

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MARCH 13, 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 7:33 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STATEMENT OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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 10, 2014.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 15, 2014 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 10, 2014.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance were Councilwoman Butler, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Koster (arrived at 8:03 PM), Councilman Laureys, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present was Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk. Mr. Bucco, Borough Attorney, arrived at 7:35 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented at this meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Charles Cedro, 6 Allen St., requested an update regarding the drainage issue.

Mr. Bob Olivo, DPW Superintendent was invited by the Mayor to provide an update. Mr. Olivo started with the report that the culvert was cleaned by NJ Transit this week. He elaborated on the large quantity of all kinds of debris stuck in the pipe. With the pipe clean, the water flow has improved. However the pipe is old and cracked. He feels the pipe will fail again. Mr. Olivo continued that the pipe is the responsibility of NJ Transit. NJ Transit discussed lining the pipe or building a trench. Mr. Olivo recommended lining the pipe. The Council and Mr.

Olivo continued a lengthy discussion on conditions and possible solutions to this ongoing problem.

Mr. Bucco offered to follow up with NJ Transit on the pipe the Council thought should be removed.

A motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Absent: Councilman Koster

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID COST ESTIMATE

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public to discuss the SID cost estimate. No one stepped forward.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Absent: Councilman Koster

Councilman Laureys asked about the \$5,000 provided to the SID by the Town. The Mayor provided a brief history of the SID and the allocation. He was not comfortable with the town providing these funds. The Mayor, Councilman Hathaway and Councilwoman Butler discussed why this support was warranted.

Resolution #2014-33 - Resolution to Approve the 2014 Cost Estimate for the Borough's Special Improvement District.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster No: Councilman Laureys

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2014 BUDGET

Resolution #2014- 34 - TO INTRODUCE THE 2014 BUDGET

Mr. Bucco asked a question regarding the terminology. Mr. Blakeslee responded.

A motion to approve the introduction of the 2014 budget was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

- 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 Read Bond Ordinance 2014-1 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

The Mayor opened the meeting to the Public for comment. Seeing no one coming forward, The Mayor asked for a motion to close.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

A motion to adopt Bond Ordinance #2014-1 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this meeting.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee and Councilman Hathaway discussed a request for funding for the lake campaign provided by letter from a towns person. The Council discussed this for some time. The decision was to invite the requesters to come and speak at the April meeting.

Mr. Blakeslee also wanted to remind the Council about the online training, tree removal information and project schedules.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Councilman Still acknowledged the new budget and solicited comment from the Council. He also discussed the audit.

In the month of February the Borough had total income in the amount of \$1,376,269.07 as compared to the previous year of \$1,356,072.98.

Year to Date:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

\$9,379.20 in 2014 vs. \$8,862.77 in 2013

Other Licenses:

\$22,738.32 in 2014 vs. \$25,381.61 in 2013

State Aid

\$0/\$0

Grants in Aid

\$9,161.70 in 2014 vs. \$7,324.52 in 2013

In February the Borough received \$4,840.04 in Municipal Alliance grant funds and \$2,198.30 in State of NJ Fire Safety grant funds.

Taxes Collected

\$1,877,686.23 collected in 2014 vs. \$1,890,207.92 collected in 2013.

Income Total Year to Date:

\$1,918,965.45 in 2014 vs. \$1,931,971.82 in 2013

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway noted the meeting with Stonefield Developers. There was dialog with Quick Chek to be a tenant on the property. Councilman Hathaway expressed his concerns with this and the laxity on the movement of the QC permits. He noted a meeting with Crown Point developers.

Councilman Hathaway discussed the following regarding the NCP:

- o 2013 audit has been prepared to go to the accountant
- o Strategic planning meeting has been scheduled for April
- o Membership list is ongoing
- o New Vice President has been selected (Maria Patamia)
- o Undertaking a branding campaign

Public Safety: J. Sylvester E. Koster
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

Councilman Sylvester reported that for the month of February, the Ambulance Corps had 50 calls of which 0 were out of town. They treated a total of 29 patients and made 29 trips to the hospital. The miles traveled were 864 miles and the hours volunteered were 233 hours and 53 minutes. There were 3 assists provided by the Stanhope Fire Department.

The Netcong Fire Department had 7 general alarms 3 mutual aid calls out of town. There were 7 meetings and 7 drills. They volunteered a total of 315.3 hours

The Borough Police answered a total of 334 calls. They wrote a total of 116 motor vehicle summonses. There were also 29 local ordinance summonses. They are still one man down.

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Water Department: Due to extreme weather conditions in February, an estimated water bill was sent to all customers---Repaired a 6" water main break on railroad Ave and Repaired a 4" water main break on Allen St.---

Road Department: Patched pot holes as needed---Cleared snow from catch basins--- Moved snow from dangerous areas as needed---

Sewer Department: Unclogged a blocked 8" sewer main on Center St.---

Buildings & Grounds: Cleaned snow from all borough owned sidewalks as needed---

Snow and Ice Control: Called in the plowing contractor for assistance on February 3, 5 and 13 for a total of 125.5 truck hours and a total amount of \$16,895.00---DPW employees worked a total of 196.5 hrs. overtime in February for snow and ice control---Used 136.5 ton of salt in February for snow and ice control---

Training: JIF Training, Olivo, Canfield---(Supervisor training)---JIF Training, Olivo, Canfield, Mendel, Fiorello---(safety training)---NJ Water---Olivo---Source Development, Wells / Reservoirs---

Other: Made repairs to vehicles and snow plows as needed---Mailed the water bills for Cindy---Performed utility mark outs as requested by NJ One Call---

Comments: NJ Transit cleaned the 36" culvert on Hilts Lane between the manhole on Hilts Lane near the Family Ford gate and the manhole in the park & ride. They were also able to clean the clogged 18" pipe from track area to Hilts Lane. For now, the water is flowing fine but as the video of the pipe proved, the 18" pipe is in very poor condition with breaks and cracks throughout and it will continue to fail until repairs are made--- One DPW Employee remains on workers comp until further notice---

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

Councilwoman Butler reported the following for March 2014:

1. On Saturday 3/15, Recreation will be hosting their Jersey Boys NYC Bus Trip. We have a sold out bus and I am sure a good time will be had by all.
2. This year Recreation will be holding a Junk in the Trunk at the Train Station during their annual Garage Sale. We are working on promoting this event now.
3. Flyers have been completed for this year's Cruise event which will be held at the Train Station on Sunday, July 13th from 1-4pm. Ads have been placed in local papers. We will be sharing flyers with schools, the town website, etc.
4. Another bus trip has been booked for Saturday August 2nd- we will be going in to NYC to see Wicked. Flyers will go out next week and after our Jersey Boy Trip.

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

T. Laureys

P. Butler

Councilman Laureys reported the following for the month of February:

Days of service: 17

Miles: 852

Number of stops: 70

Nutrition for people: 16

Food shopping people: 43

Number of Meals on Wheels: 20

Medical Appointments: 15

Other Appointments: 49

People Using Services: 49

Cancels: 28

Denials: 16 (includes snow)

Units: 264

Hours: 88.5

Additional Notes: one new senior and 5 new disabled

OLD BUSINESS

1. Title Search for Terrace Street Retaining Wall

Mr. Blakeslee followed Mr. Bucco's direction and contacted Mt. Olive to see if they had any records on this property. There was not much information to pull from what was there. Mr. Bucco provided his research regarding the lot. The Council discussed this at length. Mr. Blakeslee will talk to Mr. Verdi to see if he

has a survey of his property. Mr. Blakeslee also brought up the idea of purchasing a survey.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Junior Firefighter Application – Anthony Quan

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway to approve the application and was seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilmen Koster and Still

2. Authorization to Go Out to Bid for Fire Company #1 Elevator and Stairs

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilwoman Butler to approve authorization.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

3. Authorization to Go Out to Bid for College Rd. and Stoll St. Phase II

A motion to authorize moving forward on going out to bid was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

President Sylvester had one topic to discuss: the walls on Allen Street that are in disrepair. He reported that one has actually fallen on the sidewalk, one is leaning out. He requested that Mr. Blakeslee check them out and write letters.

Councilman Hathaway requested that the Council move forward on the War Memorial. He was expecting that this would be ready by Memorial Day.

Councilman Koster made a motion to move forward with purchase of the War Memorial Honor Wall. Councilman Still seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Mr. Hathaway

Councilwoman Butler asked if Reserves and National Guard are included. The Council was in unanimous agreement that these branches should be included as long as they were active duty.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2014- 35** - To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 13-00008
2. **Resolution 2014-38** – Retiree Health Care Benefits
3. **Resolution 2014-39** – Personnel Policy
4. **Resolution 2014-40** Authorizing the Cancellation of Outstanding Checks
5. **Resolution 2014-41** – To Refund Tax Overpayment – Muscarelle Block 30 Lot 1

A motion to pass Resolutions 2014-35 – 2014-41 (*voted in a block*) was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

6. **Resolution 2014-42** – Authorizing the Acceptance and Execution of an Agreement Between the Borough of Netcong and the Netcong Borough Fraternal Order of Police Officers.

A motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway. (Note: this vote took place after closed session)

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Sylvester

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2014-3** -. An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2014-3 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2014-3 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2014-4** -. An Ordinance Authorizing the Police Chief to Execute an Application for a Charitable Solicitation Permit for American Legion Ambulance Corp of Stanhope/Netcong's "Coin Drop" on June 13th, June 14th, 2014 and on September 5th and September 6th, 2014 at the Intersections of Allen Street and Ledgewood Ave. and Main Street and Route 46 in the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2014-4 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2014-4 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. **Ordinance 2014-5-** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26 of the Code of the Borough of Netcong and Revising the Policy Concerning Retiree Health Benefits

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2014-5 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2014-5 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

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 Councilwoman Butler.
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: FOP 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 Councilwoman Butler and seconded by Councilman Sylvester at 9:12 PM.

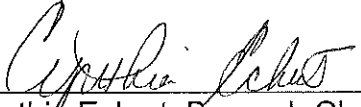
Roll Call: 6 Yes.

A Motion to return to public session was made at 9:28 PM by Councilman Still and passed by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 9:29 PM and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk