

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JANUARY 14, 2016 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 8, 2016.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 13, 2016 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 8, 2016.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance were 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

Agenda Meeting of December 3, 2015
Regular Meeting of December 10, 2015

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

Roll Call for December 3: 5 Yes

Roll Call for December 10: 4 Yes

Abstain: Councilman Hathaway

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

No ordinances were presented at this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board

Councilman Hathaway provided an explanation regarding the options and testing performed. One test using a biological sludge eater worked well in all areas. Some of the tests rendered a major decrease in sludge. Councilman Hathaway noted that a larger test run in a public area would be next. Experimental runs were discussed for Musconetcong Park and the pond by Dell Ave and Koclas. The Mayor asked about the Freeholders. Councilman Hathaway assured there was unofficial approval from this group.

2. Letter from Morris County – Community Development Block Grant Program

Mr. Blakeslee noted there was an audit of the paperwork and all was found in order. A request to host an annual luncheon at the Netcong firehouse was made to highlight the project that they funded. The fire chief was selected to be the coordinator. The Mayor said that this could result in a positive outcome and thought moving forward was in order. Councilman Koster asked about the date of this luncheon. Mr. Blakeslee will check into this further and noted the dates of February 23rd or 24th.

For the record, Mr. Bucco arrived at 7:39 PM.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee had nothing additional to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

In the month of December, 2015, the Borough had total income in the amount \$82,705.30 as compared to the previous year of \$131,305.32.

Revenue received for the month of December:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2015 the Borough received \$1,087.90 vs. \$1,009.19 in 2014.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

In 2015 the Borough received \$4,310.49 vs. \$5,739.08 in 2014

State Aid

In 2015 the Borough received \$19,595.30 vs. \$19,595.30 in 2014

Grants in Aid

In 2015 the Borough received \$0.00 vs. \$14,732.23 in 2014

Taxes Collected

In 2015 the Borough collected \$57,711.61 vs. \$90,229.52.35 in 2014.

Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2015 is \$8,737,718.95 vs. \$8,640,349.88.48 in 2014.

Councilman Still noted that another budget meeting would be held.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway reported that Crown Point had a meeting with the DEP and will be submitting applications soon. Councilman Hathaway anticipated a time line from them. He noted that the DEP is receptive to these plans.

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

Fire Department for December:

- 5 Calls
- 3 Drills
- 4 Meetings
- 5 Special Details
- 2 Officers completed I-400
- 58 Total Fire Fighters
- 750.7 Total Hours

2015 Year

- 108 Total Calls for the Year
- 86 Drills for the Year
- 80 Meetings
- 61 Special Details
- 84 Total Fire fighters for the Year
- 9771 Total Hours for the Year

The Netcong Police Department

- 380 Total Calls
- 98 Motor Vehicle Summons
- 41 Summons for Local Ordinance violations

Councilman Sylvester noted that the police have been diligent with the overweight truck issue.

Parking on McMullen Street was discussed at the last safety committee meeting. With the addition of a new restaurant, Polo Bar and Grill, parking should not be allowed on the street as it will hinder access for emergency vehicles. It was noted that there is no enforcement to write tickets if there is no associated ordinance. Chief Blesson recommended making a no parking zone on the side of McMullen and the Polo Grill.

The Mayor requested approval from the Council to have the Borough Attorney change the Parking Ordinance. Chief Blesson noted that there may be a loss of several spots but it is a public safety issue. Councilman Laureys asked if the ordinance will only govern this street. The Mayor noted that there are other specific streets with this type of ordinance. This allows a sign to be posted deeming no parking within 25 feet of this corner facilitating ticket generation by the police.

Mr. Bucco noted an example regarding 6 ton trucks traveling the streets of Netcong. The Mayor discussed the authority to not allow 6 ton trucks in Netcong. The Borough Attorney advised that the ordinance cannot be arbitrary and has to be carefully worded.

The Mayor suggested that the Chief make a package for Mr. Bucco. Mr. Bucco requested specific information for McMullen Street.

The Mayor explained how they came up with the 6 ton limit. Councilman Hathaway stated that 10 tons would cover the larger trucks without affecting the residents who have trucks for commercial use.

Councilman Still asked about radios for the squad. The Mayor said the Council should have a public safety meeting and invite the squad or the Council can go over there for meeting. Councilman Still wanted to know what progress is being made. If the squad can't cover the town, other action may need to be taken. Mr. Blakeslee noted there was no money in the budget to cover this. It was noted that \$7000 was needed. Mr. Bucco advised that the Council needs to be careful and stay within the statute limits. Mr. Blakeslee will set up a meeting.

- \$67,895.65 was collected by the court in 2015.

December, 2015 Ambulance Report

- Total Calls: 61
- 32 Patients
- 32 Trips to the hospital
- 934 Miles traveled
- 216 Hours volunteered

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

D.P.W. Monthly Report January 2016

Road Department: Cleaned and inspected all storm water drains ...Cleaned curb lines and storm basin lids ...Installed a traffic bollard at the intersection of Allen Terrace and Prospect St... Filled in pot holes with cold patch ...Installed 2 new front tires on the backhoe

Water Department: Replaced a bad flow meter and control valve at well 5...

Sewer Department: Cleared sewer back up at 81 Main St.... Inspected various sewer mains through town

Buildings & Grounds: Performed all preparations for the Holiday Parade ...Winterized and stored all summer equipment ...Put Main St. benches into storage...The Breathe EZ Company cleaned all duct work at the Municipal Building and changed filters....R&J control was in for quarterly service of generators...

Recycling Department: Picked up 60 CY of leaves. .. Met with County Recycling representatives to go through a contaminate refresher course...

Other: DPW employees watched a storm water training video...

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

NY Bus trip planned tickets still available.

Public Services:

(Human Services

Recycling & Solid

Waste Disposal

T. Laureys

P. Butler

Dial A Ride - For December 2015:

Days of Service: 13
Miles: 542
Number of Stops: 53
Nutrition (4 people): 12
Food shopping (21 people): 63
Number of Meals on Wheels: 15
Medical Appointments: 8
Other Appointments: 44
People Using Services: 44
Cancels: 11
Denials: 2
Units: 258
Hours: 66.25

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2016 Property Assessment Revaluation

The Mayor requested to have this topic covered. He asked the Tax Assessor to look for a company to do a re-evaluation. Mr. Bucco asked if the Borough has been ordered to do this. The Mayor replied we have not but there have been so many appeals we need to do a re-val. The Council continued discussion on this topic with Mr. Bucco.

Mr. Blakeslee offered that Marvin Joss and Fred Semrau will be coming to the next Finance Committee meeting to discuss the issue. He will return with a report after this meeting.

2. Appointment of Sean Holl as a Junior Firefighter for Fire Co. No. 2.

A motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

3. Appointment of Brandon Reis as a Firefighter for Fire Co. No. 2

A motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President Koster had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Hathaway wanted to report substantial change in leadership in the school board. He felt the first few meetings rendered positive changes. The Netcong Education Foundation is doing a fund raiser to buy chrome books for students on March 5th. St. Patrick's Day fund raiser will be at the Knights of Columbus with a raffle. Included will be an Irish Dance Troop, Bag Pipe Band and Burrini's Catering.

The Lake Board is working on another program; Morris County 319 Grant for small dredging machine (hydro raking) experimented in front of his house. This machine costs about \$250,000.00 to buy- good possibility to get it - Pat Rector suggests each town sign up for cleaning the lake will help to boost chances of getting a grant as well as support from legislators. Councilman Hathaway noted that resolutions are needed from surrounding towns to show support. He noted that they may never be able to dredge the lake but can start taking materials out of the lake now and could take 1000 cubic yards out per year.

Councilman Laureys discussed chrome books being very valuable teaching tools but not every student needs one. He stated that he started going to BOE meetings and he noticed a positive sentiment.

Councilman Sylvester asked about the rental statute. Mr. Bucco responded, stating that it passed both houses but the Governor will probably veto. He continued that the statute is too broad. This raised a red flag with the Department of Community Affairs and the Governor may conditionally veto it. He added that this could be a pocket veto and it will die. There is an opportunity for the sponsor the change the bill to limit it to only code violations. Mr. Bucco said it will probably come back with a bit more structure.

He suggested the Council refrain from sending out letters to landlords. He stated that if challenged you will lose.

Councilman Still and Mr. Bucco discussed the issues at the legislative level.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor began by announcing a glitch has been hit with the upcoming water projects. Mr. Blakeslee interjected that part of our project is demolition of old reservoir. He added that a survey needs to be done to determine if there are northern long eared bats in the reservoir. We need to hire a special biologist to do a study to make sure there are no northern long eared bats. Mr. Bucco would like to be involved in any conference calls with things like this. He requested the

Division contact information and who we spoke with. He will call them tomorrow. The Mayor asked if the sludge from the Lake could be used. Discussion among the Council continued.

Councilman Hathaway noted that this may be a blessing in disguise. If there are bats they will not allow demolition. The Borough could fence it in and save lots of money. An environmental study will be required.

RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Resolution 2016- 20 – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 15-00002- Sanford Freiman**

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 2. Resolution 2016- 21 - To Appoint Wayne Anthony OEM Coordinator for a Term of 3 Years**

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

- 1. Ordinance 2016-1 – 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 Ave. and Main Street and Route 46 and Route 183 N. in the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey**

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2016-1 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2016-1 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Laureys.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

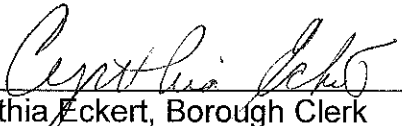
CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was held at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:42 PM.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk