

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD OCTOBER 8, 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 7:26 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.

Netcong Elementary School Superintendent Dr. Gina Cinotti to Address Mayor and Council

Dr. Cinotti gave an introduction and explained her family history in Netcong. She wishes to bring back and retain all those traditions. She stated that she had visited many different schools in the area and proclaimed that Netcong School is very unique. There are many traditions but there are some academics that could be improved. Dr. Cinotti did not feel that there were as many honor students as there should be. Algebra and Spanish placement scores are not what they should be. 31% of students were rated average or below average. She felt this was not acceptable. To get back on track is a process. They had to cut two full time teachers which translated to bigger class sizes. The schools need funds to run, however 75% of the budget goes to salaries. She presented a screen with

comparable districts – Netcong is spending less which has impacted the level of education. The spending in similar districts is much higher than Netcong. The school administration is asking for \$200,000.00 beyond the regular 2% increase. This amounts to \$176.00 a year more per household. They are asking for 'yes' vote on November 3rd to get them back on track.

Mayor Nametco asked that if there were small class sizes, why are the test scores so low. Dr. Cinotti explained they are starting a new process of changing the education program every few years to match the standardized testing.

Dr. Cinotti thanked the Mayor and Council for their time. She hoped that they would come to the school and ask her questions. Dr. Cinotti also offered that the Council could contact her at home any time.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

- Bernadette Dalesandro – 32 Barone St.:
She began by stating that when things go wrong news piles up. She came to this meeting to provide good news. At the last Board of Education meeting, the Board gave a complementary resolution to the Police Department. Today she would like to present Chief Jim Blesson a certificate of appreciation for all that he does for the school and town. She asked everyone to thank the Police Chief for the great job he does.

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

There were no ordinance adoptions presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Lenape Valley High School Students to Netcong Police Department

The Mayor paraphrased the contents of the thank you letter from the three students.

2. Letter from Bohler Engineering – NJ DEP Wetlands Application for Proposed Quick Chek in Roxbury Township

Mr. Blakeslee stated that the Council needs to keep close eye on this since it is near our wells. Councilman Hathaway requested that the state is notified of the progress on this application.

Councilman Still noted that other areas may not be aware of what is in the surrounding area. Councilman Hathaway suggested that a letter be sent to Roxbury so the Council is kept abreast of this application.

3. Jay Reilly – Resignation Letter

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilwoman Butler to accept the resignation with regret.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

4. Letter from St. Michael School – Thank you to Police Department

The Mayor explained that because the Church St. road project was not completed before the beginning of the school year, the Chief and Police Department spent time to prepare traffic routes and control to keep from having issues. Everything ran very smoothly during this time. He wanted the police team to know that the Council appreciates all that the police do.

The Chief of Police thanked the men who work for him.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee brought up the issue regarding changing the recycling day to Thursdays instead of Mondays. He requested feedback for this possible change. Councilman Hathaway replied that he would rather get rid of bottles on Monday in light of the amount of alcoholic beverages that are consumed during the weekend. The Mayor noted that there are more holidays on Mondays. Councilman Laureys asked if grass pickup could be changed. Mr. Blakeslee summarized that he would leave the cycling day on Mondays based on this conversation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

In the month of September, 2015, the Borough had total income in the amount \$194,621.11 as compared to the previous year of \$240,068.77.

Revenue received for the month of September:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2015 the Borough received \$1,077.50 vs. \$879.00 in 2014.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

In 2015 the Borough received \$6,276.76 vs. \$11,932.01 in 2014

State Aid

In 2015 the Borough received \$117,571.80 vs. \$117,571.80 in 2014

Grants in Aid

In 2015 the Borough received \$0.00 vs. \$8,767.88 in 2014

Taxes Collected

In 2015 the Borough collected \$69,695.05 vs. \$100,918.08 in 2014.

Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2015 is \$6,499,679.04 vs. \$6,630,763.81 in 2014.

The Borough CFO is currently reviewing the 2015 expenditures to date in order to determine if any transfers are needed before the end of the year.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway noted that the big news for this month was that there was an agreement with New Jersey Transit and the Mayor signed the excise letter. The RFP can now be sent for developers for the transit property. He noted that the town could get traction on developing transit properties in 2016.

Crown Point: They are in the process of completing phase one on the Quirk property. Councilman Hathaway did not feel that anything unexpected was occurring. He noticed that the Quirks are strongly protecting their interest.

Pocketbook Factory: The demolition permit was received and Mr. Blakeslee spoke with Byram Construction Official, Dick O'Connor to start demolition before the end of the year so the town could keep tax benefits.

Councilman Sylvester asked about the sewer allocation. He pointed out the Quirk property allotment. Councilman Hathaway said they provided some numbers. There may be some issues with the water source. There will be a need to expand systems. There is not enough water to supply all that can be developed. They are working on this at the committee level. The sewage system should be fine according to the Borough Engineer. The Mayor mandated that the Council needs to keep a close watch on this since we allotted for the Railroad Ave. project.

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

For the month of September 2015, Councilman Sylvester noted that there were 64 total calls, 61 were in town and three were out of town calls for the Ambulance Corps. There were a total of 23 patients and 23 trips to the hospital.

The Netcong Fire Department had a total of 9 calls. One call was out of town. There were 10 drills, five meetings, and six special details which included the parade, Netcong Day and more. The firemen also attended the NJ SF convention. Total of 59 firefighters provided 1002 hours of volunteer time for Netcong.

The Police Department reported lower numbers for this month due to vacations, holidays, Netcong Day and other anomalies during this month. There were 286 calls for service, 64 traffic details and 22 days of training. Councilman Sylvester elaborated about the job at St. Michael's which he felt was in no way simple.

Councilman Sylvester also noted Jay Reilly's 28 ½ years of service and always being there for the town. He requested some sort of recognition for his service.

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

D.P.W. Monthly Report September 2015

Road Department: Repaired storm drains on Bank St, Locust St, Wiltop Rd and Hillside Ave ... Patched pot holes throughout town. Cut back low hanging brush on Prospect St.

Water Department: JTG Construction installed a new 6" water main and hydrant on Lower Church St. North East Technologies was in to vacuum debris and water out of all the water valve boxes in town. Repaired water service leak at 57 Stoll St. ...

Sewer Department: Raised sewer cap elevation at 11 Church St. to match new construction ...

Buildings & Grounds: Watered plants throughout the town. R&J Control was in to provide quarterly service to the generators. Performed lawn maintenance at all Borough properties. Install new vacuum breaker at the Police Dept. bathroom. Poured a new sidewalk pad at 52 Allen St from a previous water repair. Performed weekly generator reports

Parks & Recreation: Spread wood chips from the Borough chipper along the bank at Indian Field...

Recycling: Repaired broken steps at Recycle Center. Picked up 32 cy of grass. Picked up 72 cy of brush. Chipped 8 cy of brush.

Snow: Installed sanders and spinners on all trucks...Ordered and received 60 ton of salt for upcoming winter...

Other: Assisted in pulling the weed harvester out of the lake for the Lake Commission....

Councilman Koster noted that the gallons of water pumped in the last several months is less than it has been.

Recreation: P. Butler T. Laureys

Recreation report for October 8, 2015:

Bus Trips:

1. November 7- 911 bus trip is sold out. We do have a waiting list.
2. We will have two buses for our November 5th Great Wolf Lodge bus trip. This trip has become a well attended event.

Events:

1. Our annual Trunk or Treat will take place on Saturday, October 24 at the Train Station. We are expecting over 300 ghosts and goblins.
2. We will judge the decorated homes for Halloween on October 28.
3. Holiday parade set up is well underway.

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

Dial a ride report for September 2015:

Days of Service: 19
Miles: 1068
Number of Stops: 84
Nutrition for six people: 28
Food Shopping for 21 people: 73
Number of Meals on Wheels: 16
Medical Appointments: 15
Other Appointments: 67
People Using Services: 45
Cancels: 24
Denials: 7
Units: 351
Hours: 99.25

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented at this meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Koster wished to report that at the Boonton parade they won best overall marching trophy.

Councilman Hathaway reported that Lake Musconetcong is in the process of being drawn down. The harvester is now out of the lake. Swirl chamber remediation will take place soon. The Lake will be dropped two feet and the swirl chamber 3 inches. He was not sure if it will be left down all winter. He thought they might refill early if the shoreline dries out.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor spoke with Marvin briefly about doing a revaluation next year. It is costly but we are at the point renegotiated properties are throwing off the levy. We need to plan for it in 2016.

Mr. Blakeslee noted that typically payment is made by passing a special emergency to pay for cost over a 5 year period.

The Mayor stated that the county will eventually call for a revaluation. The Mayor asked Mr. Blakeslee to reach out to peers for companies to use. It was noted that this will cost around one hundred thousand dollars.

It was noted that the Borough has cameras in our parks and buildings. The Mayor thought there should be cameras at our wells to protect our water sources.

RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Resolution 2015-84** – Authorizing the Purchase of a Ford F350 through the Morris County Cooperative Purchase Council for the Netcong Fire Department.

It was noted that this resolution is replacing the 1983 at Co# 2 used on a regular basis. Councilman Koster noted that this has already been approved.

Councilman Hathaway noted that there was no presentation to the Council. He was not trying to cause a problem but is a very large purchase. Both vehicles will total \$100,000. He is not at all questioning the need for these just the process in obtaining them. Councilman Sylvester provided a description of the vehicles.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

2. **Resolution 2015- 85** – Authorizing the Purchase of a 2015 Ford Expedition through the Morris County Cooperative Purchase Council for the Netcong Fire Department.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

3. **Resolution 2015- 86** – Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of a Utility Truck Body through the Morris County Cooperative Purchase Council for the Netcong Fire Department.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

4. **Resolution 2015- 87-** Authorizing the Purchase of a Ford F-250 Four Wheel Drive Truck on State Contract for the Netcong Public Works Department.

Councilman Hathaway noted that this is a replacement not an addition. Councilman Koster stated it is replacement and it is not used for plowing.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

5. **Resolution 2015- 88** – Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Railroad Avenue Improvement Project.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

6. **Resolution 2015- 89** –Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Center Street and Cross Street Sidewalk Project.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

7. **Resolution 2015- 90** – Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Carolyn Way, Oak Street and Wiltop Road Resurfacing Project.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

8. **Resolution 2015- 91** –Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Pioneer Pole Buildings, Inc. for the Purchase and Installation of a 30 Foot by 40 Foot Pole Building at the Department of Public Works Yard.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

9. **Resolution 2015- 92** – Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Andy Matt, Inc. for Snow Plowing and Salting Services.

Councilman Hathaway maintained that the Council needs to be prudent with this contractor and noted that there were issues with this contractor last time. The DPW Supervisor, Mike Canfield, spoke with Mr. Benkdendorf. Mike reported that he will work with us and the Borough can call him personally.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

10. **Resolution 2015-93-** Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Edge Property Maintenance, Inc., the Low Bidder on a Contract for Wall Renovations to the Netcong Firehouse Building.

It was noted that this is the same contractor that worked on the elevator. The Mayor noted there will be specific dates and priorities set for this project.

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

No: Councilman Koster and Councilman Sylvester

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

- 1. Bond Ordinance 2015- 12-** Bond Ordinance to Appropriate an Additional Sum of \$40,000.00 for the Church Street Water Main Replacement Project in, by and for the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Additional Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in the Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds.

A Motion to Introduce Bond Ordinance #2015- 12 and Read by Title Only Was Made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2015-12 on First Reading Was Made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

REPORTS

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

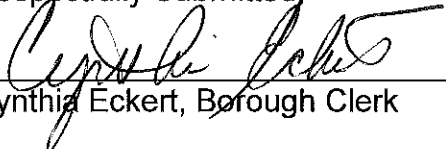
There was no closed session held at this meeting.

Prior to adjournment, the Mayor announced that two people are needed for the Board of Health meetings which are held once per quarter. He added that they are still looking for a Planning Board member and two alternates.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 8:30 PM and was seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk