

MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JANUARY 7, 2016 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Nametko called the meeting to order at 7:00 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.

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION

The statement of determination was read by the Borough Clerk, Mrs. Eckert.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mrs. Eckert performed the swearing in of the Mayor and two Council Members:

- Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor
- Councilwoman Patricia Butler
- Councilman Edward Koster

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, Mr. Bucco, Borough Attorney and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

MAYOR COMMENTS

The Mayor introduced key support members who were attending this meeting. He then proceeded to read the following statement:

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

I am sure you have heard me say for over the last 8 years as the Mayor of Netcong, I am very proud to be associated with the Borough and every individual who helps make Netcong a great town.

I cannot thank our employees and volunteers enough for the great work they do. Once again this year, we downsized our municipal administrative staff by replacing a retiree's position with a part time employee. I had the opportunity to witness the office productivity over the year and I assure you, if the State of NJ ran as efficient, we would all be much better off.

Our Police Department is the strongest it has ever been and continues to do a great job protecting the residents of Netcong. This year, under the guidance of Chief James Blesson, all of our officers are now certified EMTs and were also trained to administer a life saving drug called NARCAN. That training paid off one evening when one of our Patrolmen, Keith Flaherty administered the NARCAN drug to a young man and saved a life. Great job Keith!

In 2015 Fire Chief Warren Salor led our Netcong Fire Department to be one of the most respected departments in Morris, Warren, and Sussex counties. Our volunteer firemen spent thousands of hours in practice drills in preparation for any incidents that might occur in Netcong or any of our mutual aid communities. Netcong Fire Department has a Rapid Intervention Team/Crew (RIC) that is second to none. The RIC was called upon over a hundred times this year to protect the lives of the first responders who were actually fighting a fire in other towns. Whether it was a local call, mutual aid to fight a fire or a RIC call, regardless of what hour of day or night, the Netcong Fire Department responded.

Since January 2014, Chief Warren Slahor has done a great job for the Fire Department and the residents of Netcong. Chief, I know all the hard work that you put in including all the **not so exciting** administrative paperwork. Thank you for the great job you have done over the last two years. After his two year position as Chief, Warren has passed the torch on to Fire Chief Robert Schellhammer who will be sworn in during tonight's meeting. I look forward to working with Boomer over the next two years.

No matter what is going on in Netcong, our Department of Public Works team is present. If there is a major water main break at 3:00 AM, they are there. If help is needed for one of the Recreation Commissions events throughout the year, DPW is there. We have a small DPW group so each member has to wear a number of different hats doing several different jobs. DPW Supervisor Mike Canfield has done an admirable job for the Borough following the retirement of long time DPW Supervisor Bobby Olivo. Mike has worked with his team this year to receive the certifications required to run his department and has managed to fulfill all the needs of the Borough with a small staff.

While preparing my comments for tonight, I looked over last year's comments and was reminded of the many hours we spent during 2014 in meetings with the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Protection trying to solve our storm water problems. This year we included NJ Transit in the talks and I believe we made substantial progress in solving our flooding problems. I am happy to report we have commitments from each agency to continually improve the water handling systems. We have already seen substantial improvements in our flooding. However, we are not done yet. Not unlike most municipalities and large cities in NJ, the water infrastructure in Netcong is over 110 years old. We have had our share of water main breaks over the years. As we resurfaced our roads over the last 10 years, we replaced the old water lines, IF THE FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE.

To that end, I am glad to report that we are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the process of our application to the **New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program**. The application is for funding **2.8 million dollars** of upgrades to our water system

At this point we have successfully made it through the Environmental Review and learned this morning that we should be in a position to go out to bid for the first of three water projects later this year.

- The Borough plans to:
 1. Rehabilitate the 1,000,000 gallon reservoir.
 2. Replace several key water mains, valves, and fire hydrants.
 3. In addition, completion of our 5 year water meter replacement program. Once complete, we will be able to read most water meters remotely.
 4. Demolish an old water reservoir no longer in use.

However, we are not sitting on our hands waiting for the funding for our major water projects.

Church Street Rehabilitation Project

In 2015 with the help of a NJ DOT grant we were able to resurface Church Street, as well as replace the curb and sidewalks. We were very fortunate to be awarded an \$80,000 2014 Community Development Block grant that allowed us to replace the entire Church Street water main, one existing fire hydrant AND we added a new fire hydrant on lower Church Street as part of the project.

Railroad Avenue

Last January, we applied and received a grant for \$80,000 from Morris County Community Development Block Grant committee. Those funds will go toward replacing the water main from Union Street to Marc Court. That work will be completed this summer.

We have also applied for a grant of over \$131 thousand dollars for resurfacing a portion of Railroad Ave and in the weeks to come we will do another presentation to the Morris County Community Development Block grant committee for another \$80,000 to replace the water main under Marc Court and to the end of Railroad Avenue.

College Road – Prospect Street

This summer we will start Phase 2 of the College Road to Prospect Street improvement project. This project has received funding from the NJ DOT for replacing deteriorated sidewalks, road resurfacing and upgrading our storm water inlets. This grant, like all of our other NJ DOT grants was awarded with the help and support of Senator Tony Bucco and Assemblyman Anthony Bucco and Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll of **Legislative District 25**.

NJ DOT Transit Village Grant

Another project we completed in 2015 that was funded by a \$40,000 **NJ DOT Transit Village Grant** which included:

- Replacing sections of brick pavers in the business district.
- We added new crosswalk with lighting on Main Street and
- Installed way finding signs – to be completed shortly

The Borough was recently informed we will receive another NJ DOT Transit Village grant in the amount of \$81,000. These funds will be used to complete our streetscape improvements on Ledgewood Avenue including

- New sidewalks along the east side of Ledgewood Avenue and
- Adding a brick paver strip and replacing curbs

In addition to the previously mentioned grant application for resurfacing Railroad Avenue, the Borough has also applied for a NJ DOT grant to resurface Carolyn Way, Oak Street and Wiltop Road. We also applied for another **NJ DOT Transit Village Grant** to replace deteriorated sidewalks on Center and Cross Streets.

Capital Projects – Vehicles

Along with all of our street improvement projects, the Borough was able to fund the purchase of two much needed vehicles for our Fire Department and a mason dump truck for our Department of Public Works.

Capital Projects – Buildings

We also managed to do several substantial building projects in 2015.

- Purchased new pole barn for the DPW. The barn will be used to store water department parts, hydrants, valves and pipe sections under cover so they can be easily accessed.
- Completed work on the Firehouse foundation, stabilizing walls and adding drainage.
- The new elevator and exterior stair replacement project was completed, funded in part by an \$80,000 Community Development Block Grant from the County.

Administrative

- I have been working very hard with our Finance Committee, CFO and Administrator and it looks like 2016 will be a very challenging year financially for Netcong due in part to unexpected revenue loss.
- We continue to make use of shared services where it makes sense for the Borough and our residents. In 2016 we will continue our shared services for first aid ambulance services with Stanhope. Board of Health, Court and Library services with Mt. Olive Township. Construction Office for permits and inspections with Byram Township and Street sweeping with Roxbury Township. Having these great partnerships with our neighboring towns affords us to provide the services our residents deserve and require while keeping our budget under control.
- In 2016 we will be adding the ability to make certain payments to the Borough via credit card at the Municipal Building or over the internet. In the near future, our residents will be able to make their Tax and Water/Sewer payments from the comfort of their homes.

Economic Development

- Along with the Economic Development Committee, the Borough continues to work with the owner of the old Pocketbook Factory, who received Planning Board approval for 72 luxury apartments. The old building has been demolished and we expect to see progress on the site continue this year.
- New Jersey Transit has started the process of preparing an RFP for a developer of the Transit Village. It is hoped that a developer will be selected by the end of 2016.

- A developer approached the Borough in 2015 regarding the redevelopment of the Quirk property. Crown Point Development was named "developer of record" by the Borough and now has the property under contract. They expect to be before the Planning Board by early spring of this year.

Let me finish by saying Netcong is a great place to live and work. I believe I can speak for the entire Council when I say:

All of the Borough employees, our Police and Fire Departments along with the many volunteers on our boards and committees make it THAT GREAT place to live. THANK-YOU very much.

I would also like to thank Council President Elmer Still and the rest of the Council for their great work and support during the year. Without your work on the committees you chair, it would be impossible to accomplish everything we do from year to year. I would like to also thank our Borough Attorney, Anthony Bucco who keeps us in line and somehow manages to keep us out of trouble.

We look forward to having another great year in 2016 and I wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Councilman Still made a motion to nominate Councilman Koster for Council President. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

RESOLUTION 2016-19 TO RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Mayor introduced The Barbara Ryan Volunteer Award

Councilwoman Butler made a motion to approve this resolution and Councilman Still seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Mayor read the resolution and announced the inductee: Mr. Bill Koster, Sr. Mr. Koster thanked everyone for the honor.

SWEARING IN OF FIRE CHIEF AND ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

The Swearing in ceremony was performed for the following:

- Fire Chief Robert Schellhammer
- Assistant Fire Chief John Sylvester III

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 Sylvester and seconded by Councilwoman Butler
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

Deputy Tax Collector: Laura Amada (1 Year Term)

Sewer Collector: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy
Sewer Collector: Cynthia Eckert

Water Collector: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy

Water Collector: Cynthia Eckert

Assessment Searcher: Cynthia Eckert

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Mendel

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

Fire Prevention Inspectors: Michael Pellek – Cert. #101410 (1 year term)
Mark Sylvester – Cert. #177302 (1 Year term)
Robert Rush – Cert. #106898 (1 year term)

Special Police Officers (Class II) Harry Garlick

Police Matron: Shannon Fluke

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

Alternates:
Michael Depew
Robert DiBernard
Philip Grippaldi
Sam Gugliemini
Richard Sodano

Lake Musconetcong
Regional Planning Board: No Appointment this Year

Board of Health: Alan Cook - (3 Year Term Exp. 12/31/18)
Barbara Repp - (3 Year Term Exp. 12/31/18)
No Appointment Made (to fill term Exp. 12/31/17)
No Appointment Made (3 Year Term Exp. 12/31/18)

A Motion to Approve the Above Listed Appointments was made by Councilman Koster 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 – Ben Dellamo (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/19)

Class 4 – William Leader (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/19)

Alternate #1 – No Appointment Made

Alternate #2 – No Appointment This Made

(Council Appointment)

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

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

Joseph Albensi - 5 Year Term – Expires 12/31/2020

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

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Municipal Alliance Committee:

Lisa Gates Schuffenhauer (4 year term) Expires 12/31/2018

No Appointment Made (4 year term) Expires 12/31/2018

Ralph Blakeslee (2 year term) Expires 12/31/2017

Patricia Butler – Council Liaison (1 year term)

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee Appointments for 2016:

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 appointments was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Animal Control
Officer: Thomas Mendel (1 year term)

Alternate Animal
Control Officer: Joseph Fiorello (1 year term)

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

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 12/31/17)

A Motion to adopt the appointment of Trustees was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Yes: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution #2016-1 To Honor Volunteers
2. Resolution #2016-2 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Attorney, Anthony M.Bucco, Esq. for 2016.

3. Resolution #2016-3 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for Special Tax Counsel, Fred Semrau, Esq. for 2016.
4. Resolution #2016-4 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for Borough Auditor, Valerie Dolan of Nisivoccia LLP for 2016.
5. Resolution #2016-5 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Engineer, Robert Guerin of Guerin & Vreeland Engineers for 2016.
6. Resolution #2016-6 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Bond Council to Steven Rogut of Rogut McCarthy, LLC
7. Resolution #2016-7 Depositories for 2016 as Follows:
 - Fulton Bank Inc.
 - Valley National Bank
 - TD Bank
 - New Jersey Cash Management Fund
8. Resolution #2016-8 Official Newspapers as Follows:
 - Daily Record and The Star Ledger
9. Resolution #2016-9 Resolution Designating Newspapers to Receive Notices and Fixing Charges.
10. Resolution #2016-10 Fixing Rates of Interest (8%) and Penalty on Delinquent Taxes, (18%) Assessments and Other Municipal Charges.
11. Resolution #2016-11 Authorizing Investments by the Borough in Certain Bonds and Other Obligations.
12. Resolution #2016-12 Regular Public Meeting Dates and Work Session Dates of the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong.
13. Resolution #2016-13 Authorizing Temporary Appropriations as Provided by N.J.S.A.40A:4-19.
14. Resolution #2016-14 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee and Elmer Still, As Commissioner and Alternate for the Morris County Joint Municipal Insurance Fund.
15. Resolution #2016-15 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee as Public Agency Compliance Officer.
16. Resolution #2016-16 - To Appoint the Vozza Agency as the Borough of Netcong's Risk Management Consultant.

17. Resolution #2016-17 – Providing the Advice and Consent to the Appointment of the Members of the Board of Trustees of Netcong Borough, Inc. the District Management Corporation of the Borough's Special Improvement District

18. Resolution #2016-18 - Authorizing the Payment of Annual Stipends to Certain Borough Employees

A Motion to Adopt Resolutions 2016-1 to 2016-4 was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Resolution 2016-5 was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Still

A motion to adopt Resolutions 2016-6 to 2016-16 and 2016-18 was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to adopt Resolution 2016-17 was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Roll Call: 6 yes

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented at this meeting

Annual Tally on Council Votes

Mr. Tony Bucco provided tally on votes (motion and 2nd) for year with prize for winner.

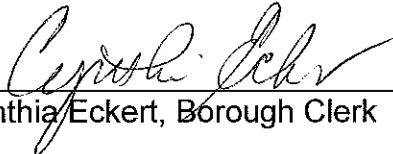
- Hathaway 122
- Still 121

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 7:52 PM.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk