

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 03, 2019**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JANUARY 3, 2019 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Nametko called the meeting to order at 7:00 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.

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION

The Statement of Determination was read by the Borough Clerk, Mrs. Eckert.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following Council Members were sworn in by Mrs. Eckert.

- o Councilman Joseph Albensi
- o Councilman Edward J. Koster Sr.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Albensi, 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.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Borough Council and our Borough employees, I would like to wish you Happy New Year. Before I make my opening comments, we have a number of guests I want to recognize.

Before I discuss our many accomplishments in 2018, I would like to thank our Borough staff, our Police and Fire Departments, our Office of Emergency Management leader, the Department of Public Works and the Stanhope-Netcong First Aid Squad. With the combined support from these ladies and gentlemen, Netcong continues to be a great place to live and work.

On behalf of the Council I would like to thank every one of them. We are also very fortunate to have great volunteers on our Planning Board, Recreation Commission, the Netcong Alliance and Board of Health. My sincere thanks to every member of each group for their contribution to all of our residents.

2018

Every year for the past 12 years, I reported "it was a very busy year for our employees and volunteers". I am sure 2018 will be a hard year to beat as far as the number of projects we worked on and the increase in the services we provided.

ADMINISTRATION

*This year, we completed the largest and most aggressive infrastructure project in many years. With financing from the **NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust**, we made over 2 million dollars of repairs to our water storage and distribution system. In one way or another, every department in the Borough participated in the multi-year project. Simultaneously, our administrative staff played a major role in the early phases of two re-development projects.*

You may remember I mentioned, two long time employees decided to leave the Borough office staff in 2017. I am glad to say, we hired two new full-time clerks to fill our accounts payable and water/sewer clerk positions. Our new water/sewer clerk is bilingual which improves the communication with our Hispanic residents who call or come into Borough Hall.

POLICE

Our Police department under the leadership of Chief Jim Blesson once again saw a record-breaking number of calls in 2018, including 6 NARCAN saves.

In September, one of our patrolmen stopped a truck on Main Street for exceeding the 6-ton limit. That stop netted a 50-foot trailer full of onions, over \$103,000 in cash and 44 pounds of Cocaine and Heroin with a street value of over \$1,000,000. Congratulations to the officers who took part in the arrest.

Looking forward, the Council approved Chief Blesson's request for an addition Sergeant position and an additional officer to his team. **Our new officer is Netcong's first FEMALE, bi-lingual officer.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Jack Sylvester III reported the Netcong Fire Department saw a 67% increase in calls in 2018. With a 142 call-outs last year, it seemed like a day did not go by without our volunteers being called upon for local help, mutual aid or RIC assistance. Whether it was 3 PM or 3 AM, when the call went out, our FD responded. In March, our fire department received new TNT Rescue Tools by a grant from Firehouse Sub's Public Safety Foundation program.

After a 14 month wait, and a couple of visits to the manufacturer by our truck team, our new fire truck was delivered in mid-December. Members of each fire company will be trained to operate the aerial ladder/pumper truck to insure it gets out the door in minutes, regardless of the time of day.

On behalf of Netcong residents and the mutual aid municipalities we server, I would like to thank all of our firemen, firewomen and the Ladies Auxiliary for the great job they do.

Department of Public Works

Under the supervision of Mike Canfield our Department of Public Works kept our buildings, streets and grounds in great shape. Along with their daily activities and emergency work, this small team planted and maintained our flower pots, kept our seasonal signage updated and decorated our light poles for Christmas.

Our DPW team had a role in every activity that went on in Netcong. Whether it is our Holiday Parade, Netcong Day or any other special event, they are there.

Besides all of these tasks, our DPW spent a great deal of time supporting our 2018 capital projects.

- Last year, our water infrastructure project kicked into high gear requiring our DPW works to assist the contractors on each task.
 1. We added 30 new and several replacement water cut off valves. This will minimize the number of residents affected by a water main break
 2. The installation of 25 new fire hydrants.
 3. We installed new water main along Rt. 46 between Flanders Road and Love Lane.
 4. Also, as part of the project, we completed replacement of every water meters in the Borough.
 5. And finally, our old reservoir on the top on Center street was demolished and filled in.

- Thanks to a NJDOT grant of \$150,000 we also completed all of our street and sidewalk improvements as part of a multi-year project on Stoll Street and Marc Court.
- As you can see, we accomplished a lot of capital projects in 2018. Our DPW team had a hand in every one of them.

-----2019 Projects -----

- Frankly, one of our disappointments in 2018 was the delay of the **Phase 1 Arbolino Park Enhancements**.
- That project is funded by a 2017 CDBG of \$80,000. Unfortunately, our bids came in much higher than anticipated.

We expect to bring the bids in to line this year by separating the project into 3 Requests for Proposals.

- Resurface both tennis courts, convert one to a BB court.
- New fence around the courts.
- New lighting on both courts
- In 2018 we were successful in getting another CDBG grant for **\$80,000 for Phase 2 of the Arbolino Park Enhancements**. We expect to go out to bid to this year.
 - Resurface ½ of the old Basketball court for our pickle ball wall install new senior friendly/ADA compliant exercise equipment where the other half of the basketball court is today.
- In 2018, we received a \$220,000 NJDOT Grant for the resurfacing of Carolyn Way, Lower end of Wiltop Road and Oak Street. We expect to go out to bid for that project this year.

Economic Development

Our Economic Development Committee spent over two years in meetings with the developer and the NJDEP working on our first redevelopment project. On Saturday, December 30th, the Council approved the final step of the **34 BNK** project. I am glad to say the builder; CROWN POINT will begin demolition of the building on the Quirk property in the next several weeks to make room for their new 126 unit complex with construction to start soon after. The **34 BNK** apartment complex is walking distance to the train station and will be a big boost to all of the businesses in Netcong.

The **'Pocket-Book Factory Property'** redevelopment project also looks like it may have a 2019 ground breaking. This project, pending Council and Planning Board approval, will consist of 80 apartments in walking distance to our train station and it too will help our downtown businesses.

So, it looks like it will be another busy year in Netcong this year.

I wish I had something positive to report on the Transit Village. However, we are no further along with NJ Transit than we were at this time last year.

Our downtown looks great thanks to the support by the Netcong Community Partnership.

Our Recreation Commission continues to add programs including 26 weeks of Tai Chi and bus trips to NYC events.

Lake Musconetcong looks great thanks to the volunteer members of the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board and the Lake Musconetcong Community Association.

We are improving both of our parks with funding from CDBG grants.

We enhanced our police department and invested in a state-of-the-art fire truck.

All of this for our current residents and those who will call Netcong home in the near future.

***Thanks to all** of our employees and volunteers, Netcong continues to be an attractive place to live and work. We are all dedicated to keep Netcong a great community for our current and future residents.*

Wrap-up

We are a small town, with a big heart and I am proud of what we accomplished in 2018.

Thanks again to our office staff, Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, Police Department, First Aid Squad and all of our volunteers.

I would like to thank the Netcong Council for all of their hard work last year, their continued support and, dedication.

After discussions with my wife, Olivia, I am announcing today that I plan to run for ONE more term as your Mayor. If I am successful, my next term will be my last term as the Mayor of Netcong Borough.

That said, I would like to wish you a Happy, Prosperous, Happy New Year.

SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Council Appointment

A Motion was made to appoint Edward Koster Council President by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

RESOLUTION 2019-21 TO RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to recognize the volunteer of the year, Mr. Morton.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Mayor presented Mr. Morton as the recipient of the award for 2018. He read the resolution. Mr. Bucco presented Mr. Morton with a citation from the joint Senate and assembly.

PROCLAMATION

- Bob Rush – Retiring Fire Inspector

The Mayor read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Rush. Mr. Bucco said a few words about Mr. Rush's service and then presented a legislative resolution to Mr. Rush.

PROCLAMATION

HONORING ROBERT RUSH FOR HIS MANY YEARS SERVICES TO THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Whereas, Robert "Bob" Rush has been a life-long resident of the Borough of Netcong; and,

Whereas, Bob started his public service as a member of the United State Army, from 1963 to 1965, in the post Korea 51st Signal Corps; and,

Whereas, Bob joined the Netcong Fire Department in August of 1967, serving as Chief of the Department in 1976 and 1977 and has a total of 51 years of dedicated service to the Department; and,

Whereas, Bob served the Borough as Fire Marshal in 1978 after his term of Fire Chief was completed; and,

Whereas, Bob continued to serve the Netcong Fire Prevention Bureau for 40 continuous years, several times as the Fire Official; and,

Whereas, Bob's knowledge, diligence and hard work has greatly contributed to the safety of the Borough, its' citizens and business; and,

Whereas, Bob has also had a long career at Jersey Central Power and Light, retiring in 2002 after 43 years of service; and,

Whereas, it is right that that dedicated public servants of Bob's stature are recognized for their professional and volunteer work and that such recognition is noted in the Borough's permanent records.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough Netcong in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey Robert "Bob" Rush be recognized for his outstanding service to the community for his past and continuing service to the residents of the Borough and the State of New Jersey.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

(Mayor's Recommendation with Advice & Consent of the Council)

Finance & Insurance:	E. Still	J. Sylvester
Economic Development:	R. Hathaway	E. Still
Public Safety: (Police, Fire, Rescue) Dept. of Public Works & Utilities:	J. Sylvester	E. Koster
	E. Koster	R. Hathaway
Recreation:	J. Albensi	T. Laureys
Public Services: (Human Services Recycling & Solid Waste Disposal)	T. Laureys	J. Albensi

A Motion to approve the above listed committee assignments was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

MAYOR APPOINTMENTS (Requires Advice and Consent of the Council)

Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer: Ralph Blakeslee (1 Year)

Deputy Code Enforcement Officer: No Appointment (1Year term)

Deputy Borough Clerk: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy Tax Collector: No Appointment (1 Year Term)

Sewer Collector: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy Sewer Collector: Cynthia Eckert

Water Collector: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy Water Collector: Cynthia Eckert

Assessment Searcher: Cynthia Eckert

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Mendel

Clean Communities Coordinator: Michael Canfield

Fire Official: Ronald Puco – Cert. #110806 (1 Year term)

Fire Prevention Inspectors: Michael Pellek – Cert. #101410 (1 Year term)
Mark Sylvester – Cert. #177302 (1 Year term)

Special Police Officers (Class II) Harry Garlick
Paige Mosner

Police Matron: Shannon Fluke

School Crossing Guards: (N.J.S.A.40A40:9-154.1-1 yr. terms)

Benjamin Dalessandro
William Hart
Sandra Mendel
Annette Ribaud
Ralph Simmerano
Melissa Sylvester

Alternates:
Robert Colananni
Robert DiBernard
Philip Grippaldi
Frank Schomp
Henry Shubert
Steven Vervet

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board: Joseph Keenan
(4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/22)

Board of Health: Alan Cook - (3 Year Term Exp. 12/31/21)
Olivia Nametko - (3 Year Term Exp. 12/31/21)
Barbara Repp - (3 Year Term Exp. 12/31/21)

A Motion to Approve the Above Listed Appointments was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Planning Board: Class 1 - Mayor Joseph Nametko (1 Year term-No
Action Required)

(Mayor Appointments – No Vote Required)

Class 2 Wayne Anthony (1 Year term)

Class 4 Todd Morton (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/22)

Class 4 –Chris Fenwick (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/22)

Alternate #1- Michael Grogan (2 Year Term Exp. 12/31/20)

Alternate #2- Open Seat (2 Year Term Exp. 12/31/20)

(Council Appointment)

Class 3 – Joseph Albensi (1 Year term) Council Representative

A Motion to approve the Class 3 Appointment was made by Councilman Still and
seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Albensi

Recreation Commission: (Mayor Appt.- No vote required)

Tammy Leader- 5 Year Term – Expires 12/31/2023

Donna Bauer – (to fill Terry Vervaet unexpired 5 Year term) – Expires 12/31/22)

John Bauer – Alternate #1 - (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/22)

No Appointment - Alternate #2 - (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/21)

Joseph Albensi - Council Liaison (1 Year term) (Council Appointment)

A Motion to approve Council Appointment was made by Councilman Albensi and
seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Municipal Alliance Committee:

Ben Dellamo (4 Year term) Expires 12/31/22

Ralph Blakeslee (4 Year term) Expires 12/31/22

Joseph Albensi – Council Liaison (1 Year term)

A Motion to approve this Council Appointment was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee Appointments for 2019:

Joseph Albensi - (Appointment by Mayor)

Ralph Blakeslee, Alternate - (Appointment by Mayor)

Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor - (Appointment by Governing Body)

A Motion to approve the above listed appointments was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Animal Control
Officer: Thomas Mendel (1 Year term)

Alternate Animal
Control Officer: Joseph Fiorello (1 Year term)

Motion to approve the animal control appointments was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OF NETCONG BOROUGH, INC.

Appointment of Trustees:

Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor, Ex Officio

Robert Hathaway, Council Representative (Appointed by Council - 1year term)

A Motion to adopt the above referenced appointment was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester
Roll Call: 6 Yes

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution #2019-1 To Honor Volunteers
2. Resolution #2019-2 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Attorney, Anthony M. Bucco, Esq. for 2019.

3. Resolution #2019-3 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for Special Tax Counsel, Fred Semrau, Esq. for 2019.
4. Resolution #2019-4 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for Borough Auditor, Valerie Dolan of Nisivoccia LLP for 2019.
5. Resolution #2019-5 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Engineer, Robert Guerin of Guerin & Vreeland Engineers for 2019.
6. Resolution #2019-6 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Bond Council to Steven Rogut of Rogut McCarthy, LLC.
7. Resolution #2019-7 Depositories for 2019 as Follows:
 - Fulton Bank Inc.
 - Valley National Bank
 - TD Bank
 - New Jersey Cash Management Fund
8. Resolution #2019-8 Official Newspapers as Follows:
 - Daily Record and The Star Ledger.
9. Resolution #2019-9 Resolution Designating Newspapers to Receive Notices and Fixing Charges.
10. Resolution #2019-10 Fixing Rates of Interest (8%) and Penalty on Delinquent Taxes, (18%) Assessments and Other Municipal Charges.
11. Resolution #2019-11 Authorizing Investments by the Borough in Certain Bonds and Other Obligations.
12. Resolution #2019-12 Regular Public Meeting Dates and Work Session Dates of the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong.
13. Resolution #2019-13 Authorizing Temporary Appropriations as Provided by N.J.S.A.40A:4-19.
14. Resolution #2019-14 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee and Elmer Still, As Commissioner and Alternate for the Morris County Joint Municipal Insurance Fund.
15. Resolution #2019-15 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee as Public Agency Compliance Officer.
16. Resolution #2019-16 - To Appoint the Vozza Agency as the Borough of Netcong's Risk Management Consultant.

17. Resolution #2019-17 - Consenting to the Appointment of Elmer Still as the Borough's representative to The Musconetcong Sewerage Authority
18. Resolution #2019-18 - Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Roxbury Animal Hospital for the Care of Cats and Dogs for the CY 2019
19. Resolution #2019-19 – To Appoint Wayne Anthony as Office of Emergency Management Coordinator for a three-year term.
20. Resolution #2019-20 – To Hire Keith Arentowicz as Patrolman of the Netcong Police Department.

A Motion to Adopt Resolutions 2019-1 to 2019- 20 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

OLD BUSINESS

Old Business was not presented at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was reported.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

AWARDS:


Mr. Bucco announced the winners of the motions and seconds for 2018;

- 1st Councilman Hathaway 184
- 2nd Councilman Still 118

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Still, seconded by Councilman Albensi and moved by unanimous voice vote at 7:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk