

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD OCTOBER 9, 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 Councilwoman Butler, 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

Mr. Charles Cedro of 8 Allen St., Netcong asked for an update on the situation he has been discussing for the past several meetings. Mayor Nametko said that there have been several meetings with engineers from both sides who have walked the site. It was his understanding that they want to construct a bypass system to verify how each system is draining. He believes this is a proper way to identify the problem so it can be fixed. At this time, Debbie Hirt from the department of transportation stepped up to address the situation. The Council asked her various questions. She mentioned the DOT was having a conference call with the Department of Environmental Protection next week. Councilman Hathaway expressed concern regarding the DOT not being certain of the situation when he has witnessed them being present at several meetings where

everything was identified in detail. He felt it was unacceptable that the situation was still in this state at this point in time. The Council and the DOT continued discussion with the intent to obtain some sort of rectification. Councilman Hathaway explained background history from his understanding in order to help the DOT representative understand the Council's frustration. Mr. Cedro provided historical perspective back from 2007. He stated that "we are just not being taken care of." He added that no one is being held accountable. Mayor Nametko and Councilman Hathaway continued to update Ms. Hirt with background information. She told the Council she would get back to them the following day.

Mr. Dave Weippert of 46 Main St., Netcong asked Councilman Hathaway which tasks completed by the DPW were not appropriately taxed by the public. Councilman Hathaway stated with the abatement to his taxes, he would be happy to mow and snowplow parts of Netcong. Mr. Weippert then addressed the entire Council when he asked for quantification of benefits from the NCP. Mayor Nametko responded with how he felt the town would be hurt without some of the contributions the NCP has provided. He added this was difficult to measure with all the other intervening variables that have occurred. Mr. Weippert expressed his concerns with the events that occurred regarding the NCP at the last meeting.

Mr. Clifton Young of 32 Maple Ave. Netcong complained about the large trucks that were coming down Main Street. This is a problem because of visibility on that street with a large truck. He requested a sign be put up to notify drivers that large trucks would not be able to negotiate this area. The Mayor responded that the police are very aware of the situation and many tickets have been written. There are signs out there however, with the construction that was completed, many truckers miss reading the signs. The Mayor also noted that Google maps are out of date regarding the current mapping of the area which also causes a problem. Councilman Sylvester noted that they have requested larger signs from the DOT. The Mayor also noted that there are bump outs on the corners he was discussing to help slow traffic down. However, he was concerned about what Mr. Young stated regarding the blind spot. Mr. Young provided the streets where the maple tree was that reduced visibility.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2014-12** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 194, Land Development Procedures of the Code of the Borough of Netcong and Amending the Regulation of Fences

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2014-12 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon Was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments regarding this ordinance.

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2014-12 was made by Councilwoman Butler and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this meeting.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The Mayor asked the Council if they had any questions for Mr. Blakeslee. There were none. The Mayor then asked Mr. Blakeslee if he had any additional comments. Mr. Blakeslee replied he did not.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

In the month of September the Borough had total income in the amount \$240,068.77 as compared to the previous year of \$261,768.38.

For the month of September:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

\$879.00 in 2014 vs. \$1,154.55 in 2013

Less Zoning Permit fees were collected in September of 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk Fees:

\$11,932.01 in 2014 vs. \$6,696.32 in 2013

Rental inspection fees from Netcong Heights account for the increase in funds collected in September of 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013.

State Aid

\$117,571.80 in 2014 vs. \$117,571.67 in 2013

No change in amount the of State Aid received.

Grants in Aid

\$8,767.88 in 2014 vs. \$33,814.26 in 2013

The Borough received \$33,064.26 in FEMA funds for Hurricane Sandy in September of 2013, which accounts for the difference in this category.

Taxes Collected

\$100,918.08 collected in 2014 vs. \$102,531.58 collected in 2013

Income Total Year to Date:

\$6,630,763.81 in 2014 vs. \$6,369,634.20 in 2013.

Councilman Still added that the Finance Committee met and discussed financials regarding the DPW.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway noted that the final approvals for the Pocketbook Factory should be realized at the next planning board meeting.

Councilman Hathaway also stated that the NCP met and discussed all the feedback in order to determine the method to address the negative comments and work on potential changes of its administration.

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

Councilman Sylvester reported that for the month of September, the Ambulance Corps had 57 total calls, 5 of which were out of town. They treated a total of 32 patients and made 32 trips to the hospital. The miles traveled were 920 miles and the hours volunteered were 196 hours.

The Netcong Fire Department had 4 general alarms and 4 calls. There were 3 meetings, 8 Special Details and 6 drills. There were 3 firefighters in the Academy. A total of 51 fire fighters served a total of 710.2 hours.

The Borough Police answered a total of 554 calls. They wrote a total of 123 motor vehicle summonses. There were also 10 local ordinance summonses. They also received a check to be used towards DWI patrols for the year.

Councilman Sylvester added that there was a message coming down from the Atty. Gen. that noted the police digital fingerprint system may have to be changed. Plus all police cars will need to have cameras. The costs are rather prohibitive. The Council discussed ways to acquire these items.

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Water Department: Performed water shut offs and repairs as needed for meter installation contractor--- Installed new chlorine pump at #1 well house

Road Department: Hydraulic vehicle lift inspection performed by Spohrer Air Compressor Co.---Installed new NO PARKING THIS SIDE signs on Dell Ave. from Water St. to Allen St.

Sewer Department: Cleaned sewer lateral clog at 38 Railroad Ave-- Cleaned sewer main clog at Dowel Associates

Parks & Recreation: Cleaned graffiti off of concrete at Drenzo Park

Buildings & Grounds: Paved and trimmed race route for Netcong Day and completed all necessary tasks in preparation for Netcong Day---R&J Control in to perform quarterly maintenance of generators

Recycling: Picked up 10 loads of grass.... Picked up 12 loads of brush. Picked up 14 tires from Tri County Towing

Snow and Ice Control: Ordered 50 tons of salt to fill salt shed

Training: Tom Mendel attended a Recycling Coordinator Class at Rutgers--- Bob Olivo, Mike Canfield, Tom Mendel, Tim Hess, and Joe Fiorello watched on line Storm Water Training video

Other: Joe Fiorello injured his back while picking up cans of grass and will return to work as soon as he is cleared by our Workers Comp Doctor. Performed interviews for the new laborer position and presented the information to the Public Works Committee with the intent to make an offer of employment sometime in October.

Comments: Councilman Koster wished Mike much success and a smooth transition.

Mayor Nametko asked some questions regarding the graffiti. He wanted to know if the cameras caught anything.

Recreation: P. Butler T. Laureys

Councilwoman Butler reported the following:

- On October 22nd will be the annual holiday House decoration contest.
- On October 25th there will be the Trunk or Treat and Holiday Parade at the Train Station
- November 6th which is Thursday will be the Great Wolf bus trip
- November 8th is a Broadway show 'Once'
- The committee is still working on the Christmas Parade.

Public Services: T. Laureys P. Butler
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal)

Councilman Laureys reported the following for the month of September

Days of service: 21
Miles: 1198
Number of stops: 85
Nutrition for 7 people: 41
Food shopping 21 people: 69
Number of Meals on Wheels: 16
Medical Appointments: 24
Other Appointments: 45
People Using Services: 48
Cancels: 23
Denials: 4
Units: 375
Hours: 112
Additional Notes: 2 new senior, 1 new disabled

OLD BUSINESS

1. NCP-Attorney Report

Mr. Bucco reported that he looked into the delay/suspending of assessments in 2015. He believes this will be possible.

Councilman Hathaway stated that he believed all have acted rashly regarding the NCP. He felt the Council should look at the foundation of the arguments presented as some of them he believed were based on untruthful information. He provided specific details that proved this point. He noted that some of the

commitments to take care of projects without the NCP do not appear to be honored. He noted the fact that the majority of business people did not complete a survey. Councilman Hathaway reported that one of our Council members had presented publicly incorrect information. He provided examples of the former.

Councilman Laureys stood by his April report. He felt that the business people should spend their money the way they want and not have an NCP to govern this. He felt that the business people could do some of the things the NCP does for a fraction of the cost. He felt this was a situation with the government is forcing behaviors.

The Mayor commented that certain things need to be forced. For example when there is a homeowners association, all the owners must be a part of it. He also provided examples where the businessmen did nothing to help Netcong and many the residents volunteered their time and money to make things happen. He believed that information in the April report was not accurate.

Councilman Sylvester always believed in the NCP's mission and purpose. He noted that the business people 13 years ago decided that this is what they wanted to do. He really believes that the angst is over the money that the director is getting. He stated that the businesspeople that are investing in Netcong are the ones that want the NCP. He believes that the business population will not donate to the town.

The Council continued heated discussion regarding this topic. Mayor Nametko called the meeting to order. He provided details of history that he personally has witnessed and named business people's names during the process. He did not feel that these efforts could be replaced by volunteers.

The Mayor suggested doing a rollback to tier 1 funding which was done 2 years ago. He also agreed that we need to keep the highway corridor.

Councilman Hathaway was adamant that the NCP continues to move forward. He agreed with the Mayor's suggestions.

The Council continued discussion regarding the NCP.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Best practices worksheet

Mr. Blakeslee reported that we achieved 94% this year. This is a 2% increase over last year.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Hathaway wanted to report that he attended a meeting with Councilman Still in Trenton with the DEP regarding the dredging situation.

Councilman Sylvester wanted to report an important event regarding inspection with the fire department.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Nametko read the Pancreatic Cancer Proclamation.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2014-94** – Approval to Submit NJDOT Grant Application for Carolyn Way, Oak Street and Lower Wiltop Road Resurfacing
2. **Resolution 2014-95** - Approval to Submit NJDOT Grant Application for Stoll St.
3. **Resolution 2014 96** – Approval to Submit NJDOT Grant Application for Center St. and Cross Street Sidewalks
4. **Resolution 2014-97-** Approval to Submit NJDOT Grant Application for Ledgewood Ave. Streetscape Improvements – Phase II
5. **Resolution 2014-98** – To Appoint Ralph Simmerano as Crossing Guard
6. **Resolution 2014-99** – To Appoint Michael Depew as Alternate Crossing Guard
7. **Resolution 2014-100** – To Appoint Alfred DeFelice as DPW Laborer
8. **2014-101**–Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for a Licensed Supplemental Water and Sewer Operator

All eight resolutions noted above were voted as one block.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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 Councilwoman Butler.
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

It was determined at this time that there was no need to go into closed session

DISCUSSION

Councilman Hathaway wished to discuss the NCP suggestions that were mentioned by Mayor Nametko earlier with the Borough Attorney. He detailed his proposal to the Council and Mr. Bucco.

Councilman Hathaway read a letter that was signed by a majority vote of the NCP. It suggested a reorganization of the board structure and the related bylaw changes.

Councilman Laureys questioned the balance of power if all NCP members are elected by the Council. Mr. Bucco explained why this is not the case. He repeated what Councilman Hathaway discussed, which was a rollback to tier 1 and tier 2 pricing. Tier 3 and tier 4 would not be given an assessment. However, they would have a voice similar to that of the Growing Stage. The SID would be governed by 5 businessmen 1 resident and there would be a Council component. Councilman Laureys interpreted that this meant members would not be elected but selected by the Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway to rescind the one year suspension based upon the fact that it was made via false testimony. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion based upon updated information that previous testimony was not accurate. There was some discussion about the timing of this motion.

Mr. Bucco provided that the changes being requested would not be difficult to be made. He discussed creating 2 ordinances which he hoped to have ready for the next meeting. This would facilitate the appropriate process for public notification.

Councilman Sylvester asked Mr. Bucco what the drop dead time frame was to get the SID up and running. Mr. Bucco replied that that the assessment would be authorized in April. Councilman Hathaway suggested that the 2 ordinances should be completed so they could be activated starting in November.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made at 10:06 PM by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk