

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD OCTOBER 3, 2013 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Nametko presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER – STATEMENT OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

Mayor Nametko called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M. He apologized for the meeting starting late due to the fire equipment in the front of the building that he was inspecting.

The Borough Clerk read the following statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act:

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 Netcong Borough Hall on January 4, 2013.
2. Publishing a notice in The Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 9, 2013 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 4, 2013.

ROLL CALL

Those present for this evening's meeting were Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Sylvester, Councilman Still, Councilwoman Butler, Councilman Koster and Mayor Nametko. Also in attendance: Ralph Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Mayor asked the Council if all were able to review the following meeting minutes.

- Agenda Meeting of September 5, 2013
- Regular Meeting of September 12, 2013

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

1. Bruce Carlson, 108 Stoll St.: Mr. Carlson wanted to comment on the fire truck that Mayor Nametko referred to. He did not feel it was necessary for the Borough to purchase a ladder truck. He noted that the Borough had access to six to eight other towns which had fire trucks with ladders. Mr. Carlson felt that that portion of the budget could be much better spent by combining the two firehouses into one. He cited an example, using hurricane Sandy, to back up his statement.
2. Terry Vervaet – 46 Allen St.: Mrs. Vervaet wished to propose the addition of a designated walking and/or running trail in town. She noted that many residents enjoy this endeavor and will go to Horseshoe Lake in Succasunna or the Sussex Trail in Byram. She provided some initial ideas of locations that would be well-suited for this and stated that she and Leanne VonHagen of 8 Main St. are willing to work together to develop a plan. The Mayor and Council thought this was a great idea. The Mayor noted that safety and funding should be key parts of this plan. Mrs. Vervaet replied that she would work together with members of the town to come back with some plans in the future.

The Mayor noted that no one else wished to come forward to speak.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2013- 11-** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 194, Land Development Procedures of the Code of the Borough of Netcong and Establishing a Minimum Acreage Size for the Keeping of Farm Animals

This ordinance was carried to the October 10 meeting.

(See Planning Board Resolution No. 2013-2 Resolution of the Netcong Borough Planning Board Reviewing Ordinance 2013-11 for Master Plan Consistency and Comments)

2. **Bond Ordinance 2013-12** – To Authorize the Making of Various Public Improvements in, by and for the Borough of Netcong

This ordinance was carried to the October 10 meeting.

3. **Bond Ordinance 2013-13** – To Authorize the Acquisition and Installation of Water Meter Upgrade Equipment in, by and for the Water Utility of the Borough of Netcong

This ordinance was carried to the October 10 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Morris County Chosen Freeholders-Copy of Resolution-National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month- adopted at the September 11, 2013 Freeholder Meeting.

The Mayor insured that all members of the Council received a copy of this document.

2. Township of Mt. Olive Ordinance Introductions- Land Use Changes
3. Letter from Anthony Attanasio, Assistant Commissioner of NJDOT to Mr. Anthony Bucco, Borough Attorney regarding drainage issues.

The Mayor requested that this piece of correspondence is held until the October 10 meeting.

4. Letter from Senator A. Bucco to NJDOT in support of Netcong 2014 Grant Applications.
5. Valentino and Dunne- Ordinance 2013-11- no definition of farm animals in ordinance

The Council discussed that were there was no definition of any animal in this ordinance. Mr. Blakeslee suggested that the Council speak with Mr. Bucco, prior to the passing of this ordinance, to tighten up the language.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Water Infrastructure Improvement Update

Mr. Blakeslee reviewed the Public Works Committee meeting. They are in concurrence with Bob Guerin's report and are of the mind that the Borough should move forward with all projects. There were still some open issues regarding the demolition portion. Mr. Blakeslee, the CFO and Bond Attorney will work together on the financial planning of this project. Mr. Blakeslee provided additional details regarding the major Borough projects and financing issues. The Council provided options on resources.

2. Netcong Fire Co.#1 Fire Truck Purchase

The Mayor asked for comment from Council prior to voting on this issue. Councilman Still discussed the impact to the budget. He also provided a quote

for fixing the pump on the current fire truck. Councilman Hathaway solicited opinions from the Council. Councilman Sylvester agreed with Mr. Blakeslee and Councilman Still that casting a bond of this magnitude could negatively impact the Borough. Councilwoman Butler stated that she noted all the merits of the new truck and how valuable it would be however it should not be at the cost of crippling The Borough. The Mayor indicated he had a meeting with the town CFO to figure out how to purchase this truck. The CFO reminded the Mayor that you can't spend money you don't have. Councilman Hathaway offered that it would be helpful to see a long-term plan of the firemen's needs. He added that there are other options besides the purchase of this particular truck. Councilwoman Butler wondered about the costs to run two fire departments versus one. If there was a savings from this, it might expand the Borough's options. Councilman Sylvester preferred that this decision is not tabled but that the Council moves forward. Councilman Sylvester did not feel that the town needed a ladder truck of this magnitude. He added that the town cannot afford it and it is not a necessity. The town has not changed in 40 years and the fire equipment currently in use has provided adequate service. Councilman Koster felt the opposite and believed all towns needed this type of apparatus. The Mayor noted all comments from the Council and felt this type of decision needed further vetting.

The Mayor and Council continued discussion and pulled together names of existing equipment, when it might need to be replaced and if this new equipment could completely replace it. Along with that, they discussed all the financials surrounding this. The types of fires that Netcong has endured were also discussed. Councilwoman Butler felt that it would be responsible of the Council to hear from additional representatives of the Fire Department. She was also curious about the tax burden per household for this purchase. The Mayor proposed a task force. This task force would be represented by the Mayor and Council as well as representatives from the fire department. All components will be considered and plotted on a long-term plan.

A motion to table this discussion, and forward movement of the fire truck, until the task force is established was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Koster. The task force will be established by November 14, 2013.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

The Mayor stated that since the task force contained the entire Mayor and Council, this meeting would need to be noticed and open to the public. After further discussion, it was suggested that there be a kickoff meeting with designation of subcommittees as required. Mr. Blakeslee recommended that specific goals and requirements for this task force be set before the 1st meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Letter from Progressive Properties – Sewer System Allocation for Block 8 Lot 36

It was noted that this was the property at the end of Railroad Ave. This business already received approval from the Planning Board. The Mayor noted a builder's agreement will need to be in place. Sewer requirements may also be discussed.

This topic will be carried to the October 10 meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

There were no issues brought up for this meeting.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution #2013- 96** - To Approve a Shared Service Agreement for Snow Plowing and Janitorial Services between the Borough of Netcong and the Netcong Board of Education

The Mayor asked for comment from the Council and then carried this resolution to the October 10 meeting.

2. **Resolution #2013- 97** – A Resolution Establishing the Criteria for Inclusion on the Borough of Netcong's Veterans Honor Wall

The Council discussed their comments after reviewing the document. There was some question on eligibility and where additional names would be placed. This resolution will be carried to the October 10 meeting and prior to that the wording will be reviewed by Mr. Bucco.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2013- 14** – Adopting the Town Redevelopment Plan for Block 19 Lot 14

Councilman Hathaway noted that this was discussed and Mr. Bucco plans to make minor changes before the October 10 meeting. He also verified that Bob Goldsmith was also privy to this discussion. Concern was brought up about the validity of a 10 year redevelopment plan. Plans were made to tie the new document to the old document. The Mayor also brought up issues regarding the transit village.

This ordinance will be carried to the October 10, 2013 meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session presented this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 9:10 PM and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk