

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JANUARY 1, 2015 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 3:00 P.M.

Mayor Nametko called the meeting to order at 3:00 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.

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION

The Borough Clerk read the Statement of Determination.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Councilman Elmer Still
- Councilman Jack Sylvester

Both members were sworn in by the Borough Clerk.

ROLL CALL

In attendance for this meeting were Councilwoman Butler, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Koster, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester, Mayor Nametko, Cynthia Eckert –Borough Clerk, Ralph Blakeslee – Borough Administrator and Anthony Bucco- Borough Attorney.

MAYOR COMMENTS

The following was read to the audience by the Mayor after he introduced and acknowledged the valued attendees at this reorganization meeting.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Borough Council and all of our Borough employees, I would like to wish you Happy New Year.

When I look back on 2014 it seems we spent more time in meetings with New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Protection, trying to solve our storm water problems caused mainly by the Circle Removal project. Finally after many heated hours of meetings and help from Senator Anthony Bucco and Assemblyman Anthony Bucco, I believe the State has finally agreed to do a number of short term and long term fixes to eliminate what I like to call the Duns River Falls of Netcong falling near the railroad tracks. Hopefully, this will in turn eliminate the flooding of our downtown and several of our residential areas.

We did have some notable successes dealing with the Dept of Transportation in 2014. We completed the 2nd phase of our College Rd project thanks to over \$320,000 in DOT grants for the two phases of the project. We were able to resurface the road and replace the sidewalks on College Road, from Allen St, all the way to Rt 183. We are confident the new sidewalks have increased the walking ability and safety of our students who walk to school.

Netcong was also the recipient of a \$45,000 Transit Area Enhancement grant from DOT. We will use this funding to install an additional crosswalk on Main St and way- finding signs in and around the Borough.

In February, we made a successful pitch to the Community Development Block Grant committee and were awarded \$80,000 toward the much needed replacement of the water main on Church St. This grant combined with a NJ DOT grant for \$145,000 for the resurfacing of Church St, will allow us to complete the project with a substantial savings to our tax payers. We expect to kick off the Church St. project in 2015.

After years of dormancy, we saw a remarkable increased interest in our area in need of redevelopment in 2014. Our Economic Development committee has been very busy all year meeting with developers, encouraging them to invest in our Borough. The results of these meetings, with the support of our Borough Council will provide the needed growth for the long term sustainment of Netcong Borough.

I am glad to say, the first project we worked on, the redevelopment of the Pocket Book property, has already been approved by our Planning Board. This project will deliver 72 high end apartments to a portion of our Transit Area.

We were also approached by a number of developers that were very interested in our Transit Village and the Quirk Moving Company property. We are currently working with a developer who we believe is a good fit for the first phase of our Transit Area Redevelopment. I believe 2015 will be an exciting time for us as we move forward with this redevelopment.

FINANCIALLY

Financially, the Borough is strong and with the help from our Department Heads and the work of our Finance Committee, we expect our budget will be in line with our 2% mandate from the State.

As you know, water is critical to every community. ~~With that in mind~~, we are moving forward with a substantial water infrastructure project in 2015. Along with several other necessary updates, we will be rehabilitating our 1 million gallon water reservoir. We estimate the water upgrades will be approximately \$2 million dollars. To fund the projects we will submit our final proposal to the NJ Environment Infrastructure Trust Fund. If our proposal is successful, we would receive a much better interest rate than if we bonded for the project ourselves, allowing us to address all of our upgrades at one time.

PERSONNEL

Employee wise, 2014 saw some turn over in our staff. One of our new police officers decided to leave us, but the position was filled by a lifelong Netcong resident SJ Reilly. I am glad to say, SJ has completed his probationary period and is now a fulltime Netcong Patrolman.

After over 30 years of service to residents, DPW Supervisor Bob Olivo decided to retire from his position to move on to the next chapter of his life. We congratulate Bobby on his retirement and thank him for his many years of dedication to the Borough. Knowing Bobby, I am sure he will not slow down much.

Bobby's position was filled by another long time DPW employee, Mike Canfield. After working with Bobby for so many years, Mike was able to hit the ground running. Mike has some great ideas for his department and has already implemented several changes. We look forward to working with him.

Unfortunately, we did lose a number of people who have served the Borough. We were saddened by the passing of Ex-Fire Chief Bruce Carlson Jr. Bruce was an active member of the Fire Department and was a past Netcong DPW worker.

Also in 2014, we lost Retired Netcong Chief of Police Lou Barbato.

Throughout 2014, we all lost loved ones. At this time, please join me in a moment of silence in their remembrance. THANK-YOU

I am sure you have heard me say many times:

Without the hard work of our office staff, our Fire Department, our Police Department and our First Aid Squad, there would be no Netcong. I would personally like to thank every one of you. Together with the volunteers on our Recreation Commission, Lake Board, Planning Board, Board of Health, Netcong Alliance and our Netcong Community Partnership, you make Netcong a great place to live and work.

I would like to thank the Council for all their work and dedication to our residents. I have spent countless hours with each of you in committee meetings. Along with the assistance of our Borough Administrator, Ralph Blakeslee and our Borough Clerk, Cindy Eckert, you make running a town look easy.

I would like to also acknowledge our Borough Attorney, Anthony Bucco who does his best to keep us in line and somehow manages to keep us out of trouble.

It was a good 2014. We look forward to a great 2015.

Again, thank-you all and have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Council Appointment

A Motion to appoint Elmer Still as Council President was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Laureys
Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Still

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES: (Mayor's Recommendation with Advice & Consent of the Council)

Finance & Insurance:	E. Still	J. Sylvester
Economic Development:	R. Hathaway	E. Still
Public Safety: (Police, Fire, Rescue)	J. Sylvester	E. Koster
Dept. of Public Works & Utilities:	E. Koster	R. Hathaway
Recreation:	P. Butler	T. Laureys
Public Services: (Human Services Recycling & Solid Waste Disposal)	T. Laureys	P. Butler

A Motion to approve the above listed committee assignments was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

MAYOR APPOINTMENTS (Requires Advice and Consent of the Council)

Zoning Officer & Code Enforcement Officer: Ralph Blakeslee (1 year)

Deputy Code Enforcement Officer: Harry Garlick (1 year term)

Treasurer: Anna Madonna (1 year term)

Deputy Borough Clerk: Ralph Blakeslee

Sewer Collector: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy
Sewer Collector: Cynthia Eckert

Water Collector: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy
Water Collector: Cynthia Eckert

Assessment Searcher: Cynthia Eckert

Recycling Coordinator:
Designee: Thomas Mendel

Fire Official: Ronald Puco – Cert. #110806 (1 year term)

Fire Prevention
Inspectors: Michael Pellek – Cert. #101410 (1 year term)
Robert Rush – Cert. #106898 (1 year term)

Special Police
Officers(Class II) Harry Garlick
Jay Reilly

Police Matron: Shannon Fluke

School Crossing
Guards: (N.J.S.A.40A40:9-154.1-1 yr. terms)
William Hart
Patrick Malone
Sandra Mendel
Annette Ribaud
Melissa Sylvester
Ralph Simmerano

Alternates: Benjamin Dalessandro
Michael Depew
Robert DiBernard
Philip Grippaldi
Sam Gugliemini

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board: Joseph Keenan (4 Year
Term- Expires 12/31/18)

Board of Health: Joann Lepre (3 Year Term- Expires 12/31/17)

A Motion to Approve the Above Listed Appointments was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Planning Board: Class 1 - Mayor Joseph Nametko (1 year term-No Action Required)

Mayor Appointments – No Vote Required

Class 2 – Wayne Anthony (1 year term)

Class 4 – Joseph Albensi (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/18)

Class 4 – Todd Morton (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/18)

Alternate #1 – No Appointment This Year

Alternate #2 – No Appointment This Year

Council Appointment

Class 3 – Elmer Still (1 year term) Council Representative

A Motion to approve the Class 3 Appointment was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Still

Recreation Commission: (Mayor Appt.-No vote required)

Todd Morton - 5 Year Term – Expires 12/31/2019

Patricia Butler - Council Liaison (1 year term) (Council Appointment)

A Motion to approve Council Appointment was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilwoman Butler

Municipal Alliance Committee:

Ben Dellamo (4 year term) Expires 12/31/2018

Patricia Butler – Council Liaison (1 year term)

A Motion to approve Council Appointment was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilwoman Butler

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee Appointments for 2015:

Joseph Albensi - (Appointment by Mayor)

Ralph Blakeslee, Alternate - (Appointment by Mayor)

Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor - (Appointment by Governing Body)

A Motion to approve the above listed appointment was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Animal Control Officer: Thomas Mendel (1 year term)

Alternate Animal Control Officer: No Appointment this Year

A Motion to approve the above listed appointments was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OF NETCONG BOROUGH, INC.

Appointment of Trustees:

Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor, Ex Officio

Robert Hathaway, Council Representative (Appointed by Council - 1 year term)

Leigh Ann Von Hagen Pietz, Borough Resident (Appt. by Mayor – 2 year term –Expires 12/31/16)

A Motion to adopt the above referenced appointments was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution #2015-1 To Honor Volunteers
2. Resolution #2015-2 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Attorney, Anthony M. Bucco, Esq. for 2015.
3. Resolution #2015-3 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for Special Tax Counsel, Fred Semrau, Esq. for 2015.

4. Resolution #2015-4 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for Borough Auditor, Valerie Dolan of Nisivoccia LLP for 2015.
5. Resolution #2015-5 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Engineer, Robert Guerin of Guerin & Vreeland Engineers for 2015.
6. Resolution #2014-6 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Bond Council to Steven Rogut of Rogut McCarthy, LLC
7. Resolution #2015-7 Depositories for 2015 as Follows:
 - a. Fulton Bank Inc.
 - b. Wells Fargo
 - c. Valley National Bank
 - d. TD Bank
 - e. New Jersey Cash Management Fund
8. Resolution #2015-8 Official Newspapers as Follows:
 - a. Daily Record and The Star Ledger
9. Resolution #2015-9 Resolution Designating Newspapers to Receive Notices and Fixing Charges.
10. Resolution #2015-10 Fixing Rates of Interest (8%) and Penalty on Delinquent Taxes, (18%) Assessments and Other Municipal Charges.
11. Resolution #2015-11 Authorizing Investments by the Borough in Certain Bonds and Other Obligations.
12. Resolution #2015-12 Regular Public Meeting Dates and Work Session Dates of the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong.
13. Resolution #2015-13 Authorizing Temporary Appropriations as Provided by N.J.S.A.40A:4-19.
14. Resolution #2015-14 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee and Elmer Still, As Commissioner and Alternate for the Morris County Joint Municipal Insurance Fund.
15. Resolution #2015-15 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee as Public Agency Compliance Officer.

16. Resolution #2015-16 To Appoint the Voza Agency as the Borough of Netcong's Risk Management Consultant.

17. Resolution #2015-17 To Appoint Michael Grogan as the Borough's Representative to the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority.

A Motion to Adopt Resolutions 2015-1 to 2015-17 was made by Councilwoman Butler and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing no one stepping forward from the public, the Mayor asked for a motion.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

President Still – “will give it heck for the next 3 years”

Mayor Nametko – Thanks Administrator Ralph Blakeslee and Borough Clerk, Cindy Eckert for the work that they do throughout the year.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this meeting.

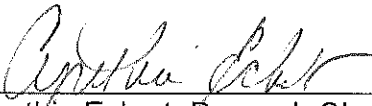
CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was held during this meeting

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 3:31PM seconded by Mr. Hathaway and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk