

**KULPMONT BOROUGH  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2021  
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 8, 2021

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Bozza, Stephen Bielskie, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Robert Fanella, Stephen Motyka and Michael Sinopoli.

**ABSENT:** President, Robert M. Slaby

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul Niglio, Patrolman Stephen Mazzeo, Secretary Rhonda Wilk and Code Official Heather Owens.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joe Politza, Edwin Howerter, Jeff Gilotti and Rev. Andrew Stahmer

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

No one spoke

**PRESIDENTS REPORT** – (Robert M. Slaby)

No Report

**MAYORS REPORT**- (Nicholas Bozza)

Mayor Bozza announced Trick or Treat in the Borough will be held on Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Mayor Bozza stated the people are asking him to check into placing a stop sign again at 15<sup>th</sup> and Scott. He stated and the North of 16<sup>th</sup> Street, where Gratti lives they are asking to have that paved and Mayor Bozza stated he said he would bring it up.

Mayor Bozza stated officer in charge, Stephen Mazzeo is doing a great job trying to recruit officers and stated they may be interviewing one or two applicants withing the next two weeks.

Mayor Bozza stated he believes Mr. Motyka has a purchase for the police department on his agenda to discuss the purchase of a handgun.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed for the regular meeting minutes from August 11, 2021.

**MOTION** – Mr. Sinopoli made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to accept the August 11, 2021 meeting minutes.

**VOICE VOTE** – Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from Joe Honecker concerning Aquas proposed water rate increase and copied to both Mayor and Council.

A letter was received from the Kulpmont 100 requesting approval for the K100 to purchase a clock and pay for delivery and installation with the location to be determined. The clock will need to be connected to an electric supply. The letter and proposed clock information was copied to both Mayor and Council.

A brief discussion took place among council and it was determined the likely location would be town park.

**MOTION**– Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to approve Kulpmont 100 to proceed with the clock purchase and project.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (absent)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus commented about the letter Mr. Honecker sent in about the rate increase and stated there is nothing for us to negotiate in there only that they have wastewater in the request. Mr. Dowkus then said it does not pertain to us. Mr. Bielskie commented a lot of the water companies are buying out the wastewater plants now.

**TREASURERS REPORT** – (Paul A. Niglio)

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

**MOTION**- Mr. Sinopoli made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to accept and pay the bills

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (absent)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio stated MMO is listed on the agenda and will be discussed at a later meeting, in October he stated he will report on what that amount is.

**SOLICITORS REPORT**- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco reported a certified letter was sent out to the owner of the Mill and copied to the code office concerning the recent situation of falling debris. Mr. Solicitor stated the letter stated if we take any action, they will be responsible which would result in a municipal lien.

Mr. Chesney stated he feels we should keep strongly pursuing the owner, we need to stay on that guy and let him know it is his responsibility to maintain the safety of the building.

**POLICE CHIEFS REPORT** – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Police Report Attachment #2

Officer Mazzeo stated the format changes this month for the report and asked Council if they had any concerns or questions to contact him.

He also reported he spoke with Officer Owens and stated he is going to see if he is able to put some hours in next month. Officer Mazzeo reported we have on probable candidate and have talked with some others. Officer Mazzeo reported once the Mayor interviews the probable candidate, we will go from there.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT** – (Jeff Gilotti)

Fire Chief Report Attachment #3

Mr. Bielskie stated he got a request today from a member of the fire company about replacing the toilet at their own cost. Mr. Dowkus stated he does not know what happened, he stated he put all new parts in it and is not sure what they problem is. Mr. Dowkus stated he does not know if it is leaking or generated a larger bill but if they want to and are going to pay to replace it, he does not have any problem with that.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – (Kevin O' Hearn)

No Report

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**- (Tri County COG)

Report Attachment #5

**CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT** – (Heather Owens)

Report Attachment #6

**SERVICE AND FACILITIES** – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated food surplus will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the borough garage.

Mr. Fanella stated the borough received \$350.00 from CSO to be spent on the Food Program. Mr. Fanella stated he spoke with Bruce on the needs the program may have and stated two insulated blankets would be purchased to cover the food when it is on the tables and also push brooms will also be purchased to be used for the program.

**MOTION**- Mr. Fanella made a motion to spend \$529.72 to purchase cutting edges and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (absent)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated he would like to advertise for bids for 5<sup>th</sup> and Oak Street, to replace the pipe there. Mr. Fanella stated at 7<sup>th</sup> and Fir Street we need to replace inlets and pipe. Mr. Fanella stated he met with Barry Gaverick from PennDOT to look at these locations.

Mr. Fanella stated after talking with Stephen Motyka today, he thinks we should go with concrete and not plastic. Mr. Fanella stated he thinks we need to change the advertisement for bids to be for concrete.

**MOTION**- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to advertise for bids and changing the specs from plastic to concrete.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**- DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (absent)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated we will need to purchase a Keyboard for the front desk computer and the cost is approximately \$25.00

Mr. Fanella stated the inlets on 11<sup>th</sup> and Poplar Street are falling in and need some repair and upgrades. He continued to say the inlets at 5<sup>th</sup> and Ash Street where the plastic pipe most likely got crushed from heavy traffic on top of it. He continued to say there is only approximately six inches of ground cover on top of that plastic pipe adding he does not know who did it or how it was allowed. Mr. Fanella stated he just wanted to bring this to everyone's attention.

Mr. Fanella stated Anthracite Fire Company said they would bring the Engine down and stake pictures at the Mill. He stated Bruce covered what he could and said they will come down and cut that black thing off the back so we could open the alley. Mr. Fanella stated he would like to give them a donation for doing so if possible.

Solicitor Greco stated it was not really on the agenda. Solicitor Greco stated we could do it next month, we will just need to put it on the agenda. Mr. Fanella stated he just wanted to let everyone know, so we could open the street up for the winter adding it is going to need a lot of patching.

Mr. Fanella stated the Fire Department roof will need to be put out on bid. He stated we received two quoted for repairs option one and two. He stated to replace the roof it will

need to be put out for bid and we will need specs. Mr. Fanella stated we will meet with the engineer and have specs drawn up to put out to bid. A discussion took place on the process and Mr. Motyka asked Mr. Fanella if he could set up a meeting with him to meet here in town. Mr. Fanella agreed.

Mayor Bozza questioned Mr. Fanella on the repairs on 5<sup>th</sup> and Oak and 7<sup>th</sup> and Fir Street if specs are not needed for that job as well. Mr. Fanella stated we are just replacing what is there but instead of using metal we are going plastic, but we don't need an engineer because we are just replacing what is there, just re-doing it. Mr. Fanella stated and the other is inlets.

Mr. Motyka stated for future storm water projects where there is none, we will need to have an engineer size it correctly. Mr. Motyka continued by saying, these are all replacements of existing.

Mr. Fanella stated we have a few grate drains that need attention that are dropping in. He continued to discuss issues that will need to be corrected on some inlets and stated they will need to be drawn up by an engineer.

Mr. Chesney reiterated an engineer will be called in to give us specs on the roof and also the inlets. Mr. Motyka stated it is a professional service so we don't need to make a motion, we could move forward. Mr. Motyka stated we could look into using possibly that covid money.

**MOTION-** Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to advertise upon engineer drawing up specs to replace the roof on the fire truck room.

**ROLL CALL VOTE-** DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (absent)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated he had a complaint on the ten hundred block of Poplar Street, an issue with a tree over the road. He stated the tree starts off on the Susquehanna side, goes over the street and there are wires there. Mr. Fanella stated the code officer did send a letter to Susquehanna Coal because the tree starts on their property but did not get a response. Mr. Fanella questioned who responsibility it is.

Solicitor Greco stated if it is in our right of way, we certainly have the right to keep our right of way clear of obstructions or potential obstructions if it is hanging over our road. Mr. Dowkus stated whose property the tree is on is who they may point the finger at if it is going out through power lines. The Solicitor stated that is correct they will say it is the responsibility of the property owner.

Mayor Bozza recalled a time he was on council and a similar situation took place and stated he recalls PPL hired a company that came in and cut around the power lines. Mr. Fanella stated it would make it easier for us if they would go through and first cut out the lines. Mr. Fanella stated he will call for prices and talk to PPL for next month discussion.

**FINANCE/PURCHASING** – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated several meetings ago it was decided to collect donations commemorating Joe Pancerella and purchase of a bench for Joe Pancerella to be placed at the Terry Miriello Field. Mr. Motyka stated he was interval in getting \$25,000.00 for the face lift in progress right now at the field. He stated he would like the borough to donate \$1,000.00 to go toward what we have collected and purchase a bench.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to donate \$1,000.00 toward the money already collected and purchase a bench commemorating Mr. Joe Pancerella.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** - DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (absent)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Motyka stated the dog park started with the Kulpmont 100 receiving \$2,500.00 from Weis a two years ago and stated he thinks they raised another \$3,500.00 and are still about \$4,000.00 short.

**MOTION**- Mr. Motyka made a motion for the borough to donate \$4,000.00 for the dog part project to start.

Mr. Bielskie questioned who is going to be responsible for the dog park. Mr. Motyka replied the Kulpmont 100 purchased all the dog stations and the Borough of Kulpmont just as they do refill the dog bags and the trash cans and stated we would handle it the same.

Mr. Bielskie questions what about the liability if two animals get into a fight. Solicitor Greco stated potentially someone is going to name us and stated he is more worried about a dog biting someone else and stated there should be signs. Mr. Motyka stated the original budget that was produced for the dog park included samples from the Lewisburg dog park, signs your dog must be under control at all times. Solicitor Greco stated we could check with our insurance and make sure we have proper coverage.

Mr. Fanella stated it is not that he does not support the dog park but questioned if they have \$6,000.00 now if that is enough to start a fence and if people see the progress possibly donations will start coming in. Mr. Motyka stated that is a possibility and stated it has been spinning its wheels for two years and that is why he mentioned it.

Mr. Bielskie stated the biggest problem is right now we may be raising taxes and to support a dog park, how many people are going to want it.

Mr. Chesney stated this was brought up and going to be paid for through donations. Mr. Chesney stated we are in no immediate need to have a dog park by November or December. Mr. Chesney stated with some of the other bills coming up and subsidence's that are coming up, we must have priorities in spending. Mr. Chesney stated although he is an animal lover, he does not think a dog park is a top priority. Mr. Chesney suggested to wait until Spring and if more donations come in then possibly later on we could support it more financially upfront adding he feels it is not pressing right now.

Mr. Dowkus stated he would like to make a subsidiary motion.....Mr. Fanella interjected and stated actually there was never second on the motion.

Mr. Motyka asked to keep in mind he was intervolved in getting \$70,000.00 from UGI that went right into the funds that we have not seen anything for all his efforts from four years ago. Mr. Motyka commented, “don’t say I have not contributed myself.” Mr. Bielskie replied Mr. Motyka does a great job and there are no if ands or buts about it. Mr. Bielskie stated right now with our financial condition it is not the right time to put any money out for it.

Mayor Bozza stated he thinks any improvement in the Borough is a plus and stated he is 100% all for it. Mayor Bozza stated without Kulpmont 100 on board here in the borough nothing would really be moving along. Mayor Bozza states that is just his opinion and stated he thinks they are doing a good job and he stated he supports every project they do. Mayor Bozza stated that is just his opinion.

Solicitor Greco stated the motion fails for lack of a second.

Mr. Dowkus stated the insurance and coverage concern, otherwise he feels it is a great idea.

Mr. Motyka stated there is a possibility to hire a candidate for police officer in our department. Mr. Motyka stated a list of what will be needed for weapon, holster and clips for the gun.

**MOTION-** Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to not exceed \$800.00 to purchase a borough owned firearm for use of our potential officer.

Mayor Bozza questioned if that amount will cover the expenses. Officer Mazzeo replied “yes.” Mayor Bozza stated just so everyone knows, the weapon is borough property and if he leaves, it is borough property and comes back to the borough. Officer Mazzeo stated he prepared a form and forwarded for the Solicitor to look at. Officer Mazzeo that we will have a new officer sign a form before we issue anything and stated when signed it would make them criminally and civilly liable if any items are not returned. Officer Mazzeo stated in other placed he worked he set up an excel sheet to list everything that was issued and plans to do the same.

Treasurer, Paul Niglo commented stating in our contracts in the past if an officer wanted a new gun, beside what we issued we would buy it and then receive reimbursement through payroll deductions. Officer Mazzeo stated that is correct and stated that is still in there adding part timers are not covered by this.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** - DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (absent)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

**CODE/HEALTH AND SAFETY** – (Stephen Bielskie)

Report attached

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated Liam Bradley, one of our Red Tornadoes is going for his Eagle Scout and has a project and wants to paint the gazebo in town park. Mr. Dowkus stated September 18<sup>th</sup> he wants to pressure wash it, September 25<sup>th</sup> himself and his group of helpers are going to paint it and October 2<sup>nd</sup> it will be finalized.

Mr. Dowkus stated there are some banisters, shingles and some repairs needed. Mr. Dowkus stated there was some conversation with the Kulpmont Sportsman Club stating they may consider kicking in some money and labor to possibly put a new roof on the gazebo and the deer pen. Mr. Dowkus stated they will be doing all of the work and Liam will be the foreman of the job and stated it is for another merit badge and it is a long strenuous process. Mr. Dowkus commented that is why there are not many Eagle Scouts around anymore because they really have a line to walk to get the job done.

**MOTION**- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Sinopoli to donate not to exceed \$200.00 to help cover any extra charges.

Mayor Bozza stated he would just like to add the Kulpmont Sportsman's did donate money for the paint. Mr. Dowkus stated that is correct and stated Bruce supplied all the information on the same color of paint and supplier.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** - DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), SINOPOLI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), SLABY (absent)  
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus stated in the future he would like to get the Ordinance committee together to cross some T's and dot some I's.

**GRANTS/RECREATION** – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated just an update on the Emergency money, we are still waiting on some more definite information on what that money may be spent on.

Mr. Chesney stated we are working on some water mitigation issues and problems could be covered, but we are waiting to hear more and so there is about \$114,000.00 sitting aside right now. Mr. Chesney stated the work must be completed by 2024 and so we have time. The streets and waterways may be able to be rectified through these funds.

Mr. Chesney stated we will be hearing more on the \$100,000.00 that will be coming to help with the subsidence's on another project.

Mr. Motyka stated he has been in on meetings with the EPA environmental justice team and stated they recommended he contact a gentleman from Philadelphia about three hundred million dollars for coal communities and stated there is another three billion coming for that fund. Mr. Motyka stated if we reach out to this gentleman there may be

some opportunity, the grant is due October 12<sup>th</sup> and so we may need to call another meeting if we do anything.

**PERSONNEL-** (Michael Sinopoli)

No Report

**FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE** – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella would like to thank the fireman and Officer Mazzeo as officer in charge, you're doing a good job.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Rev. Andrew Stahmer stated a few months ago there was something said about increase of salaries for police and asked where that is.

Mr. Niglio responded and said they have negotiated and come to a tentative agreement and are drawing up the new contract and once the wording is approved it will be presented to council to be passed. Mr. Niglio stated so at this point and time it is still a negotiable item.

Rev. Andrew Stahmer questioned how many police officers we have. Mr. Niglio responded and said we have one. Rev. Andrew Stahmer stated he did say he would donate \$1000.00 for the salary of police officer and stated since he promised that \$1,000.00 will be going to Officer Mazzeo, not for his salary but for what he does. Mayor Bozza thanked him and said it is appreciated.

**OLD BUSINESS-**

None

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Mayor Bozza stated Officer Mazzeo and Ms. Owens will be in court on the 29<sup>th</sup> and so we will not be available for street sweeper ticketing. Mr. Niglio questioned if he could swear someone in for that day. Solicitor Greco stated Mayor Bozza could swear someone in to ticket. Joseph Politza was sworn in by Mayor Bozza.

Mr. Fanella stated as a director of the West End and Mr. Sinopoli as a director stated the West End will donate \$200.00 if needed at the gazebo project. Mr. Dowkus stated he will let them know.

Mr. Motyka stated September 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. he asked that anyone interested in meeting at the Pavilion at the main entrance Terry Miriello Field and hopefully wrap up that project and move onto the next.

Mr. Motyka stated the YMCA community need survey will be going out on September 15<sup>th</sup> and stated we will get that on our Facebook page and stated he also contacted all 6 neighboring school districts and stated they are working to finalize the QR reader and will get that out.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Bozza stated this Saturday marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9-11 and stated he does not know if everyone is aware stating the Kulpmont 100 is sponsoring a first responder parade and hopes for everyone to come out. Mr. Fanella will notify the street department to place no parking signs on parade route. The route was briefly discussed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The September 8, 2021 meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair**

**Rhonda Wilk  
Borough Secretary**

**Approval date – October 13, 2021**