

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 10, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

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 July 10, 2019

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Bozza, Robert Chesney, Robert Fanella, George Malakoski, Michael Sinopoli, Robert Slaby and Walter Lutz

ABSENT: Stephen Bielskie

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Solicitor, Edward Greco and Treasurer Paul A. Niglio

PRESENT: Chief Foust, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Officer Russ Moroz and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Rob Naylor, Hope Masser, Joseph Dowkus II, Joseph Politza, Stephen Motyka, Andrew Stahmer, Kathy Cipriani and James Cipriani.

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

No one spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz reported on the status of the Powell Building transfer and stated the Deed has been recorded as of today and the Borough could now move forward with the Demolition plans.

MAYORS REPORT- (Nicholas Bozza)

Mayor Bozza stated the sign at Lamplight acres is in very bad shape and stated the Kulpmont 100 has offered to replace the sign at their cost.

Mayor Bozza updated council on the Pollination Garden to be planted at the Veterans Memorial Field, the project is moving forward and an idea on where to place the garden is being considered. Mayor Bozza stated the plan is for some Lourdes students to plant

the garden in the spring. Mayor Bozza stated a location at the west end of the field across from the track is being considered. Mr. Fanella stated council has already approved a pollination garden at the Veterans Memorial Field and requested once a desired location is found to then contact him as chairman of Service and Facilities so it could be discussed and agreed upon by all council.

Mayor Bozza announced National Night out will be held on August 6th from 5 to 9 p.m. at the MCA Pool which will hold a free swim. Mayor Bozza stated the Crime Watch meeting will be held on the 18th at 7:15 p.m. at Holy Angels Activity Center.

Mayor Bozza addressed his concern with support for the police department. Mayor Bozza stated they are enforcing speed, addressing pedestrian crosswalks and assured council the police are very busy and enforcing the law. He stated he would discuss any of Councils concerns.

Mayor Bozza stated PennDOT approved lower speed limits and crosswalk signs and stated he would like to know and feels the citizens deserve to know what action will be taken. A short discussion on where the 35 mph would be dropped to 25 mph. Mr. Lutz then replied that there is a meeting with the Police Department on the 18th to go over several issues adding one of them would be the signs, Mr. Lutz stated the mph signs and crosswalk signs and concerns could be discussed at that meeting.

Mr. Lutz stated there was a memorandum that he put out about signs and enforcement and stated he does not think he got a response to that. Mr. Lutz stated we would also like to see where we are out with scheduling the officers and stated it was approved for part time temporary help adding he believes that was at the last meeting.

Mayor Bozza questioned then if that was approved and voted on to hire part time help. Mr. Lutz replied yes, adding that was Mr. Todd Owens. Mr. Lutz stated he sent out a memorandum, 10 hours a week. Mayor Bozza replied that was a question he had. Mr. Lutz then added as far as support for the police, we just spent \$51,000.00 adding that is a chunk of change. Mr. Lutz stated what we would like to do is talk about a bunch of issues at the meeting with the police on Thursday. Mr. Lutz stated we will discuss signage and stated in his opinion enforcement is a big part of that. Mr. Lutz stated he is interested in seeing April, May and June as far as crosswalks, speeding and parking and take a look at the hours spent. Mr. Lutz stated we are spending over \$7,000.00, it is a matter of public record.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed on the June 12, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Sinopoli made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve the June 12, 2019 regular monthly meeting minutes.

VOICE VOTE

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from the Elysburg Fire Department on the 9/11 Exhibit to be displayed on August 31st and September 1st and 2nd at the All Home Days to be held in Elysburg. Rhonda Wilk stated there is a donation request attached if the Borough would like to donate to this memorial display.

Rhonda Wilk stated the 2019-2020 fiscal year self-declaration forms have been received from Central PA Food Bank and are available and all registered and new clients are required to complete the paperwork for the 2019-2020 term.

Correspondence was received on information of the PSAB Fall leadership Conference to be held on Oct 11-13th at the Nittany Lion Inn at State College, Registration before September 27th would be at a discounted rate. Copied to Mayor/Council

TREASURERS REPORT – (Paul A. Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated Council received a copy of the Financial statement and bills to be approved. Mr. Niglio stated a motion is needed to approve the bills.

MOTION- Mr. Sinopoli made the motion and Mr. Chesney seconded the motion to approve and pay the bills.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

The Solicitor stated he has been working on the Powell Building and stated the property has been transferred to the Borough and the deed has been filed as of this afternoon.

Solicitor Greco stated money was received payable to the Borough and any back taxes were paid in closing. Solicitor Greco stated the taxed being paid benefited the Borough, County and the School District. He stated he thinks this council did a good job securing payment and the taxpayers are getting a building potentially down as in the planning.

Mr. Chesney commented these buildings that are in decrepit shape and are unfit for human habitation are probably going to come down, but the owners are going to need to foot some of that bill. Mr. Chesney added people are not going to just be able to let a building go to heck and walk away and leave the people of town holding the bag. Mr. Chesney stated he wants owners to know the Borough is cracking down.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – Nathan Foust)

Police Report Attachment #2

Chief Foust stated June was a slower month and stated July has already proven to be busy.

Mr. Lutz stated a meeting will take place at the location of the demolition and asked the Chief of Police to be available for the meeting to discuss blocking off the site and see about the cars that are down on the property now and prepare for the demolition. Mr. Lutz stated this is the first time we are doing this, and we all need to work together on this.

Mr. Chesney questioned Chief Foust on the radio which there was a motion to have the 2015 police car radio repaired at the last meeting and asked if that has been done.

Chief Foust replied the radio has not been repaired as of today adding he left a message for the guys down at Keystone adding they never returned his message, so far. He stated they wanted him to drive down and just pop in there. Chief Foust said that does not work because he would need to drive all the way to Northumberland. Chief Foust stated he is still going to try and get in contact with Tom at Keystone, that did not happen yet.

Mr. Chesney questioned the parking tickets on the report and questioned if that is just parking tickets or if that includes traffic also. Chief Foust stated that is only the tickets. He stated magistrate fines is the amount we get from the magistrate for traffic citations, speeding, stop signs all of that.

Mr. Fanella stated if he needs the street department to help with anything down at the demolition property they can help out. Chief Foust replied he appreciates that.

Chief Foust asked if Council could consider raising the fine amount on the abandoned vehicles stating currently it is only \$15.00. Mr. Lutz stated many of the fines need to be reviewed.

Mayor Bozza questioned if the fine is \$15.00 flat or if the fine could be every day. Mr. Slaby replied he believes you would be able to ticket that car every day.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Fire Chief Report Attachment #3

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O' Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

No Report

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

Report Attachment #6

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated Food Surplus will be held on July 18th from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella stated three bids were received and the low bidder was Dabulis Masonry at \$14,350.00 for the sidewalk out front and the section by the borough garage.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to accept the low bid from Dabulis Masonry in the amount of \$14,350.00 for the sidewalks

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

Mr. Fanella stated the pipe collapse has caused the Street Department to make a decision to close the street at Sixth/Fir Streets. Mr. Fanella stated the Engineer did not hear anything about the grant and probably will not until possibly September. He added Livic will submit the paperwork to DEP because that will take some time. Mr. Fanella stated for now the street at Sixth and Fir Streets is closed.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Slaby to engage the Engineer Livic to start the procedure

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

Mr. Fanella stated concerning the lighting at the Veterans Field, there is a light in the bush PP&L will be shutting off and will place 3 lights at the Veterans field. They will be area lights, by the monument, concession stand, and the new pole will be going in over the batting area. Mayor Bozza questioned the location of the light being turned off. Bruce Graff and Russ Moroz replied the light to be removed is at 5th and Walnut.

A discussion took place on the possible paving of a street. Council discussed a possible motion to advertise be approved if after accessing the situations with collapse of pipes the consideration to possibly pave a street.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to advertise for paving bids for the 500 block Walnut Street.

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

FINANCE/PURCHASING– (Robert Slaby)

Mr. Slaby stated in regard to the pension obligation, a motion will be needed to approve payment for the 2019 work to Thomas J. Anderson. The second part is authorization to approve the ACT 2015 which is the actuary report, the total cost is \$3,000.00. He stated this service is required.

MOTION - Mr. Slaby made the motion and Mr. Fanella seconded the motion to approve payment to Anderson to work on the Police Pension at a cost of \$3,000.00.

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

Mr. Niglio stated that Act 205 Actuarial report is done every two years and stated that informs the Borough what your bill is, it is required by law. Mr. Niglio stated our fund is overfunded and we have not made any contributions to that fund since probably 1989 and we started the pension plan in 1985 and have done well in the investment factor. Mr. Niglio stated that bill will probably be \$3,000.00 but stated he does not have a figure on that yet, Mr. Niglio added that will not be performed until October, November or December of this year. He stated he does not have a figure on that yet, he stated he is only asking for a motion to engage.

MOTION – Mr. Slaby made the motion and Mr. Chesney seconded the motion to engage Thomas Anderson to do the Act 205 Actuarial report.

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

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (George Malakoski)

No Report

GRANTS/RECREATION –

Mr. Lutz stated we have a lot going on at the Football Field and the Baseball Field.

PERSONNEL- (Michael Sinopoli)

Mr. Sinopoli stated applications are being accepted for full time code officer position at the Borough office until July 26th.

Mr. Lutz stated we will go through the process to hire someone for the 1st of October, so they are here for a month until Mr. Moroz retires.

Mr. Sinopoli announced Zachary Zvoncheck was hired as temporary help for our street department.

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

Mr. Chesney stated the Committee will meet with the Fire Department on July 16th at 8:00 p.m. and with the Police Department on July 18th at 6:30 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. James Cipriani of 912 Oak Street of Kulpmont stated he is concerned about his neighbor having a junk yard and stated it is a health hazard, this is an on-going issue. Mr. Cipriani stated this has been going on for over a year. Mr. Cipriani stated the neighbor on the other side has high weed and grass that has been an issue also. He stated from what he can see Council is doing a hell of a job and stated he appreciates it. Mr. Lutz stated he has been down there and has had a conversation with the person. Mr. Moroz stated they are getting fined. Mr. Lutz stated the next step is to go up to the magistrate and the property is posted, if he goes in there, he will most likely be arrested. Mr. Lutz stated this is the process you need to go through. Mr. Lutz stated we will get with Russ Moroz and see what else we could do.

Mrs. Cipriani questioned about the building to be demolished. Mr. Lutz stated possibly within 10 days. Mr. Chesney explained we could not do anything until we took ownership of that building.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mr. Fanella stated J & S is to level dirt by Holy Angels at no charge to the borough.

NEW BUSINESS-

A short discussion took place between Council on the possibility of spraying herbicide to kill grass on these properties the borough is burdened with cutting. The Solicitor stated that he would need to look into that. Solicitor stated you may need to be certified, he will look into it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming events

*August 2nd and 3rd Holy Angels Parish Picnic

*October 12th Kulpmont Knights of Columbus Wine Festival 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Date of Approval _____