

KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2014

Opening Prayer by Councilman Joseph A. Winhofer
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by body present/. Kulpmont Borough Council held
its regular monthly meeting Tuesday October 14, 2014

Roll Call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Novakoski,
Nicholas Bozza, Clarence H. Deitrick, Stephanie Niglio, Philip Scicchitano, Bruno R.
Varano, Joseph A. Winhofer and Stephen Motyka.

ABSENT: None

APPOINTED POSITIONS- Treasurer Paul A. Niglio, Jr. and Solicitor William C. Cole

PRESENT: Code Official Russ Moroz, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Chief Michael
Pitcavage, Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk and Fire Chief Jeff Gilotti.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Balanda, Kathy Taylor, Bob Taylor, John Grinaway,
Shannon Grinaway, Walter Lutz, Joe Politza, Joe Pancerella and Myron Turlis.

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

No one spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Bruno R. Varano)

No Report

MAYORS REPORT (Bernard P. Novakoski)

Mayor Novakoski announced that trick or treat night will be November 1st from 5:30 PM
until 8:30 PM and states that this coordinates with Mount Carmel Township and Mount
Carmel itself so we will not have kids traveling from both sides of town.

Mayor Novakoski states that a letter was received from the PA Department of
Transportation on the engine brake retard study will be coming up shortly and they will
then let us know 45 days after the study and we will know what we can do to stop them
from coming into town using those brakes.

SECRETARY REPORT (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk states that approval is needed for the meeting minutes from the September
9, 2014 monthly meeting minutes.

MOTION- Mr.Deitrick makes the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bozza to approve the meeting minutes from the September 9th regular monthly meeting.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Rhonda states that under correspondence a letter was received from the Northumberland County Planning Department and states that was copied to council and Mayor.

Mr. Motyka states that he would like to make sure that the Code officer receives a copy of that.

Mr. Deitrick states that he does already have that letter.

Mr. Varano adds that he received an advanced copy.

Mr. Moroz states that he has a copy and spoke to Mr. Christiana today and states that this grant has not been fully established however the three properties that he has listed are being considered and states that he feels we have a good chance with this.

Mr. Varano replied that is good news for a change.

Rhonda Wilk states that a letter was received from Peggy Demko from GET2WORK and states that was copied to the Council and Mayor and states that she is requesting a meeting location in the building to meet with residents and area youth that are out of school and would be working with them to obtain their GED.

Mr. Deitrick states that it would benefit our citizens whom are out of work. Mr. Winhofer adds that the executive room could be used for them to meet.

MOTION- Mr. Deitrick made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Winhofer to allow GET2WORK representative to meet with residents in the boroughs executive meeting room.

Mr.Varano questions if it is just for meeting with residents of Kulpmont. Rhonda Wilk states that is correct and states that it is for the residents of Kulpmont that have no transportation and cannot get to her.

VOICE VOTE-

Unanimous

Rhonda states that correspondence was received from the Brush Valley Chamber of Commerce concerning the 2014 Annual Dinner.

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul A. Niglio)

Mr. Niglio states that everyone received a copy of the financial report and states that a motion is needed to approve the financial report and to pay the bills.

MOTION- Mr. Deitrick makes the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bozza to approve the financial report and to pay the bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BOZZA (yes), DEITRICK (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NIGLIO (yes), SCICCHITANO (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio states that Rhonda gave all of you a copy of the letter concerning the Volunteer Fire Relief Fund Association and states that we received the annual check for this year in the amount of \$12,780.55 and states that goes right over to the Volunteer Fire Relief Association and states that he believes that the fund has approximately \$100,000.00, somewhere around there and states that is just for your information.

Mr. Niglio states that the Minimum Municipal Obligation for next year, the Police Pension Fund, the MMO is \$1,387.00 which we will get from the state, for the non-uniform employees there is no MMO and states that fund is very solid. Mr. Niglio states that for the record he has to have that in the minutes and states that he has to notify himself since he is the CAO of Pensions.

Mr. Niglio states that this year the MMO was \$2800.00 in the budget for pensions and the exact amount owed for the police pension fund was \$2,709.00, we received \$3180.00 from the states so there is a difference of \$471.00. Mr. Niglio states that he is recommending to Council that a motion is made to have the excess funds of \$471.00 into the police pension fund.

MOTION- Mr. Deitrick made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to put the excess \$471.00 into the police pension fund.

Mr. Varano asks if we have to put the funds into the police pension every year and states that he knows that they had to do it down the sewer authority and states that this year we had to make a choice and questions William C. Cole on if he is correct on that.

Mr. Cole states that there is an excess they can allocate it. Mr. Varano states that we are not obligated to put this in the police pension every year if we are not overly funded.

Mr. Niglio states that if we do not get a MMO then we do not get any money from the state. Mr. Varano states that we have a MMO.

Mr. Niglio states that is correct and states that last year it was \$2709.00 and next year it's \$1300.00 and in 2016 it may be zero and states that it depends.

Mr. Niglio states that our statements last month shows that we picked up \$9,000.00 from August to September 30th in the police pension fund accumulated but in the last four days we probably lost \$3,000.00 and states it's the market so whatever the valuation is on the first of the year determines what your net worth is and that determines how much you get to buy down.

Mr. Niglio states that both of our funds are very solid and states that we are not like most places where you read about they owe \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00 to their MMO and states that this comes up every once in awhile.

Mr. Niglio states that our prior policy was that we always put the money where it was needed wherever we had a MMO.

Mr. Varano asks if there are any additional questions and if not calls for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BOZZA (yes), DEITRICK (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NIGLIO (yes), SCICCHITANO (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

SOLICITORS REPORT (William C. Cole)

No Report

POLICE REPORT (Chief Michael Pitcavage)

Report attachment #2

FIRE CHIEFS REPORT (Jeffrey Gilotti)

Report attachment #3

Mr. Scicchitano questions to Mr. Gilotti if he will have his guys out on Chestnut Street for trick or treat. Mr. Gilotti states that he will have guys out definitely at the town park and probably somewhere else. Mr. Scicchitano states possibly near the Turkey Hill.

The Fire Chief questions Mr. Varano on if the borough could send a letter to Aqua requesting updated drawings of the water lines in town and states that the fire chiefs have tried numerous times and they keep promising them but it has been almost a year since the project on Spruce and Pine and on Chestnut and states that he would like to have an updated set of drawings.

Mr. Varano states that we could put that request in and states that Mr. Gilotti could get together with Rhonda and let her know exactly what you would like in the letter and we can get a letter out to them.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Kevin O’Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT (Stephen G. Bielskie, Sr.)

Report attachment 4

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS REPORT (Russ Moroz)

Report attachment #5

Mr. Moroz states that the hazardous waste and asbestos abatement contractor has been chosen and right now working on getting the paperwork together and in a few weeks they will be down there starting on that project and then the condemnation of the boiler room will follow and then a contractor will be chosen to remove the stacks and the building will have to be secure.

Mr. Moroz states that the owner wanted to weld the windows shut and he states that he told him absolutely not.

Mr. Moroz spoke to Jeff Gilotti and it will be his recommendation as to how to secure the building.

Mr. Moroz states that concerning the rental registrations, letters will be sent out at the end of this month and payment will be due for January 1st. Mr. Moroz states that he is coming across many properties that are not registered and states that he would like to remind everyone that the properties must be registered and the properties not registered will be receiving fines.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Philip Scicchitano)

No Report

SERVICE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE (Nicholas Bozza)

Mr. Bozza states that the Street department is overdue for some new uniforms and jackets.

MOTION- Mr. Bozza states that he would like to make a motion and was seconded by Mr. Deitrick to purchase uniforms and Jackets for the borough workers not to exceed \$500.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BOZZA (yes), DEITRICK (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NIGLIO (yes), SCICCHITANO (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (yes)

7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bozza states that the surplus food distribution will be held on October 23rd at 8 AM until 12 noon at the borough garage.

Mr. Bozza states that he feels that the pedestrian devises should be taken down after trick or treat night and states that is what we usually do every year.

Mr. Motyka questions if they will be removed for the parade on the 23rd. Mr. Bozza states that is correct they will be taken down.

Mr. Scicchitano states that they should just be taken down and left down. Mr. Bozza states that he would like them up for trick or treat night.

Mr. Scicchitano states that they will then have to do it twice.

Mr. Motyka states that the last couple of months they turned the heat up on UGI and states that they made a few good contacts and states that the one contact talked to Mr. Varano personally and will be at next months meeting.

Mr. Varano states that she could not make this meeting but she will make the November 11th meeting.

Mr. Motyka states that this could save millions of dollars for the residents in their pocket per year if there were gas through town and he states that he asks the residents if they are able to show up to voice their opinions that could go along way with this lady.

Mr. Motyka states that she seems very confident that we are going to have a chance with this.

Mr. Varano states that she was very optimistic and was asking for cooperation from the borough as far as our restoration and digging fees, we will have a meeting with her on the 11th of November.

Mr. Deitrick questions the Mayor as far as the parking on the North and South Streets if he is going to revise parking in either direction as of November 1st.

Mr. Deitrick states that is something we need to do at this meeting and states that is usually in effect until April 1st.

Mayor Novakoski questions if a motion is needed on that. Mr. Varano states no motion is needed he would just announce it.

Mayor Novakoski states that no motion is needed on that so he will just call it.

Mr. Varano states that he will discuss more on the UGI and their tariff program at the next meeting because at this time he does not have all of the answers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka states that the finance committee is going to meet next week on Tuesday at 6:00 PM to go over the preliminary budget.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY (Mr. Scicchitano)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE (Stephanie Niglio)

Mrs. Niglio states that everyone received prior to tonight a draft of the oversized vehicle ordinance and states that all corrections and changes were made.

MOTION- Mrs. Niglio makes the motion and was seconded by Mr. Deitrick to advertise the Oversize Vehicle Ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BOZZA (yes), DEITRICK (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NIGLIO (yes), SCICCHITANO (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

GRANTS and RECREATION (Clarence Deitrick)

Mr. Deitrick states that he has nothing other than the two grants we have pending, our recycling grant with DEP and our recreation grant with the county.

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka states that we are drafting our latest response letter to USDA and states that it should go out this week and states that the News Item will get a copy as soon as we release it.

Mr. Motyka states that he would like to make a motion for the final design payment to Shaffer Design of \$12,000.00 but states that he received an email today requesting \$10,000.00 because the front end specs for USDA are 150 page requirement mostly bid kind of stuff that would pre-qualify the bidders and we don't want to go through with that kind of work until we find out if those 150 pages are necessary.

Mr. Motyka states that he would like to make a motion to pay for the final design payment in the amount of \$10,000.00 and states that we should have the blue prints next week for review.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka makes a motion to send the final payment of \$10,000.00 to Shaffer design and was seconded by Mr. Deitrick.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BOZZA (yes), DEITRICK (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NIGLIO (yes), SCICCHITANO (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka states that he met with Penn State University about our energy analysis for our town and states that she is a very energetic lady and she showed him all of her bar graphs and amortizations her grad student has done so far and talked about big opportunities for us to receive funding to cover all of the boroughs needs in excess of \$60,000.00 per year and states that she gave him some names of people at DCED that they do bi-monthly grants so that we will not have to wait for a yearly grant kind of thing and states that there were also some from the Federal Government and some very good leads and some personal contacts.

Mr. Motyka states that also she gave him some information on a DCED reimbursement for Geothermal and Solar.

Mr. Motyka states that what she believes is if we build the building and we have a bid of \$100,000.00 or \$40,000.00 for a Geo-Thermal system bid price, she thinks we can take that number out of bid and apply for a full reimbursement from the state which would pay for our geothermal system. Mr. Varano comments that is great news.

Mr. Motyka states that the price point for solar panels that would feed the town are probably about an acre or so a panel and the price point is not set yet but she thinks it is a good size project that would be very optimistically looked at because of the affect that it has on the borrow, totally independent of the PPL and it is not to large that it would be unachievable.

Mr. Varano commented that is good news.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE- (Joseph A. Winhofer)

MOTION- Mr. Winhofer made the motion and was seconded by Mr.Deitrick to purchase 4 cameras and 2 recorders to be used in the Borough not to exceed \$2500.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BOZZA (yes), DEITRICK (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NIGLIO (yes), SCICCHITANO (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

OLD BUSINESS

No one spoke

NEW BUSINESS

No one spoke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Varano wishes all a Happy Halloween

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO SPEAK

John Quinn 131 Beech Drive Shady Acres Kulpmont, Mount Carmel Township. Mr. Quinn states that he owns a property in Kulpmont at 855 Chestnut Street in Kulpmont. Mr. Quinn states that he pays his taxes on time, his landlord and inspection fees and states that he will be paying them soon again shortly. Mr. Quinn states that he pays more fees than the average taxpayer does and that is not his problem.

Mr. Quinn states that his problem is three months ago today July 14, 2014 after evicting the tenant that was at that property constable Larry Rompallo and him took position of the property and had to break in because he took the keys. Mr. Quinn stated that upon entering the unit found a filthy mess and states that the stench was so bad that he wanted to puke. He states that they continued through the house and into the kitchen to find out that the refrigerator and stove was stolen by the last tenant, they took them right out of there. He states the light bulbs were all taken, the smoke detectors and all of the blinds. He states that there was writing on the walls it was a disaster and states that if Larry was here tonight he could attest to that.

Mr. Quinn states that Larry Romapllo advised him to call the police and Mr. Quinn states that he did call them and stated that Chef Pitcavage responded and took all of the information. Mr. Quinn states that he gave him the phone number that he had for that person that was in that unit and states the Chief told him that he tried to get a hold of her numerous times and to no avail he was not able to contact her, he states that he does not believe that he texted her because he did not want her to have his phone number. Mr. Quinn states that he told the Chief that if he got the stove and refrigerator back in a timely manner he would not press charges, forget about everything else that was stolen and all of the damage but states the refrigerator and stove were very costly.

Mr. Quinn states that everything was cleaned up and renovated after months and was then ready for a tenant but states that he had to purchase a new refrigerator and stove.

Mr. Quinn states that he then located the phone number and address of the tenant's father and gave it to the Chief. The Chief then informed him that he earned of the tenants new address in Northumberland and would issue an arrest warrant that week. Mr. Quinn states that was back in early September, that is two months and to this day a warrant has not been issued. Mr. Quinn states that to this day one has not been issued and states that he brought this to the attention of Mr. Scicchitano and sent the Chief a text as he was standing there and Mr. Scicchitano told him that the Chief would be back in touch with

him and Mr. Quinn states that until this day he has not been back in touch with him. Mr. Quinn states that he went to the District Court and stated that he wanted to file a personal criminal complaint, which he is entitled to do. Mr. Quinn states that he was told he needs the permission of the District Attorneys office to do so and states that he went down that avenue. He states that he has been informed by the DA's office that they repeatedly tried to contact the Kulpmont Police department and no phone calls were returned to the District Attorneys office.

Mr. Quinn states that his daughter is a police officer and states that she filed all of the reports that need to be done and states that he has copies of them right here and states that all he needs is a signature on here for the arrest warrant to be issued and somebody could go pick her up, Kulpmont does not even have to go pick her up he states his daughter will pick her up.

Mr. Quinn states that landlords have been given a bad wrap and states some of it is deserved but you can ask Russ Moroz, he went through his property and stated it is one of the nicest rental units in the borough, ask Don Geary of Mount Carmel Township what his properties look like or Robin Williams of Mount Carmel what caliber of properties he has.

Mr. Quinn states that he has done everything that was asked of him in the Kulpmont Borough and it is time for the Kulpmont Police Department to step up and to do their job. Mr. Quinn states that he does not want this ex-tenant going to the next guy and doing what she did to him. He states that she needs to be arrested, charged and restitution needs to be paid to him for this.

Mr. Quinn states that he will think long and hard before he ever buys another property in Kulpmont if he can't get satisfaction from the Police Department or from someone in this room to follow up on this.

Mr. Varano questions the Chief if there is some kind of hold up here.

Chief Pitcavage states that he does not want to discuss an open case in a council meeting.

Mr. Deitrick asks if he could set a meeting up with Mr. Quinn.

Mr. Quinn asks how many times he calls and calls and calls, comes up to the office and there is nobody here. Mr. Quinn directs a statement to Mr. Scicchitano that he himself texted the Chief to follow up with him.

Mr. Scicchitano states that he did contact Mike about that one time and talked to the Mayor about that just recently.

Mr. Quinn states it didn't happen and states that it is three months today.

Mr. Motyka questions if along with the answering machine if there is a written log that is kept from the calls that come in and states that he feels that would be a good idea.

Chief Pitcavage states that when there is a message it is put into the computer.

Mr. Motyka states that then there is a log.

Mr. Deitrick asks the Chief if he could meet with Mr. Quinn after the meeting. The Chief agrees to do so.

Walter Lutz 860 Oak Street Kulpmont and questions the response to the USDA, he states that in the August 29th letter they were asking for in 60 days an action plan.

Mr. Motyka states that it is being polished and will be ready to go hopefully tomorrow.

Mr. Lutz asks to obtain a copy of that or if he will have to file a right to know.

Mr. Motyka states that he could have it right out of the newspaper. Mr. Varano states that it will be released to the newspaper.

Mr. Lutz states that he would like to bring up a couple of other things and one is that since there is no debt and he understands that the 3 mill increase was for debt he asks if that would be rescinded. Mr. Niglio responds that no there was not. Mr. Lutz replied that the newspaper must then be wrong. Mr. Niglio states that is correct. Mr. Lutz states then it was a 4.5% for everything. Mr. Niglio replied that it was for general purposes, 17 mills for general purposes.

Mr. Lutz states that since the August 29th letter has council spent any more money on the borough complex beside the \$10,000.00 that came up today. Mr. Lutz states that in any event he will follow up with a right to know request to get the letter.

Mr. Varano states that it is public knowledge and that it will be released to the paper and that he would like to make sure that the USDA has it before everybody else has it and states that it is only right since it applies to them.

John Grinaway of 1237 Scott Street directs a question on outdoor burring if you have something in your backyard is it supposed to be a chiminea with sides and a top on it.

Mr. Scicchitano states that there are other types also. Mr. Bozza adds that you need to have a screen on top.

Mr. Grinaway states that they have some kind of a wok type thing and that when they start it up there is not screen or top on it. He states that when they start it up there is no screen on it and the wood could be sticking up 5 or 6 inches above it. Mr. Grinaway states that when it starts blazing it could go three or four feet high and sparks are flying all over the place and then when it smolders you have all of this smoke. He states that his

daughter has chronic bronchitis and when she gets a whiff of smoke she loses her voice for two or three months.

Mr. Grinaway states that she is just getting over it and Saturday night somebody had a fire down in the area and my daughter lost her voice again. Mr. Grinaway asks what can be done about something like this.

Mr. Scicchitano states that Russ will have to go check it out and see how many feet away from your property and other properties. Mr. Scicchitano asks if it is relatively close to his house.

Mr. Grinaway states that it is in the next yard in the middle of the yard. He states that he has a copy of the ordinance.

Mr. Scicchitano asks Mr. Moroz to check that out. Mr. Moroz states that he has been there to check it out and it is in code, when the fire is being started at first nobody is there to check it.

Mr. Grinaway states that according to the ordinance they should have sand or some kind of fire extinguisher if something does happen and states that he does not know if they have that.

Mr. Scicchitano asks Mr. Moroz what he recommends that he does, if he should call the fire department of the police or what.

Mr. Grinaway states that they called the police and one time they came down and shut one family down because they had a wok with no cover at all and then the other time until they got down there the fire was back down to where it should be.

Mr. Grinaway states that it also states you have to have it covered with a mesh and questions if a grate is considered a mesh. Mr. Scicchitano and Mr. Varano agree that it is. Mr. Scicchitano states that he believes a grate would be to code but is not positive. Mr. Varano states that there are no restrictions as far as cooking, but there are restrictions on recreational fires and states that he believes that there are flame restrictions also. Russ Moroz states that the ordinance states unsafe manner, unsupervised. Mr. Grinaway states that they are there sitting on chairs but that flame is going up above whatever kind of sides that is there.

Mr. Moroz states that the fire should be contained within the chamber and should not go any higher than the wire mesh. Mr. Varano states that it is, so therefore it would be a violation of the ordinance.

Mr. Grinaway states that there is no top on it and they did contact the police twice, one was shut down and the other was within limits. Mr. Grinaway states that the first time they called it was going until one o'clock in the morning. Russ Moroz states that the ordinance is 11:00 PM.

Mr. Scicchitano comments that the landlords should be given a copy of that ordinance.

Rob Wheary representing The News Item states that for public record concerning the July 4th incident involving the police officers that started here with the firecrackers with two of the officers employed one full time and one part time police officer that they were suspended from Mount Carmel Township pending the finish of their investigation and he would like to know if any disciplinary action was taken against the officers in Kulpmont.

Mayor Novakoski replied yes, but I am not going to tell you what and add that they were disciplined.

Rob Wheary questioned if he was going to tell him what. Mayor Novakoski replied that is Personnel and added that they know they were disciplined; they got their warnings and states that he was not a happy camper either.

The Kulpmont Borough Solicitor William C. Cole states that council met in executive session for approximately 45 minutes for personnel and contractual matters on October 7th at 6:15 PM.

MOTION- Mr. Winhofer made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Deitrick to reserve a table at the Brush Valley November 14th annual dinner at a cost of 225.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE- BOZZA (yes), DEITRICK (yes), MOTYKA (yes), NIGLIO (yes), SCICCHITANO (yes), VARANO (yes), WINHOFER (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

**RHONDA WILK
BOROUGH SECRETARY**

DATE OF APPROVAL

