emails today. Mr. Bradley asked, "bottom line, we can afford to do this, correct?" Mr. Motyka agreed.

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

Mr. Motyka stated as he mentioned we already allocated \$110,000.00 to the restroom project and stated the County Covid money could be used for sanitation and so Brinkash Engineering figures what was needed to run the water line, sewer line and hand free faucets, toilets.

Mr. Motyka stated to request \$21,000.00 of the County money and then were matching that with the \$110,000.00 we already allocated to the grant. Mr. Bielskie asked, right now, whatever we have into it? Mr. Motyka replied the \$70,000.00 from the state and the in-kind services, so all projects are \$110,000.00, were using that as a match.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to request funds to be used for sanitation, hand free faucets \$21,000.00 County to be matched with money allocated.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to match \$80,000.00 for the \$80,000.00 Shamokin Creek Restoration Creek Alliance.

Mr. Motyka stated it is a shovel ready project and is asking for \$80,000.00. Mr. Motyka stated its short \$112,000.00 because allocated for a different grant to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and so were stuck wit the remainder \$80,000.00. Mr. Chesney asked, "what do you mean we are stuck with the remainder \$80,000.00. Mr. Motyka replied \$112,000.00, design as match and using remaining funds and so not cost to the borough. Mr. Bielskie commented, it was just the way it was said.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BALITCHICK (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (abstain), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS - `1 ABSTAIN

Mr. Motyka stated he looked through the ARPA money and HVAC project in public buildings do qualify and stated if we go through an energy savings program, there would be an energy audit. Mr. Motyka stated he would like approval to submit this to county.

Mr. Motyka stated the full amount is \$300,000.000 for the full system, or the lesser amount \$120,000.00 cost.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made a motion to apply for \$300,000.00 grant from the county for current HVAC Issues in the Municipal Building and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Chesney asked to just remember we paid \$250,000.00 for the building and \$300,000.00 for renovations. Mr. Chesney stated this is going to be one of those things when they come back and say you must take the full building as we have seen on the one project, there was one bill given and we are still up in the air with that. Mr. Chesney stated even though we are going to apply for the \$300,00.00 we may not need to use it is that correct? Mr. Motyka replied, “we are going to apply and then we will go back to see what aspects of their design they are going to cover, or the County feels are worth funding.

Mr. Motyka stated they might recommend we replace the whole system or recommend we put the scrubbers in the duct system. Mr. Motyka commented the filters have never been changed and that is an issue. Mr. Niglio then commented, we do not have a maintenance contract.

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

SERVICE AND FACILITIES (Wm. Michael Bradley)

Mr. Balitchick stated there is a copy of the street sweeper schedule in everyone’s mailbox and stated as long as it is not disputed, he would like to advertise the street sweeper schedule.

MOTION- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to advertise street sweeper 2022 schedule.

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

Mr. Bradley stated the Police vehicle needs tires and stated it is not on the agenda, but he has a price quote for \$694.00 for tires. After discussion, this purchase was decided to be an emergency purchase and needed.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to purchase tires for the police vehicle at a cost of \$694.00.

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

MOTION – Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Balitchick to install a kill switch on the police vehicle radio by keystone not to exceed \$400.00

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

Mr. Dowkus questioned Mr. Bielski if we ever got anything more about the 40 acres behind the mill. Mr. Bielskie replied, “no, just that they were interested in buying it.”

Mr. Dowkus then asked Mr. Bielskie what is going on with the new gas station down at the end of town. Mr. Bielskie replied, “not yet.” Mr. Bielskie added they were putting the sign up and stuff on the outside. Mr. Dowkus commented, “I thought we were there.” Mr. Bielskie stated they are not even ADA compliant so they can’t open. Mr. Bielskie stated once they call him back in, he will just wrap them with the ADA, so right now that is all I have.

Mr. Dowkus stated all he has is how everything went with the weeds and the grass when they were submitted. Solicitor Greco stated they were filed at the courthouse a week ago.

Mr. Bradley questioned Solicitor Greco if he had an opportunity to pursue looking into the possibility of charging people to work out of the area as landlords more annually.

Solicitor Greco replied stating a discussion came up with an out of state individual and stated they pay more taxes is they are a landlord. Solicitor Greco stated it is preliminary and he is still looking into it.

Mr. Bradley stated he would like to thank Bruce and his crew stating he thinks they are doing a pretty good job considering the conditions we are having with the ice and snow and our Officer Mazzeo in his effort to get some police officers on board. Mr. Bradley stated it looks like Jarred Scandle is going to jump aboard and stated, unofficially adding the comment, “lets hope that happens.”

Mayor Slaby stated it has been brought to his attention by Officer Mazzeo the Tahoe has a switch that needs to be replaced. Officer Mazzeo stated Keystone came out and said the reason for the flickering is that power is constantly coming to the radio and it is not good for the battery. Officer Mazzeo stated the switch is relatively cheap the labor is not. Officer Mazzeo stated the estimate for the switch and repair is \$385.00.

MOTION – Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Balitchick to install a kill switch on the police vehicle radio by keystone not to exceed \$400.00

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

OLD BUSINESS-

Mr. Motyka stated we received a grant for \$42,500.00 from a match grant for zoning between us, Mt. Carmel township and Marion Heights. He stated our portion of that was \$13,975.00. Mr. Motyka state he would like council to consider how we want to pay that. Mr. Motyka stated he does not want them to submit an invoice to us every month for the next 2 years until this project is complete. Treasurer Paul Niglio questioned why not. Mr. Niglio stated possibly pay quarterly but stated he would not pay it all, we need cash flow.

NEW BUSINESS-

Mr. Dowkus asked Council to check their emails and stated he had sent out emails about the ordinances that we are going to be working on for this upcoming month. Mr. Dowkus asked for members to contact him if there is anything they see when looking them over.

Mr. Bradley stated possibly we could look into the Vo-Tech Class making the signs for Kulpmont as Shamokin. He stated he is familiar and stated it may be just cost of materials, but it might be something to look for a cost savings for the re X's. Mr. Dowkus stated we would look into getting the students involved.

Mr. Dowkus stated once the committee sits down with Mr. Siko, we will be able to lay everything out and adopt an ordinance that will be fitting for our community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-

Our next meeting will be February 9, 2022

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No one spoke

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

**RHONDA WILK
SECRETARY**

Date of Approval February 9, 2022