

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 13, 2022
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mr. Chesney
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday July 13, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Marlin Hodge, Stephen Motyka and Bernard Novakoski

ABSENT: None

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Solicitor Edward Greco, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Official Heather Owens, and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin P Howerter, Luke Darrup, Bob Scicchitano, Nick Bozza, Brittany Shervinskie, Adam Pell and Raymond Siko.

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

No one spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated the County is requesting to park a vehicle in the Borough parking lot, the vehicle would be used by the County worker if needed during the day and would be left in the lot overnight. Mr. Bielskie stated he does not know if it would be feasible. Mr. Bradley stated he would support it if it would not cause any problems. Mr. Bielskie stated parking is limited.

A discussion took place among councilmembers concerning the vehicles that normally are parked in the lot during the day, borough workers, Senior Action Center and Police employees' personal vehicles also police vehicles a fire dept. vehicle and code vehicle are normally parked during business hours.

Mr. Dowkus stated there is limited parking for persons needing to come in to conduct borough business, and the Senior Center. Solicitor Greco suggested if possibly there would be room in our parking lot at the garage and stated the SAC worker could park there and bring the county vehicle down for use during the day and then park it back at the municipal lot for overnight. Bruce Graff stated there would be parking along the wall.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to meet them halfway in parking a county vehicle at the borough garage municipal lot when not in use.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert Slaby)

Mayor Slaby received correspondence from Kulpmont 100 request the closure of 12th and 13th Street 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. on July 23rd during the picnic to be held at the West End Fire Association grounds. Mayor Slaby questioned if council has any reason why he should not grant them permission. A discussion took place among council members, and it was decided to extend the closure until midnight on July 23rd for the picnic.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to close N 12th and Maple and 13th and Maple Streets on July 23rd from 4 p.m. until midnight for the K100 picnic.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Mayor Slaby made the recommendation for Officer in Charge Stephen Mazzeo to be given the official rank of Chief of Police effective immediately.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney for a title change from Officer in Charge to Chief effective immediately.

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

Mayor Slaby then swears in Stephen Mazzeo as Chief of Police.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval of the June 8, 2022, meeting minutes is needed.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve the meeting minutes from June 8, 2022.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated under correspondence we received the following:

Correspondence was received from Northumberland County Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance Revisions and was copied to both Council and Mayor.

Received from Justin Skavery from Northumberland County Planning the Borough received approved funding agreement and a check for \$300,000.00 funding, copied to Council/Mayor.

Rhonda Wilk read a letter received from MCA Jr. Red Tornadoes, David J. Klimas requesting a monetary donation to assist in offsetting the cost associated in providing youth football and cheer organization for youth who reside in Mt Carmel, Kulpmont communities, copied to both Council and Mayor.

Mayor Slaby stated commented when he was the president of the Kulpmont Football Baseball Association years ago and does not ever recall Borough Council donating to the Cougars or the Football Baseball Association and they were right here in town. He stated he is not being critical of this gentleman's request and is not saying that Kulpmont kids do not benefit from this. Mayor Slaby stated we have our stadium here and stated he believes they are referring to a stadium in Mt. Carmel. Mr. Motyka stated it would be practice at the east end of Mount Carmel, the soccer field and commented that is how this reads to him.

Rhonda Wilk stated a letter was received from Marshall Mirarchi from the Kulpmont Fire Department concerning a request to have a parade on Saturday September 17th beginning at 1:00 p.m. to celebrate the housing of our new fire truck. The letter provided a parade rout and notification if approved the Fire Department would apply for a permit form Penn DOT.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve the parade and for them to move forward in applying for the necessary permit.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Correspondence was received from PSAB providing an update on the ARPA Distribution Fund release on July 15, 2022, and distribution to be the week of July 18th, Copied to both Council/Mayor.

Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau sent correspondence concerning the 2021 tax sale and duty to certify any municipal claim by August 30, 2022 and was copied to Mayor/Council/ Solicitor and Code.

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence received today from Tri County COG permits issued for June.

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Rhonda Wilk stated Council received a copy of the financial statement and bills to be paid and approval is needed to pay the bills.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to approve and pay the bills.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he reviewed the Red X program and Northumberland County Stormwater Ordinance and stated he is requesting an executive session at the end of the meeting for a pending litigation matter.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Report attached. Chief Mazzeo stated he has nothing additional.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached. Rhonda Wilk stated there is a memo on the bottom of the Fire Chief’s Report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT- (Tri County COG)

Mr. Bielskie stated he did meet with the owner of the gas station and stated they are looking to hire people to open it up. He stated there are a few small things inside and stated that should do it.

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT – (Heather Owens)

Heather Owens stated the report is attached. She stated there is concern the fires on the 500 block Spruce Street. She stated all the property owners want to knock the homes down all except for one. Heather Owens stated he wants to leave his home in hopes that when the neighbor tears theirs down it collapses and stated she is not sure how to proceed. A brief discussion took place concerning the properties.

Mr. Bielskie stated he talked with the contractor for the Pine Street property and stated he has been told they will be coming to begin demo.

Mayor Slaby stated it is not fair to the neighborhood, this property has been this way for over a year now.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley stated the food distribution will be held on July 21st from 8 to 11 a.m. at the borough garage.

Mr. Bradley stated the gas tank needs to be removed and stated Bruce is working on getting a quote. Bruce Graff stated he talked to them this afternoon and stated one quote was to bring equipment down, if using our equipment, it will be cheaper, but not to exceed \$6,800.00. Bruce stated we are still getting permit fees for \$50.00 and being it is not being used.....Mr. Bradley stated it is something that needs to be done and eventually we could start being cited for it. Bruce Graff stated we had three years to decide what we were going to do with it. Mr. Bradley stated we need to move forward before we start getting fined for this. Mr. Bradley thanked Bruce for everything he does.

MOTION- Mr. Bradley made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to remove the gas tank not to exceed \$6,800.00.

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

Mr. Bradley stated the space provided for clean fill is for grass clippings and branches. He stated we are going to run out of space this is for yard waste from your home, we are providing a place to put it. He said it is completely out of control, there are trees and branches.

Mayor Slaby questioned Mr. Bradley when the Borough started to allow that. Mr. Bradley replied he could not answer. Mayor Slaby stated for the longest time when you drive down off the roadway there was dumping there and now you are pretty much telling me there is a landfill.

Mr. Bradley replied it was never intended to be a landfill, he added he has been here twenty years and you could always take your grass clippings. Mayor Slaby questioned if we are going to have the same thing as along Trevorton Road, when it catches on fire.

Mr. Bradley stated we have to do something asking if we want to stop it completely. Mayor Slaby stated the problem is nobody follows the rules adding they do not follow the rules at the recycling center. Mayor Slaby stated he does not think it will be any different down there.

Mr. Novakoski stated he feels we should just close it. Mr. Bradley stated in the borough code, he does feel we are somehow obligated to provide a place to dump yard waste, but what the mayor said is true it is becoming a landfill. Mr. Bradley stated it was never intended to be a landfill. Mayor Slaby stated in his opinion we don't need it. Solicitor Greco stated not necessarily would the borough be obligated to provide a place to dump yard waste.

Mr. Novakoski stated he thinks at one time someone may have asked if they could put brush and grass down there and it just grew from there. After more conversation Mr. Motyka suggested we close and revisit this matter in the future.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to shut down the Veterans Memorial field to all clean fill and to keep the chain up.

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

Mr. Motyka stated when you pull into the Veterans Memorial Field there are all those piles where you pull in that makes it look like crap and stated he would like to have that cleaned up as well. Mr. Bradley stated he does not even know who's that is, who is responsible for that.

Mr. Bradley stated for a while they were doing construction work, but now who is responsible for that and stated he does not know how deep we want to get into this adding it is Mt. Carmel Townships. Mr. Bradley stated it is not Kulpmont and stated he does not know why we are spending any money down there doing anything down there and stated let them do it. Mr. Dowkus suggested council move on to the next item.

Mr. Bradley stated many people are interested in gas and stated we don't want to pave the street and then have them ripped back up. He questioned about a UGI survey and possibly avoiding that from happening. Mr. Motyka stated he will provide UGI contact information to Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Bradley questioned where the PUC falls into this because they are supposed to be supporting the taxpayer and stated for people that want to put gas in their homes now is the time to do it, when the street is ripped up and before it is paved. Mayor Slaby stated

the gas line runs from Poplar Street on Eleventh Street all the way to Pine Street. Mayor Slaby stated because of all the controversy over the crematorium he knows that for a fact. Mr. Dowkus commented we will need to give them a call, call UGI.

Mr. Bradley stated we need to discuss, with the expenditures in the street department the possibility of raising taxes and stated sooner or later we will need to raise the taxes. He stated this is something none of us want to talk about and yet it is inevitable. He stated we need a police department; regionalization is not going to happen.

Mr. Bradley stated Bruce needs help, the streets are a mess, we need help, we need more people and the only way it is going to happen is to raise taxes. Mr. Chesney stated he feels we should go with the later and then stated with everything the way it is people are not even going to be able to afford oil this winter let alone to say your taxes are going to go up.

Mr. Chesney stated it is a very bad time in the economy and stated he feels it should be revisited. Mr. Bradley stated this is something we have got to start talking about. Mr. Dowkus stated there is a committee for that and if there is anything to be discussed reach out to the committee.

Mr. Dowkus stated concerning the traffic light, he reached out to Mr. Lyons from PennDOT and did an inspection and our red light is not adequate. He stated a survey has been done and we are going to be able to lengthen the yellow and red light in both directions. He stated once we receive the new controller, we will be fixing that red light and making the borough safer.

FINANCE/PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated there are several volunteer projects starting in the borough and stated next Saturday if some of our workers are available, we would like to start at the new entrance way at the Terry Miriello Field and stated he would like to have purchased 10 ton of stone to have on hand for these projects not to exceed \$500.00.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Hodge to purchase stone not to exceed \$500.00, 10 ton.

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

Mr. Chesney stated based on what is on the agenda he is 100% for anything going to the Terry Miriello field, anything continuing down there for the dog park or whatever, that was established many meetings ago that would be all volunteer money supporting the dog park and everything else.

Mr. Chesney stated he is not for giving any more concrete or anything to the dog park from our coffers because that was set up to be all volunteer and money donated, not from our coffers and stated he just wants to make that point get that out there to the public.

Mr. Bielskie stated he is for the entrance of Terry Miriello, but not for the dog park, no more money. Mr. Chesney stated we said that from the beginning.

Mr. Chesney stated concerning the roads and equipment. He stated since our last meeting he has made quite a few calls to PennDOT, Meckley's, Daniel Craig in Harrisburg and other places and all of them are telling him we should re-check into the spending of that money.

Mr. Chesney stated they said a big part of the purchasing the equipment is the maintenance and when you clean any type of tar equipment you need to scrape it, burn it, use kerosene or something else to clean it. Mr. Chesney stated he just does not know where in the borough they could do this and have kerosene running in the ground and the woods all over the place. Mr. Chesney stated he does not know if we have the ability to maintain.

Mr. Chesney stated he met with a company called Pothole Maintenance and they have gone through town today with Mr. Hodge and himself and looked at a number of potholes. Mr. Chesney stated he will leave materials and information in the office for any Councilmembers or citizens that would like to look at it. He stated the material has been used in Den Mar Gardens, Marion Heights and Mt. Carmel. Mr. Chesney stated one truck comes and will not require our people to do anything.

Mr. Chesney stated eventually we may want to ask Bruce and the guys follow them for a more uniform settling. Mr. Chesney stated one truck comes blows out the hole and then drops down the adhesive, puts down the stone material in the hole and finish the process and they hand tap it and it is serviceable to be driven over with a roller to give it a more consistent compaction. Mr. Bradley then commented, "we should look into us buying one of these trucks." Mr. Chesney stated they come in, they did Mt. Carmel Township and filled in 90 holes for \$5200.00. Mr. Bradley questioned how much does one of those trucks cost. Mr. Chesney replied \$5200.00. Mr. Bradley stated his question is how much to buy the truck. Mr. Chesney replied, he has no idea. Mr. Chesney stated he does not think we need to purchase equipment at this time.

Mr. Dowkus stated again this is something that should be handled by the committee, have a meeting, present the paperwork and then we go from there. Mr. Chesney stated he understands and said that is what he has been asking for and stated again he does not think we need to purchase equipment at this time.

Mr. Chesney stated at the last meeting the money that we are getting, the \$300,000.00 it was said it does not need to be matched. Mr. Chesney stated he wants it on the record that the money we are getting, \$300,000.00 must be matched. He continued to say in the newspaper on June 28th it read Coal Township submitted an application requesting

money, but the match was too high, and they could not meet it. Mr. Chesney stated municipalities receiving money must match. Mr. Chesney stated Stephen is working on it that we have the money to match and just wants everyone to know it is a matching grant.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Joseph Dowkus)

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to advertise the Red X Ordinance.

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

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve by resolution the Northumberland County Act 167 stormwater ordinance.

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

GRANTS/RECREATION – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated they had a meeting on July 8th on the MAP program which will lead to zoning in our community. He stated it was an initial meeting and the group is going to do a lot of the preliminary work and we may be reaching out to citizens for a survey. He stated it is in the initial stages and it can come into land use and things of that nature.

Mr. Chesney stated concerning the 902 recycling grant we need to meet and see what we may want to apply for and then contact and meet with Joe Delgrippe and see what we may qualify for, based on our recycling. He stated we will refer this to the committee.

Mr. Chesney stated we will look at very low volume traffic roads and see if we may be able to get some money to help fix those up. Mr. Chesney stated the committee could check that out.

Mr. Novakoski commented on the zoning stating they do the survey, but it is going to take time.

PERSONNEL- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

No Report

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Adam Pell of 4 Lamplight Acres questioned if roadwork is on the list for lamplight acres and stated it is a mess. Mr. Bradley stated he has a list of roads that need to be paved and a list the PennDOT took a look at that have not been addressed yet.

Mr. Pell stated he also has a check donation from he and his father for the fire company and asked who it may be given to. Council directed him to give it to Ray Siko who was in attendance of the meeting this evening.

Bob Scicchitano of 525 Spruce Street stated he is one of the owners of the recent fires and thanked the first responders on the June 1st fire. He stated his property was a total loss. Mr. Scicchitano stated the insurance company squared up with him and money is being held until the property is clean up. He stated the problem is the other side is a half double and the gentleman is not a resident of Pennsylvania and does not have insurance.

Mr. Scicchitano stated all owners that's property was involved with this fire want to tear the properties down, the gentleman uninsured is hoping his will come down with it when he has his demolished. Mr. Scicchitano stated he has done everything asked of him, registered as a landlord, paid his taxes, immediately boarded it up after the fire and stated he could have it ripped down by the end of July, but we are dealing with this uninsured, out of state property owner.

Mr. Scicchitano stated he has no idea how long this will sit and be a hazard. Mayor Slaby stated he sympathizes with him. Mr. Scicchitano stated if there are any questions for him, he will be happy to come here to a meeting and address them and welcomed council to reach out to him with any questions.

Nick Bozza 1121 Scott Street is here on behalf of Barry Potchakilo. He stated 1136 Scott, you need to walk back there and take a look, park your vehicle and walk back, there are animal carcasses and pigeons are going into windows knocked out. He stated he does not know what kind of animals, but animals are bedding in the yard.

Mr. Bozza stated the people that owned this property cut trees and just piled brush and animals live in there. Mr. Bozza asked if council would please address this and commented it is bad. Mr. Bradley questioned if the realtor has that property listed if they are obligated to address this and have any responsibility at all. Solicitor Greco replied "no."

Mr. Chesney stated he would just like to mention, the Mother Pauline Center in Kulpmont has been declared a shrine by the Bishop of Harrisburg over the weekend.

Mr. Bielskie announced Council will now meet in executive session for contractual and litigation matters.

Solicitor Greco stated Council met in executive session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss contractual and litigation matters.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to try the black top truck, Pothole Maintenance and see how it works out to repair the streets not to exceed \$6,000.00.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on August 10, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

The July 13, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Approval date August 10, 2022