

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD DECEMBER 10, 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 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. Seeing no one stepping forward, the Mayor asked for a motion to close.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

**ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

No ordinance adoptions were presented.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### 1. Letter from Roxbury Township – Housing Plan Element Adoption

Mr. Bucco explained that this is a draft which is part of the COAH process. Netcong will be required to do the same thing.

Councilman Sylvester expressed concern regarding the new complex coming in on Route 46 in Roxbury. Mr. Blakeslee stated there were no changes to that project. Councilman Sylvester interjected that there are changes and he was concerned about the 20% set aside for COAH and that part of Roxbury has no supporting services on that end of town. It is a nationally known truck stop at the top of the hill and this concerns him.

Mr. Bucco explained the Sarlo law which allows the removal of age restrictions and developers can choose this option.

### 2. Rental Registration on the floor of state assembly.

Mr. Bucco says this is great news to reverse the decision to allow towns to do rental registrations each year. It was presented in the house today and will go to the Senate committee on Dec. 14. If the senate passes it, there will be a voting session on Thursday; then it could proceed to the floor. Mr. Bucco added it will probably pass by January. He feels Netcong should have relief in this situation.

The Mayor requested that when Mr. Bucco gets back to Trenton, he should tell the other assembly members that this will make up for some of the differences in the Verizon losses.

Councilman Sylvester noted that there are email addresses to contact committee members. He added that it is about compliance and safety not just the money.

Mr. Blakeslee noted that they had found things in the inspections missed by state inspectors.

Mr. Bucco summarized that this covers a lot of issues such as fires, stacking etc. and should sail through both houses

## **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

The Application for Infrastructure Trust Fund Loan has passed the first level. We are asking for 5 million worth of funding- public notice will be in the paper next week.

The bulk of this work was done by Bob Guerin. Mr. Blakeslee will send the electronic copy to all members of the Council; it provides a good description of what will be accomplished.

The new IT vender started. There was an issue this morning and they responded immediately. There will be additional cost in the 2016 budget for this service but it will be well worth it.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance & Insurance:

E. Still

J. Sylvester

In the month of November, 2015, the Borough had total income in the amount of \$1,582, 722.17 as compared to the previous year of \$1,231,664.94.

Revenue received for the month of November:

#### Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2015 the Borough received \$965.95 vs. \$937.50 in 2014.

#### Other Licenses/Borough Clerk Fees:

In 2015 the Borough received \$5,974.52 vs. \$11,818.87 in 2014

#### State Aid

In 2015 the Borough received \$49,685.30 vs. \$43,730.30 in 2014

#### Grants in Aid

In 2015 the Borough received \$4,395.50 vs. \$3,199.30 in 2014

#### Taxes Collected

In 2015 the Borough collected \$1,521,700.90 vs. \$1,171,978.97 in 2014.

#### Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2015 is \$8,655,013.65 vs. \$8,509,044.56 in 2014.

Economic Development:

R. Hathaway

E. Still

Councilman Still stated this area was status quo. The Mayor noted that he learned that the Pocketbook Factory buyer fell through. Hopefully a new builder will be found.

Public Safety:  
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

J. Sylvester

E. Koster

### Ambulance Squad

- 54 calls, 2 out of town
- 20 trips to hospitals for 20 patients
- 509 hours volunteered for a total of 182 hours and 20 minutes

### Fire Department

- 10 calls
- 4 general alarms
- 1 squad assist
- 3 RIC calls
- 7 Drills
- 4 Meetings
- 5 Special Details
- Mandatory testing for two officers
- 51 fire fighters
- 530.6 man hours

### Police Department

- 348 calls
- 105 motor vehicle summonses
- 33 parking violations
- 15 overlaid vehicles

Chief Blesson was sworn in this week as President of the County Police Chief Association. The Council congratulated Chief Blesson.

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

### D.P.W. Monthly Report December 2015

Road Department:

Replaced steering column on the F-450 diesel. ... Performed November water meter readings ... new Main St crosswalk signs installed near Morgan's Funeral Home ... new way finding signs were installed through town ... cleaned heavy leaves from the sides of roads ... paved Upper Flanders Road after new water services were installed ....

Water Department:

Performed fall fire hydrant flushing ... installed radio readers on the new meters that were installed at Netcong Heights ... repaired broken water box at 3 Bank St.

Sewer Department: lowered the sewer clean out at 14 Allen St ...

Buildings & Grounds:

Scheduled oil delivery to all buildings and generators ... Edge construction finished foundation and brick face work at FH # 1 ... replaced bad time clock at Borough Hall for the back parking lights ...

Snow:

filled salt bin for winter season ... finished all preparation of winter equipment and supplies ...

Recycling:

Picked up 392 cubic yards of leaves and 68 cubic yards of brush ...

Other:

DPW employees watched the annual storm water training video ... Mike Canfield attended the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City and attended 3 training seminars...

The Mayor expressed concern with the leaf packing on the streets/drains.

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

December Update

1. On Sunday December 6th the Recreation Commission hosted their annual holiday parade and tree lighting ceremony. We had 23 participants which included floats, organized procession groups, as well as many decorated fire trucks (some very talented firemen). This year we tried something new just prior to the tree lighting. We hired a duo to perform Christmas music while the participants approached the fire house which was the end point of the parade. The music was heard down Maple Avenue! In addition to the added music, we had photos with Santa as well as several cast members from the Growing Stages production of a Christmas Carol.
2. The Window Decorating judging took place on Saturday with winners as follows:
  - First Place – Vernay's Vintage Village
  - Second Place - World Class Barbers
  - Third Place – Motion AutoVernay's was acknowledged at the awards presentation after the tree lighting and received a plaque.
3. The annual house decorating contest will take place on Sunday December 20th.

4. Moving into 2016, we have our first Broadway Show Bus Trip planned for Saturday March 5th at 2pm to see Something Rotten. Flyers will be going out the end of December.

Public Services:  
(Human Services  
Recycling & Solid  
Waste Disposal

T. Laureys

P. Butler

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#### DIAL A RIDE MONTHLY REPORT

Month: November 2015

Days of Service: 7

Miles: 988

#of Stops: 88

Nutrition :( 3 people) 21

Food Shopping: (22 people) 59

# of Meals on Wheels: 15

Medical Appointments: 19

Other Appointments: 60

People Using Services: 50

Cancel: 25

Denials: 6

Units: 291

Hours: 87.75

Additional Notes: 2 new seniors

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was presented.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Community Development Block Grant

Mr. Blakeslee provided an update. The 2016 application must be noted that it was acknowledged at a public meeting. He discussed Marc Court to the end of Railroad Avenue. Water mains and fire hydrants need to be replaced.

The application will be put in and is due January 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

President Still thanked the recreation commission for the great job at the parade as well as Chief Blesson for all his hard work.

He noted that the leaves in drains are a bad situation. The roads need to be swept to avoid this. He did not feel it was difficult to spend a few hours each day during leaf season to clean the roads

Councilman Koster spoke about the Holiday Parade and thanked the Police Department and DPW for their hard work. He noted an increase in people on the streets; much more than Memorial Day.

Councilman Koster asked if the way finding signs have been completed. They will be very helpful to find things in town. Mr. Blakeslee noted that not all signs are completed yet.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

The Mayor thanked the Fire Department, Police Department and DPW for their work at the parade. He noted the biggest crowd seen at any parade in town. This is a growing event.

The Mayor wanted to recommend Bill Koster, Sr. for Volunteer of the year. He noted his very long term service on the Planning Board.

Councilman Still nominated Bill Koster Sr. and Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion. This was passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 2015- 104** – Authorizing the Payment of Annual Stipends to Certain Borough Employees
2. **Resolution 2015-105** – Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the New Jersey Department of Highway Safety Fund Safe Corridors Grant 2015 Project
3. **Resolution 2015- 106** - Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Service Agreement with the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority for Recycling Collection and Disposal Services
4. **Resolution 2015- 107-** Authorization to Transfer Items of Appropriation in the 2015 Current Fund Budget in Accordance with N.J.S.A 40:4-58
5. **Resolution 2015- 108** - Authorizing Named Persons be Paid Salaries in 2015 Within the Ranges Set Forth in the Salary Ordinance 2013-6
6. **Resolution 2015- 109** – Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Service Agreement between the Borough of Netcong and the Netcong Board of Education for Snow Plowing and Janitorial Services

7. **Resolution 2015- 110** – Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 for the Transit Area Pedestrian and Business Enhancements contract with TC Landscape Construction Group, Inc.
8. **Resolution 2015- 111** – Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Golub Animal Hospital for the Care of Cats and Dogs for the Calendar Year 2016

These eight resolutions were voted as a block:

Councilman Sylvester made a motion to approve and was seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no ordinance introductions.

### **REPORTS**

A motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **BILLS**

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

The Mayor announced that the Council is invited to Christmas brunch at Borough Hall at 10:30 am December 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

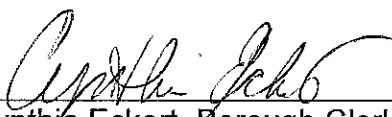
There was no closed session held at this meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made at 8:05 PM by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk