

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JUNE 12, 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

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 Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Koster, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented at this meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

- Frank Koval – Alternative Auto – Allen St. – Mr. Koval wanted to know the status of the SID letter discussed at previous meetings. The Mayor responded that the Borough is working on it. A revised copy has been distributed to the Council for review. Mr. Koval commented that he thought he would be included in the drafting of the letter. Mr. Koval felt that a full picture of the situation would not be provided if only in-house input was used. A lengthy discussion about the content of the SID letter proceeded. Councilman Hathaway and Mayor Nametko noted many opportunities where input from all was received.
- Gina Thomas – Executive Director of the SID – in preparation for the Council's vote on the SID Budget tonight: she offered a brief review including revenue and expense

figures and asked the Council if they had any questions. No one had any comments or questions.

- Wayne Anthony – 24 Dell Ave. – Mr. Anthony would like to commend the Netcong Police Department especially Officer Borgia for all the work done on the *Every 15 Minute Program* presented to the Lenape Valley HS junior and senior classes. It was a very impressive event for the kids. He noted it was very powerful and moving. Mr. Anthony hoped that the students will learn from it and not drink and drive. Mr. Anthony felt the program should be presented every two years.

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID BUDGET

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for the hearing on the SID budget. No one stepped forward to speak on the budget.

A motion to close the public hearing on the SID Budget was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

Mr. Laureys had a question about the SID Budget. He wanted to know if the budget needed to be amended because the Farmer's Market Line item will not be used this year. Mr. Oostdyk, (filling in for Borough Attorney, Mr. Bucco) explained there is nothing clear in the statute that says an amendment must be made to remove that line item. It can be left and unused in the budget. There is no clear guidance in the statute for how it should be used. After lengthy discussion, it was verified that the budget does not need to be amended.

Resolution #2014–57 - Authorizing the Adoption of the 2014 Budget of the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District.

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Mr. Koster initially abstained but then had to vote (vote of necessity)

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2014-9** – An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 54, Police Department, Article IV, Fees, Section 54-16, Fees, Paragraph F, Contracted Police Services, Subparagraph (3) of the Code of the Borough of Netcong, Morris County, New Jersey

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2014-9 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for comment. There were no comments from the audience.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2014-9 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Mr. DiRupo- Lenape Valley High School- Every 15 Minute Program

Mayor Nametko read the letter from Lenape Valley High School Principal. Mr. Borgia was in attendance. The Mayor commended him for all the time and effort he put into this program. The Borough will be working on funding for future presentations of this program. Councilman Koster was very enthusiastic about the program and how beneficial it was. He attended portions of the program which were very intense. Mr. Sylvester commented that he still hears people talking about the impact this program has had on the community.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Mr. Sylvester asked about Quick Chek: are they going to do anything with the building? The Council has concerns about the maintenance and appearance of the property. Mr. Hathaway is especially concerned with the empty cans and beer bottles. The Council discussed the many issues with this property. Mr. Sylvester requested that Mr. Blakeslee keep documentation and pictures.
2. Mr. Blakeslee requested authorization from the Council to negotiate the two quotes received for the Fire Company #1 foundation work. He would like to award the work by resolution at the July meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance:

E. Still

J. Sylvester

In the month of **May** the Borough had total income in the amount of \$1,325,490.91 as compared to the previous year of \$1,502,878.95.

Year to Date:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

\$2,207.20 in 2014 vs. \$1,326.65 in 2013

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

\$11,594.82 in 2014 vs. \$13,985.82 in 2013

State Aid

\$0/\$0

Grants in Aid

\$5,434.00 in 2014 vs. \$5,794.75 in 2013

In May the Borough received its 2014 Clean Communities grant.

Taxes Collected

\$1,306,254.89 collected in 2014 vs. \$1,481,771.73 collected in 2013

Income Total Year to Date:

\$3,991,780.79 in 2014 VS. \$3,856,047.10 in 2013.

Economic Development:

R. Hathaway

E. Still

Councilman Hathaway is very optimistic about the projects in progress. He briefly reviewed all the projects at present. Meetings and correspondence are moving forward with development companies. The Pocketbook Factory is experiencing some hurdles with regard to the sidewalks.

Public Safety:

J. Sylvester

E. Koster

(Police, Fire, Rescue)

The Netcong Fire Department for the month of May had a total of seven calls, five of those calls were rapid intervention calls. There were six drills, five meetings and five special details. A total of 47 men worked 836.3 hours.

The Netcong Police Department answered a total of 330 calls. There were 132 total summonses, seven of which were cell phone summonses. Trucks were also ticketed on Main Street.

The Stanhope Netcong ambulance squad for the month of May had a total of 51 calls they treated 34 patients and made 34 trips to the hospital. They traveled 991 miles for the month, 337 hours and 36 minutes were volunteered.

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

For the month of May, 2014:

Water Department: Read water meters---Repaired broken curb boxes at 14 Cross St., 3 Bank St. and 9 Barone St. ---Installed new water meters at 3 Bank St. and Motion Auto---Completed and mailed the 2014 Consumer Confidence Report---

Road Department: Vacuumed Main St. and Maple Ave weekly---Made repairs to collapsed catch basins as needed---

Parks & Recreation: Installed 100 yards of playground mulch in the DiRenzo Park playground---

Buildings & Grounds: Installed additional fence at DiRenzo park for geese control---Installed the benches on main St. for the summer months---Cut grass at all borough owned buildings weekly---Purchased and planted spring flowers in the 48 flower pots, 5 Welcome to Netcong gardens and Town Hall---GAK construction started phase 2 of the #1 firehouse construction, completion and inspections will be soon---Repaired large sink holes in the Borough Hall parking lot---Installed the Welcome to Netcong banners on Main St, Maple Ave. and Ledgewood Ave.-- Installed the American flags on Main St. and Maple Ave.---

Recycling: Collected 6 loads of grass clippings, 18 loads of leaves, 6 loads of brush and 4 loads of wood chips---

Other: Replaced a broken windshield on truck 573---Purchased and set up a 325 gallon water tank for flower watering---Installed a trailer hitch on 1 police vehicle--Assisted the LMRPB with installing the weed harvester in the lake---

Comments: Videoed damage at Arbolino Park bathrooms and handed over the video to the Police Dept. ---With the help of Chief Blesson, we were able to complete tile and carpet cleaning at Town Hall and the Police Dept. using a contractor other than the school---

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

- concerts in the park begin this Friday, June 13.
- children's coloring contest will be June 27
- save the date notifications have been sent out for the holiday parade
- there will be a cruise event on July 13
- there will be a trip to see *Wicked* on August 2
- a 5K race is in the planning

Public Services:
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal

T. Laureys

P. Butler

For the month of May:

Days of Service: 19

Miles: 1050

Number of Stops: 102

Nutrition: (6 people): 50

Food Shopping: (19 People) 43

Number of Meals on Wheels: 18

Medical Appointments: 22

Other Appointments: 60

People Using Services: 47

Cancel: 16

Denials: 12

Units: 361

Hours: 103

Additional Notes: 1 new senior, 2 new disabled

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fire Department

Mr. Sylvester commented that he thought this issue was put to rest at the last meeting. There appears to be some confusion. Mrs. Butler, who originally requested this be discussed, was not at this evening's meeting. Mr. Blakeslee will reach out to her to ask if she would like to revisit this. Mr. Sylvester offered that the Fire Department is working out the issues on their own; there is no reason to bring up again.

2. Letter from Mr. Falconer – 2 Terrace St.

Mr. Blakeslee asked for guidance from the Council on the issue of having the gas company install a gas line on Terrace St. After brief discussion the Council

decided it would not be detrimental for the gas company to install a gas line on Terrace St. This will not conflict with the Terrace Wall issue or bring liability to the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councilman Hathaway- The Borough needs to address the issue of the geese at DiRenzo Park. A chemical can be sprayed to keep them off the grass. However, this measure is only temporary. The Mayor noted that rain washes the chemical away. Councilman Hathaway recommended long term control including a geese roundup be performed. The cost of spraying is around \$2000.00 and a round up would cost around \$5000.00. It was decided by the Council that the round-up is the better option.

A Motion was made to authorize the geese round-up not to exceed \$5000.00 by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President Sylvester had no comment at this time.

Councilman Still –noted an error on the Veterans Memorial Board- Edward J. Koster died in the Korean Conflict – the * denoting this is missing. The Council continued discussion regarding any potential errors on the board.

Councilman Laureys – had comments on SID survey/letter. He felt the newest version is too long and not direct. He did not feel that the reader would understand the document. The Mayor interjected that he felt the package of information provided was succinct. The Mayor asked if the Councilman found value in the NCP. Councilman Laureys responded affirmatively. Councilman Sylvester asked if the document was finalized. A council member responded that it was not. The Mayor pointed out that there were two documents. Only one of them was the NCP document. The document in question was written by Councilman Hathaway and Mr. Blakeslee.

The Mayor and Councilman Hathaway challenged the public statements that Councilman Laureys made earlier. The Mayor read from previous minutes to illustrate what was on record that Councilman Laureys had previously approved.

The Council continued strong discussion regarding the wording of the document as well as the possibility of time being wasted during all of this argumentation.

Councilman Hathaway made the following statement:

At our last regular meeting June 5, Mr. Laureys raised concerns regarding the Special Improvement District budget. Although these concerns obviously require our attention, I am disturbed again about the process. I don't believe that Mr. Laureys issue came to light on the Thursday of our meeting so late that he could not give me the advanced notice. I suspect that he has invested some time, as I suggested, reading the state statute, our ordinance and the special improvement districts bylaws. You should all know that Mr. Laureys attended SID meeting just two weeks prior to ours without raising any concerns. He has not contacted me or anyone on the SID board prior to our June 5 meeting to discuss his concerns. This absence of communication is problematic as his process of addressing the full Council suggests an environment of noncooperation. Mr. Laureys' actions, again outside of our committee structure, have created an environment which unfairly disparages the constructive efforts of the SID. Additionally consider that again the 11th hour nature of this presentation has created unnecessary cost to the borough. Our attorney Mr. Bucco confided to me that the expedited research necessary to address Mr. Laureys concerns before this meeting will come at some substantial cost. Curiously Mrs. Thomas the director of the SID, came to the same conclusions as Tony. Given some advance notice we could have had Mrs. Thomas do the necessary research and forward to Mr. Bucco for verification at substantial savings. The process that we had engaged in has created both the cost of Bucco you will and Thomas for our community to bear. I ask you all when does this end? The involvement of Mr. Laureys in this issue has been irresponsible and costly to all involved.

While you are considering your position on this issue, I'd like to share a photo with you. I thought I might demonstrate to you all another hidden cost of this process. Mr. Laureys committee as titled in our minutes is public services: human services, recycling and solid waste disposal. On April 11 Mr. Laureys accepted an award on behalf of Mr. Olivo. This award celebrates Mr. Olivo's success in administering our recycling programs. At the 26th annual Morris County recycling awards dinner, Mr. Olivo was honored as an individual who has made a difference in recycling efforts for their community. I have reviewed the minutes of April 3, April 10, May 1, and maybe without minutes as memory serves last week's meeting of June 8. Curiously there is no mention of this notable achievement. How sad. While Mr. Laureys is out polling, propogandizing, misrepresenting and otherwise confounding the efforts of our SID. Mr. Olivo's award goes unnoticed. It is an embarrassment.

Councilman Laureys explained that he intended to honor Mr. Olivo when both he and Mr. Olivo and the award were all present at a meeting.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution #2014- 63** – Authorizing the Purchase on State Contract Mason Dump Truck
2. **Resolution #2014- 64** – Authorizing the Purchase of Water Meters, Radio Interface Units and Appurtenant Equipment from HD Supply Waterworks, LLC (Phase III)
3. **Resolution #2014-65** – To Approve Liquor License Renewals for 2014-2015
4. **Resolution 2014-66** - To Renew A' Nets Pub Liquor License for 2014-2015
5. **Resolution 2014-67** – Resolution Granting the Renewal of Liquor License No. 1428-44008003 for Quick Check Food Stores and Directing the Borough Clerk to Issue Same
6. **Resolution 2014-68** – A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to National Metering Services, Inc. for the Installation of the Borough Supplied I-Pearl Water Meters with MXU (Phase 3)
7. **Resolution 2014-69** – Authorizing Application for a Loan from the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program
8. **Resolution 2014-70-** Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Edge Property Maintenance, Inc. for the Rear Stair and Handicapped Accessible Lift Project at the Netcong Fire Company Co. #1
9. **Resolution 2014-71** – Authorizing a Public Display of Fireworks by the St. Cesario Society at Arbolino Park

For resolutions 63, 64 and 70:

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

For resolutions 65, 66, 67 and 71:

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

No ordinances were introduced at this meeting.

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 9:04 PM, seconded by Councilman Hathaway and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk