

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSE  
JULY 26, 2016**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Bruno R. Varano  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present, Kulpmont Borough Council  
held the meeting for general purpose on Tuesday July 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Novakoski, Bruno R. Varano, Stephen Motyka, Walter Lutz and Mark Burns.

**ABSENT:** Clarence H. Deitrick, George Malakoski and Nicholas Goretski, III.

**APPOINTED POSITIONS:** Solicitor William C. Cole

**PRESENT:** Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk, Code Officer Russ Moroz

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Robert Nolan, Joe Politza, Barry Fetterman, Rich Mychak, Matt Siko, Joe Anania, Steph Niglio, Jeff Gilotti, Bob Fanella, Joe Pancerella, Kevin O' Hearn, Devin O' Hearn, Joshua M. Searfoss, Dawson Temple, Brain Williams, Jr. Zack Zvoncheck, Marshall Mirarchi, Nick Bozza, Dennis Seroskie, Jr., Kathy Allen, Joe Meyer, Bill Seigel, John Baluta and Phil Scicchitano.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON ANYTHING ON THE AGENDA:**

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** (Bruno R. Varano)

Mr. Varano stated that it was mentioned at the last meeting that anybody that was interested, to put their name in for the vacant position on the Kulpmont Marion Heights Sewer Authority. Mr. Varano stated that they received one letter of interest from Robert Michalkovich to the Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Municipal Authority Board.

**MOTION-** A motion was made by Mr. Motyka and seconded by Mr. Lutz to appoint Mr. Michalkovich to the Kulpmont Marion Heights Joint Municipal Authority Board.

**VOICE VOTE-**

Unanimous

Mr. Varano states that we need to authorize somebody to approve any work change orders for renovations at the new building.

Mr. Motyka requests that with Mr. Winhofer's resignation that another councilperson be appointed, another Building Committee member and then the three building committee members could vote yea or nay on any change orders, because we cannot wait a month if something comes up with the building.

Mr. Varano stated that Mr. Deitrick asked for that position as chair and so he will delegate that duty to him and add you on as a member.

Mr. Motyka replied that he is on the building committee already. Mr. Varano replied that this will be for the Senior Executive Committee, they will be handling that.

Mr. Varano added that whenever there is a request for a work-order change we will discuss it with our inspectors Mayor Novakoski and Mr. Moroz. Mr. Lutz questions if a motion is needed on the floor. Mr. Varano replied yes we do, to appoint somebody to make that decision and questions the Solicitor William C. Cole if that is correct. Mr. Cole replied that the board should designate that if the three councilmen are going to make the decisions on any change orders and states that we obviously do not want to cause a delay in the project but additionally if the committee cannot make the decision it would have to come back to the council.

Mr. Lutz states that three people would be deciding on how to spend money. Mr. Cole replied yes, they would have to approve the change order but then the change order would come back to the board to approve. Mr. Lutz stated that he does not understand and questions if what would happen would be that they would bring a change order to the board and say that we want you all to approve this, he stated that his understanding is that everything over \$75.00 needs to be approved by a motion. Mr. Cole replied that is correct.

Mr. Varano added that is exactly right. Mr. Lutz commented that then if they get one change order under \$75.00 that he would buy him breakfast. Mr. Varano replied that you are not going to get any because it cost \$500.00 for a change order. Mr. Lutz replied that is his point and so essentially we would have three people spending money. Mr. Cole replied that they would still have to have it ratified by the full council.

Mr. Cole added that what is going on as he understands it is that it would be if we need quick action. Mr. Lutz commented that they are committing the borough to spend money, three people. Mr. Cole replied that they are making a recommendation.

Mr. Lutz questions then if they cannot agree to the change order until they bring it to council. Mayor Novakoski replied that is not correct, they can agree to the change order but they still have to bring it back to council. Mayor Novakoski added that this is the preferred way to do it vs. let's wait another month and we will figure it out. Mayor Novakoski adds that is to expedite the job, they will make the decision and come back to council and say this is what we recommend.

Mr. Lutz questioned that before they make a commitment to spend money will the council have to say yes or no. Mr. Cole responded by saying that they will have too, but otherwise it will be an expedited system, in other words those three council members will meet with the contractor and then states that he is assuming that we will then have to have a meeting to decide whether it will be approved or not.

Mr. Lutz stated that if it is over \$75.00 then it is his understanding that you need the majority to have approval by council to spend it. Mr. Lutz stated that as far as expediting you can have meetings every Tuesday. Mr. Varano questioned what happens if we call a meeting and nobody shows up and we don't get four people, then what do we do delay this project some more. Mr. Lutz replied that the primary issue is that you need four votes out of seven to spend more than \$75.00.

Mr. Lutz stated that the primary issue is that you need four votes out of seven to spend over \$75.00 and states that say a particular councilman doesn't show up and adds to say that he is in Alaska and does not show up for a meeting, then he would guess to follow the law, well then yes it will have to wait.

Mr. Cole replied that it would depend on who is at the meeting and adds that because one councilman does not show up that is not necessarily disruptive of anything and asks if that is correct. Mr. Lutz replied that he is responding to Mr. Varano on the question if what if four do not show up, because four is a quorum.

Mr. Motyka stated that government agencies build buildings all over the state and there has got to be some precedence that they move forward on this. Mr. Lutz replied that there can be a meeting every Tuesday, which would be one week. Mr. Cole added that these would only be change orders that would increase the overall cost that have not been previously approved by the council.

Mr. Cole added that if there was a change order where they would just need to change something and it did not do that then yes. Mr. Lutz replied that he agrees and is talking only about spending extra money and that whenever money is spent over \$75.00 it has to come before council.

Mayor Novakoski added that is why you have a committee, so that they could make the choice. Mr. Lutz added that there is no "super council"... Mr. Varano replied that nobody is saying that there is.

Mr. Lutz replied to Mr. Varano to bring it up to a vote and he will challenge it legally. Mr. Varano replied to Mr. Lutz, "you challenge everything legally, whether you know what you are doing or not."

Mayor Novakoski added that they would still be working on the Empire State Building if Mr. Lutz was on the Board. Mr. Lutz questioned Mayor Novakoski on what he said and added that he is out of order and questioned Mr. Varano on if he was running the meeting.

Mr. Motyka stated that there has to be a way to handle this currently and asks what the school districts do when they build a building. Mr. Motyka replied that those changes most likely get approved by the clerk of the works or whoever that may be and they probably proceed and then bring them up at their next meeting. Mr. Motyka added that he does not think that they have weekly meetings.

Mr. Varano commented that it does not make any difference to him, he will come up every Tuesday for a meeting and adds that he is community minded and that he is in town all of the time. Mr. Lutz commented that he may be going to Shamokin but states anyway why do we not vote on the motion. Mr. Varano replied that he does not even think anybody made a motion. Rhonda Wilk replied that there was no motion. Mr. Varano stated that we will meet every week if a work order comes in.

Mr. Varano stated that there were also some questions on construction meeting questions. Mr. Moroz states that they were already ironed out, it had to do with the doors and some of the water heaters that will have to be voted on but right now we are taking the propane heaters out.

Mr. Lutz stated that he had questions about the meeting that he attended on Monday; there was a question on a 5 inch wall that had to be moved because of a pipe or something or other. Mr. Moroz stated that was addressed today and that had nothing to do with a pipe and added that the prints were wrong.

Mr. Lutz stated that the prints were wrong and then asked who made those prints. Mr. Moroz replied the architect. Mr. Lutz questioned how much we paid for those prints. Mr. Moroz replied that he has no knowledge of that. Mr. Lutz questioned if it was \$27,000.00. Mr. Varano replied that the cost was something like that. Mr. Lutz stated for \$27,000.00 we had wrong prints. Mr. Moroz replied that there was one wall that was off by 5 inches. Mr. Lutz questioned if there was any additional cost because of it. Mr. Moroz replied that there was not.

Mr. Varano questioned if there is any cost concerning the work order change to pull the gas heaters down and adds because if there is then we are going to take the vote right now. Mr. Motyka replied there will be but we do not have a number associated with it right now. Mr. Moroz replied that it is going to cost money to take them down and cap them.

Mr. Varano questioned if there were any additional work order changes. Mr. Moroz replied that there is not. Mr. Lutz questioned if we have an estimate. Mr. Motyka stated that they want to add five under counter water heaters and remove three gas heaters and states that he did not make the meeting and just heard about it today and so we do not have a cost on that. Mr. Lutz questioned if we had a ball park figure. Mr. Varano replied that we do not even have a ball park figure and added that it has to be done unless you want to keep the propane and go through the bull that the East End was going through and it would cost more money in the long run. Mayor Novakoski stated that they are not

going to give us a price unless we make a change order and then they will give us a number and then we can say no. Mayor Novakoski stated that they are not going to go through all of that paperwork because we decided that we want electric heaters and they do not know if it will be approved or not. Mayor Novakoski stated that if you want a price it will take two weeks at least.

Mr. Lutz stated that it's a situation where essentially, we will just cut a blank check. Mayor Novakoski replied that it is not a blank check; they have to give us a cost. Mr. Lutz questioned the Mayor if he is the construction helper and states that he does not know what the term is. The Mayor replied that he is a volunteer and states that he does not get paid, not a project manager, not a clerk of the works and adds that he is just there for the community and to make sure we do not get screwed adding the he does not want to give them any more money than we have too.

Mr. Varano asked what we want to do. Mr. Motyka replied that by next Tuesday if there are any changes and if this goes through we will have budgetary numbers and we will have to approve it on Tuesday and every Tuesday now until December. Mr. Varano replied that sounds good to him.

Mr. Varano stated that they did address the senior center and that the only thing that he thinks that we will have to purchase that was not originally thought of was a three bay sink big enough for them to wash their large pans. Mr. Motyka questioned the commercial dishwasher that is on the list and questioned if that is needed.

Mr. Varano replied no, we will need to purchase a commercial dishwasher or a three bay sink and the cost would be around \$500.00 compared to the cost of the dishwasher. Mr. Motyka added that there will be associated plumbing with this and we will have to get a price. Mayor Novakoski replied that the plumbing is in place and adds that we just need to purchase the sink. Mr. Varano states that the sink must meet their specifications.

**MOTION** – Mr. Lutz made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to purchase 3 bay sink meeting specifications for the senior center not to exceed \$1000.00

**VOICE VOTE** –

Unanimous

Mr. Varano asked Mr. Motyka since Mr. Deitrick is not here this evening if he would like to address the DCED Multimodal Grant about adding the 9<sup>th</sup> Street project onto the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Project. Mr. Motyka states that earlier this year we met with Senator Gordner's office and he encouraged us to have engineer study done where the road is collapsing under the Penn Dot right of way adding the Penn Dot said that it is our trouble to fix this drainage issue.

Mr. Motyka states that through the direction of Senator Gordner we received the information to apply for the Multimodal Grant through DCED and we were informed that

our \$37,000.00 number would not be funded because it is less than \$100,000.00 and that \$100,000.00 is the least we could apply for. Mr. Motyka stated that we then thought that we could combine it with 9<sup>th</sup> Street and put the storm water from 9<sup>th</sup> Street underground as we did on 8<sup>th</sup> Street which would bring the number above \$100,000.00.

Mr. Motyka stated that the project for DCED is due on Monday August 1<sup>st</sup> and states that he does not think that Rhonda Wilk could pull all of these numbers together by Monday. He added that we would have to approve our engineering synopsis, draft letter and if it is funded through the Multimodal Grant it would have to be formally engineered.

Mr. Motyka stated that we could not make the DCED deadline by Monday. Mr. Motyka stated that Rhonda Wilk is going to get the information on the Penn Dot Multimodal Grant that is to open up in the early fall. Mr. Motyka states that we can wait two weeks and get some budgetary figures off of our engineer.

Mr. Varano states that we will now address the issue of housing of the fire equipment. He stated that originally we had met with Bill Siegel and most of the people that are here in this room this evening about consolidation of the two fire companies.

Mr. Varano states that housing the trucks in one area is a major concern. Mr. Varano stated that the borough had a suggestion to build a building at the West End grounds and housing all of the equipment down there. Mr. Varano stated that we received a counter proposal from the fire department to house them at the old East End Truck Room, which is now a borough garage and is no longer owned by the fire department or fire company, which the West End is so, it makes sense.

Mr. Varano stated that as he told Assistant Fire Chief Gilotti that he would research this and he did. He then read the question "can relief association funds be used to pay for matching portion of cost share percentage of a fire company grant."

Mr. Varano stated that the answer is yes it can and stated that he was told by Jeff Gilotti that it could not. Mr. Varano commented that it is right here in the guidelines.

Mr. Lutz asked Mr. Varano if he could give that reference. Mr. Varano replied that it came from the Management Guidelines for Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association.

Mr. Varano questions if that is a Federal Grant from FEMA. Mr. Gilotti replied that it is a Federal Grant that is in the fire departments name. Mr. Varano replied that it does not matter. Mr. Gilotti stated that first of all the Fireman's relief has \$130,000.00 in it. Mr. Varano replied it is \$140,000.00. Mr. Gilotti said fine he is not going to argue over \$10,000.00.

Mr. Gilotti stated that it is audited every two years and they get a check here and of that \$50,000.00 to \$70,000.00 of that is earmarked for the radios. Mr. Varano stated that will leave you \$70,000.00. Mr. Gilotti stated that is correct and adds that they are not going

to spend everything that is in there because you never know when they could have a catastrophic loss.

Mr. Gilotti states that if they do not get the Federal Grant they are going to have to start buying their own turnout gear. He added that in the event that they do not get the grant they will start using that. Mr. Gilotti stated that the fire department has \$50,000.00 and of that they have \$150,000.00 on that for gear and if they get that then they have to put \$20,000.00 toward that which does not leave a whole lot left between radios, the gear and air bags. Mr. Varano replied that he does not know how he is figuring that and adds that it leaves a lot left.

Chief O'Hearn stated that concerning the matching funds from relief, you can use matching funds from relief for a qualified expenditure and adds that a building is not a qualified expenditure.

Mr. Varano replied that it is not for a building; it is for the match on the two grants that you have pending. Mr. Varano added that the one hundred thousand grants and the one hundred and fifty thousand dollar grant, twenty thousand dollar match on each will still leave you money left in the relief association. Mr. Varano stated that they will be taking fire department funds to build this building, not relief association funds.

Chief O'Hearn replied that the math does not add up and went on to say that they need roughly seventy five thousand for radios and adds that the borough is not giving them a penny toward that and stated that they have two grants out there for air packs and turn-out gear which is anywhere between thirty five and fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Varano replied lets just say forty thousand round numbers, which is one hundred and fifteen thousand out of one hundred and forty that leaves you twenty five thousand.

Chief O'Hearn questioned how he wants them to function. He added that they have ten thousand dollars in expenditures a year. Mr. Varano replied that they get money replaced every year also. Chief O' Hearn replied that it's eleven or twelve thousand dollars. Mr. Varano stated so you have fifty thousand in the fire department funds, which you would be using for a building.

Chief O' Hearn replied so we deplete all of the funds, you will not get a building for fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Varano replied that you should come close with that.

Asst. Chief Gilotti commented that at sixty dollars per sq. ft. is two hundred and forty thousand dollars. Mr. Varano replied that was what Steve came off with and states that he checked with another engineer and he said thirty thousand a square foot.

Chief O'Hearn questioned Mr. Varano if he checked into the standards and requirements that are passed by OSHA, the National Fire Safety Administration that states that you have to have a separate gear room to store your gear in a new building, which means that there has to be more square footage, you have to have a concrete sealed room to house the compressor for the cascade system, you have to have an exhaust system associated for

the apparatus when they start up and leave the station which by the cancer act which was passed after 911. Chief O'Hearn stated that you also have to have so much space between each apparatus for safety issues. Chief O' Hearn states that it is not just the idea of putting up a pole barn garage, yes that would be cheaper but due to the standards that have been established since 911 and then some, you are under stringent requirements to meet those goals and that is where the complications come in and why it is sixty dollars per square foot. Mr. Varano states that is why he has Bill Seigel here and asks him to elaborate on that.

Mr. Bill Seigel states that he thinks in general the statement is relative if the design of the building is accurate and valid, it is more than a pole building and to do what you need to do that he does not think thirty dollars per square feet is going to hold true and states that he feels it will be more than that.

Mr. Seigel states that he also thinks at least as he understands it, there has been a consistent investment in fire service provision by the council and states that he believes that continues to be the case and that the fire department is a non-profit entity and so his position is as he has said before, that when council invest money in non-profit operation you really have a responsibility to the citizens to access the use of those funds and states that making decisions on the most effective and efficient way to provide fire protection to your community is what you are to do as stewards of the funds of your community.

Mr. Seigel states that by what he has seen and from the information that has been provided to him the current arrangement does not serve the community in its best light. He stated that having equipment in two different locations and having people respond from two different directions complicates and makes difficult the response, delays in some cases the response and brings to question whether or not there will be sufficient manpower on the apparatus. He stated that he believes that the direction that council is looking is the way that many communities look today because of the struggle to identify sufficient number of volunteers, maintain the training level and raise the funds for operations and so he states that he feels you have to look at ways to maximize your investment both with personnel and funding.

Mr. Seigel states that while he does not disagree with a lot of the points made with design and structure, he states that he feels there is a serious question about how and added does not believe the current system serves the community and represents the best investment of the manpower.

Chief O'Hearn replied that they agree with that statement and adds that they do not have the resources to change that at this time. Chief O' Hearn added that the cheapest and most practical solution is that the one engine at the West End that will be utilized, plus a few pieces at the East End would be housed probably in a building that would realistically cost fifty or sixty thousand dollars to renovate if that and states that is probably a high estimate and adds that he does not know he is not an engineer.

Chief O'Hearn states that the fire department would like to consolidate but the money that is sitting there is not much money and if they deplete that there is no money. He added that there is no insurance on the equipment and if they break a system that is ten thousand dollars and states then they are coming back to the borough or not providing a service to the residents.

Mr. Varano questioned a bill of seven or eight thousand dollars in your audit for insurance and questions what kind of insurance that is. Chief O'Hearn replied that it is twenty two hundred dollars a year. Mr. Varano replied that is correct and adds that this is a four year audit. Chief O'Hearn replied that is not insurance on property or equipment it is insurance on personnel that the fireman's relief has decided to purchase to try and provide in the case that something occurs, that they will be protected. The Chief added that whether it is an offset medical cost, dismemberment, hospital bills or loss of income all of that which is a minimal expense as they felt as a relief organization was a viable alternative to give to the members in this day and age to provide the volunteers that if they go out and get injured they would have some type of protection. Mr. Varano stated that he does not have a problem with that and states that he feels that nobody here has a problem with that and states that he just wanted to clarify what it was for because he did not know.

Mr. Bill Seigel commented that much of that is workers comp. Mr. Varano added that the borough pays for that. Mr. Bill Seigel asked for clarification if they purchase that to go above and beyond the workers comp. Chief O'Hearn replied yes, its life insurance in the case that someone gets killed in the line of duty. Mr. Seigel asked if they carry an inland marine policy on the equipment. The Chief replied yes but that is different. Matt Siko replied that they are obligated to carry inland marine to cover anything. Mr. Seigel clarified that then so; the equipment on the truck is covered with inland marine insurance.

Asst. Chief Gilotti questioned Mr. Seigel if he saw the fire departments updated plan as far as moving the apparatus and primary equipment under one roof and modifying the East End Station. Mr. Seigel replied that he has not. Chief Gilotti added that as much as they would like to put a station up, the funding is not there. He states that they met with Rep. Barletta and the first thing he states that he said to him was that this will have to be grants or matching grants because their annual income with just the fund drive is just about seven or eight thousand dollars. Chief Gilotti added that we all have seen the fire company go under. He states that their plan to council was to move the engine up from the West End to the East End with the utility there and move the medical squad down to the West End and that way all of the first response fire apparatus would be all under one roof and it would be a limit cost on the taxpayers rather that putting them under the gun again with a mortgage payment for a new station.

Mr. Varano explained to Chief Gilotti that he then would not be consolidating and added that he would be putting three pieces of equipment down there and two there then the borough is still stuck supporting two buildings. Chief Gilotti replied that they are consolidating and that is the cheapest plan. Mr. Varano replied that you could fit all four pieces of equipment in there. Chief Gilotti replied that you can if you don't want to move

and if you want someone to trip and get hurt going on a call, he added that you need the utility and the two engines there. Mr. Varano questioned what the utility 223 is used for. Chief O'Hearn replied it is a light rescue and the medical vehicle is the hummer.

Mr. Varano questioned if the Hummer has to be housed. Chief Gilotti replied that it could be outside but it shouldn't, it carries medical supplies and next thing you know someone will break into it. Mr. Varano replied that is something he didn't know, he states that he thought all of the medical supplies are in the rescue vehicle, the other vehicle. Chief O'Hearn replied that they all carry medical supplies and are all equipped with medical. Mr. Varano states that you are talking you are not going to have room for four vehicles, you will have room for three and that you could leave the hummer outside if we leave it there.

Mr. Varano questions if he actually thinks that a building cannot be built for one hundred thousand dollars. Chief O'Hearn replied that he is not an engineer and does not know. Mr. Varano replied that he is not either.

Mr. Seigel stated that he thinks progress has been made since the last meetings he attended and stated at the last meetings that he attended you were still struggling to make a determination if consolidation made sense. He states that he thinks that what he is hearing in the consensus of this room is that consolidation does make sense.

Mr. Seigel states that debate seems to be where does that make sense and he states that what he has to reflect on is as he looked at the buildings and states that he has not been inside either building but has looked at each building. Mr. Seigel stated that the East End station while it is a newer facility and offers a lot of advantages it is somewhat limited in terms of future expansion, parking and those kinds of situations and probably ingress and egress. Mr. Seigel states that the West End station while it is not as modern of a facility offers a great deal of space for future growth and expansion.

Mr. Seigel stated that he does think one of the points to be made is that the requirements and expectations for fire service have changed radically over the last few years and states that he thinks that it is penny wise and pound foolish to squeeze equipment into what is already somewhat of a bound building when you have the opportunity to expand an existing building where there is ample parking, ample room for future expansion and the ability to grow into the demands that are likely to come. He stated that he has seen that stations around the region are putting in bunk rooms, decontamination rooms and a whole series of things to protect the personnel and to deal with situations for the changing world of which we live in.

Mr. Seigel stated that it is his opinion as he looks at the layout of the community; the West End offers a lot more flexibility in terms of space and states that while he does not think that a new station for \$30.00 per ft. he added that he does think that you could make significant modifications to the West End station including even potentially a small addition that will allow you in the future to expand and do other things as you have the funds and the capacity to do so.

Mr. Varano questions on an expansion and on an addition if you ran a hallway if all of the new requirements would have to be met adding onto an existing building. Mr. Seigel replied that there would be some grandfathering in he expects and adds that without doing some research on the regulations to know exactly. Mr. Seigel stated that the reality is that many of the things that were talked about as being requirements or expectations are just good common sense and if you try to squeeze all of the equipment into the existing building at the East End then you have the same issues, you have consumed space that you need for the safe interaction and operation. Mr. Seigel states that without touring the building and looking at the real estate and the confined access and so forth in his opinion if he were making the choice he would be looking to use the area where there is additional property to allow for expansion.

Chief O'Hearn states that he thinks that the fire department is one hundred percent agreeable to that notion and stated that the big question is where you come up with the money to do that.

Mr. Varano replied that he thinks that to start with some fund raisers and states that he feels that the borough would kick in some money into this because the borough would have to build a building anyway to house all of the borough's extra equipment when this building is torn down. Mr. Varano states that if we are not going to use that space down there, he asks what the difference is if we put that money into a new building for us or if we put that money into a fire department. Mr. Varano added that he would rather put it into a fire department.

Chief O'Hearn questioned if there are any plans down the road to replace a fire apparatus and adds that the newest truck is 17 years old and states that they do not need one now but sooner or later a replacement piece of apparatus is going to have to be purchased. Mr. Varano replied that everyone is going to have to get on the stick and do some fundraising here adding that he knows that it is a lot to ask from you guys.

Mr. Varano stated that he will start out the fund and states that he will donate his salary for the rest of this year through next year to the fire department and questions Mr. Lutz if he will do the same. Mr. Lutz replied that he is doing it. Mr. Varano questioned Mr. Pancerella if he will do it also. Mr. Pancerella if he is willing to do the same. Mr. Pancerella (*not being on council*) replied his salary from council, yes. Mr. Varano commented to Mr. Pancerella, to donate the amount that they are willing to donate which is about \$2500.00.

Chief O'Hearn replied that when both the borough police department and the borough workers raise funds for equipment and their housing needs that is when the fire department will turn around and do it and adds that is a one hundred percent unanimous decision by the fire department.

Mr. Varano questioned if he knows how that truck room was built and added that it was through fundraisers.

Chief O'Hearn replied that he knows and that he was part of it. Chief O'Hearn stated that they do not want a new one and states that is the problem adding that they are getting kicked out of a perfectly fine housing adding that the borough wants it moved. Mr. Varano replied that you do not own it and stated that the borough owns it and that is what people do not want to understand.

Matt Siko began by saying let him be the voice of common sense since it seems to be lacking this evening. Mr. Varano replied "really."

Matt Siko stated that they don't have the money to spend and the borough does not have the money to spend and questions where they are going to go tomorrow and where are they going to park the fire apparatus.

Mr. Varano questions Mr. Siko what they would have done if the borough did not purchase that building adding that they would be out on the street. Matt Siko replied "thank you for not throwing us out."

Matt Siko said what he is trying to say is if they would take all of their money that they have like you want us to put in one basket to depend on grants, and we don't get those grants well then we have turnout gear that has expired and air packs that will expire within the next three years and the average cost to outfit one fireman, \$7,285.00 each. Matt Siko suggests how to take out a pen and pad and figure out how many firemen they can outfit with the money after they spend it on the building. Mr. Varano replied that you will not need \$40,000.00 out of the relief fund to pay for the grants if you don't get the grants, so you will have \$40,000.00 extra right there.

Matt Siko asks then how do they operate. Mr. Varano questioned what he means by asking how then do they operate and states that you get funds from your fundraiser which is about \$8,000.00 a year and the borough gives you \$4,000.00 each grant..... Matt Siko interjected that is a third of a fireman and then said "next." Mr. Varano added, and the fireman's relief, adding that is where you are suppose to be buying this stuff from. Matt Siko asks how they are buying it adding that is a lot of candy bars. Mr. Varano replied with the fire department money. Chief O' Hearn answered "no." Mr. Varano questioned what he means by saying "no." Chief O'Hearn stated that the numbers do not add up, they do not add up.

Mr. Varano commented that you do not want to spend any money, but you want everybody else to support you and you don't want to spend any money. Matt Siko asked Mr. Varano if he is done and proceeds to say let me finish. Matt Siko then stated to Mr. Varano not to roll his eyes at him. Mr. Varano stated to Matt Siko not to threaten him. Matt Siko replied that he is one of his constituents and stated that he needs to respect him and that he will respect him and again directed Mr. Varano not to roll his eyes at him. Mr. Varano replied "you do not tell me what to do with my body." Matt Siko made the statement to Mr. Varano that he is by no way shape or form higher than anyone in this room." Mr. Varano replied "he never said that he was" and added "and neither are you."

Matt Siko stated that if they don't get the grants which they match twenty percent, now they are stuck holding the whole ball of buying all of the equipment and questions where the money comes from. Mr. Varano replied that you get twelve or thirteen thousand dollars every year from the fireman's relief. Matt Siko stated that is one and a half fireman and asks Mr. Varano if they could carry him out of his house on fire with one and a half of a fireman. Mr. Varano replied to Matt Siko that he is being ridiculous. Matt Siko replied that he is not and that he is being a realist and suggests that Mr. Varano try it.

Mr. Varano asked if he is expecting the borough to fund all of this. Matt Siko questioned why in the name of God you would want to spend three hundred thousand dollars on a new building when you could renovate one right now to get us through, right now. Mayor Novakoski replied that we do not want to just get you through. Matt Siko commented that is exactly right, you do not want to get us through.

Mayor Novakoski explained that you have to build a new building eventually and you do not want to patch it, that would be throwing good money after bad and he added that if you are going to invest twenty or forty thousand then you may as well put it in a new building and that makes sense.

Matt Siko questioned if you don't have money to buy a new car and you have to get to work every day do you buy a used one. The Mayor replied yes.

Matt Siko asks why then can't they have a temporary fix and go into this building at a minimal cost and use that building. Mr. Varano replied because it may cost seventy five thousand to remodel it and adds that he would rather throw seventy five thousand dollars into a new building than throw seventy five thousand into a landlocked building. Matt Siko asks how you afford it. Mayor Novakoski said with fundraisers.

Mr. Lutz questions Mr. Varano on how much the loan is for that the borough got for the building. Mr. Varano replied that he believes that it was for seven hundred and sixty five thousand. Mr. Lutz stated that seven sixty five with two fifty right of the top, five fifteen minus three hundred thousand, that gives us two hundred and fifteen thousand dollars and the three hundred thousand is without change orders.

Mr. Lutz stated so we have two hundred and fifteen thousand and questions Mr. Varano on if he ever found out what it will cost to take this building down. Mr. Varano replied no he didn't but feels about one hundred thousand. Mayor Novakoksi suspects that it will be about one hundred and fifty thousand. Mr. Lutz stated that it will be ten thousand for the roof, so you are at fifty five thousand, fifty five thousand to fix the fire station. Mr. Lutz states that the deal of it is that he wishes that we could go down there and build a new fire station and put a swimming pool in so that we could all go swimming. He added that the fact of the matter is that he does not know if we got the dough. Mr. Lutz states that there is a fire station up there and he agrees that it is not the perfect solution, but the fact of the matter is that when you look at the alternatives and you look at the idea of

what you are going to do. He added that he gets that, we have got to get the sweeper out of the weather, five hundred and forty dollars a year.

Mr. Varano replied that it is not just the sweeper; we have two police cars that we have to get out of the weather. Mr. Lutz stated that they have been out in the weather.

Mr. Varano asks if that makes it right. Mr. Lutz replied it does not make it right. Mr. Varano added that they are starting to rust. Mr. Lutz states that he does not want to get into the discussion about assets, protecting assets and states that we will get into that later.

Mr. Lutz suggests putting a lean-to on the existing building up here to get the recycling equipment out of the weather. Mr. Varano stated that there is one on the side it's a salt shed. Mr. Lutz replied then put one on the other side.

Mr. Lutz stated then it is a solution that is not ideal and added that if anybody has any ideal solutions then we need you in Washington not here in Kulpmont.

Mr. Varano directs the statement to Mr. Lutz that he wants to spend fifty five thousand dollars of borough money and asks what their match is, if it is fifty thousand then that is one hundred and five thousand dollars, so you mean to tell me that.....Mr. Lutz interjected and stated that he does not want to spend fifty five thousand dollars. He added that this number that they threw about fixing a garage door, we have to get some numbers we really do; we need to get some facts.

Mr. Varano questions what is wrong with the garage door anyway and questions if it is not wide enough or what. Chief O'Hearn states that it is not wide enough. Mr. Varano questioned about the other two; Chief O'Hearn replied that they are fine. Mr. Varano questioned then why you cannot use them then for the fire trucks, the two that are wide enough. Chief O'Hearn replied that you have two engines and the utility mini rescue has to go in the upper bay, it won't fit. Mr. Varano replied "alright, that is what I was asking." Mr. Lutz stated that we have to start talking numbers; we have to get some facts we really do. Mr. Lutz states that you have to widen that door and get a garage door and states that his senses are that you don't buy them at Sears. He adds that we should get those facts because the difference between thirty and sixty dollars per square foot is big dough.

Chief O'Hearn questioned Mr. Varano on how the money would be obtained if they had to raise the funds for a building it would take fifteen years to raise the funds, would the borough float a loan. Mr. Varano replied that we don't have the money to float a loan, but the relief agency could float a loan. Chief O'Hearn replied that they don't have collateral and you cannot float a loan for non-allowed expenditures. Mr. Varano stated yes you could and added that instead of investing your money in Stern Agee you could invest in a mortgage, it is right in the guidelines. Chief O'Hearn replied that it is still not enough money to build a three or four hundred thousand dollar building. Mr. Varano replied that we do not plan on spending no four hundred thousand dollars either and adds

that we have been talking about this for years now and still no prices have been gotten and nothing has been done.

Chief O'Hearn states that they have been telling council for years that it is going to cost you more than fifty thousand dollars to build a building and you do not believe us and we are here again telling you. He added that the fire department is not opposed to it but the fire department is being a realist.

Chief O'Hearn stated that they don't have the funds; the borough does not have the funds and states that he does not even know if the fire department is going to be here in the end of the mortgage and states fire services in the whole area are dwindling. He added that he does not want to strap the borough on a hundred or three hundred thousand dollar mortgage or a fire department when there may not even be one here. Chief O'Hearn states that realistically the move is toward consolidation but we are nowhere near that point of regional consolidation and states that this moving to the East End is the most viable, cheapest option on the table to provide service to the citizens of the Borough of Kulpmont without additional debt.

Chief O'Hearn states that they do not have collateral or the money and either does the borough. He added that council asked them for funding opportunities and states that Jeff met with Rep. Barletta and states that they met with Rep. Masser and there are just no funding opportunities out there and states that there are loans but they do not have and the borough does not have collateral at this point and time and states that the Borough is mortgaged to the hilt so where do you come up with the money or collateral.

Mr. Seigel summarized on some of the points that were made and stated that the debate is the building it is not the consolidation and the borough has some equipment parked outside and the fire company doesn't but one option was to park one piece outside with also the issue of getting all four pieces in the existing structure. He added that we really have a lot of unknowns with the cost of renovating the East End, cost to modify and what the cost is for a new station.

Mr. Seigel stated that he thinks what makes sense is to bring in someone who could provide the borough with some guidance on what may be the most cost effective changes to make and states that he thinks that should take into consideration bringing all of the apparatus indoors in one place and it should also be addressing the protection of other publicly owned equipment if you have police cars on the street and so forth and so on.

Mr. Seigel stated the question is how do you use the resources that you have most efficiently to protect the publicly owned and privately owned equipment in which you have a public interest and states that part of that question can be answered by some budgetary numbers that he states that he feels can be gotten from the architect that you are currently working with or bring in an engineer for a little bit of money which will provide the information needed to say if it is a \$50,000.00 or \$250,000.00 project.

Mr. Seigel stated that he thinks it has to be looked at comprehensively what it is that you are trying to protect and accomplish. He added that solving something at the East End or the West End that does not protect publicly owned equipment is only half a solution.

Mr. Seigel states that not only do you need to think about the publicly owned facilities in general and not only fire service.

Mr. Varano questions what happens to the West End when we move all of the equipment up to the quarters up here; he asks what their charter states and questions if they have to house equipment there.

Mr. Seigel replied that he has not studied the West End charter but a typical situation with a not for profit fire company, they exist for the purpose of providing fire protection and that is why the Department of State sees them as a 501c3 non-profit, and adds that if they are not in the business of providing fire service then they really do not have a purpose as a non profit entity. Mr. Seigel states that his suspicion is that if the West End Fire Company is not providing fire service they probably are in jeopardy of losing their non-profit status.

Mr. Varano questions that if they move the truck up here then they would still be providing fire service and asks if that is correct, even though it was not in their own building.

Mr. Siegel asks for council to refresh his mind and stated that he was under the impression that there are two non-profit fire companies, the East End and the West End.

Mr. Varano replied that the West End is actually an association.

Mr. Siegel questions the Fire Department on what their legal entity is.

Chief O' Hearn replied that as long as they provide fire protection and states that they were looking into this earlier.

A person in the audience directed the statement to Council President that East Cameron has their truck in one spot and their facilities in another, in two different buildings.

Mr. Varano stated that he asked the question, because he does not know the answer and commented that he is concerned and does not want to put another fire company out of business.

Chief O'Hearn directed the statement to Mr. Varano that back in the 70's when they built a new truck room, the truck room was there and the bar was across the street so they still were not in the same building.

Mr. Siegel interjected and made the statement that where the equipment is housed is not the issue, the issue is if they are in the business of providing fire protection and adds that

where the structure is housed does not matter. Mr. Seigel stated that the determination of that is going to be whether or not you are organized as a legal entity as a non-profit.

Mr. Seigel stated that he will refer this to the solicitor, but if you're only formed as an association then you may not even have tax exempt status and may not even be a legal entity.

The Solicitor William C. Cole responded by stating that would of course require examination of their charter and documentation, without knowing that couldn't be determined. Mr. Seigel agreed with the statement made by the solicitor.

Mr. Lutz stated that the deal is if they take some of the equipment from the West End and take a piece up to the East End, couldn't some of the other equipment go into the building at the West End that you are concerned about, other than of course the police cars.

Mr. Varano responded by saying that you would be supporting two buildings anyway and then so why even consolidate. Mr. Lutz replied that the sweeper could go in there and states that he does not know what other equipment but a shed could be built and a lean-to.

Mr. Seigel added that another thing that could be done is that potentially you could eliminate a rescue unit without diminishing the rankings of your fire department, so you could potentially reduce the number of units that you need to house and rely on mutual aid.

Chief O'Hearn replied that they are, they are already reducing from three engines down to two by consolidating and stated that they are already eliminating.

Mr. Seigel replied that you still have one that is an issue to get in.

Chief O'Hearn replied that is required and added that there is no reason to get rid of that. Mayor Novakoski commented that it is required by them.

Mr. Seigel replied that there may not be a reason to other than it does not fit in but states that he does not know that it is required.

Chief O' Hearn responded to Mr. Seigel by saying that he could take his pager and take the next call then and see if it is required and states that because he is not making any sense.

Mr. Seigel stated that he has 20 years in the emergency service and stated that you do not own every piece of rescue equipment, so you have to make conscious decisions every day, we don't like it but we have to do it.....Chief O' Hearn interjected and replied that he then should know .....Mr. Seigel asked Chief O'Hearn to let him finish and asked him to please not interrupt him and stated that he will be courteous and hear him out. Mr. Seigel continued to say that they all make those decisions and they are not always the

most comfortable decisions but you do not have to have every piece of equipment and adds that it is a decision you make.

Chief O'Hearn replied that is true and stated that they made that decision to eliminate one piece of apparatus. Mr. Seigel replied exactly and that there may be a decision to eliminate another. Mr. Varano made the statement that the decision to eliminate that West End truck was made a couple of years ago.

Chief O' Hearn replied that it is still in service. Mr. Varano replied that he knows that, but that was because of the grants for the radios and that is the only reason it is still in service.

Chief O'Hearn directed the statement to Mr. Varano that an outside entity came in and evaluated them and told the fire department that they were under equipped and now you have this gentleman (*referring to Mr. Seigel*) come in and says that they are over equipped. Mr. Seigel made a statement to clarify that he did not state that they were over equipped. Chief O' Hearn questioned then why he made the statement. Mr. Seigel stated that ethically speaking it is a choice that you make. Chief O'Hearn replied yes it's a choice of having a fire department, a choice to have turn out gear that meet regulations, a choice to have air packs that meet regulations, they are all choices and he continued to say that it is a choice for him to get up in the middle of the night to go on a call.

Mr. Seigel replied exactly and stated that in fact the borough has the right and authority to make those choices. Chief O'Hearn commented now you are jeopardizing the citizens of this town. Mr. Seigel replied that is not necessarily true. Chief O'Hearn states that they do and as the officials of the borough that provide a service and stated that they had a third party entity come in and tell them the same thing. Chief O'Hearn stated that they have evaluated the needs of the fire department.

Assistant Fire Chief Gilotti directed a statement to Mr. Seigel and stated that he was invited up here and was never shown the inside of the truck room so he would like to make an appointment to show you the inside of the truck room.

Mr. Varano stated we can go down right now. Chief Gilotti replied that we have better things to do right now and continued to say that right now they just went through a ISO inspection, Northumberland County and stated that one of the council members stated that they don't use ISO and stated that they straightened them out on that they do use ISO and that is how the insurance companies bids policy's. He added that when the gentleman was here from ISO he said that the closest ladder truck is too far out of this community and stated that you guys actually need a ladder truck and added that was news to him. Chief Gilotti stated that they were told that by the extra apparatus that they have he said that he could bill a ladder truck and take the burden off of having a ladder truck and stated that is where the other pieces come in, taking the burden off of not having a ladder truck because the closest ladder truck is to far away, per ISO.

Mr. Seigel stated that those are the kind of decisions that he is talking about and adds that you look at how you can streamline the operation and states that you are talking about getting prices for structures. He states that you should also be accessing them. Mr. Seigel stated that there very well may be a benefit of keeping four pieces and insurance benefits for the community of modifying a piece. Mr. Seigel stated that we should not assume that we need every piece or that if we do not have all of the pieces that we have then somebody will die, that is emotionally driven conflict.

Chief Gilotti replied that if we loose anything out of this borough including the one out of the West End then the ISO is going to increase which is going to put an increased burden on the people carrying insurance in this borough.

Mr. Varano stated that he just wants to let Mr. Lutz know what the borough pay's extra to the fire department over the last four years and stated that they were paid an extra \$44,000.00. Mr. Varano stated that more than any other community in the area, Mount Carmel Township, Mount Carmel, Coal Township and Shamokin City. Matt Siko stated that he is dead wrong because he works in one and deals with it every day. Mr. Varano questioned where he works. Matt Siko replied Ralpho Township. Mr. Varano questioned if he mentioned Ralpho. Matt Siko commented that Mr. Varano is only mentioning the ones that don't, so that you are not the only one.

Mr. Varano replied that he said that the borough gives a lot more than most communities do. Chief O'Hearn correcting Mr. Varano's statement stating that you do a lot for the protection of the citizens of your town. Mr. Varano added that Ralpho does not give that much, with the exception of what they get from Dick Knoebel.

Matt Siko asked Mr. Varano if he fell on his head, and asked him "did you do any type of studies." Mr. Varano stated that he has a sheet here and all insurance paid by Ralpho, which that is it, there it is that is the information that I got. Mr. Varano stated that the fire engines are owned by the fire companies.

Matt Siko added that they are supported by their town. Mr. Varano questioned Rhonda if the information that we received was right from the municipality. Matt Siko questioned if anyone ever opened up the paper and saw it in the paper about any other communities and their council giving the fire departments a hard time or discussions like this. Mr. Varano replied the answer is no because they don't listen to it, they say this is what you are getting and that is it. Matt Siko replied that he thinks Mr. Varano is wrong. Chief O'Hearn added that he thinks that it is actually the respect that they appreciate the volunteers that run calls in the municipalities so that they do not have issues and concerns and asked the question on if Shamokin just agreed to give the Shamokin Rescue Squad \$300,000.00 to purchase a new fire company. Mr. Varano replied that they get CDBG money and we don't he added that neither does Mount Carmel or the Township, stating the Shamokin does they are a city. Mr. Varano continues to say that the fire trucks are titled to the city and the city pays insurance and maintenance, the Chief gets \$1200.00 per year, Chief 2 gets \$1000.00, Chief 3 gets \$800.00 and allotment checks are given and they get \$583.00 every two months and only three of the five fire companies take the

allotment, two of them don't. Chief O'Hearn added that the city also gave them funds to purchase a fire truck also. Mr. Varano replied that the city owns the fire trucks and they get tons of money from CDBG money and adds that we get nothing.

Mr. Varano stated that the Borough does a lot. Mr. Lutz replied that you have to do more. Mr. Lutz stated that we need to go in the building, fix the garage and we move on. Mr. Lutz stated that his sense is on the volunteers, they all run into burning buildings so we need to get the garage fixed and a garage door and then move on and this is the issue.

Mr. Lutz stated that the numbers are thrown just around; we need to get a little more factual. Mr. Varano replied that you can't get anymore facts than those that were already presented to you. Mr. Lutz stated that we need to get them on paper so we can review them.

Marshall Mirarchi stated that he wants to start out by correcting the gentleman from Seda Cog and stated that the fire department has been on the same page since the early 1990's. He added that when Mr. Seigel came here the first time, they just kind of sat here in the corner and laughed at what they were presented with.

Marshall Mirarchi stated that he made it seem like the East End and West End were oil and water and they don't get along, that was a lot of the issue.

Mr. Seigel stated, you said it yourself that the progress you thought that was made was that the two entities came together and agreed to consolidate. Mr. Seigel replied that the entities that he spoke of were the fire department and council.

Marshall Mirarchi questioned him on who was the one that did not want to consolidate and questioned if it was council.

Mr. Seigel replied that what he saw was a debate about consolidation between the fire companies and the council.

Marshall Mirarchi stated that the fact of the matter is that the two entities have wanted to consolidate for years. He added that when he was there last time that they asked about if Seda Cog could help to provide funding and that they were told that you were essentially an outside agency that comes in and what they have and make recommendations to consolidate/eliminate services, things like that.

Marshall Mirarchi stated that the problem here is not the fire departments willingness to work with the Borough. Marshall Mirarchi questioned Mr. Varano on a prior conversation on using the fireman's relief and the fire department and stated that they explained to him a half of a dozen times on what they use their money for and states that yes there is money left over when you do the math. Marshall Mirarchi made the statement to the president that so what he is in favor of is the fire department to put the funds up that are life saving funds, funds that are used for if god forbid if somebody gets hurt or equipment is damaged. He continues to ask the question on where they will get

the money to replace this stuff adding that is the question that he heard the Chief ask and the Captain ask him and states that it was never answered adding that the answer they get is “well you get \$11,000.00 a year.”

Marshall Mirarchi stated that they explained numerous times on what they do with that \$11,000.00 per year. He stated that they operate off of a budget of less than \$10,000.00 per year and stated that they do fundraisers, but the fact of the matter is that to do fundraisers to raise \$100,000.00 is asking the guys that are stretched thin already to allocate more time to fundraisers.

Marshall Mirarchi stated that whether it is bingo, chicken barbeques, car washes or whatever it is that is working in your minds for them to raise \$100,000.00 stretches guys that are already stretched really thin between state required trainings to be able to just run here. He added that they all have a family and children and stated that they do not get a dime for doing what they do and when the pager goes off at 2:30 in the morning they get up and do the best that they possibly can to protect this town and the lower anthracite region because the apparatus of this town goes to Shamokin, Trevorton, West Cameron Township, Mount Carmel and states that they were over in Ashland this summer in Schuylkill County.

Marshall Mirarchi directing the statement to Mr. Varano he stated that the fact of the matter is that he wants him on record as saying that your thought process is that the police cars need to be put in the garage. He added that last time he checked Shamokin Police Department, Mount Carmel Police Department, Harrisburg, and Lower Paxton Township which makes more money than any municipality in this area, guess where their police cars are parked and answered the question stating “outside.”

Mr. Varano replied that Mount Carmel Township just built a garage for their police cars. Mr. Mirarchi replied that is fine, that is Mount Carmel Township and even if they did they are not in the predicament that you are in right now.

Mr. Mirarchi stated that he would guarantee that if you asked the residents of this municipality to say if they would rather have their fire apparatus stored with a reasonably presentable situation or would they rather have the recycling trucks, the snow plow, police cars and the street sweeper parked in a building they will side with the fire trucks.

Mr. Varano replied that he needs to remember that if the snow plows do not get out then the fire trucks don't get out. Marshall Mirarchi replied that the snow plows whether you park them inside or not they rot out, it's the salt and adds that he does not think that is the big issue.

Marshall Mirarchi added that you are talking about us using funds that we are stretched thin the way it is to build a building. He stated to remember that the guys standing before you here did not created this issue. Mr. Varano replied “and neither did we.”

Marshall Mirarchi replied that he understands that and told him that last time and stated that we should remember that there is an option out here presented to you that is to widen a garage bay and knocking down a half of a concrete wall so that they could fit a piece of apparatus in there and stated that your concern is \$4000.00 going to the West End because you have to support them in an oil allotment. Marshall Mirarchi suggests doing the research and seeing what it would cost the borough to have paid firefighters here. Mr. Varano replied that we would not have to have paid fire fighters here and stated that he had his three minutes. Marshall Mirarchi commented that he is glad that he respects him like that.

A resident questioned what sits outside here in the winter. Mr. Varano replied that the police cars do and states that they have been vandalized, they are cop cars and that does not excluded them from being vandalized. Jeff Gilotti stated that you are worried about the police cars and asks why the 1988 Suburban that is worth \$1500.00 on a good day sitting under roof and questions why the police cars are not parked under there. Mr. Varano replied that he should not say that they are not parked under there at times because they are. Jeff Gilotti replied that they should be parked under there all of the time.

Jeff Gilotti stated that Mr. Deitrick stated that the street equipment sits out with the plow in the winter and he states that he did a little research with the street department and the backhoe, skid steer, roller, and the dump truck with plows are under roof so he states that he does not want to hear it because the street department told him what sits out and what sits out is the recycling trailers, lawn mower, trailer and a pick up and whether you put the street sweeper under this roof or not, so be it that is an option.

Jeff Gilotti stated that it was said by the President of Council that so much is done for the fire company and questioned Mr. Varano on when was the last time that this borough has bought this fire department equipment. Mr. Varano replied that it was probably 17 years ago when they bought them the truck. Jeff Gilotti stated that you want them to deplete fireman's relief and to deplete the fire department but you don't put a penny to equipment and added that is not going to happen and stated that this fire department is not going to take a loan out.

*\*\* Brief disturbance in tape recording\*\* \* \*\*tape change\*\**

Mr. Varano replied that council was told that there was money that with the help of Rep. Barletta would be available to assist in a building.

Mr. Nick Bozza states that he did say that, but he did not say for a fire truck. Mr. Varano stated that he said any money left over after building this building..... Mr. Bozza interjected and stated of course, that would be common sense to use for a fire truck. Mr. Varano stated and that is why we quit looking. Mr. Lutz added what is the operative word, "chance." Mr. Varano added "good chance." And that is why we quit looking.

Mr. Bozza made the statement not to blame this on him and stated that he and Mr. Gilotti met with Barletta and his team many of times. Mr. Varano replied that when council met with Rep. Barletta's aid she said that he never made a statement like that, he never made a statement like that.

Mr. Seigel states that he would like to clarify one point that was made and states that he thinks that it is important because what he heard was that there is the intention to apply for funding by the fire company for renovations to the building and asks that he be corrected if he is wrong but the Borough is the owner of that structure.

Mr. Varano replied that is correct. Mr. Seigel stated that before the fire department go through the effort of that application the Borough needs to be party to that application because you can't get grant funds for a building that you don't own. He added that he didn't want them to do an application that would be thrown out in the end because it is for a building that you don't own.

Mr. Lutz questioned Mr. Seigel on if he was aware of how the Borough came into ownership of the fire station. Mr. Seigel replied that he does not have all of the details. Mr. Lutz replied that he is missing a lot, missing a lot of details.

Mr. Varano directed Jeff Gilotti to work with Mr. Deitrick and Rhonda Wilk on that grant and added that they will help you with that grant. Jeff Gilotti replied that he will give it to Clarence Deitrick and he could do it.

Mr. Varano answered no, you want help... otherwise fill it out and we will put our John Henry on it.

Jeff Gilotti questioned what amount we are looking at. Mr. Varano replied that he does not know what they could get for Degenstein grant and added that they do not give a whole hell of a lot and added that it may be \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00.

Jeff Gilotti stated that from what he read it could be coupled over 5 years. Mr. Varano replied \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00 over 5 years and commented that would be great. Mr. Varano stated that he is pretty sure that we got a grant from the Degenstein Foundation for \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00 when we did the playground.

Rhonda Wilk confirmed that a grant was received from the Degenstein Foundation for the playground project. Jeff Gilotti stated that they may be able to use some of the information off of it.

Mr. Seigel stated that he would encourage the fire department to have that engineering estimate of the pro's and con's of the different buildings so that when you go to Degenstein you have good hard facts for your request because when they review proposals at Degenstein they are looking for good hard fact numbers and stated that you need some of that data in order to help judge if it should be the East End, West End and

added that the same debate that is in this room will be the same issue when you go to Degenstein.

Marshall Mirarchi came forward and stated that he would like to bring up a point. Mr. Varano asked that he please keep it limited to 3 minutes stating that he did not want to cut him off before but stated that he was going on and on and on.

Marshall Mirarchi stated that at the last meeting the major concern was the parking issue and stated that as a concerned citizen and you guys say that you are on the fire departments side and states that he has a picture that he will share with the Mr. Seigel. He states that two Friday's ago they had a report of a structure fire in town and guys were showing up to the station and we are concerned about parking in this town and firefighters being able to park in the lot and where they are going to park and added that he understands that the lot was roped off for construction purposes to keep the knuckle heads that are parked out of there.

Marshall Mirarchi added that here we are where seconds and minutes matter and they were roped out of their parking lot and now today a dumpster showed up in the parking lot. He stated that he knows that the council here did not place the dumpster where it was but there should be some oversight here adding that with parking being tight in this town.

Marshall Mirarchi stated that there is a dumpster parked in the middle of their lot right now, not placed off to the side but in the middle where that 2:00 in the morning when you are coming into a structure fire, that is what they have in the middle of their lot and this is how concerned the people on this project are.

Mr. Varano replied that the parking is their concern. Mr. Varano stated that it is a construction project. Marshall Mirarchi replied that he understands that but there is room in the street to put it and the fact of the matter is that they could put it in the lot but asks if it would be easy to park around with where it is placed right now.

Mr. Seigel responded by saying that obviously a dumpster in the middle of any parking lot affects parking and continues to say that he is not sure that anybody sitting around this table instructed them to place it there.

Marshall Mirarchi agreed and stated that he said that nobody on the board instructed them to place that there but asks who instructed the borough workers to place the caution tape and the rope around there when they are still running calls out of there.

Mr. Seigel replied that if we are all on the same team then the way you would have that addressed would be to simply come to the appropriate person on council and say "hey we have this issue, let's work together to resolve it." Marshall Mirarchi commented that it should not have been put there in the first place. Mr. Seigel replied that it certainly shouldn't but none the less the best way to resolve things cooperatively is to call it to the attention of the proper person and if they don't fix it then he understands but adds that it is non-productive.

Marshall Mirarchi stated that he understands but asks why they would go to council and say to them that they need to move the dumpster when they went as far as to rope off our parking lot. Mayor Novakoski responded by saying that it is not your parking lot and states for them to get that straight. Marshall Mirarchi replied to the Mayor that when his house catches on fire they will worry about parking. Mayor Novakoski replied to Mr. Mirarchi to not show up and he will collect the insurance. Marshall Mirarchi commented that he has a good attitude. Mayor Novakoski stated that they closed off the parking lot because the neighbor's were using it as a parking lot and they wanted to stop them.

Jeff Gilotti suggests why not close it off with some caution tape that they could drive through in the case of a fire and asks if that would make more sense.

Mayor Novakoski stated that right now they have it open so that the guys can park their trucks in there and stated that the contractor has his truck parked in there now. Marshall Mirarchi replied that they opened it up on the way to a fire. Mayor Novakoski replied that he knows they opened it, but it is opened now.

Jeff Gilotti stated that their should be caution tape around the whole thing in case they need to get in there and suggests to use some common sense.

Mayor Novakoski stated that when they start loading up the lot with stuff he does not see how you would get in there. He added that the guy that brought the dumpster just dumped it in the lot figuring that is where it went he added that it was supposed to originally go alongside the door, by the door so that when the contractor was demolishing the building only had to come out the doors and throw in the debris.

Jeff Gilotti questioned who the project manager is. Mayor Novakoski replied that there is none. Jeff Gilotti replied that there should be one.

Mr. Lutz stated that he is interested and stated that he picked up one of Mr. Cole's bills where he had a meeting with Seda Cog. Mr. Cole replied one.

Mr. Varano replied that we had two. Mr. Lutz questioned if there are minutes of those meetings. Mr. Varano replied that they were committee meetings and stated that you don't keep minutes on committee meetings.

Mr. Lutz stated that he is just asking and questions Mr. Varano on why he is getting all riled up about. Mr. Varano replied that is because he does not understand that workings of community borough representatives and explains that at committee meetings you don't keep minutes, at executive meetings you cant keep minutes and during regular meetings, yes, you can.

Chief Kevin O'Hearn questioned if the gentleman is supposed to be given advice on the consolidation of fire departments and you had two or three meetings with him then why then wasn't anyone from the fire department there. Mr. Varano replied that they did meet

with him and stated that they had a couple questions to be addressed before they met with the fire departments. Chief O' Hearn replied that he never saw the inside of the fire stations.

Mr. Seigel stated that he will explain the nature of the meeting because he thinks there is some concern about them. He goes on to say that under the sunshine code the municipalities have the right to have administrative action meetings and states that is where they learn about, they are educational they are like conferences, training sessions etc.... He stated that the meetings were casual and there was probably 2 or 3 members at the most and the solicitor was one of those and stated that the whole purpose of that was to help the council members have an understanding of what their options were and what their experience was in other communities. He added that he heard it said earlier that other areas do not have issues with their fire companies but they really do.

Mr. Siegel stated that the reality is with the pressure that is on with the volunteers and with the cost of fire service and the legal obligation of the council to provide for fire service through some means with either through recognition of an existing service or through contracting with a service within or outside of the community. He stated that he has seen communities that are looking at paid fire service, some consolidating three into one or two and has seen communities doing all kinds of things trying to address the response issue of fire service.

Mr. Seigel stated that the purposes of those meetings held initially were administrative action meetings and stated that he has been in attendance since then in two of these council meetings to try and provide some insight.

Mr. Seigel stated that what he has seen here and wants to try and call out is that he thinks that the dumpster is indicative of the situation at hand and that is that instead of the fire department that has committed themselves to the welfare of this community, instead of them feeling that they could come in and simply say to someone on council or simply make a phone call in to Rhonda or whatever just say; hey today a dumpster appeared in a parking lot that we rely on using in a community that has difficult parking and ask what could be done about it.

Mr. Seigel stated that instead of that it is accusatory, defensive and what that brings out in people is a defensive response. Mr. Seigel stated that whether it is the council to the fire department or the fire department to council where you all have the same mission and that is the welfare of this community and residents of the community. Mr. Seigel stated that he thinks that what everyone needs to get to is recognition that you all have the same ultimate goal and you are not at odds with one another.

Chief O' Hearn commented that they have been down this road. Matt Siko stated that in all honesty they have been trying to do this since 1992 and this is where we are, still trying. Mr. Seigel replied that although, this is not going to help to resolve it. Chief O'Hearn stated that when someone makes a comment that they have slush funds and they are hiding money, then how much do you think that volunteers could put up with. Chief

O'Hearn asked that when comments are made by elected officials of the borough that they are hiding stuff and then they find out that they are talking behind their backs and downgrading them how much trust then could they have. Chief O'Hearn stated that the perfect opportunity would have been for council to say we have a Seda Cog representative let's get together and talk about this and look at the options and look at the two stations, but that did not include the fire department the one we are talking about. Chief O'Hearn asked to back up and questioned why then Mr. Seigel does not offer council the same advice instead of looking at them because they have created the distrust with the volunteers that offer their free time.

Mr. Varano commented and you with us, by refusing to give us the financial report. Chief O'Hearn replied that they have always provided and stated that they receive the audits.

Mr. Seigel stated that he is talking to everybody and states that he is not just talking to the fire department and stated that you are taking this personally and stated that he is trying to get them to the point where ..... Chief O'Hearn interjected and stated "it is" ..... Mr. Seigel asked Chief O'Hearn if he has incapacity to listen. Chief O'Hearn replied that "yes I do." Mr. Seigel replied that he then guesses it is of little value to be here.

Matt Siko stated to Mr. Seigel that he is not sure on how his position with Seda Cog is to sit here and counsel them on how they should speak and states that it seems a little out of his realm. Matt Siko stated that he feels bad for him because he truly feels that he was brought into this situation and given half of the facts and that is where we could have given you the rest of the facts and then make an educated decision and an assessment could have been made. Matt Siko stated that he feels bad that he was only given half and goes on to ask how he could make an assessment when he was not even in the building and states that is beyond him and adds that to sit here and counsel them, he states that he does not even think that is in the realm of his position and states that quite frankly he does not appreciate it.

Mr. Seigel stated that if he may respond, it is a service that Seda Cog provides in conflict negotiation and resolution, it is something they do and something he has been trained in and so you may or may not agree with the discussion or his role. He continued to say that in terms of where you go, his goal is to bring them to the table to find a collective solution and states that he believes that the fire department while not invited to the early meetings, legitimate criticism but also had the opportunity to present your side at least at the two meeting that he has been at and states that he would have to say that in a large portion of the time at those meetings was spent casting dispersions in both directions and stated that does not educate him. Mr. Seigel stated that in the meetings that he has had with council they were very open minded in discussion and were not casting dispersions at the fire department and adds that they were providing him information upon which he provided response and guidance back. Mr. Seigel states that he has not been in the stations and has said that and added that the request made of him by council was not to evaluate the performance of the station per say, it was to evaluate the reality of the consolidation and to help the council in deciding how they might finance and how they

may bring the ownership of the East End, the utilization of the West End and those features together.

A citizen present at the meeting commented about the dumpster that the Mayor got up and said that they brought it here and put it in the wrong place, so they already knew about it so why did they not call them up.

Mr. Lutz questioned Mr. Varano on that when we invite Mr. Seigel if we make a motion to invite him or if we just invite him. Mr. Varano replied no and stated that he invited him. Mr. Lutz questioned if we have to make a motion to do that. Mr. Varano questioned why we would have to make a motion to invite him. Mr. Lutz replied because he would not invite him and added that he is not seeing any valuable conflict, resolution, this and that ... Seda Cog..... Mr. Varano questions Mr. Lutz who he would invite.

Bob Nolan questioned that the borough owns 221 and the East End responds with three pieces of equipment and questions if the borough has a date on when the 221 is going to be put out of the garage. He asks if there is a plan on such and such a date that the truck will be put out of the garage. Mr. Varano replied that it will not go anywhere until we solve this situation and adds that we can't put it out in the street.

Mr. Nolan stated that if he understands Jeff Gilotti correctly, he is going to put some paperwork in for the improvement at the borough to widen the door. Mr. Varano questioned if that was just for renovation or for the new building. Jeff Gilotti replied that is what Rep. Barletta told them to do and added that there is no money for renovation, there is no money for new construction. Jeff Gilotti replied that it is just a renovation grant to modify the East End. Mr. Varano commented that we missed the boat on that in 2009 there was 210 million dollars they put out for new construction and added that it is water under the bridge. Mr. Nolan stated that he understands that the borough is going to sign the application for the Degenstein Grant to go along with improvement on the East End to make it more accessible for other equipment in there. Mr. Varano replied that he would guess so and added that there was no vote taken on it but that he would guess that council would be amenable to it. Mr. Nolan stated that he just wants to follow the facts on what is going on in this meeting.

Mr. Motyka stated that he thinks Mr. Lutz came up with a remainder of \$58,000.00; adding it would not take much to meet a brand new mortgage for a brand new building with the \$8,000.00 if he is talking about grants. He continued to say that he proposes to the fire company that we donate the land that we sit on currently for a new structure and added that came in at \$220,000.00 to \$320,000.00. He added that he thinks that the current amount we pay to the fire company plus the remainder and plus any grants would build a new building. Mr. Varano questions that it would be about making the payments and asked Mr. Motyka if that is what he is talking about. Mr. Motyka replied that is what he would suggest and with the money we pay out, it would make the mortgage payments. Mr. Varano commented that way we don't have to go through the USDA and have all that, meeting the requirements of the USDA that we have to meet.

Mr. Motyka stated that we came up with ideas that if we take the heat out of the current garage and store our equipment that has to be heated down at the other building and save the money by not heating this building up here. Mr. Motyka stated that you need to come up with concrete numbers on paper and you need to have all of these options down. Mr. Motyka stated that he just shared what his options are and the numbers that he ran and stated that he does not feel that it is far out of the realm to have a brand new building that meets all of your needs.

Mr. Bob Nolan questioned Mr. Seigel if Hegins just went in on a consolidation. Mr. Seigel replied that he is not familiar with Hegins Fire Company. Mr. Nolan stated that he may be wrong but if he is not mistaken they brought in an other engine company in from another area and their site already consisted of a paved parking lot, a foundation and a present building. He added that they leveled their building, they put \$240,000.00 into that building and states that he don't know what they got for that but that you cannot put a pole building up and expect to house three or four pieces of equipment.

Mr. Seigel replied that he agrees with the statement that a pole barn is no fire station. He added that we do not have a number; \$240,000.00 with demolition construction with unknown details is no different that saying his house was \$100,000.00 or \$500,000.00 without knowing the details. He added that Warrior Run Fire Company spent one million dollars about 10 years ago that he believes was a 6 bay and two trucks long and states that it just depends on what you are doing and what your needs are. Mr. Seigel stated that he thinks that numbers are needed, real numbers and that he does not think that the concept of building a new station cooperatively with the council making its pledge towards the mortgage is an all bad idea. Mr. Seigel added that he thinks that if somebody crunches the numbers and states that it may be that they have already done some of that crunching.

Mr. Motyka stated that he proposed that once the demo was done on this building that we donate 105 sq ft. on the corner and keep access to the garage, deed that over to them and then you would have access the building. He stated that the numbers he ran with a company that does design builds came in at between \$40.00 and \$60.00 a square ft. based on 75 x 75 sq ft that came in at between \$220,000.00 and \$330,000.00 and so any grant you get from Dagenstein would bring that money down low enough that we could actually afford and that would be adequate for all of your needs and stated that nobody has done more research than he has done.

Mr. Varano questioned Jeff Gilotti on if at one time he told him that they could get away with probably 3500 square feet. Jeff Gilotti replied that they have 2500 down there and stated that 75 x 75 is what they would need. Mr. Motyka stated that he has 75 x 75 four bay garages is 5625 square feet and that is the number that he ran with a company out of the Philadelphia Area. Mr. Motyka stated that the quote was for a complete fit out, a professional fire company building.

Mr. Seigel stated that it is conceivable but that it takes both groups to put down the animosity that has been built up over the years and to come together.

Mr. Motyka replied that we allocate \$4000.00 a year to each fire company until we now house the East End and pay for all of the heat, so that allotment went away. Mr. Motyka stated that it was said that the West End would falter on losing \$4000.00 a year on heating costs, if the West End Fire truck room was put under moth balls and you didn't heat that he stated that he feels that you would save \$4000.00 a year just by not heating the West End's truck room and getting everything into one building. Mr. Motyka stated that you may get away with heating this big building for \$2000.00 a year compared to spending \$8000.00 to heat both buildings.

Chief O'Hearn questioned if he is saying that the \$8000.00 year allotment is what would be used for the mortgage payment. Mr. Motyka replied that he would think that would be a good approach but as he said we would save money by mothballing this building behind us and will have savings just by moving out of this building.

Chief O'Hearn questioned if there is some way that someone who does these building studies with renovations to the East End, West End, a new building up here and down there and the operational cost going forward. He added that you are saying \$8000.00 and he stated that his concern is how the fire department pays the bills and so all of that would have to be factored in.

Mr. Motyka stated that when they were talking about building on Fir Street, they ran all of the numbers and it comes in and tells you how much it is going to cost per square foot to heat.

Chief O'Hearn questioned how we would get a determination on how much a cost would be and asks who would provide that.

Mr. Motyka stated that the reason he leans toward this is because if you renovate the West End or the East End you still do not have an adequate building to house all of your equipment. Chief O'Hearn replied that is true. Mr. Motyka stated that if you could pull the savings from the lump sum from USDA of what Mr. Lutz spoke \$58,000.00, and grant from Degenstein that could be up to \$30,000.00 and if you pull all of those off the top cost of the building then the borough could pay your mortgage payments if they would agree to do so.

Mr. Lutz questioned if the borough would be able to pay mortgage payments of 8000.00 per year. Mr. Motyka replied that he figured 200,000.00 at 4% for 30 years, and comments that we really went down a bumpy road with the USDA and that is a dirty word here but that is where you will get your best numbers. Mr. Motyka stated there are a lot of options out there to get the right numbers. Mr. Motyka stated that the payment came to 843.00 per month and stated that it came to 10,000.00. Mr. Lutz questioned 843.00 on 200,000.00 for 30 years at 3 percent. Mr. Lutz replied that he does not have a calculator with him but it seems kind of low and stated that it is something certainly to look into but his concern is about debt. Mr. Motyka replied that the borough cannot take on that debt. Mr. Lutz replied that if you stay away from the USDA the deal is much cleaner. Mr. Motyka replied that is correct and stated that the USDA cost the boroughs

project tons of money just from the historical research they had to do, flood plains.....  
Mr. Lutz interjected "let's not get into that."

Mr. Lutz stated that he thinks that the options need to be looked at to renovate the East End, add onto the West End, build a building and what that is all about and then you have facts and figures and we could proceed from there. Mr. Lutz states that's simple economics and freshman capital budgeting.

Mr. Motyka stated that he thinks everyone could appreciate these numbers on paper and stated that he has done a little bit of this and as he has stressed down at the new borough building he cannot do all of this on his own and appreciates any help and states that he has always said that. Mr. Varano suggested why then don't we do that and we could get out of here tonight. Mr. Lutz stated that he will do that Mr. Lutz will get some figures together which he stated will take him at least two weeks and that he wouldn't have them by Tuesday.

\*\*Meeting Tape ran out at this point\*\*

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR**

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RHONDA WILK  
BOROUGH SECRETARY

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DATE OF APPROVAL