

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 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 September 11, 2019

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

Mr. Chesney stated on September 11, 2001, 19 radical militants, members of Al Qaeda, planned and executed the most vicious and cowardly attack on the United States in New York City, Washington, D.C. and a remote area in Pennsylvania. 2,750 people were killed in the World Trade Buildings of Manhattan and surrounding buildings. 184 were killed at the Pentagon and 40 heroes perished as they fought to retake their plane from the terrorists over PA. Over 400 members of Police and Firefighters "First Responders" sacrificed their lives trying to assist and save others trapped during this horrifying event.

Let's pause, meditate and pray for all who lost their lives on that day which should never be forgotten. Mr. Chesney asked all to pause for a moment of silence.

ABSENT: Michael Sinopoli

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

PRESENT: Chief Foust and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Rob Naylor, Stephen Motyka, Jeff Gilotti, Rose Bielskie, Joseph V. Dowkus II and Heather Owens

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

No one spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Walter Lutz)

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz recognized the Kulpmont 100 on the First Responders Parade. Mr. Lutz stated it was incredible adding they had four divisions, firetrucks and what not adding it is not a simple thing to put together. Mr. Lutz stated after the parade they had some food and drink at the West End and we just want to recognize the Kulpmont 100 on all the good work they all do.

Mr. Lutz stated the Powell Demolition is over and we need to plant grass and block it off where there is no parking. Mr. Lutz stated we need to address doing something with that exposed wall. Mr. Lutz stated that contract was \$78,000.00 and the borough paid zero dollars adding the County will pay the entire bill. Mr. Lutz stated that is good adding the solicitor was able to get \$13,000.00 and some back taxes when making the deal that was to go toward the demolition of the building which now could be used for future demolitions.

Mr. Lutz stated there was some questions to the Fir Street clean up, the area East of the Holy Angels Picnic ground there has been an accumulation of water down there and at the bottom of the hill. Mr. Lutz stated there was a great deal of work done down there adding water still accumulated, we had to go to J & S and have them bring in some equipment and material.

Mr. Lutz stated the real concern was the drain that was there was higher than the surrounding area and so it was not effective. Mr. Lutz stated the water would sit in there forever attracting mosquitos and something needed to be done. Mr. Lutz stated he just went down after the monsoon that we had and there was water there, the real test will be if the water is there tomorrow. Mr. Lutz stated the Friday of the Holy Angels Picnic if you remember there was a downpour, the next day the water was gone, and people were able to park because of the work that was done down there.

Mr. Lutz stated if the water continues to accumulate, we will need to do something about it because it's a mosquito-nest, simple as that, getting the parking spaces is just an added benefit for what we did. Mr. Lutz stated we spent \$1,750.00 of taxpayer money.

Mr. Lutz stated someone questioned him on the Fir Street closing. He stated there was a pipe that collapsed, and we are working with our engineer to see if we could get some grant money. Mr. Lutz stated the preliminary cost is \$52,000.00, he stated he would guess we could use some of the money from the demolition that they did not need to use.

Mr. Lutz thanked Keith Tamborelli, there was a light out at the garage in the parking lot, he went up and fixed it and got it turned back on.

MAYORS REPORT- (Nicholas Bozza).

Mayor Bozza stated they met with Service and Facilities and agreed on a location for the pollination garden and stated no money will need to come from the borough for this

project, this will be all donations. Mayor Bozza passed around some pictures of ideas and plans for the pollination garden.

Mayor Bozza stated he contacted Kulpmont 100 about the sign needing to be replaced at lamplight acres and they decided to take on the project all on their own. Mayor Bozza stated if anyone would like to donate, just send your donations to the Kulpmont 100.

Mayor Bozza stated the Kulpmont 100 committee does a lot for the Borough and stated there is much time and planning involved adding he would like to have a resolution and have them recognized at October's meeting. Mr. Lutz stated Kulpmont 100 was the spark that started to turn the Borough around Kulpmont 100 will have the resolutions at next month's meeting.

Mayor Bozza stated the Chief had some T-shirts made for the police and the bill was \$100.00 and the American Legion paid for the shirts for the police. Mayor Bozza asked the secretary to send a thank you letter out to them.

Mayor Bozza announced the crime watch meeting has been cancelled for this month due to conflicting schedules.

Mayor Bozza made the announcement Trick or Treat will be held on October 26th from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. and the rain date will be October 31st.

Mayor Bozza stated he will need to meet with Council at the end of the meeting to discuss possible litigation.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed on the August 14, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve the August 14, 2019 meeting minutes.

VOICE VOTE

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated Correspondence was received from the Kulpmont Lions Club concerning the Halloween Parade to be held on October 24th to begin at 7:00 p.m. Copy Mayor/Council

Correspondence was received from Northumberland County Conservation concerning DEP Educational Grant, this is listed for discussion under Service and Facilities and was copied to Mayor/Council

USDA correspondence, listed for discussion under Grants Committee, Copied to Grants Committee

Correspondence was received from Northumberland County Planning Department, Justin Skavery concerning the Multimodal Transportation Fund and Copied to both Mayor/Council

Mr. Lutz stated we will need a motion for the Halloween Parade, we will need to have some police over there and the MCA bonfire as last year will be held the same day and so we will need to approve the bonfire as well.

MOTION- Mr. Bielski Made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney approving the Halloween parade and the MCA bonfire to follow.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Mr. Slaby questioned if there is a rain date for the parade. Mr. Niglio stated there is no rain date.

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. Mr. Niglio stated the bill listed for the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System should be listed as Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Corporation on the list of bills to be paid, that is a typo error.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and Mr. Bielskie seconded the motion to approve and pay the bills.

Mr. Lutz stated it should be pointed out there is a bill for \$1,750.00 for the work that was done at the Fir Street project and \$2,000.00 of taxpayer money that was used to take care of the work at the basketball court and ice-skating ring. Mr. Lutz stated we did not appreciate that the surface was 18 inches' thick adding it was not so much the breaking up of the surface but of the taking it away. Mr. Lutz stated with our truck it would have taken until Christmas to cart the material away and we are on a time frame with this project.

Mr. Lutz stated the \$2,000.00 was spent having a larger truck come in to take away the material. Mr. Lutz added the \$2,000.00 was spent. Mr. Lutz stated we are going to put concrete in and altogether the project would cost \$55,000.00 market value if we had to do it from scratch and so with the Degenstine grant we had to spend \$2,000.00 for what we got in return.

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

Mr. Niglio stated just to brief Council our retirement system for the non-uniform employees is with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System. Mr. Niglio stated PMRS is redoing all their plan documents for the members belonging to their pension plan.

Mr. Niglio stated they are re-writing all their documents from years ago to coincide with IRS rulings and court rulings and we are moving along on this process. Mr. Niglio stated he only copied the president and the solicitor on this up until this point. Mr. Niglio stated they took our old ordinance that was passed in 1994 for the non-uniform pension plan and they re-wrote it into a new plan document.

Mr. Niglio stated he reviewed it and then had a conference call with one of their Solicitor's and another administrative person and went through each line item reviewing them to make sure that it was what we had and was what it was supposed to be. Mr. Niglio stated he then gave this to the solicitor to review.

Solicitor Greco stated he did review it and it seems to be as he described and in line in trying to get this up to date. The Solicitor stated we would have to adopt ultimately an Ordinance, and so we would need to make a motion authorizing to advertise the Ordinance and then adopt it in October.

MOTION – Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve and authorize to advertise Ordinance 2019-02 non-uniform pension plan documents.

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

Mr. Niglio stated we will also be doing the same thing for the Police Pension Plan, right now Council approved to move forward with PMRS to move our police pension fund into the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Fund and so we are in the beginning phase of doing this and so in October or November we will be doing this process over.

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

The Solicitor stated he has started to draft an easement between the Borough and the Legion to obtain access for future use behind the stadium as it exists now.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Nathan Foust)

Police Report Attachment #2

Chief Foust stated today after the rain storm on 12th Street between Oak and Scott a large branch came down and stated he pushed it to the side and asked the street department to pick it up.

Chief Foust stated that they are having issues with their copier scanning. Mr. Lutz stated we will get some quotes on what is needed and discuss at the next meeting.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Fire Chief Report Attachment #3

Deputy Fire Chief, Jeffrey Gilotti stated he and Councilman Bielskie met on the carport and stated they need to go over some of the measurements.

Mr. Lutz stated we got the Powell Building down and we have some others that need to come down. Mr. Lutz stated they need to get together with the Fire Chief and get the reports and the Code reports. Mr. Lutz stated we will then give the reports to the Chief and he will go ahead and file public nuisance charges. Mr. Lutz commented that gets their attention. Mr. Lutz stated the next few property owners are out of state which will make things a little more difficult. Mr. Lutz asked Jeff Gilotti for a 15-minute meeting as soon as possible.

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. Lutz stated we have started foot patrols again and it is always amazing what we come across. Mr. Lutz asked residents to call when there is an issue right away. Mr. Lutz stated often once notified they will take care of the issue.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella announced food surplus distribution will be held on September 19th from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella stated of course the Bonfire behind the West End following the parade on October 24th

Mr. Fanella stated the tree planting at the Veterans Memorial Field will be Thursday October 10th and the rain date will be October 29th. Mr. Fanella stated the kids will be coming through the Borough building now since the Scott Colliery portrait is in the Borough Building and not the bank.

Mr. Fanella stated the heating unit was installed today in the Fire Truck Room.

Mr. Fanella addressed the Mayor and stated concerning the Lamplight Acres sign, he thinks they should consider taking all the trees down they are all tall and into the wires. Mr. Fanella recommended dropping them all and placing shrubs there. Mr. Fanella stated they are up in the wires on both sides and they stick out into the street.

Mayor Bozza stated in talking with the Conservation District, they want to keep the project here in Kulpmont. Mayor Bozza stated its just a suggestion, but we need to start thinking on where to go and questioned Mr. Fanella if he would like to think of the entrance. Mayor Bozza stated the Conservation District really would like to keep the project here and stated he is afraid if we skip a year, we will lose it.

Mr. Fanella stated he thought last year Chantel had said this year would be the end of it. Mayor Bozza questioned Mr. Motyka if the project must be down at the Veterans Memorial Field or could we move it. Mr. Motyka replied he attended a Creek Association meeting and it must be along the creek. Mr. Motyka stated the Conservation asked that the Police could cross the kids coming to the Borough Building the day of the event. Chief Foust asked to contact him with a time and stated they will be crossed.

Mayor Bozza suggested behind the Kulpmont Winery, that whole area there to continue with Conservation District. Mr. Bielskie replied that is wetland and so you can't touch that. Mr. Niglio stated the whole Quaker Run is deemed a wetland and that was a problem we had with the land down there, the maps were done in the 40's and 50's and they never changed them when the fill was put in when they did the parking lot and the maps never reflected the height of the fillings and that was the problem when the proposed City Hall was going to go there.

Mr. Motyka stated on July 2nd they brought the State Department of Environmental Secretary to Kulpmont and he was very impressed with all of the work that was done in Kulpmont with the Creek Association did and all the progress and in a side-bar meeting he stated he was offered a lot of money as fine money that could be invested in flooding or rain water retention along the creek. He continued to say they are currently doing a \$85,000.00 study on Quaker Run and come back with a report that will show all the deficiencies.

Mr. Motyka then said he knows the Borough has been talking to Susquehanna and stated if the Borough is successful in obtaining that land and have ground to apply the money to, the money that was offered to him could come to Kulpmont and asked if they obtain land to reach out to the Creek Association.

Mr. Lutz replied they will keep it going and will find a place to continue. Mr. Lutz stated councilman Fanella had a good meeting with them and is waiting for them to get back with us.

FINANCE/PURCHASING– (Robert Slaby)

Mr. Slaby stated he received a call from Mrs. Wilk a few days ago that the copier here was on its last leg or very close to it. Mr. Slaby stated there is no getting around it, you can't operate without it. Mr. Slaby stated based on the age of the existing one, the Borough got their money out of that.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve the purchase of a new copier from CSP at a cost of \$2195.00.

Mr. Bielskie questioned if the service contract is included in the purchase price. Mr. Slaby replied it is not included and stated it is separate. Mr. Niglio questioned if that includes a trade in. Mr. Slaby replied it does, the list price is \$3,475.00.

Mr. Fanella commented they are in to fix it at least once per week. Mr. Slaby then commented it is time to go.

Mr. Niglio stated he was asking if we were trading it in because the police department may be able to use it for scanning. Rhonda Wilk stated it was discussed but because of the age of the printer the service contract would be expensive and with the age and issues of the machine it would not be worth it.

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

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to approve and enter into the service contract for the copier in the amount of \$580.00 for the 1st year annual contract.

The Solicitor stated he assumes this will supersede the previous contract. Mr. Niglio replied the old contract will be cancelled and any overpayment would be credited.

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

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (George Malakoski)

No Report

GRANTS/RECREATION – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz stated we received a \$27,900.00 grant, free money from the USDA for the police car. Mr. Lutz stated using round numbers we purchased the vehicle for \$51,000.00 and put \$15,000.00 of taxpayer money down on the vehicle and so we then financed \$36,000.00 from the bank and we have a monthly payment of roughly \$800.00 per month. We have a prepayment penalty for the first 12 months and so after the 12th payment the money \$27,900.00 will go directly on the vehicle to pay the balance.

Mr. Lutz stated there was some complaints about us working on the basketball court and ice-skating ring during football season and explained we were under an obligation with the grant to get going with it. Mr. Lutz stated we were hoping to get going with it also to have the ice-skating ring ready for the season.

Mr. Lutz stated we approved to spend \$2,000.00 of taxpayer money and we will get \$55,000.00 of value. Mr. Lutz stated we will take deals like that all day long and asked anyone who thinks we have too much going on for the kids, speak up. He added we will probably spend more money for the kids.

Mr. Lutz stated we have \$1,900.00 and we agreed to spend \$1,000.00 of the borough's money, HPI has agreed to do some work on the concession stand and we have some outside labor that may go down there this week and start working on that.

PERSONNEL- (Michael Sinopoli)

Mr. Lutz stated we have four candidates for the code official position, and we will be starting interviews those folks as soon as Mr. Sinopoli schedules the interviews.

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

Mr. Chesney stated they had a meeting with the Fire Department and Police Department over a month ago and things went well and stated they have a very good open line of communication.

Mr. Chesney stated concerning the basketball/ice skating ring project starting it during football season is the most practical time to start it because in baseball season balls could be coming into that area from many directions.

Mr. Chesney stated during football season balls hardly ever get kicked or thrown into that area and spectators are usually not sitting in that area. Mr. Chesney it was the most practical and efficient time to start that project since the next season is winter.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No one spoke

OLD BUSINESS –

Mr. Fanella stated the high school is aerating the field at the Veterans Memorial Field and asked permission to install the scoreboard that was donated by the Union Bank .

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the Boosters to install the score board that was donated by Union Bank.

VOICE VOTE –

Unanimous

Mr. Chesney questioned the Solicitor about the action on the sale of the property of the repository sale that we received the notice that they received a bid.

The Solicitor stated they received a bid and were asking us to approve and stated the County sends each taxing body and asks if you approve this, the benefit is that it will get back on the tax rolls.

NEW BUSINESS-

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Bozza reminded all of the October 12th Kulpmont Knights of Columbus Wine Festival 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. He stated VIP Tickets are available and can be purchased at Scicchitano Pizza.

Mr. Lutz stated Council will now meet in executive session to discuss personnel issues and litigation.

Solicitor Greco announced Council met in executive session for approximately 30 minutes

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary

Date of Approval _____