

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Robert Slaby
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday November 13, 2019

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

ABSENT: Mayor Bozza

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

PRESENT: Chief Foust, Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk, Code Officer Heather Owens, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Barry Fetterman, MarySue Mirrarck, Rose Bielskie, Joseph V. Dowkus II, James Cipriani, Joe Politza, Corrine L. Klose, Dorothy Riffert, Lisa Xander and Russ Moroz.

Mr. Lutz stated we have the Kulpmont Cougars here with us and stated we would like to acknowledge them on their season as “Nanny Miller Bowl Champions.”

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made a motion to adopt Resolutions 745, 746, 747 and 748 for the Kulpmont Cougar A and B Football Team and the Kulpmont Cougar A and B Cheerleaders.

VOICE VOTE- Unanimous

Mr. Lutz presented Resolutions to the Kulpmont Cougar A and B Football Teams and Cheerleaders and their Coaches.

After presentation of the resolutions, Mr. Lutz again congratulated the teams and spoke briefly on their season as Nanny Miller Bowl Champions.

Mr. Lutz then moved on to recognize and show appreciation for Russ Moroz, recently retired Code Official. Mr. Lutz presented Mr. Moroz with a plaque acknowledging his years of service.

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

No one spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz stated the PMHIC Agreement, the Co-Operative Health Insurance language clarification in the agreement. Mr. Lutz briefly explained the language changes and stated Council would need to agree and accept these changes.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion to sign the PMHIC Agreement Amendment, accepting the change in language and was seconded by Mr. Chesney.

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

MAYORS REPORT- (Nicholas Bozza).

Mr. Lutz stated Mayor Bozza is not here this evening as so he will mention some upcoming events that Mayor Bozza has listed on his agenda.

Mr. Lutz stated the Kulpmont 100 & Sportsman’s Club name the deer contest will run from December 1st until December 20th.

The Kulpmont 100 & Sportsman’s annual Santa Sleigh at town park will be held on December 18th.

The Kulpmont 100 will host their 2nd annual house decorating contest this will include all homes on Wood Street.

Mr. Lutz stated the final upcoming event is the Christmas Concert hosted by the Kulpmont 100 to be held at the St. Pauline Center on December 14th. Mr. Lutz stated students from the Catholic Boy’s school in Herndon come up and it is just wonderful and encourages everyone to come.

Mr. Lutz stated these dates are subject to change due to bad weather and that times will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Lutz stated the Mayor also has on his agenda information about a Police Civil Service Training to be held on November 20th in Carlisle. Mr. Lutz stated the cost for the borough as PSAB members is \$150.00. Mr. Lutz stated he does not believe anybody is able to go on the 20th.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed on the October 9, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Malakoski to approve the meeting minutes from the October 9th meeting.

VOICE VOTE

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated Correspondence was received from Chantel Shambach of the Northumberland Conservation thanking the Borough Council and all involved in the 2019 DEP Educational Grant and the Field trip event recently held at the Veterans Memorial Field. Copy Mayor/Council

Correspondence was copied to Mayor/Council on the Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau 2019 Judicial Tax Sale Petition and Scheduled Distribution.

A notice was received from Chevrolet copied to the Police Chief and Service and Facilities.

Rhonda Wilk stated as Mr. Lutz already covered, correspondence was received from the Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative concerning the agreement amendment and was copied to both Mayor/Council.

Correspondence was received from the Commonwealth of PA containing the Flood Mitigation Program Grant Agreement Contract and was copied to Recreation and Grants Committee.

TREASURERS REPORT – (Paul A. Niglio)

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

MOTION- Mr. Malakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Slaby to approve the financial statement and bills to be paid.

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

Mr. Niglio stated Council received a copy of the tentative budget for 2020. Mr. Niglio stated this is the first round and we will have a second-round next month after we get the final figures in for the month of November. Mr. Niglio stated if anyone is contemplating

any changes for 2020 to let him know. Mr. Niglio stated basically it is the same as last year except for the increases put in effect by this council this year. Mr. Niglio stated he goes by historical basis of the last two years of monies that are spent. Mr. Niglio stated it is less than a 1% change of last years budget.

Mr. Niglio stated a motion is needed to approve the tentative budget of General Fund in receipts of \$857,260.00 with expenditures of the same, the highway Fund in receipts of \$93,750.00 with expenditures of the same, and the Police Pension Fund of total funds available of \$348,275.00 with expenditures of \$20,500.00, fund equity of \$348,275.00.

Mr. Niglio stated a motion is needed to approve and adopt the tentative budget for 2020.

Mr. Lutz commented the key word there is “tentative,” there will be another one and then another one.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion to approve and adopt the tentative budget for 2020 and was seconded by Mr. Fanella.

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

Mr. Niglio stated since the tentative budget was approved and there was no tax increase included in the tentative budget adding there is no tax increase included in the tentative budget and stated he does not anticipate one.

Mr. Niglio stated Council received a copy of the tax ordinance for 2020 that will need to be advertised so that we could adopt the tax ordinance at the next meeting.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielski to approve the tax ordinance for 2020 and advertise at the minimum cost.

Mr. Lutz questioned if we need to put an advertisement in the paper before the next meeting. Mr. Niglio stated that the law requires that we advertise the tax ordinance is available for review.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

No Report

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Nathan Foust)

Police Report Attachment #2

Chief Foust stated the Mayor asked him to remind everyone of the Snow Emergency Route and stated winter storm postings will be in The Newspaper and Posted on the Borough website and the Facebook page so that everybody will have the opportunity to receive the information as they wish to receive it.

Chief Foust asked for Mr. Lutz to touch on the Directional Parking.

Mr. Lutz stated directional parking is suspended effective immediately on all Streets running North and South. Mr. Lutz stated this is nothing new and has been done in years past.

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 – (Heather Owens)

Report Attachment #4

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated the food surplus will be held on November 21st from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella suggested we investigate getting quotes on surveillance cameras. He stated we need to look into it at all of our facilities, without going into more.

Mr. Lutz stated kids are breaking into the mill again and so we need to do something down there minimally. Mr. Lutz then said we need to look at the new recycling center. Mr. Lutz stated by next meeting we will have quotes and make a presentation to borough citizens.

Mr. Fanella stated one of our zero turn lawn mowers will need service adding we know that we have an oil leak. Mr. Lutz questioned what the expected cost may be. Bruce Graff stated we will need to take it over and have them look at it. Mr. Lutz questioned if it will be over \$1,000.00. Bruce Graff replied we don't know.

Mr. Fanella stated our sidewalks are completed adding we did a work change order which was \$4,500.00 more. Mr. Fanella stated October of last year we already approved to spend up to \$20,000.00 of concrete on Borough property and so we did a little more work and we are still under the \$20,000.00.

Mr. Fanella stated Coal Township was contacted and permission was received for the borough to clean up and paint the recycling dumpsters that are located at the recycle center. Mr. Fanella stated it would make it look a little nicer, we would need to purchase paint to do so.

MOTION- Mr. Sinopoli made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to spend up to \$300.00 for paint for the dumpsters.

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

Mr. Fanella stated right now we have a trailer set up to collect #1 and #2 plastics in the lot. Mr. Fanella stated we are going to try it again. Mr. Fanella stated the first time we tried it, and garbage was being left and so we are going to try it again. Mr. Fanella stated that will be one of the places that will get surveillance cameras.

Mr. Fanella reminded residents if it is snowing on a scheduled day of curbside recycling to be mindful that there may not be collecting the recyclables. He stated if it is snowing our guys will be plowing and reminded residents, they could check the website for cancellations or updates on recycling.

Mr. Fanella stated we received a few bids on fencing and stated the best deal we got was from Lykens Valley Fencing. Mr. Fanella stated their bid was \$5,327.27. Mr. Fanella stated we do not need a motion to approve the expenditure because we approved spending the grant money for the recycling center.

Mr. Fanella stated he is waiting for another bid for the Terry Miriello Field for the fence that was damaged adding that was an insurance claim. Mr. Fanella stated for now he is going to contact Lykens Valley Fencing for the recycling fencing so that we can finish that project and be reimbursed through the grant.

Mr. Fanella stated originally, we were going to have some lights put up at the Terry Miriello Field and the cost was going to be about \$1500.00. Mr. Slaby had a connection with the IBEW local, and they offered to do it for us, and the cost will be \$341.76 just for the materials.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to purchase the materials needed for the lights.

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

Mr. Fanella stated he received estimate for repair of a hydraulic pump leak and a bent auger on one of our trucks in the amount of \$1670.00 for the repair.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to spend up to \$1700.00 for repair of a hydraulic pump leak and bent auger.

Mr. Lutz stated that is just a wear and tear deal, it is used hard. Mr. Lutz stated we will take a look though, we will see because you never know is it wear and tear or did something happen. Mr. Lutz stated we will do the investigation and if it is just wearing, let's get it fixed and have it ready.

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)

No Report

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie requested a five- or ten-minute executive session at the end of the meeting.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (George Malakoski)

No Report

GRANTS/RECREATION – (Walter Lutz)

No Report

PERSONNEL- (Michael Sinopoli)

No Report

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

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Stephen Motyka of 1471 Scott Street stated as he left council a two years ago, the incoming council was invited to all meetings and stated he hopes the same courtesy is provided to the incoming new members of council.

Mr. Motyka stated with the donation of his salary we should be able to afford a grant for down at the field for \$60,000.00 and stated he would like to get council on board now to meet with the Mount Carmel School District and get a plan in motion so we could meet that March deadline for small community grants. He stated that is a 30% match grant same as was used up at the playground.

Mr. Motyka stated with his \$8,000.00 and the in kind work we could afford a \$60,000.00 project down there.

Mr. Motyka stated if we get council allot more money or the Mount Carmel school district to allot more money you could be looking at a \$150,000.00 project.

Mr. Bielskie responded by saying let's get it in writing, once we get it in writing then we could vote on it. Mr. Bielskie stated we want to know what is going on, what your doing, what it is going to cost us, we want all details on it.

Mr. Slaby questioned Mr. Motyka if he has talked to the school district. Mr. Motyka stated he had contact two years ago, they met in person, a new lease agreement was signed. Mr. Motyka stated it is hard to pull something together in three months and stated he is asking for five months to do that. He stated he could write something up. Mr. Bielskie replied that we just want to know what is going on.

Mr. Rick Perles 1111 Chestnut Street stated he along with his father in-law own about 30 properties in Kulpmont. He stated the problem is since the last election results the parking wasn't enforced for parking behind the garage and stated they cannot get out of the back gate and they stopped doing it. Mr. Perles added until Mr. Lutz lost the election and then they started parking there again.

Mr. Perles stated the problem is he can go out the front gate when the weather is good but when the weather is bad, they can't get out the front gate which means they can't get out of their property. Mr. Perles then stated all he asks is for the law to be enforced and they be ticketed.

Mr. James Cipriani of 912 Oak Street stated he has a neighbor that has a junk yard and it is getting worse. He stated he does not get rid of anything and has trash bags inside an enclosure adding he does not know what is in them. He stated it could be food and if that is the case, he is creating a health hazard and lowering the property values.

Mr. Cipriani stated he understands the water is shut off and he is not to be staying there overnight but he is there every night and has somebody else staying there in the evening.

Mr. Cipriani stated he is not to be there after 8:00 and questions what needs to be done to have him arrested. Mr. Bielskie questioned if they may go in his (Mr. Cipriani's yard). Mr. Cipriani stated the Borough has permission to go in his yard anytime they want to go. Mr. Bielskie explained the law states if they cannot see from the sidewalk or the street you can't do anything about it. Mr. Lutz commented you can see it.

Mr. Cipriani stated he is parking his truck in such a way so that people cannot see in there and his truck is parked illegally. Mr. Lutz state he has not paid his citations and stated we will pay him a visit tomorrow. Mr. Lutz stated if he is in there, we need to get the police, we need to get code.

Dorothy Riffert at 1137 Scott Street stated she has a complaint about the 1139 Scott Street property. She stated there is nobody living there adding there is a giant hole in the roof that is affecting their property. She stated there is sewer that has come through into their basement and stated they have had to spend a lot of money on plumbers. She stated this has been reported and nothing has been done.

Mr. Lutz replied he will look into who the owner is and if citations were filed. Mr. Lutz asked for her to give him her phone number after the end of the meeting. She asked if there is anything that can be done. Mr. Lutz replied sure, citations and more citations and then they go up to the magistrate and present your case to the magistrate adding in the last 2 years we never lost a case because we are very prepared.

Mr. Lutz stated what happens is when you put a sting into it and suddenly, the property owner gets responsible. Mr. Lutz commented some, they do not care.

MarySue Mirarck of 1115 Poplar Street stated she was wondering if a no parking could be done on a side street between Poplar and Wood and 11th and Wood Street. Mr. Lutz replied that he knows that it is very tight up in there. Ms. Mirarck stated now that the caution tape is up there, the land was surveyed and found to be where everybody was driving, that landowner will be up here sooner or later, and she stated this will stop any controversy before it happens.

Ms. Mirarck stated there is a no parking for street sweeping sign there and stated it should just be changed to no parking. Mr. Lutz stated they will take a look at it adding he is not sure what we need to do that but will find out and take a look.

OLD BUSINESS –

None

NEW BUSINESS-

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Chesney stated to follow up with Mr. Motyka and then addressed the two new guys and stated they are welcome to whatever is going on adding they should get on board as to what is going on. Mr. Chesney then addressed Mr. Motyka stating he has been partially involved all the way through.

Mr. Lutz stated Council will now meet in executive session for Contractual, Personnel and Possible Litigation.

Solicitor Greco stated Council met in executive session for approximately 25 minutes to discuss Contractual, Personnel and Possible Litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

THE NOVEMBER 13th MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Date of Approval _____