

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD AUGUST 8, 2019 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 4, 2019.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 9, 2019 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 4, 2019.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Albeni, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Koster, Councilman Laureys (arrived 7:31,) 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

Dennis Lestreg 43 Prospect Hill Rd. Kennebunkport Maine 12729. He wanted to inform the audience about genocide by scalpel in China. He explained this has to do with organ donation. People including US visitors are being killed in China for their organs. He is here to make the Council aware of this situation. He provided packages for the Council members. He is asking for a resolution to be executed.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

For the record, Mr. Bucco arrived at 7:33

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. Ordinance 2019 -14 - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 268 – “Vehicles and Traffic” of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Netcong Providing for a Penalty for Violation of Heavy Vehicle Exclusions and Identifying Additional Roadways Subject to a Heavy Vehicle Exclusion

Councilman Still asked the attorney to provide more information regarding this ordinance. Mr. Bucco explained the laws in place to deal with this situation and the details on how to do what they want. He explained we cannot ban large trucks in our town. The process to do that is lengthy. Councilman Hathaway asked if we can put a limit on just the local roads. Mr. Bucco said after doing extensive study, he does not feel this is enforceable. He provided an actual example regarding a road sign. Mr. Bucco said we can do what the Council wants but it does not mean we can enforce it. Councilman Hathaway asked about a federal regulation and how that works. Mr. Bucco gave description on his knowledge of that. He explained the ordinance as it is would be the quickest way to get this done. They can do something additional later. He explained litigation costs can add up quickly. He doesn't want to do an ordinance that will not work well for the Borough. The Mayor asked if we want to include certain roads, we can put up signs. Mr. Bucco said yes. He also stated more roads can be added later. There was discussion among the council on what types of roads could be included Mr. Bucco suggested this ordinance be adopted tonight. If there is a problem down the line, we can amend the ordinance later. Mr. Blakeslee explained this ordinance has a \$500.00 fine which was not included in the past.

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2019-14 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2019-14 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Bucco had one question about the contract for safe routes to schools. He has not received the signed contract. Mr. Blakeslee explained there is extra wording that needs to be added for federal government standards.

Councilman Laureys asked what happens if we don't get a bidder for the ADA doors. Mr. Bucco explained the process.

Mr. Blakeslee stated that we got a copy of the ordinance with our terms and conditions from our Borough Attorney today. He will be sending it for approval with the cable company. He is hoping we can resolve this issue soon. Mr. Bucco gave explanation of the process of this ordinance. There was continued discussion among the Council on this subject.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance:

E. Still

J. Sylvester

Councilman Still read his report and provided a comment/explanation on a question about the vacant properties raised by Councilman Laureys. The Mayor said in the past we offered tax abatements but that did not go well.

For the month of July 2019:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2019 the Borough received \$1,259.50 compared to \$2,800.32 in 2018

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$16,712.33 in 2019 compared to \$17,166.78 in 2018.

State Aid:

There was no State Aid received in either July 2019 or July 2018.

Grants in Aid:

We did not receive any Grants in Aid in either July 2019 or July 2018.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$765,385.18 in 2019 compared to \$681,617.61 in 2018.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2019 is \$5,508,747.29 as compared to \$5, 191,254.11 in 2018.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway reported that August 28th is ground breaking ceremony for Crown Point/Quirk property. It is a great accomplishment.

Pocketbook Factory - we have the PILOT and Developers Agreement - the committee will have a meeting with the developer to make the best deal possible for the Borough. The Mayor stated it would be advisable to get the owner to the meeting not just his attorney.

Correspondence was received from Shop Rite relative to their project. There is still a large disconnection between the Borough and Shop Rite. The EDC met with the Borough Engineer and Planner recently to review comments on the draft redevelopment plan submitted by ShopRite's attorney. There is still some work to be done before this can come before the Council.

**Public Safety:
(Police, Fire, Rescue)**

J. Sylvester

E. Koster

Police:

Total Calls: 387

Motor Vehicles Service: 27

Local ordinances: 8

Fire Department:

Total Calls: 15

General Alarms: 8

Squad Assists: 2

Mutual Aid: 5

Total Members: 33

Drills: 6

Total Members: 26

Administrative Details: 4

TOTAL MEMBERS: 40

Total Time Volunteered: 456 hours, 1 minute

Ambulance Squad

Total Calls Answered: 54, one was out of town

Total trips to Hospital: 32

Total Patients: 36

Miles Travelled: 938

Hours Volunteered: 132 hrs 42mins

**Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:**

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Road Department:

Picked up 32 cy of brush Picked up 40 cy of grass Repaired a damaged storm drain pipe and broken sidewalk on Dell Ave Repaired a broken storm drain on Koclas Dr Started painting street lines in the school areaInstalled new signage on RR Ave

Water Department:

George Walters finished the annual leak detection survey Performed flow test on Bank St for Crown Pointe project

Sewer Department:

Placed the order for the new sewer jet with a 75-day delivery window

Buildings & Grounds:

Cut back fire lanes on Water St. and Lake St. Removed American flags from Main St. ...

Parks & Recreation:

Repaired damaged storage box and handrail at DiRenzo Park bathrooms

Maintained weekly grass cutting schedule

Other:

Tom Mendel attended a walk thru meeting with Re Community Pick up and return of light towers, message boards, and barricades, to the County, for the St Cesario Feast. ...

Netcong pumped 800 gallons over from this time last year.

Recreation:

J. Albensi

T. Laureys

1. Last week we enjoyed some great music by the Dowden Brothers along with our Massage Under the Stars event. A great time was had by all and about 20 people enjoyed a free massage. Our concert series is winding down with our last concert on 8/16.
2. On Saturday Aug 3 we went into NYC to see Come From Away - what a great, feel good show. We are working to see if we will run a show in early November or wait until March 2020.
3. On November 7th we are hosting a Paint N Sip at the Painted Barn in Lafayette. Flyers will be coming out soon. You will create a beautiful painting on wood, with a design that you choose.
4. Our 5K will take place on Sunday, Sept 8th.
5. November 4th, they will be stuffing goody bags for Netcong Day.
6. Trunk or Treat will be in October with a rain date on Oct. 27.

**Public Services:
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal**

T. Laureys

J. Albensi

Dial a Ride Report

July 2019

Days of service: 21

Miles: 1002

#of Stops: 69

Nutrition for 2 People: 19

Food Shopping: 50

of Meals on Wheels: 13
Medical appointments: 13
People Using Services: 41
Cancels: 4
Denials: 0
Units: 291
Hours: 96.75

Mr. Blakeslee said a resident stopped him on the street the other day and wanted to let the Borough know that Wayne is an asset to the Borough.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Letter – Heymann/Fletcher – Polo’s Bar and Grill

Mr. Blakeslee updated the Council on this issue. He received a call from Mr. Heymann today and provided the details of the discussion to the Council. Mr. Heymann seemed to understand. Mr. Blakeslee asked if we should respond in writing. Mr. Bucco suggested we should respond via email and cc the attorney. If there are issues Mr. Bucco will respond.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for Approval to Close Kings Rd. from Noon to 9:00 on Saturday, September 14, 2019 for Annual Kings Rd. Block Party.

It was noted that the Police Chief would be notified.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Appointment of Keshawn E. Cherubin as a Firefighter for Company No. 2

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President Koster received a request from the Recreation committee to paint lines in the parking spaces at DiRenzo Park. Mr. Bucco said if it is our property, we can do it. Mr. Canfield asked for the proper sizing to paint the lines and he would complete the task.

Councilman Hathaway reported that the weeds in the lake have been tested. They are clean and can be disposed of at this time. The equipment repair is complete and weed removal will begin again next week. There is hazardous algae bloom in the lake. The state will be testing twice a week. Mr. Bucco asked what the level was. Councilman Hathaway stated it is not spread throughout the lake; it is only in small sections. Mr. Bucco Noted that extensive research has been completed on this issue. He explained Lake Hopatcong is above the state standard. He has been arguing with the DEP about what a safe level is for people to stay out of the water. He continued to elaborate on this. In his opinion there is no reason to shut the lake down at this time. Councilman Albensi asked if there is any money coming to the lake committee to remove the weeds. Councilman Hathaway stated the lake is not as good as it should be due to money constraints.

Councilman Sylvester asked about speed tables. Mr. Blakeslee said it has been put on the back burner due to more important matters. He gave details on what has been discussed and some of his suggestions. The Council agreed with Mr. Blakeslee's ideas. The Mayor suggested we order the sign and put it up. Councilman Sylvester asked if we would have to do an ordinance for this. It was agreed this was easy to do. Councilman Still is concerned because the town will become liable because it does not comply with the State rules. There is discussion among the Council on how to get this done. Councilman Laureys asked why the legislature gets in the way of towns making decisions for their own roads. Discussion continued regarding the speed tables. Councilman Sylvester will poll the residents on Stoll St. and College Ave.

A Motion to have the Borough Engineer makes an application to the state for a stop sign on Stoll St. by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 2019 – 83 - To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 18-00007

A motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve this resolution.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Resolution 2019 - 84 – Authorizing the Acquisition of a New 2019 Ford F450 Mason Dump Truck the New Jersey State Purchasing Contract # A88214

A motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve this resolution.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. Resolution 2019 - 85 – Requesting Support from Governor Murphy Regarding Lake Musconetcong.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

4. Resolution 2019 - 86 – Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Northeast Water Technology to Provide Water Leak Detection Services for the Borough of Netcong.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

5. Resolution 2019 - 87 – Property Maintenance Abatement – 22 Wiltop Rd.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

No ordinance introductions were presented.

REPORTS

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

BILLS

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

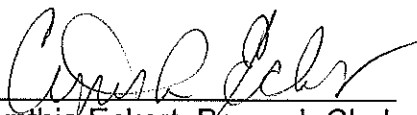
There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:28PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk