

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MARCH 9, 2017 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 6, 2017.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 11, 2017 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 6, 2017.

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

No minutes were presented at this meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

- Margaret Ross 60 Stoll St. – She reported that her complex is charged double the amount of property in taxes it should be. Apparently when assessed in 2001 it was measured incorrectly. She has tax records from the town showing length times width. They have appealed several times and have been denied and now the court date has been postponed again.

The Mayor asks if she has spoken to Marvin Joss, the Tax Assessor. She confirmed she did.

Mr. Blakeslee suggests this issue is part of the tax court not to be taken care of here. He asks if she had representation

Mr. Bucco says if this is active litigation he suggests the Council not comment on this matter or taking a position or rendering an opinion since it is active litigation. Mrs. Ross chose to come here tonight because the court is not listening to their issue.

The Mayor said we will take the information she has brought but unfortunately the Council cannot do much for her at this time.

A brief discussion regarding this topic continued.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID ASSESSMENTS

A Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Resolution #2017-39 - Resolution Approving the Property Assessments for the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District of the Borough of Netcong

A Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Resolution #2017-40 – Approving the Introduction of the 2017 Budget of the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District and Authorizing a Public Hearing to Be Held Thereon

A Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2017-2** - 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 9TH, JUNE 10TH 2017 AND ON SEPTEMBER 8TH, AND SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2017 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

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2017-2 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

After an explanation provided by Mr. Bucco regarding a Query, it was noted that there were no more questions from the public.

A Motion to Close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2017-2 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence was reviewed at this meeting.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee provided the following updates:

- Pocketbook Factory – Met with the Borough Engineer and Mr. Wilensky and his engineer. There may be another method to deal with the easement with Norfolk Southern. The easement language in the agreement had some wording the developer did not agree with. The Planning Board may give our engineer the ability to make minor corrections to the site plan without amending site plan approval.

The Mayor asked about the time frame. Mr. Blakeslee will try to get this on the March 27 Planning Board agenda.

- Community Development Grant Committee presentation - Mr. Blakeslee has been informally notified we will be receiving \$53,000.00 to do improvements at Arbolino Field.

Mr. Blakeslee noted an application for a \$243,000.00 grant from DOT last year. The funding amount has decreased but there is going to be discussion regarding funding on their March 13th agenda for us.

Mr. Bucco said they had a lack of applications this year and have gone back to some towns to provide additional funds.

The Mayor spoke about a situation where the DOT would like to change one of the 'right on red' lights in town to do not turn on red. He is not pleased about this. Mr. Blakeslee explained why this may be done. There is brief discussion among the Council regarding this matter.

Mr. Bucco has an update. He will be bringing a resolution to complete the in-rem foreclosures on the properties we had given him several months ago.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Councilman Sylvester noted that the Council will be voting on the budget tonight. He solicited questions and then read the financial report.

In the month of February of 2017 the Borough had total income in the amount \$1,470,784.76 as compared to the previous year of \$1,520,772.66.

For the month of February 2017:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2017 the Borough received \$634.44 vs. \$879.25 in 2016

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk Fees:

In 2017 the Borough received \$6,404.30 vs. \$5,225.20 in 2016.

State Aid

No state aid was received in February of 2017 (or 2016 for that matter).

Grants in Aid

The Borough received \$1,100.00 from the State of New Jersey to conduct motor vehicle inspections.

Taxes Collected

In 2017 the Borough collected \$1,462,646.02 vs. \$1,512,268.21 in 2016

Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2017 was \$2,095,026.51 opposed \$2,034,123.59 in 2016.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway offered that most of his report was covered in the Administrator's report and provided a brief review for the public. There will be a Quirk meeting on the 29th regarding the application

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

Councilman Sylvester read the reports.

Police:

281 Calls
71 MV summonses
17 Local Ordinances

One of the patrolmen is still out with injuries. The breathalyzer will cost around \$20,000.

He states Patrolmen Plumb and Borgia will be receiving an award at the 200 Club dinner for their work arresting the Valero robbery perpetrator. He explains there are 6 available seats at the table. He feels the Council should attend to show support of our officers.

Councilman Still made a motion that the Council attends the 200 Club dinner to support our patrolmen who will be receiving an award. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Netcong Fire Department

8 Calls Total
2 Alarms
4 Fires
2 MV As/Haz-Mat
5 Drills
4 Meetings
53 Total Firefighters
17 Total Involvements
365.9 Total Man Hours

Ambulance Squad

63 Total calls, 3 out of town
38 trips to hospitals
45 Patients
964 Miles
239. Hours 33 Minutes
1 Assist by the Fire Department

Municipal court: \$10,041.68

Works & Utilities: E. Koster R. Hathaway

Councilman Koster read the following:

D.P.W. Monthly Report March 2017

Road Department: Repaired damaged street signs on Allen Terrace at Rt 183...Scheduled the town wide road sweeping with Roxbury for the first week in MayCold patched pot holes....

Water Department: ABB was in to calibrate all the pump station metersPerformed February water meter readings. ... Repaired a water break on a 6 in main on McMullen St....Repaired a broken water box at 8 Union St....Lowered a raised water box in the sidewalk near the corner of Koclas Dr and Allen St....Contractors made repairs on homeowner side service line water leaks at 33 Barone St and 3 Kings Rd. .. Installed a new water service connection on Stoll St for the old Tony Tank property....

Sewer Department: Cleared a clogged sewer lateral near The Pantry on Main

St....

Buildings & Grounds: Installed new fire extinguishers at FH #1Attended a meeting about the oil infiltration on Maple Ave, continued investigation is underway by a Licensed Site Remediation Professional assigned by the JIFStarted re-painting all the black iron garbage cans in the business district area....

Snow: On February 9th the DPW plowed and salted roadways with assistance from the town plowing contractorCleaned and salted all Borough sidewalks

Other: The DPW attended classes for Excavation, Trenching and Shoring, Shop and Tool Safety, as well as a JIF sponsored Fast Track to Safety Program.... In addition, Mike Canfield attended classes for Social Media Management and Event Planning....

Recreation: P. Butler T. Laureys

Councilman Laureys read the report.

On Saturday March 4th, Recreation hosted a bus trip to see A Bronx Tale in NYC. This was a sold out trip with a fun time had by all. If you haven't had a chance to see, it is definitely a must see.

1. April 1st will start our weekly Tai Chi class at DiRenzo Park at 10 am. Classes will run every Saturday morning at 10 am. If there is inclement weather, the class will be moved to Borough Hall. Flyers to go out soon!

2. Also on April 1st Recreation and the Netcong PTA will host their annual Easter Event. Recreation will provide pictures with the Easter Bunny as well as ice cream (Cliffs). More details to follow

3. Town wide garage sale sign ups will take place on Saturday, April 9th from 10-12 at Borough Hall.

He also read a letter from the growing stage which the Council requested to be added to the minutes for record.

*February 17, 2017
Sharon Still, Chair
Netcong Recreation Commission
Borough of Netcong*

Dear Sharon, On behalf of our Board of Trustees, staff and the young people we have the privilege to serve, please accept our sincere appreciation for the recent

Netcong Restaurant Showcase held on February 4th in support of our organization. While we were the primary beneficiaries of the event, I believe that both the community and our town's restaurants also had a wonderful evening.

The Growing Stage greatly appreciates the community we call home and would welcome the opportunity to host another event such as this, even if the proceeds were designated by the Recreation Commission to another charitable organization. Once again, please convey to your fellow members our thanks.

*Best Wishes
Stephen L. Fredericks
Founder & Executive Director*

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

Dial a Ride Monthly Report for February

Days of Service: 18
Miles: 858
of Stops: 76
Nutrition for 2 people: 12
Food Shopping for 20 People: 69
of Meals on Wheels: 9
Medical Appointments: 11
Other Appointments: 48
People Using Service: 47
Cancels: 31
Denials: 2
Units: 314
Hours: 90

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed at this meeting,

NEW BUSINESS

1. Social Affair Permit – Our Lady of Assumption Society – August 12th Feast

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this permit.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. Shared Service- Mount Olive Library

Mr. Blakeslee provided an update regarding renewal. There is significant change to the agreement. He goes on to explain that the County Consortium will no longer allow residents of towns with no library to use the interlibrary use. In the past Netcong residents were only allowed to use their cards in the Mt. Olive Library. This will no longer be the case. All residents with cards will be forced to pay for the full service. The cost for the new cards would be \$250.00 each. Mr. Blakeslee provided the cost information from the previous years and the cost for the new program. He continued to explain the particulars of the previous agreements. One of the concerns with the new program is financially based.

Councilman Laureys asked why our residents could not just use the county library. Councilman Hathaway explained there are programs at the library that are not offered at the county. In addition, some residents do not have the means to get to the county library. The Council discussed the potential impact on the budget.

Mr. Bucco asked if the number of people signing up for cards remains fairly static. He suggested the Borough could charge a fee for residents to obtain the cards.

Councilman Hathaway asked if there is a cap on this. The Council continues to discuss the particulars of this situation.

Councilman Still says this will be difficult to fund since the budget has already been established.

Councilman Hathaway suggested we OPRA the library to find out how much they are paying for each card.

Councilman Laureys suggested we approach the Sussex County Library to use their library.

Councilman Sylvester suggested we write a letter to the Freeholders to ask about this.

There is concern that there will be no control regarding the amount of cards

issued.

Councilman Bucco suggests we could do an ordinance to limit the amount of cards issued.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Hathaway reported The Growing Stage held their benefit this past weekend at the Skylands which was very successful.

NEF hosted annual benefit at Knights of Columbus. \$15,000.00 was raised for the Netcong School.

There has been a conflict with scheduling between these two events in the past. It has been suggested to have an electronic regional calendar produced by the regional school board to show these events. He will request a letter of support from the Council for this calendar.

Councilman Still's only concern was that the borough already has its own town calendar. He was uncertain how all the information could be placed on one calendar.

Councilman Hathaway provided scenarios regarding this idea.

The Mayor asks how far ahead these events are planned. Councilman Hathaway replied that they are working together to try to avoid these conflicts.

The Council continued to discuss this matter. The Mayor suggested an electronic version or a link on our website and thought that it would be very effective. Councilman Still suggests many people do not use computers. The idea is for organizations to have access to each other's activities.

Councilman Koster asked if the Boy Scout in attendance tonight needs anything. He explained he is here to take notes for his citizenship and community merit badge. Caleb Clegg then approached the dais to explain what he is doing for his merit badge. Mr. Bucco asked how many badges he still needs

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time,

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution #2017-41- To Appoint Joseph J. McKeon as Part Time Tax Assessor

2. Resolution 2017-42 – Authorizing Membership with the HGACBUY for Use of the HGACBUY Contracts that Have Been Bid in Accordance with P.L. 2011 C. 139

3. Resolution 2017-43 – To Appoint Frank Schomp as Alternate Crossing Guard

4. Resolution 2017-44 – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 16-00009 – 27 Amendola Dr.

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the four resolutions noted above.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

PROCLAMATIONS

National Poison Prevention Week

The Mayor proclaimed National Poison Prevention Week

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. Ordinance 2017-3 - ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2017-3 and Read by Title Only.
A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2017-3 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 5

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2017 BUDGET

The Mayor comments on the good work done by the Finance Committee
Councilman Still is asked to make comments. He defers to Mr. Gabloff, CFO
Mr. Jason Gabloff, CFO steps forward to make comments on the budget. He

reported that we came in under the cap.

Resolution #2017- 45 – Introduction of the 2017 Municipal Budget

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

REPORTS

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

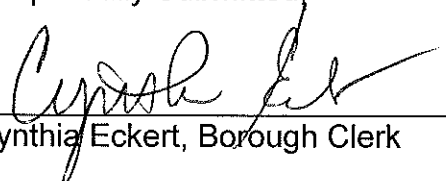
CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 8:38PM seconded by Councilman Hathaway and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk