

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD FEBRUARY 12, 2015 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 2, 2015.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 7, 2015 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 2, 2015.

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

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for comment.

- Charles Cedro – 6 Allen St. – Mr. Cedro returned to request an update on the progress with the drainage situation. The Mayor responded that he felt there was improvement. The final request was sent to New Jersey Transit and is going through the review process and the other divisions. He noted that this request was going to be followed up for completion. Mr. Bucco, the Mayor and Mr. Cedro discussed the engineering modification that was submitted with this request. Mr. Cedro requested that he was on the list to be notified if this pipe is going to be opened. Mr. Cedro also wanted to know if this change was permanent or not.

- Jay Reilly – 92 Koclas Dr. – Mr. Reilly asked the Mayor about a situation he became aware of at a Fire Company meeting. A large piece of equipment was purchased by Fire Co. #2 without Fire Co. #1’s knowledge. He would like to know how this took place. The Mayor responded that there was a purchase made out of their account that was signed by the Chief and other appropriate parties. Mr. Riley noted that he could not find a reason for this rescue equipment to be appropriated. The Council discussed the budget and other issues related to this purchase. Councilman Sylvester provided his understanding behind this particular purchase. Mr. Reilly expressed his concern that this was not a necessary purchase and the proper parties were not notified beforehand. An explanation of how to work with surplus budget was provided. The Mayor added a discussion regarding budgeting and reserves. The Council continued discussion.
- Robert Shellhammer, Stanhope NJ- Assistant Fire Chief requested to make a statement. He felt the Fire Co. officers meetings are not dysfunctional but similar to this Council meeting where conversation goes back and forth.
- Ray Bock, Stanhope NJ - Lieutenant from Company #1 stepped forward to explain why the purchase was made. He explained that this equipment was not for the RIC Team.
- Councilwoman Butler asked for more details regarding this incident. Mr. Blakeslee provided his role in the requisition process. The Council continued discussion.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2015-1** - 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

Motion to Read Ordinance 2015-1 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilwoman Butler and seconded by Councilman Laureys.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

Councilman Hathaway is concerned that the perception is that the money goes to the Fire Department. He knows it goes to the “social club” but this is not the general perception. Councilwoman Butler wondered if a sign acknowledging the use of the funding should be posted at the coin toss. The Council continued discussion regarding the coin toss. Mr. Bucco verified that all monies collected must be accountable.

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

Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.
Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2015-1 was made by Councilwoman Butler 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 wished to highlight two items:

1. Synopsis of water projects distributed to Council.
2. Sidewalks and snow clearing issues: an email was sent to Mr. Bucco to make changes to the Ordinance. Members of the Council expressed their observations and concerns for safety for both pedestrians and drivers. The Mayor and Council also discussed future action to take regarding this issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

In the month of January the Borough had total income in the amount \$688,346.07 as compared to the previous year of \$542,696.38.

For the month of January, 2015:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2015 the Borough received \$3,370.50 vs. \$8,599.25 in 2014

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

In 2015 the Borough received \$22,326.71 vs. \$20,910.68 in 2014

State Aid

In 2015 the Borough received \$0.00 vs. \$0.00 in 2014

Grants in Aid

In 2015 the Borough received \$0.00 vs. \$2, 123.36 in 2014

Taxes Collected

In 2015 the Borough collected \$662,648.86 vs. \$511,063.09 in 2014

Income Total Year to Date:

2015 total revenue is \$688,346.07 vs. \$542,696.38 in 2014

Councilman Still also wished to report that Netcong was noted as one of the lowest in taxes in a newspaper article.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway reported that there is forward progress with Crown Point and the Quirk property and Transit Village.

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

Councilman Sylvester reported that for the month of January, the Ambulance Corps had 72 total calls; 5 of the calls were out of town. They treated a total of 45 patients and made 45 trips to the hospital. The miles traveled were 1153 and the hours volunteered were 302 hours and 30 minutes.

The Borough Police answered a total of 370 calls. They wrote a total of 120 motor vehicle summonses. There were 35 local summonses mostly for illegal winter parking.

The Netcong Fire Department statistics for the year of 2014 reflected a total of 98 calls, 87 Drills, 74 Meetings, 45 Special Details, and 3 Fire Fighters in Academy. There were a total of 73 Fire Fighters performing a total of 8533 Hours.

The Netcong Fire Department for January 2015 had a total of 14 calls, 5 Drills, 8 Meetings, 2 Special Details and 1 Fire Fighter in Academy. There were at total of 57 Fire Fighters performing a total of 497 hours.

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Mr. Koster thanked the DPW for all their hard work with snow storms.

D.P.W. Monthly Report January 2015:

Road Department: Made temporary repairs to damaged road surfaces on Church St. from the mentioned water repairs. Picked up the new DPW F-450 Mason Dump truck, had lettering installed, processed all paperwork at DMV and put truck into service.

Water Department: Made a water main repair with assistance from Salmon Bros. on Church St. near St Michaels School... Repaired a second broken water main on Church St seven days after the first repair in the area of St Michaels Church. ABB Service was in to do the first of its bi-annual calibration of the meters at the well houses performed monthly water sampling .

Buildings & Grounds: Removed all Christmas decorations from Borough Hall, Christmas Tree, and Lamp Posts on Main St, Maple Ave. and Ledgewood Ave. Had to replace a bad blower motor on the rear heater at the DPW garage.

Recycling: Picked up and chipped 190 Christmas trees.

Vehicle Maintenance: Installed new seal kit on 574 spinner motor. . . Applied protective fluid film coating to trucks 574 and 575 ...Performed maintenance service on all trucks.

Snow: There were 3 significant snow storms that required plowing and salting and clearing of sidewalks as well as 6 additional days that required salting of roadways and the use of 141 buckets of salt for the month of January...

Other: Tom Mendel attended 2 Recycling Coordinator classes ...Tim Hess attended a Backflow Prevention class

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

Councilwoman Butler reported the following:

- Recreation had their re-organization meeting on January 28th.
- Two bus trips have been booked with flyers to go out next week:

1. Kinky Boots - Saturday May 30th, ticket price \$85

2. Back by popular demand -Jersey Boys, Sunday August 2nd with a price of only \$75. Where else can you get a ride into the city and a Broadway show ticket for only \$75!
- A trip to the 911 Museum is being looked at for the end of September.
 - Family Contest: Would you like to build a snowman? Contest is for children of all ages. We are asking that they build a snowman, take a picture of it and email to our recreation email. Recreation will upload pictures to their face book page on March 16th and winners will be announced on March 26th. The winner will be determined by the number of "likes" the picture receives.

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: 20

Miles: 949

Number of stops: 72

Nutrition for 4 people: 25

Food shopping 26 people: 47

Number of Meals on Wheels: 14

Medical Appointments: 14

Other Appointments: 52

People Using Services: 46

Cancels: 35

Denials: 3

Units: 282

Hours: 101

Additional Notes: 30 Senior, 12 Disabled, 4 Disabled Senior

OLD BUSINESS

1. Status on Major Water Projects

Mr. Blakeslee provided a brief discussion about all water projects. All projects will be in review together and should be ready for bond development by the end of the year into next year. The Mayor asked about the Millennium group as there was a relationship with the funding for this project and that group. The Mayor requested a timeline from Mr. Blakeslee regarding the group's presentation to the Finance Committee. The Mayor referenced the Millennium group when he told the audience that Stanhope received the largest grant possible for bunker gear for their firefighters. He added the Millennium group was responsible for facilitating this.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Scott Stevens as a Junior Firefighter for Fire Co. No. 1.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President Still thanked the DPW for the great job they do clearing Netcong streets during snow storms. He specifically thanked Mike Canfield, DPW Superintendent and noted that he is getting positive feedback from the townspeople.

Councilman Koster questioned the progress of the Firehouse elevator. The Council discussed this briefly and noted there would be continued discussion during the closed session.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution #2015 – 31** – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 14-00001- Scott and Charlene Bowers, Block 13 Lot 18
2. **Resolution #2015 – 32** – Supporting, Recognizing and Honoring the Service of Law Enforcement Officers
3. **Resolution #2015 – 33-** To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 14-00003 – Robert and Sandra Colabella, Block 31 Lot 11.01
4. **Resolution #2015 – 34** – Authorizing the Sale of Municipal Surplus Property

A motion to approve the four resolutions noted above was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Bond Ordinance 2015-2** – BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF THE CHURCH STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN, BY AND FOR THE WATER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO

APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$350,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

A Motion to Introduce Bond Ordinance #2015-2 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2015-2 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

- 1. Ordinance 2015-3** – 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 5TH, JUNE 6TH 2015 AND ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, AND SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2015 AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ALLEN STREET AND LEDGEWOOD AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2015-3 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Motion to Pass Ordinance #2015-3 on First Reading was made by Councilman Koster 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 Councilman Hathaway.
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:

- **Attorney Client Privilege – Firehouse 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 at 9:01 PM by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A motion to come out of closed session was made at 9:11 PM by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made at 9:12 PM by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk.