

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD FEBRUARY 20, 2014 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Nametko called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT

The Borough Clerk read the following statement:

Adequate notice of this meeting as defined by the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided by:

1. Posting a notice of said meeting in the space provided for such announcements at the Borough Hall on January 2, 2014.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough on January 6, 2014 and faxing a copy to the Star Ledger on January 2, 2014.

ROLL CALL

Those present at this evenings meeting included Councilwoman Butler, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Koster, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametco. Also attending: Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator, Mr. Oostdyk, Mr. Bucco (arrived later) and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Charles Cedro – 6 Allen St. – Mr. Cedro returned to get an update regarding the progress in resolving the drainage issues. Mr. Blakeslee noted that during an inspection this week it was confirmed that one of the pipes was obstructed. Mr. Olivo commented on the chamber. Mr. Blakeslee said that the DOT is trying to get prices for contracting the work that will stay within budget. Mr. Oostdyk read a letter from the DOT that was received by Mr. Bucco. It was noted by Mr. Olivo that they appear to be cleaning a pipe that is going to be abandoned. Councilman Hathaway agreed that there was probably a disconnect somewhere between the DOT and New Jersey transit. Mr. Cedro felt that a lot of time has passed with no results. He said we need to get one of these groups to help the town now.

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented at this meeting.

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2014-1** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26 of the Code of the Borough of Netcong and Revising the Policy Concerning Retiree Health Benefits

The Mayor noted that there were a lot of open issues with this ordinance. He recommended that the Council voted down for now.

A Motion to Vote Ordinance Down was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2014-2** – An Ordinance Authorizing the Chief of Police to Execute An Application for a Charitable Solicitation Permit for Netcong Volunteer Fire Company No. 1's "Coin Drop" on Memorial Day Weekend at the Intersections of Allen Street and Ledgewood Avenue and Main Street and Route 46 and Route 183 in the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2014-2 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Abstain: Councilman Koster

The Mayor opened the hearing to the public. No one stepped forward.

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Abstain: Councilman Koster

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2014-2 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call 5 Yes

Abstain: Councilman Koster

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this meeting.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee requested that the Council consider amending the current regulations for pennants and flags along the highway. He also wanted to review all of the electric signs that blink in the same area.

Mr. Blakeslee also highlighted an addition to his report which included updates on a gas company and online training for employees.

Councilman Hathaway strongly recommended that anyone with an issue with the signs should contact the NCP. The Council continued discussion on the various types of signs that were in use and the effect they had.

The Council also discussed the distribution of the forms and related announcements on line and in print.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

In the month of January the Borough had total income in the amount of \$542,696.38 as compared to the previous year of \$575,898.84

Year to Date for the month of January, 2014:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)
\$20,910.68 in 2012 vs. \$ 18,346.60 in 2013

State Aid

No state aid was received in January (either 2013 or 2014)

Grants in Aid

\$2,123.36 was received from the Safe Corridors program in January. No grants were received during the month of January last year.

Taxes Collected

Taxes in the amount of \$511,063.09 were collected in January of 2014 as compared to \$556,379.94 collected in January 2013.

Income Total Year to Date:

Total year to date revenues collect is 2014 is \$542,696.38 as compared to \$575,898.84 collected in 2013

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway provided the NCP report for file:

- **Public Relations:** Feature story for the promotion of companies that provide "Winter" products and services. Created the new Netcong Community Market full of special events and themes throughout the season.
- **Website:** Continue to update and refine the business directory and make all updates for 2014.

- **Facebook Page:** We continue to improve and grow our likes; we now have 457 likes!! We had 126 visits to the Facebook page with 321 page views! This statistic has remained consistent over the past year. People are talking about what we are doing downtown - our new visits this month are at 75.40%.
- **Operations:**
 1. Conducted our Annual Meeting and now have a full 11 member Board of Trustees- our trustees are:
 - a. Bill Lerman- President
 - b. Vic Pocerobba - Vice President
 - c. LeighAnn Von Hagen- Secretary
 - d. Ralph Blakeslee- Assistant Secretary
 - e. Kathy Robbins- Treasurer
 - f. Joe Nametko- Mayor
 - g. Robert Hathaway- Council Liasion
 - h. Maria Patamia- Property and business owner
 - i. Stephen Fredricks- Founder and Executive Director- The Growing Stage
 - j. Dr. Ginter- Property and business owner
 - k. Dave Wieppert - Property and business owner
 2. Have prepared annual documents to start our 2013 audit.
 3. Started to work with Alignable to link businesses together in a more collaborative and cohesive way.
 4. Have really started utilizing our committees to engage board members and the entire membership to help promote the downtown

Councilman Hathaway noted that for economic development they are currently entertaining 3 different developers.

Public Safety:
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

J. Sylvester

E. Koster

Councilman Sylvester reported that for the month of January, the Ambulance Corps had 67 total calls, 11 of which were out of town. They treated a total of 36 patients and made 36 trips to the hospital. The miles traveled were 1,082 miles and the hours volunteered were 204 hours and 8 minutes. There were 3 assists provided by the Netcong and Stanhope Fire Departments.

The Netcong fire Department had 13 general alarms. There were 5 meetings and 7 drills. There were 471.9 man-hours.

There were 2013 hours for the year. There were a total of 105 calls. 43 of those calls were mutual aid. There were 72 drills and 50 meetings. There were also 27 special details.

The Borough Police answered a total of 338 calls. They wrote a total of 107 motor vehicle summonses. There were also 31 local ordinances summonses. One of the sergeants had his knee operated on and he is currently out as a workman's comp case. He will be recuperating over the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Water Department: Shut the water service at 34 Hillside Ave. as requested by Borough Hall---Experienced service line freezing at 26 Ledgewood Ave. and 23 Rt.

206 South, both were thawed and are back in service---

Road Department: Unclogged blocked storm drains on Dell Ave. and Koclas Dr.---

Buildings & Grounds: Removed all Christmas decorations from the decorative lights on Main St., Maple Ave., Ledgewood Ave., and from Borough Hall and the Christmas tree at the firehouse---

Recycling: Collected and chipped 174 Christmas trees from the residents in January (at no cost for disposal)

Snow and Ice Control: Called in the Borough's plowing contractor for assistance on January 2, and January 21 2014 for a total of 86 truck hours and a total cost of

\$11,766.00 for the month of January---Used 186 tons of salt for snow and ice control in January---Borough employees worked 170 hours of overtime for snow and ice control in January---

Other: Mailed the borough calendars for Cindy---Made repairs to plows and plow pumps as needed---Brought the State Boiler inspector to both firehouses for boiler inspections---Brought our JIF inspector to all borough buildings for insurance inspections---

Comments: One DPW Employee continues to be out on workers comp until further notice---

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

Councilwoman Butler reported the following for January:

1. On Saturday March 15, Recreation will be hosting a bus trip to Jersey Boys. The price per ticket is \$85 and unfortunately we are SOLD OUT!
2. Our next Broadway bus trip will take place on Saturday August 2nd and we will see Wicked.
3. We will be working with the Netcong PTA to jointly offer an Easter Egg Hunt for the children in April
4. We will be firming up a few events (one time Cruise Night, Junk in The Trunk, possibly another bus trip) at next week's meeting.
5. There is discussion about a family picnic in June.

Public Services:
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal)

T. Laureys

P. Butler

Councilman Laureys reported the following for the month of January:

Days of service: 21
Miles: 1088
Number of stops: 77
Nutrition for 6 people: 32
Food shopping 22 people: 40
Number of Meals on Wheels: 17
Medical Appointments: 12
Other Appointments: 48
People Using Services: 44
Cancels: 28
Denials: 3
Units: 283
Hours: 104.25
Additional Notes: none

OLD BUSINESS

1. Title Search for Terrace Street Retaining Wall- Heritage Abstract Co.

Mr. Oostdyk, sitting in for Mr. Bucco the borough attorney provided a brief update. He noted that the title search was inconclusive. So far information is pointing to the fact that the wall is primarily in the right-of-way. More research is needed including review of the records and Mount Olive where this property originated. Mr. Blakeslee will contact Mt. Olive to try to obtain this information.

2. New Jersey Natural Gas Street Opening Update

Mr. Blakeslee reports NJNG has agreed to all conditions suggested by the Borough Engineer, Robert Guerin. The Mayor stated that the gas line can be completed as long as it is installed before College Rd. is paved this summer.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion - 2014 Budget

The budget is still in progress and there is no new information to discuss at this time.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council woman Butler wanted to openly discuss what was going on with the new fire truck. This would purely be discussion and have nothing to do with making a decision or voting. She was interested in the other Council member's opinions. Councilwoman Butler began by stating she did not think we were financially able to buy the truck. Plus she firmly believes that the decision had to be made on

what was going on with the two fire companies before anything else could be done. The Mayor noted that there are no capital purchases in the budget that he knows of. Councilman Hathaway felt that the leaders and the fire company are looking to the Council for direction. And he felt that the Chiefs of the fire departments should be leading the discussion. The rest of the Council joined in the conversation regarding the Netcong fire Department, the budget/budget process and related issues. For the record, Mr. Bucco joined the meeting and provided his thoughts regarding protocol for this situation.

After lengthy discussion, it was determined that the Mayor and Council are the decision makers regarding the purchase of the Quint fire truck.

Councilman Koster, Sylvester and Still are fireman and were recused from the vote.

A motion to not purchase the Quint Fire Truck was made by Councilwoman Butler and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 3 Yes Abstain: Councilmen Koster, Sylvester and Still

The Council took a brief recess at 9:18 PM and returned at 9:25 PM.

Councilman Hathaway wished to thank the Department of Public works for an excellent job with the major snow removal.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor made a request for Mr. Blakeslee to report on the water infrastructure trust fund. Mr. Blakeslee noted that the letter of intent has been accepted and filed. He is currently working on the loan papers. Mr. Blakeslee added it would be a very low interest loan.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2014- 32** - Authorizing the Acceptance and Execution of a Developer's Agreement with Progressive Properties, Inc. for the Preliminary Major Subdivision Approval of Block 8, Lot 36

A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Bond Ordinance 2014-1** – To Authorize the Undertaking of Various Improvements to Firehouse No.1 in, By and for the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, to Appropriate the sum of \$109,000.00 to Pay the Cost Thereof, to make a Down Payment, to Authorize the Issuance of

Bonds to Finance such Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in the Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds

A Motion to Introduce Bond Ordinance #2014-1 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.
Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2014-1 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.
Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - Contract Negotiations- Police Contract
3. It is anticipated that the minutes on the subject matters of the closed session will be made public upon conclusion, dismissal or settlement of litigation; or final resolution of agreements on personnel matters; and in any event, when appropriate pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-7 and 4-13.
4. The Council will come back into open session and may take further action.

A Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Butler at 9:35 PM
Roll Call: Yes.

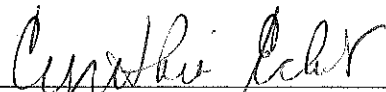
A Motion to come out of Closed Session was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Butler at 9:44 PM
Roll Call: 6 Yes.

A Motion to Authorize Attorney to Prepare Police Contract and Allow Mr. Blakeslee to present it to the FOP was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 9:45 PM and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk