

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JUNE 9, 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 7:25 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 and Attorney, Robert Oostdyk,

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No minutes were presented at this meeting.

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mr. Grobe, Springfield VA: His wife owns the 26 Hilts Lane property. He spoke with Mr. Blakeslee last month about the bad state of repair of Hilts Lane and the amount of traffic using the street to access Britton St. and Family Ford. He was told the Borough could not provide the same services it provides to the public streets because the street is privately owned. He sent a letter that the Mayor and Council has in its possession this evening. He feels the street is public even though it may have been private years ago. He provided examples such as the Board Approved access to Family Ford and a new home in the back of Hilts Lane that uses this street every day. In addition, the public parks on Hilts Lane and blocks access. This can cause problems for renters with children at 26 Hilts Lane. There are also drainage issues when it rains. It comes down the railroad

area, Hilts Lane, and Family Ford. He feels there should be a curb and drainage system put in to rectify this situation.

The Mayor corrected Mr. Grobes statement and noted that the Borough never gave Family Ford access to their property from Hilts Lane. He then referred to the 1998 ordinance describing the issue of private roads and what the Borough did do even though it was not required.

Mr. Grobe continued to maintain that the road is no longer private. There were cars from the Olivo's, an oil truck, UPS truck, another guest of the Olivo's. In 2007 when the Olivo's home was being considered, Mr. Grobe came to the meeting and opposed the building of this home.

Councilman Laureys suggested putting a sign up to note that this is a private road. Mr. Grobe jokingly stated that he could put a tree across the road.

Mr. Oostdyk attempted to define the difference between a public and private road. He explained that anyone who lives on that private road has the right to allow guests and services to use those roads. We have records of our public streets and the county streets. He says this road is not considered a public street at this time. By ordinance we can allow Hilts Lane to become a public street. As the government we cannot just come in and take the road. The owners must agree to give the property to the town. The road would then need to be brought up to public road standards. The government can also do special assessments to the homeowners to improve the road.

A question was asked as to whether the Methodist Church owns the property that the road sits on. Mr. Blakeslee responded that at some point when the ordinance was made there must have been title work processed regarding this.

Councilman Hathaway suggests this will not be an easy process. Owners would need to agree to this and have their deeds amended to accomplish this. He asks Mr. Grobe what his major concern was regarding the road; the condition of the road or the traffic access. Mr. Grobe replied "Both, plus conditions of the road bring safety issues."

Mr Oostdyk says people have the right to build if they meet all the land use standards.

Councilman Still says we need to find out who owns the property. Councilman Hathaway suggested if safety is the concern it could be that the Family Ford traffic is causing those issues. He suggests a letter be written to Family Ford instructing that they should not be using the street. He assumed the Post Office and the homes on Britton Street have legal access to Hilts Lane.

Councilman Still suggested constructing something to block the access. Chief Blesson says he can address the gate issue with Family Ford tomorrow.

The Mayor suggested that NJ Transit is contacted regarding the water issues since it is noted that water comes down from the tracks.

Mr. Blakeslee suggested the ordinance leaves room for maintenance and repairs just not to the standard of a public road.

Councilman Still explained that making the road public would require deeds to be changed at the cost of the homeowners who live on the private road.

The Mayor explained some of the flooding issues have been addressed but there are still some issues to be resolved.

Councilman Hathaway said we can help to solve the access issues and maintenance, but improvements will not be paid for by the residents of Netcong. We cannot use public money to improve private roads.

Councilman Sylvester said last week we were going to look at the ownership of these private roads- Mr. Blakeslee stated the process has been started. Councilman Hathaway said the Borough would also contact the attorney regarding how this can be handled. Councilman Sylvester claimed the wheels have started turning on this issue. It might be possible to put millings on some of these streets. Because the roads are being used by the community it allows the Borough to do general maintenance on these roads. Councilman Sylvester continued that the Borough could do small patches to make the road safe to travel on. Councilman Sylvester says for future reference there must be some record at the County to look up the ownership of these properties. Mr. Oostdyk replied that if it is not a lot it is not taxed. Councilman Still said this issue was reviewed in 1998 which is why the ordinance was written. He assumed that Mr. Bucco has this information in his office.

There were no additional comments from the audience.

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 at this meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was presented.

## BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

There were no additional comments regarding this report.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance:                    E. Still                    J. Sylvester

In the month of May the Borough had total income in the amount of \$1,411,174.31 as compared to the previous year of \$1,469,539.20.

For the month of May 2016:

### Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2016 the Borough received \$801.90 vs. \$1,669.75 in 2015

### Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

In 2016 the Borough received \$17,048.91 vs. \$6,664.05 in 2015

*Increase over last year's total attributed to liquor license fee collected in May.*

### State Aid

*No state aid has been received as of this date.*

### Grants in Aid

In May 2016 the Borough received \$7,540.46 in grant funding vs. \$6,605.71 in 2015

*The Borough received its annual Clean Communities grant in May, a \$934.75 increase.*

### Taxes Collected

In 2016 the Borough collected \$1,385,783.04 vs. \$1,454,599.69 in 2015

### Income Total Year to Date:

*Total income to date in 2016 is \$1,411,174.31, as opposed \$1,469,539.20 in 2015.*

Economic Development:                R. Hathaway                E. Still

Councilman Hathaway reported that there was not much new activity regarding the meeting with Crown Point. There will be a meeting on June 21st.

NCP has been working with the DPW to provide the 'welcome to Netcong' signs and will contribute to Netcong Day. They will also be contributing new Christmas decorations.

The Mayor stated that the NCP has hired a firm from town to update the website. There will be a template for each business to have their own individual web pages through this site. This will be a big plus for all our businesses in town. Marty Pisano is doing this free of charge

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

Councilman Sylvester reported the following for May:

Ambulance Corp

- Total Calls answered: 61, 3 were out of town
- Total Patients: 28
- Total Trips: 28
- Miles Travelled: 839
- Hours Volunteered: 260hours and 47 minutes
- 1 assist with the Stanhope Fire Department

Fire Department

- Total of 8 calls, 2 RIC and 2 Squat assists
- Drills: 8
- Meetings: 2
- Special details: 6
- Total Fire Fighters: 55
- Total Involvements: 24
- Total Man Hours: 870.9

Police Department

- 352 calls
- 105 summonses
- \$4000 grant for 100 hours resulted in 141 MV summonses

Dept. of Public Works & Utilities: E. Koster R. Hathaway

**D.P.W. Monthly Report June 2016**

**Road Department:** Roxbury came in to perform annual street sweeping ... The DPW picked up 56 cy of grass, 40 cy of leaf bags, and 64 cy of brush. Started weekly vacuum of Main St and Maple Ave....Rebuilt a collapsing storm drain on Main St near RR tracks. Repaired broken wire on Main St crosswalk lights.....Installed a new muffler the backhoe....

**Water Department:** Performed May water meter readings. Installed a new water tap at 37 Center St....Filled out monthly water reports .

**Buildings & Grounds:** Performed weekly generator reports ....Hung banners on all decorative lamp posts ...Hung American Flags on dedicated telephone poles ....Prepped flower pots with new soil and flowers and brought to locations on Main St, Maple Ave, Ledgewood Ave and Allen St.... State of New Jersey was in to perform annual elevator inspection.... Passed final inspection of new DPW garage . . . .Built 2 new flower boxes at Welcome to Netcong signs on Rt 183 N and Rt 46 E....Performed watering and feeding 3x per week at flower pots and flower beds ....Repaired damaged fence at tennis courts at Arbolino Park.. ..Installed new batteries on exit lights at Borough Hall....

**Parks & Recreation:** The DPW summer help started cutting all Borough properties as well as Netcong School through the shared service agreement.

**Other:** Ralph, Cindy and Mike attended a JIF safety meeting in Sparta....Picked up and returned message boards and barricades from the county for food truck festival. . . .

**Comments:** We took down the American Flags were taken down due to bad weather to preserve them; they will be put back up for July 4th.

Recreation: P. Butler T. Laureys

Recreation Update 6/9/16

1. Get ready for our Summer Concert Series which will begin next Friday, June 11th. This will be our annual Teen Night with the following week, Family Fun Night which includes our Color in the Park Contest.
2. We have decided to cancel our Junk in the Trunk event due to a very light response. We will look to include this event next year with our Town Wide Garage Sale.
3. Recreation is working on bringing "active" community events to our town. Our first event will take place on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> during our concert in the park. Steve Guttman of Mind Body Dynamics will be offering "free" back and neck massages. What a great way to relieve a week of stress then by a nice massage and some great music.

Public Services: T. Laureys P. Butler  
(Human Services)

Recycling & Solid  
Waste Disposal

Dial a Ride Report for May 2016

Days of Service: 20  
Miles: 948  
# of Stops: 68  
Nutrition for 3 people: 17  
Food shopping for 18 people: 63  
# of Meals on Wheels: 13  
Medical Appointments: 11  
Other Appointments: 43  
People Using Services: 38  
Cancels: 26  
Denials: 1  
Units: 287  
Hours: 104.75  
Additional notes: 1 new disabled

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Antenna Ordinance

The Planning Board addressed the two antennas on the front lawn at a house on Carolyn Way. The intent was to eliminate any more of these dishes located in someone's front yard. The Mayor asked if the Council would like to change the ordinance.

Councilman Hathaway said he understands this discussion come up due to the Family Ford putting a tower on their building. Councilman Hathaway continued that the Council should set some parameters for these towers. Mr. Oostdyk noted that towers were not included in this ordinance. Councilman Hathaway said this is just to set some parameters for this issue. Mr. Bucco stated previously that there is nothing in the current ordinance to not allow these dishes in the front yards. Mr Laureys said we have building codes and wouldn't these issues be covered under these laws. The reply to him was that this is not included. Councilman Sylvester noted that the Council has rules for residential lots for air conditioners etc. At the minimum they should abide with the setbacks. Mr. Oostdyk stated that if you want to consider them accessory items that would be the best way to go with it. The Mayor replied that we want to cover dishes on front yards. Accessory items would include air conditioner units, oil tanks, dishes etc. In general, accessory items cannot be in the front yard. They would have to go to the planning board to get approval. Councilman Still noted this issue began because the dishes were put on someone else's property. It was discussed that unused old items should be removed and should be included in this regulation.

Councilman Still requested height limitations be provided for these items. Cell towers and the like should be regulated. Councilman Laureys was concerned about regulating residents regarding satellite dish heights.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business presented.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL 8:2053**

Councilman Still asked for Mr. Blakeslee to have permission to update the website and keep the dates current. We need to make sure we have everything up to date. We need links as well. Mr. Blakeslee noted that the date issues were taken care of immediately.

Councilman Hathaway noted that this weekend is Stanhope Day. It used to be Save the Lake Day. There will be a fishing contest. Councilman Hathaway visited the Community Association and reminded all that they have access to the equipment to take care of the shore line. Councilman Hathaway continued to note that the lake was treated with herbicide today. The lake issues should be under control within three years with these treatments. Two harvesters are in operation almost every day. Harvesting will be done in front of DiRenzo Park before the concerts begin. The chemical used this year is non-migratory and not near any shoreline. Microbes to eat the muck also went in today along with a lot of testing and monitoring. There significant results with the testing done last year. The monitoring last year was limited.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

### **RESOLUTIONS Voted by Block**

1. **Resolution 2016- 65** – A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Municipal Surplus Property
2. **Resolution 2016- 66** – A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Stanley & Orke, Inc. for the Purpose of Supplying and Installing a New Roof on the Municipal Building, 23 Maple. Ave.
3. **Resolution 2016- 67** – Granting Renewal of Liquor Licenses 2016-2017
4. **Resolution 2016- 68** – Granting Renewal of Liquor License No. 1428-33-009-005 for Annette McMahon and Directing the Borough Clerk to Issue Same



5. **Resolution 2016- 69** –Granting Renewal of Liquor License No. 1428-44-008-003 for Quick Chek Food Stores and Directing the Borough Clerk to Issue Same
  
6. **Resolution 2016- 70** – Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Wire's Electric Shop for the Purpose of Supplying and Installing a New Outdoor Electrical Service for Arbolino Park, Koclas Drive, Netcong New Jersey

Councilman Koster made a motion to approve the above six resolutions and was seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes on Resolutions 2016-65, 2016-66 and 2016-70.

Roll Call: 5 Yes for Resolutions 2016-67 through 2016-69

Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

1. **Bond Ordinance 2016-9** – Bond Ordinance to Appropriate an Additional Sum of \$64,435.00 for the Railroad Avenue Water Main Replacement Project (Phase I) in, by and for the Water Utility of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Additional Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds

A Motion to Introduce Bond Ordinance #2016-9 and Read by Title only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2016-9 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2016-10** – An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 276, Water, Section 276-5, Rates, of the Code of the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris and State of New Jersey

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2016-10 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2016-10 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

**REPORTS**

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

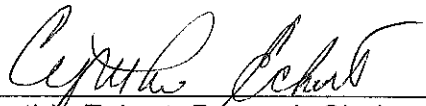
**CLOSED SESSION**

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 8:34 PM and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk