

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MARCH 3, 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 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**

- Agenda Meeting – February 4, 2016
- Regular Meeting – February 11, 2016

A Motion to Approve the Above Listed Minutes was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

- Mr. Michael Yeung – 65-67 Main St. –Is seeking help with his Netcong property. The retaining wall needs repair. The structure was built in 1950. Ms. Susan Yeung took over speaking for him. She explained that there is a wall for their building and a wall that supports the road. Ms. Yeung noted that she reported the crack in the wall 10 years ago. Since then traffic patterns have been altered and trucks now travel down Bank St., which is causing the wall to crumble. They have spoken to many architects that say the town should be partially responsible for the repair due to the change in traffic patterns which includes large trucks on this road.

Councilman Sylvester asked for clarification on where the property is located. Councilman Still provided this information. The building portion of the wall is in good condition but the street side needs repair.

Mayor Nametko noted that Bank St. is now a one lane street which only allows 6 ton trucks.

Mr. Blakeslee confirmed that large trucks are not permitted to go down that street.

Mr. Yeung requested that the Borough assist in the repair of the wall. He consulted several engineers who say the wall is crumbling because of the truck traffic.

Councilman Hathaway stated that in order for the Council to make a decision, the Yeung's would have to provide proof from a professional. Ms. Yeung responded that she had requested help with this issue 10 years ago. The town responded that if there was damage, they could have a discount on their taxes or some sort of remediation.

Councilman Sylvester said that the Town needs to establish ownership of the wall. Mr. Bob Guerin should take a look at it. Mr. Guerin said the wall is in disrepair. He did not say it is due to truck traffic, just that it is old.

Mr. Blakeslee offered that the town needs to consult with Mr. Bucco to verify ownership.

Mr. Yeung presented a survey for the council to view. It was noted that the road is 2 feet on Mr. Yeung's property according to Hannington Engineering.

Mr Blakeslee stated that they will not be able to fix this during this meeting. He wanted to obtain copies of the survey and letters.

Mayor Nametko noted Mr. Yeung needs to provide documentation so a owner determination can be made. He requested that Mr. Yeung provide the materials to Mr. Blakeslee who will copy them.

Mr. Yeung continued to explain his situation: Estimates for the work are approximately \$70,000.00. He is only taking in \$1000.00 in rents monthly. He is losing money on this property. He opened his business in Netcong in 1984. He is hoping the town can help him.

The Mayor asked if Mr. Yeung has additional letters from contractors for the Council to see. The Mayor requested copies of these for the Borough attorney to review.

- Bernadette Dalesandro- Representative for the Netcong Education Foundation – wished to remind everyone about the March 5<sup>th</sup> fundraiser at the Knights of Columbus. There are still tickets available for the dinner and raffle. La Tienda made a large donation. She thanked Mayor Namefko and other Council members who have given money to buy one chrome book for the school.

Mayor Nametko noted that there is a company that provides grants for technology that they are looking into.

Mrs. Dalesandro thanked the Council for their support

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE 2016 BUDGET**

**Resolution #2016-30** –To Introduce the 2016 Budget

This resolution will be carried to the March 10, 2016 meeting.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID COST ESTIMATE**

To be carried to the March 10, 2016 meeting.

**Resolution #2016-29** - Resolution to Approve the 2016 Cost Estimate for the Borough's Special Improvement District.

This resolution will be carried to the March 10, 2016 meeting.

### **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

1. **Ordinance 2016-2** - 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 10<sup>TH</sup>, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> 2016 AND ON SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, AND SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 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

To be carried to the March 10, 2016 meeting.

2. **Ordinance 2016-3** - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 268, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE VIII SCHEDULES, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

To be carried to the March 10, 2016 meeting.

3. **Ordinance 2016-4** - ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

To be carried to the March 10, 2016 meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was presented at this meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss at this meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Councilman Sylvester related information from an MSA Meeting last week. Councilman Sylvester wanted to inform the Council of the issues: There are two Roxbury projects that will use our sewer system. No meter will be accepted by the MSA. They will be owned by Roxbury. He explained how the calculations are made without meter changes. The Quick Chek project will move fairly quickly, which will have Roxbury city water. Councilman Still says we charge 90% of water usage (which we supply) and still charge for water. There is continued discussion among the Council regarding the specifics of these projects. Mr Blakeslee noted that we need to consult our engineer.
2. Councilman Sylvester requested to discuss the Food Truck Fundraiser Fees for fire inspection and food vendors. He felt that they should be waived. Mr. Blakeslee explained we would be charging each vendor for a food license. Councilman Sylvester explained this was all included in the contract with the truck vendors. He noted that for the record, between the two companies over \$30,000.00 was used that was made by the companies; the Borough did not have to pay for these improvements.

Councilman Sylvester made a formal request to waive the fees. He knows many people ask where the money raised by the companies goes. He explains how those funds are used. The Mayor added that going forward the fee will be included.

Councilman Sylvester still objects to the fee noting that if it does not cost the Borough a dime why charge the fees. The Council continued discussion on this topic. Councilman Hathaway noted that he understood, but it may be a touchy situation with the Health Department.

A Motion to waive fees for the fire inspection and health dept. was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

The Council had nothing to report at this time.

## **MAYORS COMMENTS**

The Mayor began by stating that for last several years, since the old Blazer which was used for animal control broke down, we can no longer move animals in a closed truck. We have been putting animals in the back of a pickup truck to transport them. The animals must be in a climate controlled vehicle per the ASPCA.

The DPW Superintendent explained how these animals can be transported. The use of the old Fire Department SUV vehicle is an option.

Councilman Still doesn't think we need to keep this vehicle. The Council continued strong discussion regarding this situation. ASPCA enforces the state laws.

Councilman Koster explained we do not have a vehicle at this time to transport. The new DPW truck does not have a back seat for animals.

The Mayor responded that the town should be keeping our vehicle fleet small and again brought up the Blazer that was to be sold.

Councilman Koster explains this will be an even swap. It needs minimal care and upkeep. Councilman Laurey's asked why we can't farm this out. Councilman Koster replied that it will cost more money.

Councilman Still requested an estimate from Mt. Olive shared service for a dog catcher. Councilman Hathaway stated that we already have an employee who can do this. The discussion continued and included the topic of how many vehicles we have. Councilman Koster said that we are not adding anything. Councilman Laurey's asked how animals we transport per year. Mr. Canfield replied "approximately 30." Mr. Blakeslee will put together a complete analysis for next week's meeting.

Councilman Koster will not support anything that takes away from the town workers' wages. Councilman Laurey's asked why we would not want to save the taxpayers' money. Councilman Hathaway agreed with Councilman Koster and he was sensitive to the value of these employees. Councilman Still interjected that he needs to see all the numbers for these projects first.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

No resolutions were presented at this meeting.

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

1. American Red Cross

The Mayor reads the proclamation.

## **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

1. **Ordinance 2016-5** – Authorizing the Making of Various Public Improvements and Acquisitions In, By, and for the Borough, Appropriating Therefor the Sum of \$63,000.00 and Providing that Such Sum So Appropriated Shall Be Raised from Capital Fund Balance of the Borough.

This ordinance will be carried to the March 10, 2016 meeting.

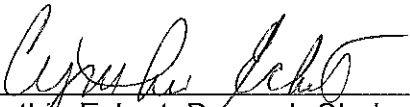
CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 8:19 PM seconded by Councilman Hathaway and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk