

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
July 10, 2018**

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
Tuesday, July 10, 2018

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: Police Chief Patrick McAndrew, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Official Russ Moroz and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Politza, Bruce Graff, Robert Michalkovich, Jeffrey Gilotti, Mary Sue Mirarck, Erica Mirarck, Joe Pancerella and Daryl Troup Angelo Venna, Barry Fetterman and Joe Sheganoski.

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

No One Spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz announced that Council met in executive session on Thursday June 20th for approximately 90 minutes to discuss personnel and contractual matters, primarily concerning the police.

Mr. Lutz stated that a motion is needed to adopt resolution 738 and pay the Kulpmont Borough share to Lower Anthracite Transportation in the amount of \$537.00 for 2018-2019 year. Mr. Lutz read the resolution 738 out loud.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to adopt resolution 738 and to pay the share of \$537.00 for 2018-2019.

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

MAYORS REPORT- (Nicholas Bozza)

Mayor Bozza stated since the law changed on the fireworks his phone is ringing off the hook. He stated there is no Ordinance from what he understands, and people are lighting these off in the street. Mr. Fanella replied that the law states you need to be 150' away from any structure. Chief McAndrew stated if you go on the Pennsylvania State Police website the new laws.

The Solicitor stated he thinks they need to get a permit to discharge them and they need to get a permit and have the fire chief sign off on the use of them. Mr. Fanella commented that was the old law the new law you are to be 150' from any structure.

Mayor Bozza stated these things are bad and asked if there is a fine that goes with this. Mr. Slaby stated that it is every year and will probably go away in a couple days. Discussion took place, the police can enforce the noise ordinance and the laws that apply to the fireworks. Chief McAndrew stated there are fines. Mr. Lutz stated when we catch these people they will be fined.

Mayor Bozza stated that the problem with rats and he stated he spoke to Joe Miriello at the Sewer Authority and they did bait the 1200, 1300 and 1400 block of Scott Street and stated he believes that it pushed them somewhere else. Mayor Bozza stated they said if we send a letter they will bait the whole town. Mr. Fanella stated a letter was sent and confirmed with Rhonda that we did that. She replied we did.

Robert Michalkovich stated if the borough would go along with them and do it together, the storm sewers and the man-holes, they need to be done together. A short discussion took place and Mr. Lutz stated we will get a letter together and Mr. Fanella will contact the sewer authority.

Mr. Slaby stated besides doing that you are going to need to enforce the trash and stated not long ago if you go around the corner there were two rats having a breakfast right near our building. Mr. Lutz stated we will talk more about this under code enforcement.

Mayor Bozza stated the drug problem is starting to hit home for a lot of people and stated people must recognize strange things going on near or around their house and asked residents to be diligent and help by reporting any strange activity to the police or borough.

Mayor Bozza asked to please help if you prefer to not sign your name and leave an anonymous letter or anything to try and help. Mayor Bozza commented our officers are working on this but there are some things they don't know. Mayor Bozza stated he would like to have another Mayors Roundtable meeting, possibly next month.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed on the June 12, 2018 meeting minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve the meeting minutes from the June 12, 2018 meeting.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated Correspondence was received from Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Municipal Authority and was copied to Mayor/Council. Rhonda Wilk stated a response to the letter received was sent dated June 4th concerning baiting.

Correspondence was received from Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau and was copied to both Mayor/Council.

Mr. Lutz stated it was suggested that the Borough try to bid to purchase the property and then go ahead and knock it down. Mr. Lutz asked Council if they have any thoughts on that. Mr. Lutz suggested Council go take a look at the property.

Rhonda Wilk stated the County is requesting if Council approves of the sale that the consent to sell 705 Walnut Street in the repository sale be signed and returned.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to sign consent to Northumberland County to sell 705 Walnut Street on the repository sale.

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

Correspondence was received from the USDA concerning loan requirement compliance, Copied Mayor/Council/Treasurer and Solicitor

Rhonda Wilk stated PSAB Fall Conference will be held on October 12 – 14th to be held at Seven Springs Mountain Resort \$190.00 per person before September 28th and \$225.00 per person after September 28th.

TREASURERS REPORT – (Paul A. Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated that all received a copy of the financial statement and list of bills to be paid and stated a motion is needed to approve and pay the bills.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to accept the financial statement and to pay the bills.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he received a letter from Attorney Smiths office, he represents the Sewer Authority and stated there is a line that needs repair and they are looking for the Borough to go in jointly to repair.

A short discussion took place. The Solicitor then stated this is something Council will need to take a look at. The repair cost is \$6,700.00. Mr. Fanella stated his question is there are some areas where pipes will need to be repaired that may also be considered joint repairs and questioned if they could expect the same thing. A discussion took place and a decision to table this until we can meet with the Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Sewer Authority to discuss.

The Solicitor stated the \$1500.00 that has been sitting in escrow at the County, Judge Saylor granted the relief that was requested and stated he has a check made payable to the Borough of Kulpmont here this evening in the amount of \$1500.00.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Patrick McAndrew)

Police Report Attachment #2.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Report Attachment #3

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O' Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Mr. Bielskie stated four permits were issued in June.

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT – (Russ Moroz)

Code Report Attachment #5

Mr. Lutz stated letters were sent to all those distressed buildings on Chestnut Street and stated they will be fined daily. Letters were also sent out requiring action on some of the other properties and stated out of 5 we heard back from 3 with their plan to make the necessary repairs.

Mr. Lutz explained the process of issuing initial citations and follow up citations. He stated we are at the process now where unpaid citations are going to the magistrate. Mr. Lutz stated the borough is cutting grass at 9 properties and when we get done with the season we will put liens on them. He stated the trash situation is being addresses and reminded residents it needs to be in a trash can, it cannot sit out in bags. Mr. Lutz stated he is spending at least 2 hours a day going around checking on trash.

Mr. Lutz stated this problem did not happen overnight and stated if you look at some of the buildings and homes it is unbelievable.

Mr. Slaby commented on the code report and stated it is really impressive and stated he says this with a great deal of experience, the code officer deserves a pat on the back.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated food surplus will be held in the Borough on July 19th from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon at the Borough garage.

Mr. Fanella stated all residents currently enrolled in the Emergency Food Assistance Program must complete a new application for 2018-2019 and stated forms are available at the Borough office Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to spend up to \$20,000.00 to concrete sidewalks and make repairs to the Borough Property outside the building around the building garage and the lot on Chestnut Street and advertise for bids.

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

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to advertise for bids for up to 4 streets for paving in the Borough.

Mr. Lutz stated the gentleman that helps us with this from the state is on vacation and so we need to wait until he gets back on the 26th adding he helps us with that and the advertisement.

Mr. Slaby asked if there are streets already designated and questioned if these were secondary streets. Mr. Lutz replied \$400,000.00 worth of streets, Mr. Lutz stated we don't have \$400,000.00. Mayor Bozza stated he gets it that they want to pave for streets

but asks how we know what the cost is going to be and stated there may only be enough money to pay for three and asked what the budget is that they have. Mr. Chesney stated we need to get an idea on what the four streets will cost and decide are we going to do four, are we going to do three.

Mr. Lutz stated there is \$114,000.00 in the highway fund right now. Mr. Lutz state the situation is that we got a listing from the state that adds up to \$375,000.00. He stated needless to say we can't do that, but the situation is that we could probably transfer money over from the General fund over to the Street fund, so we could get more streets paved. Mr. Lutz stated he gave everybody financial information and will continue to do that. Mr. Lutz stated we want to get the bids out, because winter is coming.

Mayor Bozza stated with that being said, Mayor Bozza asked that we still keep enough in the Highway fund for other repairs and things like that. Mr. Chesney stated we have that pipe falling apart. Mr. Lutz stated there is \$114,000.00 but we have \$25,000.00 repair down there by Nolan's and then we have this other pipe that we are talking and so we probably will end up that we can only do two streets.

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

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to spend up to \$200.00 for sealer for the downstairs of the Borough Building.

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

FINANCE/PURCHASING/GRANT COMMITTEE – (Walter Lutz)

No Report

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (George Malakoski)

No Report

RECREATION/GRANTS - (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz stated the Mayor had asked him to look and search for a police car grant and he stated he did. Mr. Lutz stated there is essentially no money as far as the state is

concerned and stated these things go yearly and so possibly there will be something next year.

Mr. Lutz stated USDA has a program that is basically available if you can't get money any other place. Mr. Lutz explained the program USDA and the possibility of borrowing the money from the bank. Mr. Lutz stated it is his understanding the police car is not going to fall apart this week, so we will keep our eye on that.

PERSONNEL- (Michael Sinopoli)

No Report

Mr. Bielskie stated our code official Russ did not receive a raise with the other people and it is over five years without a raise.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to give Russ Moroz \$2.00 per hour raise effective July 1, 2018.

Mr. Lutz commented that the code officer job is a tough job.

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

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Chesney, Sinopoli and Fanella)

Mr. Chesney stated we are very lucky to have the volunteers that we do and stated today we were in an interview with police candidates when the fire alarm went off and within a matter of minutes 8 individuals were on that truck and moving. We are happy to have the fire department that we have and hopefully we can continue a working relationship to keep our town safe.

Mr. Chesney stated we have interviewed one officer and may be interviewing another and stated Council is in the process of sitting down with our officers and coming up with a new contract.

Mr. Chesney discussed the Mill and stated our contact; Ann with EPA is very diligent with moving it forward. Mr. Chesney stated the individual that owns the property came in and paid the back taxes somewhere in the neighborhood of \$9000.00 and stated the property will remain with the same individual and so any action taken will remain with the same individual. Mr. Chesney reported the last test that came in confirming there are asbestos particles airborne in that building and stated she suggested that even our code officer and policeman try to stay out of there until everything is rectified.

Mayor Bozza questioned officers were interviewed and asked if there was going to be any action on that. Mr. Chesney stated another individual will be interviewed and they

will be trying to move as quickly as they can. Mayor Bozza commented the officers are spread very thin and said he hopes that everyone knows that. Mr. Chesney replied “yes, everyone knows that.”

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mary Sue Mirarck 1115 Poplar Street stated 1113 Poplar Street has been gutted out and boarded up and questioned what was going on with that now. Russ Moroz replied that property has changed hands probably five or six times in the past year. Ms. Mirarck stated there were posters up that the water was shut off within the last month. Mr. Lutz questioned the code officer if we have a no occupancy posted on that property. Russ Moroz replied he does not have it posted.

Ms. Mirarck stated another issue is the trash guy that is tearing up the alley, Wood Street. She asked Mr. Moroz if he ever got in touch with him. Russ Moroz stated he talked to the owner. Ms. Mirarck stated it is still the same and stated Wood Street was just paved not too long ago and suggest telling him it is coming out of his pocket.

Russ Moroz state he will call him. Mr. Fanella stated he and Bruce just took a look at that. Ms. Mirarck stated the dumpster sits in a yard and so they back into the yard off the driveway and come in at an angle. A Council person questioned if that is County Waste. Ms. Mirarck stated she did not want to say that, but she will agree to it.

Ms. Mirarck stated the other issue is the rat problem, she stated her daughter has a vet bill because a rat attacked her dog. Ms. Mirarck stated this occurred at 925 Scott Street. She said going toward Shamokin the next four homes are vacant and stated the shed garage has had garbage in it for years and stated she was up here about two years ago complaining to the Council, so that is two years since she first reported it. Ms. Mirarck questioned who she goes after for the vet bill. Council offered no advice.

Mr. Chesney stated if you are living next to filth you are living next to danger and asked that if they are living next to a situation to please come and tell us.

Mr. Lutz stated we are really trying hard on all of this and we are going to start on abandoned vehicles and discussed the process.

Ms. Mirarck questioned if there was any way to start a crime watch. Mr. Lutz stated the church had tried that and stated that is something we could try to do.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Angels picnic is the first weekend in August. The Car Cruise is this Saturday beginning at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary

Date of Approval _____