

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
May 8, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Robert Chesney
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday May 8, 2019

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

ABSENT: none

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

PRESENT: Chief Foust, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Rose Bielskie, Susan Williams, Bernadette Fanella, Joe Politza, Bruce Graff, Joe Pancerella, Hope Masser, Teresa Hutnick, Heather Owens, Jessica Mirarchi, Marshall Mirarchi III., Bruno Varano, Stephanie Niglio, Stephen Motyka, Rev. Andrew Stahmer and Joseph Dowkus II.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz announced Treasurer Niglio must leave the meeting early this evening and so we will go to his report first this evening.

TREASURERS REPORT – (Paul A. Niglio)

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

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve and pay the bills.

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

Mr. Chesney questioned the Treasurer if he got the notice for insurance quote. Mr. Niglio stated we get two or three of them every year.

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

Mr. Bruno Varano at 34 S. 10th Street. Mr. Varano stated he applauds the Council on this demolition project and questioned how this will be financed as far as the percentage the Borough will need to pay, the percentage the property owner will pay and the percentage from the county.

Mr. Lutz replied we do not know; the bids have not been taken in yet. Mr. Varano replied he is asking percentages, not exact numbers. Mr. Lutz stated we are going to get \$64,000.00 plus from the county and \$13,000.00 from the property owner and the Borough will make up the difference. Mr. Lutz stated we think the properties may be knocked down for less than that. Mr. Lutz stated the bids will be opened May 29th at 2:00 p.m. here at the Borough.

Mr. Varano questioned who is going to retain ownership of the Property. Mr. Lutz replied the Borough. Mr. Varano asked if it does not go to the County but to the Borough.

Mr. Lutz stated his understanding is once the property is cleaned up if we were to sell it, then we would need to reimburse the County. Mr. Lutz stated they have been very receptive to if we would go ahead and sell it and take the money and knock down another building, they have been very receptive to that.

Mr. Lutz stated beside these two buildings, there are ten others that we have been citing all along and there is an investigation going on by the police and the fire department and if the investigation proves out, we will file public nuisance charges adding, second degree misdemeanor charges filed. Mr. Lutz said after those 10 there are ten more adding it takes time.

Mr. Lutz stated the bid specs for the two properties state the buildings will need to be knocked down by July 4th.

Mr. Chesney stated he would like to add that Mr. Christiana and Mr. Mack have been very helpful and friendly in helping the Borough with this matter. Mr. Chesney stated we have been in contact with them for many months now adding they are very excited that our Borough is going forward with this.

Mr. Chesney stated in the future they are more than willing to help us with other properties. Mr. Chesney stated hopefully the owners will not just abandoned the buildings and stated if we are going to do anything they must do their share. Mr. Chesney stated that is why this property owner will be paying \$13,000.00 toward the demolition. Mr. Chesney stated we are going to stay on it.

Mrs. Stephanie Niglio of 415 Spruce Street stated she has some questions with regard to the speeding issues under the Mayors report. She stated she would like to know why the pedestrian signs were not put out in the Borough.

Mrs. Niglio directed a question to the Solicitor asking if a motion is made with regard to anything that this board approves at any point and time, in any given year or month if that motion stands. Solicitor Greco replied until it is changes by further..... Mrs. Niglio interjected and then replied, "exactly." Mrs. Niglio questioned if this board changed or made a motion to not put pedestrian devices out in the Borough. Solicitor Greco replied he does not believe there was ever a motion to that affect. Mrs. Niglio replied, you are incorrect, your wrong because I have a copy of the motion right here, there was a motion to put pedestrian devices in this Borough.

The Solicitor then replied no he stated he is not refuting that adding what he is saying is he does not recall this Council making a motion to not put them out. Mrs. Niglio stated then a motion to put them out would stand. Solicitor Greco replied, "sure, absolutely."

Mrs. Niglio then said they are not out, and the motion reads April 1st., and said if you were going to entertain a motion to not put the devices out for the citizens safety in this Borough then you should have another program in place. Mr. Chesney stated there is one out in the west end of town..... Mrs. Niglio interjected and replied that is not the correct way to do it. Mr. Chesney stated we are looking into getting those diagonal..... Mrs. Niglio interjected and stated that is irrelevant because if that program is not in place then the pedestrian devises should have been out and if you don't have enough you could have got some from PennDOT, free of charge.

Mr. Fanella then stated that was done last year, we got all new ones. Mr. Fanella stated he did a survey on them and people say they don't work, and they get in the way. Mrs. Niglio replied that is irrelevant you need to make a motion from this board.

MAYORS REPORT- (Nicholas Bozza)

Mayor Bozza stated they did meet with PennDOT last week about the speeding in town, the congestion, crosswalk sign issues etc....

Mayor Bozza stated the pedestrian signs do slow vehicles down, he stated he is not a big fan of them. Mayor Bozza stated if they improve the safety of the citizens, then he is all for it.

Mayor Bozza stated they asked to lower the speed limits in all directions. Mrs. Niglio replied when she was on Council she had them lowered. Mayor Bozza replied he is looking to lower them more. Mayor Bozza stated PennDOT does not think it will be a problem to put the signs on the sidewalks with the arrows, it is going to take time, but they are looking into it. Mayor Bozza stated he also spoke with Senator Gordner and he stated we have his support.

Mayor Bozza stated he is waiting to hear back from PennDOT. Mayor Bozza added he inquired about a red light at Turkey Hill, and the cost would be very expensive, and all costs would fall onto the Borough and so that is not a consideration. Mayor Bozza stated he is trying to get the crosswalk signs on the sidewalks with the arrows, we told them what corners we wanted them on, they are going to do a study and we are waiting to hear back.

Mayor Bozza stated there will be a flag distribution and a concert held at the American Legion sponsored by the Kulpmont 100 on May 25th. Mayor Bozza stated he donated his Mayor pay to buy over 1000 American Flags and stated anyone needing a flag to come on up that day, there will be food and drinks it will be a good time.

Mayor Bozza stated they are taking donations for signs for on the blocks in the Borough and asked anyone interested in donating for a sign on their block to contact Hope from the Crime Watch or himself.

Mayor Bozza stated he was contacted by Liam Bradly from 254 Boy Scout Troop adding he is going to be an Eagle Scout and stated he must do a community project. Mayor Bozza stated he will take the lead and get two or three Scouts to help, he gets the donations to complete the project and they do the work.

Mayor Bozza suggest a good project would be to power wash and paint the Gazebo. Bruce Graff stated it was last painted five years ago. Mr. Lutz stated Councilman Fanella will get with the Mayor on this project. Mayor Bozza stated he will contact him and let him know if it is a go. Mayor Bozza then stated the Boy Scouts will supervise.

The Solicitor stated a motion is not needed because we would not be spending any money but suggest checking if they could provide liability insurance adding his concern is that they would be more than just a common visitor.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Approval is needed on the April 10,2019 monthly meeting minutes

MOTION- a motion was made by Mr. Fanella and seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve the March 13, 2019 regular monthly meeting minutes.

VOICE VOTE – Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from the Kulpmont Crime Watch on the National Night out Tuesday August 6th and asked permission to use Kulpmont Stadium at 8th Street, Copied Mayor/Council

A short discussion took place and the Police Chief Nathan Foust and Hope form Crime Watch are going to get together and discuss options on the National Night Out.

Mr. Lutz stated so we are clear, Council supports this but asked that once the discussion on combining the National Night Out and location is agreed upon to communicate that back to Council in a week or so.

Mr. Lutz stated one concern is taking heavy equipment up there on the field and there are no restrooms there and we want to make sure we have an appropriate venue.

Rhonda Wilk stated Kulpmont 100 is requesting to close Fir Street between 8th and 9th Streets from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday June 29th for the Brew Fest.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve Kulpmont 100 to close Fir Street between 8th and 9th Streets. Copied Mayor/Council

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Holy Angels is requesting permission in writing to Close the 800 block of Fir Street behind Holy Angels Property on August 2nd 3:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. and August 3rd 3:00 p.m. – midnight, Copied Mayor Council.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve Holy Angels to close 800 block of Fir Street on August 2nd and 3rd during the requested hours.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Holy Angels requesting permission for firework display to be held August 3rd beginning at 10:00 p.m. Rhonda Wilk stated a copy of liability insurance was received and on file in the Borough office. Copied Mayor/Council

MOTION - Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to grant permission for the firework display by Holy Angels on August 3rd beginning at 10:00 p.m.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Kulpmont Knights of Columbus Wine Festival is requesting permission to use the Veterans Memorial Field for parking on October 12, 2019 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Copied Mayor/Council

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the Knights of Columbus use of the Veterans Memorial Field for parking for the Wine Fest.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Correspondence was received from Solicitor Greco in regard to PA Labor Relations Board letter dated April 10th, Copied to Mayor/Council

Correspondence was received from the Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau in regard to the upcoming Judicial Sale, Copied, Mayor/Council

A letter was received from Laborers International Union of North America Local 1310 to begin contract negotiations. Copied Mayor/Council

Rhonda Wilk stated a letter was received from Kulpmont Sportsmen's Association on the upcoming Fish Derby for area youth and added they are requesting a donation.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to donate \$100.00 for the Kulpmont Sportsmen's Association Youth Fish Derby

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

A letter was received from Marybeth Goretsky and Richard Greco, Copied Mayor/Council and Solicitor.

Mr. Lutz stated the correspondence received from Marybeth Goretsky and Richard Greco was a letter requesting some land next to their property and so, we will need to go check that out, it is a paper street.

The Solicitor discussed with Council to do that Council would need to pass an ordinance in doing that, joining property owners would need to consent, advertisements would be placed in newspapers and so it is not just Council making a motion and there is an expense in doing that.

The Solicitor stated there is a bit of work involved and many time municipalities will tell the property owner they would need to reimburse for any involved costs. Mr. Lutz thanked the Solicitor for the information and then commented "it is involved."

Rhonda Wilk stated there was a late correspondence received from the American Legion on a Celebration to be held on May 25th for their 100th birthday, Copied Mayor/Council

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

The Solicitor stated there is a lot of activity on the Powell property, trying to move the bid specs along. Solicitor Greco stated it has taken up a good bit of time, title searches were done and to make sure the property is free and clear although there are some back taxes owed.

Solicitor Greco stated if we are going to take over the property we want to make sure it is free and clear; the back taxes will be paid at the time of closing.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – Nathan Foust)

Police Report Attachment #2

Chief Foust stated last month was a slower month, he stated there is a higher number in the assist category adding he has explained why that is an issue.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Fire Chief Report Attachment #3

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O' Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

No Report

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

Report Attachment #4

Mr. Bielskie announced that it is grass cutting season and reminded residents grass must be cut and grass 6" or higher are a violation and stated there are no more warnings, you will be cited for grass 6" or higher.

Mr. Bielskie stated there are homes accumulating garbage and dumpsters are over full and are not getting emptied. Mr. Bielskie stated they have been out checking for violations and will continue to patrol for violations.

Mr. Bielskie stated concerning rentals, we have been having some problems and issues with tenants. He stated landlords need to know the borough ordinance does not allow for some of these situations. He stated there is a three strike and your out policy and stated

when there are three police reports on tenants of a rental property there are penalties and landlords need to be aware.

Mr. Chesney questioned a correspondence from Seven Mountains EMS Council stating that May 19th - 25th to be medical emergency services week and questioned Marshall Mirarchi if they received anything like that.

Mr. Mirarchi replied that it is more like for EMS Advisors, for personnel such as Area Services and Elysburg, something like that to recognize personnel.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella announced the Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday June 15th from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. and the Rain date will be Saturday June 22nd.

Mr. Fanella thanked Kulpmont 100 for the new flags. Mr. Fanella also thanked Manny Giorgini for the use of his high lift to help Bruce and the guys to put the flags up.

Mr. Fanella stated food surplus will be held on May 23, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella stated the old dump truck, the one that we will replace is in need of some attention and asked Bruce Graff to explain the situation.

Bruce Graff stated the dump truck will need a gas tank adding after this month the inspection will be out and so to have it inspected we will need a new gas tank. Bruce Graff stated one gas tank was quoted at \$350.00 and the other tank was quoted at \$625.00, Bruce stated we are not sure which tank is the correct one and so the price may vary.

Mr. Lutz questioned when the new truck is supposed to be here. Bruce Graff replied not until January.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Slaby to spend up to \$650.00 for a gas tank for the dump truck.

Mr. Slaby questioned Bruce Graff if this is a price for a new tank and not a used one. Mr. Slaby asked if all the paperwork has been submitted and confirmation was received that a new truck is approved. Bruce Graff replied that is what he is being told adding Mr. Fanella told him we should have the truck in January.

Mr. Slaby questioned if we took this vehicle out of service if that leaves two in service. Bruce replied that is correct. Mr. Slaby questioned how old the vehicle is. Bruce Graff replied 16 years old. Bruce Graff stated he needs the truck for the winter and it could be a problem if one of the other truck's breakdown, he only has one truck to plow and salt.

Mr. Slaby stated this is what happens when you leave equipment, hold onto it for long periods of time, you risk this and now the borough must dish out \$650.00 to survive until January.

Mr. Fanella stated the cost may be higher than that adding Bruce just gave him a signal, up higher. Bruce Graff stated there is also motor problems also. Mr. Chesney said we do not need the truck tomorrow.

SUBSIDIARY MOTION – Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Slaby to table the purchase of the gas tank for the dump truck until more information on the cost of the motor repairs are obtained.

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

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to spend \$200.00 to purchase flowers to plant at the town park.

Mr. Fanella questioned Mr. Malakoski on if he was interested in planting the flowers and stated if or if not, we have help available for you. Mr. Malakoski replied he and his wife would like to plant the flowers.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (abstain), SINOPOLI (yes), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS – 1 abstain

Mr. Fanella stated we need to talk about 6th and Fir Street pipe, we need to discuss repairing. Mr. Lutz stated we will need to get our engineer involved. Mr. Lutz questioned the Solicitor on if a motion would be needed for professional services. The Solicitor replied “no, not just for professional services.”

Mr. Lutz stated the pipe goes underneath the street and it collapsed on the top and the pipe is collapsing, and it has been like that from 2009 and we need to do something. Mr. Lutz said very preliminarily we got a price of about \$52,000.00. Mr. Lutz stated we need to have the engineer scope it out and once it gets over \$19,900.00 we need to get specs and bid it out. He added we just want to let the community know that is a big project coming up.

Mr. Fanella stated we are going to have people submit their bids for the paving of the lot paid from the grant money we received for the recycling. Mr. Fanella stated we will need to advertise for bids. Mr. Lutz explained we are going to pave that whole area and stated there is also a water problem we need to look at there.

Mr. Fanella stated we could get quotes for the sidewalks, Mr. Fanella stated he is looking to get three quotes. Mr. Lutz explained the site will be paved, sidewalks put in and the

area will be fenced making it nice for people to get in there with their recycling items. Mr. Lutz explained if a cost is from \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00 we need to get three quotes, if it is over \$20,000.00 then we need to go to a formally bidding process, have specs, bids and all of that. Mr. Lutz stated we are moving forward on it.

Mr. Fanella stated concerning that water leak at the outside of the borough garage, we want to get rid of that water before we pave.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to pay Smith Burial vault \$1,725.00 to fix the water leak at the outside of the Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella stated that will be considered site prep, so that money could go toward the grant.

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

FINANCE/PURCHASING– (Robert Slaby)

Mr. Slaby stated we have gotten some information together over the last couple of weeks regarding the subject we have been speaking about here over the last couple of months. Mr. Slaby state he has spoken with Mr. Lutz, members of Council, Mr. Chesney and the Chief of Police and Mayor Bozza just before we came in here this evening.

Mr. Slaby stated he would like a motion from council to proceed in purchasing a new police car for the Borough. He stated we have had several discussions that you cannot keep running a police car with a full-time police department, particularly with a lot of miles on as he understands by speaking with Chief Foust and Mayor Bozza.

Mr. Slaby stated in discussing this with Mr. Chesney, with a combination of funds an application is going to be submitted to the USDA. Mr. Slaby stated the purchase of this 2018 vehicle is a Tahoe, which is readily available is going to be complete with the stripping and could be delivered the third week of July. He states this vehicle is going to cost the borough \$51,000.00 and said we are hoping the USDA would approve at least 55% of that.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to purchase a new police car for the department at a cost of \$51,000.00.

Mr. Lutz stated there is potentially a USDA grant that we will apply for and we can't get a clear answer as to if it is a grant or a loan. Mr. Lutz stated he looked into a lease and the interest rate was 6.9% and he stated he contacted various banks and we probably could get a loan for 3.9%.

Mr. Lutz stated we can put a \$15,000.00 down payment on the police car. He stated we can make a motion to buy it and then we can negotiate with the banks and say if we get this grant we will take out that portion of it.

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

Mayor Bozza stated with that said, we are going to need a letter of commitment to rapid response. Mr. Lutz replied he will have the letter tomorrow.

Solicitor Greco stated as Mr. Slaby is aware, before you borrow the money there is a small borrowing approval you need to get from DCED, the earlier you get working on that...it is not something we can do within two days. Mr. Lutz replied we will do that and stated we are going to get in touch with USDA people tomorrow. Mr. Lutz said the application came through and its s about 100 pages, we are going to do that tomorrow and then go from there.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated we have two additional blight properties we are looking at on Chestnut Street. Mr. Bielskie stated we are also looking at some options and ideas for the repair of the stone wall on Ash Street. Mr. Bielskie stated if worse comes to worse, people are complaining about rocks falling and so he suggests to possibly make that street one way for now and they will not be able to go that close to it.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (George Malakoski)

No Report

GRANTS/RECREATION –

Mr. Lutz stated Councilman Fanella filled in all of the craters down at the baseball field adding the place needs some tender loving care. He stated he is going to ask for a motion to donate \$1000.00 to repair the concession stand down there, that would be a start. Mr. Lutz stated the scoreboard does not work, no flag pole, the batting cages need repair and stated Mr. Fanella is going to look into getting water down there.

Mr. Lutz stated they have a booster organization but from what he understands they have \$50.00. Mr. Lutz stated some people say that is the school district, but Mr. Lutz said we are part of the school district.

Mr. Fanella stated there was a Mennonite construction company in town today and he was going to go down and measure the roof on the concession stand and get back to him.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to donate \$1000.00 to fix up the concession stand.

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

Mr. Lutz stated he would like to have authorization from the council to send out a letter to solicit contributions for repairs at the Veteran Memorial Field. Mr. Lutz stated we would have strict accounting of any donations and have that information available to anyone that would like to view it.

Mr. Slaby stated years back the school district would assist the borough to a certain degree with that field and stated he assumes that is not happening now. Mr. Slaby stated he believes there was a 99-year lease drawn up adding he does not remember the wording. Mr. Slaby asked that someone could look into that. The Solicitor replied that was just redone this past year with similar terms that the school district and the Borough are going to work together adding the spirit of it is that the school district would be notified before given a bill.

Mr. Slaby then stated he is not opposed to it; the school district does use it and yes, we are part of that district. Mr. Lutz stated there is a motion to spend \$1000.00 and we need a motion to send letters out to solicited contributions for repairs at the Veterans Memorial Field. Mr. Slaby stated he does not think it would hurt for two or three members of Council to get together with members of the school board. The Solicitor stated the meeting is next Thursday. Mr. Lutz stated Councilman Slaby will be our lead on that. Mr. Slaby stated he will call.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion to send letters out to solicit contributions for repairs at the Veterans Memorial Field and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli.

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

Mr. Lutz stated he would like to give everybody an update on the football field adding they spoke to the Veterans at the American Legion for access from the American Legion side to up above where the old bleachers were to put in a parking lot at the football field.

Mr. Lutz stated we will contact Susquehanna Coal Company to see about getting access from the Marion Heights hill side. Mr. Lutz stated the main reason for it is that if you go up there when they are playing football if you needed to get an emergency vehicle through you just couldn't get through and so this would provide access. Mr. Lutz stated we also intend on planting the hill where the bleachers were adding Council will keep everyone advised.

PERSONNEL- (Michael Sinopoli)

No Report

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

Mr. Chesney stated the fire report did not include a lot of calls which is great news.

Mr. Chesney stated applications are still being accepted to fill the open police officer position and we are going to keep that open for some time and hope to get candidates to join our force. Mr. Chesney stated the police are doing a great job and are trying to do their best with the hours we are supplying.

Mr. Chesney stated we are still actively trying to organize a meeting with the fire personnel. Mr. Chesney stated we are going to sit down once again with the police department as we like to do once in a while just to see what concerns they have and what we should be concerned about. Mr. Chesney stated one concern was the car and that was taken care of.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Bruno Varano of Kulpmont stated he would like to know what the qualifications are to receive a load of millings and how to go about getting it. Mr. Varano stated he has seen it has been distributed to J & S who re-processes it and re-sells it and stated he is asking for a load for the Jan Sobieski club. Mr. Lutz asked Mr. Varano to send Council a letter.

Mr. Fanella replied when J & S gets millings off of the Borough we get trade of services, last year when we got that tree taken the cost was \$3,500.00 and we got that job done for millings. Mr. Fanella this year between my pond and your pond we are going to get the piles leveled off, rock-hound and seeded. Mr. Fanella stated he does not get them for nothing. Mr. Fanella when we need a load of top soil we get it for no cost. Mr. Lutz agreed with Mr. Fanella that it is a tradeoff.

Mr. Motyka of Scott Street stated he is on the Mt. Carmel recreation committee. Mr. Motyka stated the committee is having a national night out at the Mt. Carmel Pool. Mr. Motyka mentioned that three or four years ago he was in contact with Susquehanna Coal and so Council may want to look up that information and stated letters are also on file to the Mount Carmel School Board and so Council may want to look them up and will not need to start from scratch concerning the agreement with the School Board.

Father Andrew of Holy Angels Parish stated he has been here for about 11 years and stated he feels at home because it reminds him of Baltimore where he grew up. He stated for many years we had the pedestrian signs and his concern is that it should be recognized that there is pedestrian crossings and vehicles should stop. Father Andrew stated he feels

the signs should be out and stated he feels they serve a great purpose. He stated for those who know him when he steps off that curb he does not care how close the cars are he puts his hand out and walks slow. He asked what the cost is of a red light or flashing light. They Mayor replied the cost is very expensive. Father Andrew in closing expressed his concern and favoring the pedestrian signs being placed at the crosswalks and is in favor of the speed limit being lowered.

Mr. Dowkus of 1135 Poplar Street stated at the last meeting it was discussed on locking the Veterans Memorial Field during the evenings and asked what the status is on that.

The Mayor replied he talked with Councilman Fanella about that and stated he really cannot get into detail about it. A discussion took place about using game cameras. Mr. Dowkus stated in using game cameras, you would need to lock them to the trees because they would get stolen.

Mr. Dowkus stated he participated in the clean up down at the field and stated there was a great turn out and stated they had 2000 pounds of garbage and a truck load of tires adding they could have had more.

Mr. Dowkus said he spoke to Mr. Lutz yesterday and stated down at the corner of 11th and Wood Street there is garbage whether it is eroded or pushed over with dirt however or whatever it is there. Mr. Dowkus stated it is on township property and we have to go through the avenues on how to handle that situation.

Mr. Dowkus asked Council to let him know whatever they need to do he will be down there to help dig it out or whatever. He stated mosquito season will be here and it is a hazard.

Mr. Dowkus stated the other place is behind B & B, it is a mess down there, old TV's, hazardous stuff that you could get cut on, there are 5-gallon buckets down there and who knows what is in them adding he is sure it is not just soupy oil. Mr. Dowkus stated it is something we must look at.

Mr. Lutz agreed that it is awful and stated we are going to send a letter to the township and see if we could work together to clean the place up. He stated it is awful and for some reason people have decided that it is alright to throw and dump there. Mr. Lutz stated we are going to try to do surveillance at these places. Mr. Lutz stated he went along with the code officer on patrols in the borough and went two blocks and had 15 citations written.

Marshal Mirarchi of 1212 Scott Street addressed the police department and stated last Thursday he had a situation with his neighbor stating he proceeded to put his fist through the door in front of his children and bleed all over the place. Mr. Mirarchi stated his 8-year-old son no longer wants to play outside in his backyard because he is afraid of this gentleman. Mr. Mirarchi stated he wanted to thank the police department adding they do an absolutely phenomenal job and stated they do not get the credit they deserve. He

stated their response time was prompt and they deescalated the situation. Mr. Mirarchi stated the property was purchase and is owned by someone from California. He stated since this owner has had the property the police have been there at least a half a dozen time's at least.

Mr. Mirarchi stating last year when he and his family were away and when they returned the house was surrounded by police with guns drawn because there were squatters there that should not have been there, when the police arrived one of them took his girlfriend and locked themselves in a bedroom and would not come out. He stated he thinks Council is doing a good job overall but asks for Council to get tougher on the landlords and the three police calls and all. Mr. Mirarchi stated ultimately the only way to get the town the way we want it to be is to get rid of the slum lords.

Mr. Bielski replied that main thing is the police and the code official must inform the property owner.

Mr. Lutz replied Council understands and stated there are some other things they cannot discuss in a public meeting but reassured him they get it. Mr. Lutz stated they are looking to get some of the blighted buildings down adding with everyone down, everyone's property value goes up. Mr. Bielskie commented that will also make it safer for everybody.

Mr. Lutz stated Council agrees the police are terrific and stated half of our budget goes toward the police, they need a car and we get them a car. Mr. Lutz stated we are trying very hard to get that fourth officer, we are going to have to go back at it there is all kind of financial considerations now with that fourth person.

Mr. Slaby stated he wanted to comment on the subject Father Andrew spoke of earlier. Mr. Slaby said on his way to the meeting this evening at the post office there was a young boy standing off the curb in the gutter and stated he saw the little boy wanting to cross, nobody was stopping. Mr. Slaby stated as he was proceeding to that intersection there was a big black truck coming in the other direction. Mr. Slaby stated he intentionally drifted into the other lane and laid on the horn because he thought for sure that young child was going to get flattened right there adding it would be very, very sad in here tonight. Mr. Slaby stated he agrees with Father Andrew it is dangerous.

Mr. Lutz stated the crosswalks need to be enforced and stated they gave some information to the Mayor and the police department that they have lots of overtime available adding the police force, they are busy people. Mr. Lutz stated Council will get together and they are going to talk and will have a report for the next meeting.

Mrs. Stephanie Niglio questioned Council on a bill from GSP Marketing Inc. for \$1,897.79 listed to be paid if anyone could tell her what that is. Rhonda Wilk replied that she believes that is a bill for the truck recycling tarps, and then stated the Treasurer has left the meeting and that he took the bills along.

Susan Williams of 1150 Scott Street questioned the trouble on retaining police officers. Mr. Lutz stated we know we are not paying what the surrounding communities are paying. Mayor Bozza added that surrounding communities are also looking for officers.

Mr. Lutz stated if we went ahead and put the starting wages up for the starting officer, we must take care of the other three officers and so if we start at \$18.00 and go to \$19.00 dollars that one dollar is about \$2,500.00 more and so now you have four so your up to \$10,000.00, \$12,000.00 and so we need to go ahead and look at the budget, we are forecasting a deficit this year adding so far we are alright.

Mr. Lutz stated he thinks the community at large would say if you need to spend money spend money on the police. Susan Williams stated Elysburg does not have trouble at all with the speeding through town at all. Mr. Lutz stated how you retain jobs, pay them more money and so we need to see what we can do, and we will do the best that we can. Mr. Lutz added that car is \$51,000.00. Mr. Lutz stated it is incredible the amount of time officers must spend in court as well.

Mayor Bozza questioned Council on the crosswalks and said a decision has not been made on placing the pedestrian signs at the crosswalks. Mr. Lutz stated we are going to talk about because as what was told there was a motion and so he stated he wants to read that motion.

OLD BUSINESS –

None

NEW BUSINESS-

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming events

May 12th Mother's Day

May 25th Live Concert at Kulpmont American Legion

May 27th Memorial Day Parade. Thank a Veteran and visit the Cemetery

June 15th Community Yard Sale

June 16th Kulpmont Car Cruise

June 29th Kulpmont 100 Brew Fest 12 noon – 5:00 p.m. at Holy Angels Picnic Grounds

August 2nd and 3rd Holy Angels Parish Picnic
October 12th Kulpmont Knights of Columbus Wine Festival 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary

Date of Approval _____