

## ***BOROUGH OF NETCONG***

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD FEBRUARY 8, 2018 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 12, 2018.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 17, 2018 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 12, 2018.

### **ROLL CALL**

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Albensi, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Koster, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were not presented during this meeting.

### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

No one stepped forward.

A motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **PRESENTATION – POLICE CHIEF BLESSON**

Addition of a Third Sergeant.

The Chief passed out an outline of his presentation. He detailed the current schedule. He provided the reasons for this possible change. He explained how it would be detrimental to take patrolman off the road to do the office duties. He continued to explain that it would be better to have a rotating schedule with 3 sergeants to train with the indoor duties and to have better supervisor coverage for all shifts.

Councilman Sylvester asked when the new patrolman will start. The Chief explained he will start on patrol the end of this year. The Chief detailed how he needs more coverage to help with his duties. The Mayor made a statement that the new patrolman was hired to lower the overtime. He wanted to know if this will still happen. The chief replied that there will be a decrease in overtime with this new schedule and sergeants. He noted that this will provide better balance. Councilman Sylvester explained that this was from a mandate that we cannot have a man on nights by himself which prompted this change. Councilman Hathaway asked if a spreadsheet has been provided for clarity. Mr. Blakeslee stated that the difference in pay is approximately \$5,200.00. Mr. Blakeslee continued to explain that this would help with cross training for the supervisors and an opportunity for each officer to work with all supervisors. Councilman Sylvester added the Chief is of retirement time and age and this will give us an opportunity to see the possible replacements for the Chief to perform these supervisory duties. The Chief explained this allows flexibility for the future of the force. Councilman Albensi asked when our officer in training will be ready to be on the road. The Chief replied that he will be ready by May. Councilman Sylvester noted that he believes in this plan. A discussion ensued among the Council regarding the process to move forward.

A motion to set this plan in motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Mr. Bucco advised the Council on what they need to do to start this process. He noted all of this is in the code book.

### **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

There were no ordinance adoptions this evening.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### 1. Letter from Peter Pfaffenroth – Water Charges

Mr. Blakeslee provided a quick synopsis of Mr. Pfaffenroth's request. He feels he is paying too much. There was a brief discussion on the particulars of this issue. Councilman Hathaway suggested that we cannot change it for one and not all. Councilman Koster said the issue is on a separate unit and should not be allowed. Mr. Blakeslee will write a letter to let him know the Council has discussed and feels no change is necessary.

## **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Blakeslee said he had no highlights but the report did have a lot of attachments.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance & Insurance:                      E. Still                      J. Sylvester

Councilman Sylvester read the report for Councilman Still who was absent.

In the month of January 2018 the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$1,165,290.60 as compared to January 2017 of \$625,054.99.

For the month of January 2018:

### **Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):**

In 2018 the Borough received \$2,128.56 compared to \$1,478.71 in 2017

### **Other Licenses/Borough Clerk Fees:**

In 2018 the Borough received \$20,292.58 compared to \$27,439.66 in 2017.

The Borough's cable franchise fee, which is paid every year at this time, was slightly higher than the 2017 fee (\$15,483 in 2017 vs. \$15,220 in 2016)

### **State Aid:**

No state aid was received in January 2018 or in 2017 for that matter.

### **Grants in Aid:**

There was no Grants in Aid money received during January 2018 compared to January 2017 where there was \$1,900.00 received.

### **Taxes Collected:**

The Borough collected \$1,142,609.46 in 2018 compared to \$593,113.48 in 2017.

Two of the larger banks remitted 1st quarter tax payments before the end of the month.

### **Income Total Year to Date:**

The Total Income Year to date in 2018 was \$1,165,290.60 as opposed to \$625,054.99 in 2017.

Economic Development:    R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway said most of this is in the Administrators report.

Crown Point Quirk has a May ground breaking. Councilman Sylvester wanted to know as the discussion will be high end, if the Council will be seeing pictures of these finishes

before the ground breaking. Councilman Hathaway stated that it will be part of the developer's agreement. He said it will be discussed at the meetings. Councilman Sylvester also asks about the work being done at Arbolino Park by Crown Point. Councilman Hathaway explained they do not have enough land to do the necessary environmental credits so they will be doing work at the park to fulfill that requirement. They will remove invasive species in the lake.

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

Councilman Sylvester read the Ambulance, Police and Fire Dept. reports.

Ambulance

Total Calls: 49  
RIC calls (2017 total): 8 out of the 10 (requested by Councilman Albensi)  
Total Patients: 39  
Total trips to hospital: 33  
Mileage: 888 miles  
Hours Volunteered: 214 hours 55 minutes

Fire

Total Calls: 25  
Mutual aid: 10  
Total Members: 38  
Average call: 45 minutes  
Drills:  
Total Members: 35  
Time Volunteered: 92 hours, 6 minutes  
Administrative Details:  
Members: 36  
Hours Volunteered 40 hours  
Total time Volunteered: 496 hours, 17 Minutes

Police

Total Calls: 270  
MV summons: 55 Written  
Grant received: \$678.00

Councilman Sylvester explained several of the officers have been building a locker room in the records room saving us much money. Councilman Albensi asked about the flashing light on Main Street. He would like to see them on Maple and Rt. 183. It is in the process right now. Mr. Blakeslee provided more detail.

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

Councilman Koster read the report and water operator report.

Road Department: Fixed or replaced street signs on Carolyn Way at Rt 206, Maple Ave, College Rd, and 2 signs on Bank St. ... Picked up 147 Christmas Trees .... Repaired a broken storm drain near 24 Main St ....

Water Department: Repaired water line freeze ups at 9 Center St, 7 McMullen St, Skylands Insurance, 7 Rt.206, and 4 Togno St. .... Repaired water breaks on Allen St and Ledgewood Ave ... Performed monthly water samples ... .Installed new water meters at 22 Hillside Ave and 151 Ledgewood Ave ....

Buildings & Grounds: Repaired a bad circulator pump at FH # 1, Repaired a leak on heating pipe at FH#1 ... Took down town wide Christmas Decoration including Peterson Tree Service removal of overhead Main St decorations .... Moved file cabinets from records room to the attic for the new PD locker room ....

Snow: Salted Borough roads on January 4th, 5th, 8th, 13th and 16th..... Plowed Borough roads on January 4th, 16th and 17th .... Plowed and salted all Borough sidewalks during snow events ....

Other: The Borough had a Right to Know inspection on Jan 8th, Tim Hess attended a Hydrant and Valve Mapping Class in Wharton .... Tom Mendel attended a Recycling webinar .... Mike Canfield met with the Boroughs E-JIF representative for our annual inspection ....

Regarding the water report, Councilman Koster stated we are doing quite well.

Recreation: J. Albensi T. Laureys

Councilman Albensi read the report.

1. Rec is working with Kim Arbolino and the Student Council to host a Family Fun Nite ...will be geared toward 2nd – 4th graders on a future Friday evening. More details to come
2. Waitress Bus Trip –sold out! (March 10th).
3. We are working on a few additional trips for this year –we have Feast of San Gennaro already booked for Saturday Sept 15th; hoping to book "Book of Mormon" in November and then a Sands Casino Bus trip in June or July.
4. We are in the planning stages for our "Kids Day" to be held on Saturday June 9th. This event will include our annual color in the park contest, DJ entertainment, games, hot dogs, face painter, visits from the Fire Department (need to be asked) as well as Emergency Squad event will be both educational and fun.
5. Easter Egg Event with the PTA will be held on Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>.
6. Rec has been approached by Stanhope Council to see if Netcong would have an interest in a combined summer camp. Stanhope



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

Councilman Hathaway – Noted that employees here go the extra mile and the Council should recognize the guys who are doing the project in the records room.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 2018- 29-** To Appoint Gerard Hardiman as Probationary Patrolman
2. **Resolution 2018- 30-** To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 17-00004- Scott & Charlene Bowers, 36 Dell Ave.
3. **Resolution 2018- 31-** Authorizing the Sale of Municipal Surplus Property

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster to approve the three resolutions.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

## **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

1. **Ordinance 2018-1-** 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 AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 AND ROUTE 183 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2018-1 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2018-1 on First Reading was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

## **REPORTS**

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

**BILLS**

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mr. Rich Kuncken – Ambulance Squad Representative – Follow up: They sent a letter requesting a meeting he said as of yet there has been no meeting scheduled. Mr. Blakeslee explained that he had spoken to Claudia. He told her that it would need to go to the finance committee and it was already in the budget. Councilman Sylvester explained it was very straight forward and there was no need for a presentation or meeting. There was brief discussion on this subject. Mr. Blakeslee suggested this could have been presented earlier in order to best plan with the budget. Mr. Kuncken requested that there be some verification on the timeline for this. He asked when he could expect a timeline. Mr. Blakeslee provided the date of the meeting this was to be discussed.

A Motion to close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.


Roll Call: 5 Yes

**ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made at 8:22 PM by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk