

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD OCTOBER 13, 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 7:26 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, and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented this evening.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Wayne Anthony, 24 Dell Ave. presented an idea to support fireman and police - striping the road maybe Maple Ave half red and half blue in between the center of 2 yellow lines. The striping would be in front of the police and firefighter's streets. Other towns have been doing this. The Mayor said maybe we would do Main St. instead of Maple. Mr. Anthony quoted the cost at 65 cents per foot. Councilman Still suggested the Borough obtain prices for this. Mr. Blakeslee added that they are striping in front of the police dept. and firehouses. The Mayor suggests maybe we can do Main St. in the business area. Councilman Koster asked if our line machine could do this. Mr. Canfield says our machine is too small to make perfect lines. Councilman Still suggested we investigate and make a decision.

Ms. Maryanne Callahan of 84 Allen St. stated she was here on behalf of Lakeland Little League. She explained they have teams that are not sponsored by Lakeland so the parents have to pay for uniforms insurance etc. Manny Rodriguez, president of Lakeland, booked the field through Mr. Albensi. The parents were informed they were short \$600.00 in fees for the field lights. She is asking the town for some type of help to cover the extra cost for this. The money owed is being kicked back to the parents. The Mayor explained he was at the recreation meeting and it was made very clear there was a fee for the lights. Moving forward they have no problem paying for the lights. However, this year they were not aware they had to pay for the lights and this is causing a hardship for the parents. She said the field looks great and it makes the town look good that it is finally able to be used. The Mayor explained this fall ball is new and outside the normal organization. Mr. Callahan explained that this is run strictly by the parents. The Mayor and Councilman Still suggested that they discuss this to come up with a solution. Councilman Still asked Mrs. Callahan if the Council can get back to her. She replied "Sure." She said this is costing each family \$50.00. The Mayor asked when the fall ball season starts. Mrs. Callahan replied that it ends October 22. It is a short season but they will be playing 12-15 games. She said their plan going forward; they hope to make the field part of the Lakeland little league. She asked the Borough to get back to her or Manny Rodriguez.

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

NETCONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION

Steve Fredericks President of NCP and Executive Director of the Growing Stage.

Mr. Fredericks provided the following update on their accomplishments:

*Mayor and Netcong Town Council Members,
Thank you for this opportunity to share with you the ongoing work of the Netcong Community Partnership.
Here are also some additional accomplishments to date:*

- We secured a \$ 3,000 grant from the Get Active NJ which we have turned over to the town. These funds will underwrite the planning for a walk ability study for Netcong and is being done in concert with both the town administration and the Netcong Recreation Committee. This accomplishment has opened another door that we are pursuing. The America Walks and the Every Body Walk! Collaborative which will award grantees up to \$1,500.00 for projects related to increasing walking and walk ability.*
- In addition to the two high quality postcards that have been shared previously with the council for their review, we have also created a blue book study that was distributed to*

the council last month. This will also be updated on an annual basis. It tracks ongoing business trends and enables our business community a unique tool in furthering their viability, stability and growth during these challenging economic times, while encouraging new businesses to come to Netcong.

- We are putting the final touches on new interactive website that will provide free web space for all of our businesses in Netcong. This site will allow them to freely update and engage the community in ways many of our community's small businesses cannot. This effort has been spearheaded by Marty Pisano of Media Now, a Netcong business. He is receiving no financial benefit for his efforts and is contributing his expertise to oversee the project. This is another example of our progress in engaging the business community in a fresh, positive manner. The website will also encourage those businesses outside of our main business district to participate and thus allow the town to have a clear, concise list of the actual number businesses operating within our community*

- This summer we tested a more energy efficient planter system that accomplishes two things. First that it continues to enhance our town streetscape, and second that it's self watering so that it will not require the DPW to water as frequently- in some instances changing a weekly watering expense to monthly. We are looking to replace existing planters with these new ones in the spring, 2017 and would appreciate the town's consideration in participating in this project. We would like to expand up through the Route 183 corridor to Route 46 so that we can further the streetscape of our community. We are also looking to place the existing planters on a site such as GovDeals so that we can possibly offset the cost by selling the old ones.*

- The Netcong Community Partnership once again provided the funds necessary for the Kids Zone at our recent Netcong Day celebration and this year also provided the additional support necessary towards the expanded entertainment for the day.*

- We were chosen to receive a grant for a Pumpkin Illumination program underwritten by the Morris Arts (formerly the Arts Council of the Morris Area,) through the MetLife Foundation and the Cadbury Chocolate Company. One town is chosen each year for this project that happens annually in Morristown and includes the participation of the school, community and local businesses.*

This is especially noteworthy in that not only is Netcong being the first community recognized by a state and county agency for a new program but it clearly demonstrates the new direction of the NCP role in taking an active role in our overall community. This opportunity has brought together the Netcong PTA, the Board of Recreation and NCP on one project that will have a positive impact on approximately 300 young people in our community. But beyond the candy, the costumes and the parade it is benefitting our students by having teaching artists come into the Netcong School to enhance their arts curriculum; it is getting three distinct entities to work together on one event without taxing the services the town provides by holding separate events; and from our perspective it is directly engaging the business membership of the NCP with the community and our school system in a manner in which we have not done in recent

years. An extension from this as well is the engagement we now have from the Morris Arts in the economic development of Netcong. Representatives of their staff are meeting with Councilman Hathaway, myself and the property owner of the vacant bank on Main Street to discuss the very real possibility of opening its doors to an arts incubator site that will encourage much needed foot traffic for our Main Street businesses.

- We have underwritten the cost of a tree being planted on Maple Avenue providing an energy savings as it grows and offers shade to our local businesses, but more importantly it will improve the streetscape and offer the additional opportunity for outdoor seating to the restaurant located on that block. We have a meeting tomorrow morning to determine its location.

- We are underwriting the cost of new garland and bows on the streetscape for this holiday season. The cost of the bows alone may be in the area of \$5,000, but we are investing in the appearance of our community and purchasing ones of high quality that will last.

- In the coming months we are looking into improving the entryways into our business district both into Netcong from Route 46 and Route 183 that is visually appealing and encourages shoppers into our business district.

- We have also submitted a grant to the Morris Arts for a Festival of Lights project that will enhance the 2017 annual holiday parade and will feature window art displays from our local students and professional carolers. We are hopeful that we can create the same working relationship with the school and Recreation Committee and coordinate the event with Small Business Saturday in 2017.

The Netcong Community Partnership is moving forward. In the last two years we have restored engagement within the community business, its school and the citizens of Netcong. Our board has restored a reputation damaged by a few to become an active tool that gets things done for all. We have proven to date to be a good and wise investment in the continuing economic development of Netcong changing the tired rant of some that were positive that "Netcong will never change" to one where our community can see that "Positive change happens in Netcong." There will be significant change happening here in Netcong over the next few years and we would appreciate the Council in viewing the NCP as a good investment to help that along.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen L. Fredericks

President

Netcong Community Partnership

The Mayor asked if the blue book study was in digital format so it can be placed on our website. Mr. Fredericks replied it can be done.

The Mayor asked about the bank building which he said is in great condition. He says it is a perfect place for art studios. It will take very little to make the basement and building viable as an art studio. He says this will bring many people in.

Mr. Frederick says the first step would be to get people in that building. The other businesses say we need more foot traffic and he feels this arts building will accomplish that. The Mayor explains how Mystic was in the past and what it is today.

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

- 1. Ordinance 2016-14** - To Amend Chapter 194, Land Development Procedures, of the Code of the Borough of Netcong, and Regulating the Number of Parking Spaces Required

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2016-14 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public. No one from the public stepped forward.

A Motion to Close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2016-14 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 2. Ordinance 2016-15**- To Amend the Redevelopment Plan Entitled "Borough of Netcong Station Area Redevelopment Plan", Dated February 2005

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2016-15 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for comment.

Mr. Robert Burns, 6 Ikes Lane asked "this started a long time ago what is different now?" The Mayor stated it was not the highland act that changed this. He provided background history of the project. The original project was quite large, but along came the tanked economy. The builder wanted to change and finally backed out. Fast forward ten years: Councilman Hathaway and the Mayor

were approached by Transit because they want to sell their property. This changed all previous plans.

Mr. Burns asked about phase I and wanted to know if they have plans for phase 2 and 3 secured. He is concerned the other phases may not happen. Councilman Hathaway explained we have tried to compartmentalize these projects and we can preplan these zones and what can be put in them. He added this was the advice of our planners. Mr. Burns says it doesn't really affect his property. He would like to see it happen but in the 17 years of waiting for this, he felt it stagnated the existing homes in selling or improving their properties. Councilman Hathaway says it is their hope that this would make improvements for the existing properties "The Council is not interested in eminent domain." He explained the plan and it's phases. Mr. Burns asked "what is the final vision on the timeline for this plan?" Councilman Hathaway said the Council hoped that this will start next year for the first two phases. He explains he has been working on this for 6-7 years. Mr. Burns was concerned that this is taking so long, he was uncertain it would ever happen. The Mayor said it all depends on the developers. He said the current developer may end up buying the transit property as well.

Mr. Chris Dilordo lives at 24 Flanders Rd. He showed the location of his property which is right outside the zone. He took a lot of time to fix this home. He is concerned there will be a road coming through right next to his house. Councilman Hathaway explained at this point that it is a paper road and at this point there is no plan to make it a road. He added that they have already discussed it and this is a right of way for the trains. Councilman Still maintained that there will definitely not be a road next to his house.

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2016-15 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this meeting.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

No questions regarding the report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance:

E. Still

J. Sylvester

In the month of September the Borough had total income in the amount \$185,771.16 as compared to the previous year of \$194,621.11.

For the month of September 2016:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2016 the Borough received \$918.00 vs. \$1,077.50 in 2015

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk Fees:

In 2016 the Borough received \$5,543.34 vs. \$6,276.76 in 2015

Rental registration fees were up this month as compared to last year. Note that the Rental Registration and Inspection program was reactivated recently.

Court collections were down in September, as compared to last year (\$2,423.80 in 2016 vs. \$5,260.28 in 2015). To date the Borough has received \$43,349.38 in court fees and fines. During the same period last year the Borough had collected \$53,348.79. The Borough's 2016 shared agreement with Mount Olive requires a payment of \$55,203.

State Aid

The Borough received its 2016 CMPTRA payment in the amount of \$10,904.10 and its 2016 Energy Receipts payment in the amount of \$106,667.70. No change over last year's payment.

Grants in Aid

In September the Borough received a \$2,500 Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund grant.

Taxes Collected

In 2016 the Borough collected \$59,238.02 vs. \$69,695.05 in 2015

Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2016 is \$6,679,861.57, as opposed \$6,507,758.00 in 2015.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway referred to the presentation heard from NCP detailing their accomplishments and added the following:

- The redevelopment plan is now in the hands of Transit
- Quirk property is on the agenda for introduction tonight
- Pocketbook Factory remains in the mire of the Conrail debacle. Mr. Blakeslee offered that they have finally granted the easement and are in negotiations with Norfolk southern. This would be the last piece of their private transaction. He made a call and the property is still under contract and it should go through.

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

Netcong Fire Department, September

Total Calls: 4
Drills: 11
Meetings: 4
Other: 3
Special Details: 2
Mandatory: 2
Total Fire fighters: 50
Total involvements: 26
Total Man Hours: 725.6

Netcong Police Department, September

Total Calls: 276

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

Road Department: Painted stop lines and crosswalks throughout town....Picked up 20 cy of grass....Picked up 36 cy of brush ...Cut out and replaced a bad area of roadway on Chestnut St... Repaired a collapsed storm drain at Dogwood and Wiltop Rd

Water Department: Worked on water and sewer markout requests for NJ Gas installs on Dell, Koclas, Highland, Hillside and Allen St....Repaired a service line water leak at 22 Hillside Ave... Repaired a hydrant that was struck by a vehicle on Upper Flanders Rd at Rt. 46...Repaired water lines struck by NJ Nat Gas on Highland Ave and Dell Ave...Replaced a non working 4 inch valve on Allen St at Hillside Ave...

Buildings & Grounds: Graded floor of the new garage for permanent floor install . . .repaired broken toilet at DiRenzo Park...R&J Control was in to do quarterly servicing of the generators ...Performed lawn cutting at all Borough properties ...Weed wacked and sprayed the brick pavers on Main St and Maple Ave...Continued watering all borough flowers ...Built a concrete pad for the new electric panel at Arbolino Park... Wire's Electric completed the installation of the new electric service...

Parks & Recreation: Maintained all park facilities and performed camera inspections....

Snow: Ordered 50 tons of salt for winter stock...

Other: Performed all pre and post responsibilities associated with Netcong Day ...Tom, Tim, Joe and Alfie attended a Mueller sponsored valve and hydrant training seminar in Denville ...

Recreation: P. Butler T. Laureys

Councilwoman Butler reported the following:

1. October 26 -Annual Halloween house decorating contest.
2. October 29 – Trunk or Treat from 5:00 – 8:00 at the Train station. This year's event will include a Illumination Parade which will end at the Gazebo on Main Street.
3. November 10- Great Wolf Lodge bus trip.
4. November 19- Broadway Show Bus Trip to Cirque de Soleil – there are only 3 seats left.

Public Services: T. Laureys P. Butler
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal)

Councilman Laureys reported the following for the month of September:

Days of service: 20
Miles: 999
Number of stops: 87
Nutrition for 3 people: 14
Food shopping 24 people: 62
Number of Meals on Wheels: 11
Medical Appointments: 21
Other Appointments: 47

People Using Services: 45
Cancels: 30
Denials: 3
Units: 346
Hours: 107
Additional Notes: 1 new disabled and 1 senior disabled

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Membership Application for Fire Company #1 – Bryan Dezio

A motion to approve the membership application was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council had no comment at this time.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

There were no comments from the Mayor at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2016-91-** Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong Authorizing Closure of Escrow Accounts with an Unexpended Balance

A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Resolution 2016-92 -** Amending the 2016 Capital Budget

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2016-16-** Establishing a Redevelopment Plan Entitled "Redevelopment Plan for Block 16.01, Lots 24 and 25.01" Dated September 2016

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2016-16 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2016-16 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

REPORTS

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

At this time, the Mayor wished to address an issue. Mr. Bucco provided background.

Mr. Bucco gave an update on the Fair Share Housing issue. The court has signed the order so the Borough is protected.

Mr. Bucco asked if the school signed the shared service agreement. The Council needs to adopt a resolution before the agreement can be completed.

The Council continued discussion.

It was decided that Mr. Bucco would give a verbal resolution at this time.

A motion to approve a resolution authorizing the shared service agreement for sheds was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

BILLS

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

CLOSED SESSION

No closed session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 8:37 PM and seconded by Councilman Hathaway and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Eckert", is written over a horizontal line.

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk