

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
SPECIAL MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSE
MARCH 30, 2022
7:00 PM**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Robert Chesney
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday March 30, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Treasurer Paul Niglio, Secretary Rhonda Wilk and Code Officer Heather Owens.

OTHERS PRESENT: None

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

No one spoke

PERSONNEL- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus stated the gentleman that was interviewing with and planning to take a vote on hiring this individual this evening has accepted another position. Mr. Dowkus stated he received this information late in the day, this afternoon. He stated this individual accepted another position before we were able to deliberate his employment.

Mr. Dowkus stated Officer Mazzeo, Mayor Slaby and the personnel committee have been entertaining every idea they possibly could. He stated this candidate was coming from the York area and stated he placed very well in the academy and was obviously a good candidate.

Mr. Dowkus stated two individuals reached out to himself about council sponsoring them, however it could be done. Mr. Dowkus stated the personnel committee, the Mayor and Officer Mazzeo will get together a proposal for these gentlemen going to the academy and put together a proposal on however we agree to work this out.

Mayor Slaby stated he will get together information as soon as possible and stated council will need to be involved with this. Mr. Dowkus asked for anyone watching the

meeting that is interested in working in the Borough to reach out to us.

Mr. Chesney asked what guarantee the Borough does have once they go to the academy that they will stay working with the Borough. Mr. Dowkus stated as of right now, it is just a talking point until we have paperwork and meet as a personnel committee and then with Council and we will then go from there.

Mr. Dowkus stated he also wants to mention he has forwarded some information to Mr. Motyka on a grant for body cams. Mr. Dowkus stated that is something that will be on next months agenda and stated with state mandates and all, that is something that will be brought up.

Mr. Dowkus stated he is sorry to the citizens, and he wishes that we could act a little faster on getting these officers hired, but that is how the cookie crumbles.

Mayor Slaby agreed and stated he is right and stated it is not his fault, Mr. Dowkus fault or anybody here or prior council. Mayor Slaby stated it is not Kulpmont's fault or anyone's fault.

Mayor Slaby stated he says this based on his experience and stated right now he has advertisements out to fill three vacant positions for three officers in the City of Shamokin and stated he is not holding his breath based on his experience.

Mr. Chesney stated he thinks we need to keep beating the bushes for experienced officers.

Mayor Slaby stated he wants to thank Mr. Dowkus for his time and thanks him for inviting him to the meetings.

Mr. Dowkus stated all the information from the borough has been submitted to Mr. Scavery concerning regionalization and we are just waiting for everything to go through.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated we have a Mechanical Devise Ordinance and stated the Sportsman's Club was confused as to why they were billed \$40.00. Mr. Motyka stated on the Ordinance he sees a fee of \$50.00 and questioned if we know when that changed and asked if there is a resolution that changed this ordinance.

Rhonda stated there is documentation that goes back to 2004 and every devise is priced out at different amounts. Mr. Motyka asked the solicitor if that would be a resolution that changes these prices. Solicitor Greco replied he would think so, yes.

Mr. Moytka stated perhaps we could send out a letter asking them what devices they have as we do for landlord rentals. Mayor Slaby stated this goes back to when he was

previously Mayor and stated they would send the police to verify the devices establishments had.

Mr. Motyka stated the Sportsman Club wanted to make sure they were being treated fairly and asked if we are going to do a revisit. Rhonda Wilk stated there is a log already prepared and Mr. Niglio has been gathering updated information. Rhonda explained what happened with them is they were sent a letter in the amount of \$40.00 which was the wrong amount.

Mr. Chesney stated this ordinance states the amount is \$50.00 and stated Council should direct appropriate officials, which would be us to conduct a survey of the Borough of Kulpmont to conduct the number of devices. Mr. Motyka stated, and fee schedules would change through a resolution.

Rhonda Wilk stated she did go back to 2004 and up to 2016 and pricing is different depending on the machine and is per device. Rhonda Wilk stated 2016 was the last time these fees were collected.

Mr. Niglio commented the Sportsman's Club has made payments in the past to us. Mr. Novakoski stated he thinks the pricing needs to be adjusted and stated \$50.00 is a joke. A discussion took place and Mr. Novakoski stated he has counted machines and with the money establishments are taking in he does not think anyone would complain with a pricing adjustment.

Rhonda Wilk stated she could email council the chart log used and added some of the machines are \$100.00 each. Council continued discussion and Mr. Motyka stated he thinks we could leave it be for now and come June or July we could re-visit it once this is behind us. Council members agreed and determined pricing should be increased.

Mr. Moytka stated he received a price quote from Ehrlich to provide vegetation management and spray the top of the stone wall along Ash Street form 7th to 8th Street banks on the East, North, West sides of the field top to bottom at a cost of \$937.00 and the Veterans memorial entire walkway for \$898.00.

MOTION - Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve the contract in the amount of \$1835.00 from Ehrlich to contract them for vegetation control for the stone wall and the walking track.

Mr. Bielskie stated he believes we did that every year. Mr. Motyka replied it stopped a couple years ago.

Mr. Chesney questioned if we got any other price quotes, or we need to get an additional bid. Mayor Slaby replied, "not at the price in this area," and continued to say that is reasonable.

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

Mr. Motyka stated the back stop at the baseball field is currently a dangerous situation and needs to be replace. He stated LSI Specialties, Inc. provided a price quote for removal and replacement of the backstop in the amount of \$1,000.00.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to accept the proposal of \$1,000.00 to remove and replace the backstop at the baseball field

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

Mr. Bradley stated he also said while he was up there, he would do a couple other things, included in that price, he will put a new rope on the flagpole.

Mr. Bradley stated he has an emergency purchase and stated the leaf blower quit and stated he received a quote for \$479.99 for a new one and asked if we just want to put it on the agenda for the next meeting or what.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to purchase a leaf blower for a cost of \$479.99.

Solicitor Greco stated this is as an emergency purchase as it is not on the agenda.

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

Mr. Motyka stated Bruce also asked that an emergency purchase be made to purchase cutting edges, blades for the plow. He stated with the last storm and the ice that came through they ruined our blades, and a price was received to purchase a replacement in the amount of \$584.00.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to make the emergency purchase for cutting edges at a cost of \$584.00.

Mr. Chesney questioned if we did not just get those. Mr. Bradley replied we did and stated they do not last long. Mr. Bradley stated he is going to take them to school and see if he could build them up so we can have them for a back up emergency.

Mr. Bradley stated he does not have the hardened material they use but he could build them up so there is a spare. Mr. Bradley stated the hardware is very expensive and when you purchase them the hardware comes with them. Mr. Bradley stated he cannot promise

anything but before he retires, he is going to make an attempt to build some of them up, so we have some spares.

Mr. Bradley stated they are not a straight piece of steel there is a radius on the end. He continued to say they are very unique, and they don't last long, especially in the alleys in Kulpmont, nothing is flat and that is one reason why they wear out so quick.

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

Mr. Motyka asked if everyone has seen the letter about the emergency firetruck repairs, we will need to know the cost so we could address that. Mr. Chesney questioned if they periodically check on all the features of the truck as preventative maintenance or do, they just wait until the annual inspection.

Mr. Dowkus stated he made a schedule for the street department, a preventative maintenance schedule. Mr. Dowkus stated he did not do so for the Fire Department and added that possibly is something they could work together with them to do so. Mr. Novakoski stated sometimes they know something is going on with the truck and they like to get it fixed right away.

Solicitor Greco questioned if Council is making a motion for that. Mr. Chesney stated it is already there for an inspection, we don't know what the bill is yet.

Mayor Slaby stated an email was sent out to Council by the Kulpmont 100 about a monument that was once outside the old municipal building. Mayor Slaby stated the monument was placed after Conrad Domchock was killed. A discussion took place as to where it possibly would be able to be located and placed.

Mayor Slaby stated he understands why itty was placed in proximity to where this occurred but do, we really want to place this out in front of this building. Mr. Niglio stated we may need to take a bench out to do so.

Mr. Motyka stated in his eyes he believes there are three options for it and stated we could put it out front as is or put former municipal building and put it at the recycle center or it goes in the trash, and we don't put it at all.

Mayor Slaby stated we are going to need to talk about it. Mr. Motyka stated to change the wording we will need to get an etcher. A discussion took place concerning who may possibly do the rewording. Mr. Dowkus agreed to reach out to them.

Mr. Dowkus stated on April 23rd they are going to be doing some clean up for earth day at the Veterans Memorial Field and stated we are also going to be doing some planting at the pollination garden. Mr. Dowkus stated we have a lot more to do there and have it lined up with the educational grant.

Mr. Chesney asked everyone to think about the possibility of considering some sort of donation for Ukraine for the next meeting.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

**RHONDA WILK
SECRETARY**

Date of Approval April 13, 2022