

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD OCTOBER 10, 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 7:30 P.M.

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 at this evening's meeting were Councilman Laureys, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Still, Councilwoman Butler, Councilman Koster and Mayor Nametko. Also present: Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator; Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk and Mr. Bucco, Borough Attorney (arrived 7:39PM).

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Charles Cedro of 6 Allen St., Netcong stepped forward to address the Council. Mr. Cedro was interested in the status of the letters and other communications activity regarding the ongoing drainage issues. Mr. Blakeslee responded that there is a meeting with New Jersey Transit Friday, October 18 to actually view the drainage issues. He also noted a response he got from the DOT. He stated that Councilman Hathaway, Mr. Olivo and Mr. Guerin will be at this meeting. Mr. Bucco noted he is still having issues with the DEP.

Mr. Cedro indicated that he has sent two certified letters regarding the cleaning of the swirl chamber but has received no response. Mr. Bucco requested a copy of those letters and return receipts. All were in agreement that the Borough was being ignored.

Seeing no one else from the audience, the Mayor asked for a motion to close.

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Koster and Seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented at this meeting.

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

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2013-11 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon Was Made by Councilman Still and Seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and Seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Mr. Bucco discussed the near future task of defining the types of animals for this ordinance. The Council discussed the types of penalties for disobeying this ordinance. Councilman Laureys discussed his concerns with potential penalties.

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2013-11 was made by Councilwoman Butler and Seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

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

A Motion to Read Bond Ordinance 2013-12 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilwoman Butler and Seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for comment.

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Koster and Seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Bond Ordinance #2013-12 was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

A Motion to Read Bond Ordinance 2013-13 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for comment.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Bond Ordinance #2013-13 was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Anthony Attanasio, Assistant Commissioner of NJDOT to Mr. Anthony Bucco, Borough Attorney regarding drainage issues

The Mayor asked if the Council had reviewed the letter and if there were any questions for Mr. Bucco. No questions were presented. Mr. Bucco said that the assistant Commissioner did answer all the questions and concerns presented in this letter. It was explained that the DEP permit had expired and a new one was required. Mr. Bucco also noted that some confusion about what each organization was doing was clarified.

2. Email from Maria Patamia – Holiday Tree Lighting

Mayor Nametko explained that he spoke with Maria about her gracious offer to have the tree lighting on the Allen Mansion property, but because of the number of people who attend, it would be unwise due to traffic logistics and crowd control issues.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee noted that the historical marker for Stanhope United Methodist Church has been awarded.

Mr. Blakeslee wanted to highlight this month's visit by New Jersey Transit. He noted they always have been cooperative in the past. There will be a conference call in 2 weeks to discuss the water infrastructure financing. The Mayor requested to sit in on this call. There was also discussion about correcting a collapsed retaining wall. Mr. Bucco suggested some title work might be in order to verify the owner. The Mayor stated he and Mr. Blakeslee would perform a visual inspection of this property tomorrow. Councilman Hathaway stated that Mr. Olivo claimed this wall was not built by the Borough but associated with the home.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

In the month of September the Borough had total income in the amount of \$261,618.38 as compared to the previous year of \$187,420.62.

Year to Date for the month of September:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

\$4,170.94 received in 2012 compared to \$6,406.32 in 2013

Increases in zoning permit fee, bulk item stickers contributed and municipal court fees contributed to the increase.

State Aid

\$0/\$0

State aid has not been set for 2013.

Grants in Aid

\$2,793.62 received in 2012 compared to \$33,814.26 in 2013.

\$33,814.26 received from FEMA/State of NJ for Hurricane Sandy expense reimbursement.

Taxes Collected

Taxes collected in September of 2013 were \$102,531.58 as compared to \$62,196.66 collected in September of 2012.

Receipts from delinquent taxes, current year taxes and interest on taxes contributed to the increase this month.

Income Total Year to Date:

Total year to date revenues collected is \$6,369,484.20 in 2013 as compared to \$6,091,049.91 collected in 2012.

An increase in total income of \$278,434.29.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway stated that redevelopment for The Pocketbook Factory will be discussed later tonight. He introduced Gina Thomas.

Ms. Gina Thomas provided the following NCP report:

Media Relations:

Automotive feature will be published in the October edition of the Musconetcong News. The Harvest Festival on October 26th has been promoted on the website and Facebook page. Photos and overall social media coverage for Netcong Day has been prioritized. We continue to build relationships with local radio and newspapers receiving free publicity for the community and its events.

Website:

Two business spotlights approved: Fulton Bank and Auto Services Story. We also posted a spotlight on Netcong Day 2013. All Minutes are up to date and posted on our website for 2013.

Facebook Page:

We have 420 likes!! We have 156 visits to the Face book page with 383 page views! People are talking about what we are doing in the downtown ~our new visits this month are at 71.79%. Working on an initiative to link businesses to the page in a more collaborative and cohesive way.

Operations:

1. Netcong Day was a great success, we partnered with more Netcong Businesses than last year. The vendor attendance was up from last year as well (we had about 100 vendors).
2. We are working on a Buy Local campaign starting with Small Business Saturday on November 30th.
3. We are working on a cooperative ad to run in the November issue of the Musconetcong News.
4. We have also completed our 2012 audit with few recommendations. We have started our 2014 budget with hopes of presenting to the Mayor and Council with our Annual Report in December.

5. Working with L VHS and LEAP to have volunteers throughout the community, attending the Community Service Fair on Thursday October 17 at the high school.
6. Working on strategic plan for 2014 fundraising and grant opportunities as well as a yearly calendar of events.

Public Safety:
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

J. Sylvester

E. Koster

Councilman Koster reported that for the month of September, the Ambulance Corps had 69 and calls of which 3 were out of town. They treated a total of 37 patients and made 37 trips to the hospital. The miles traveled were 842 and the hours volunteered were 373 hours and 6 minutes. There was one assist provided by the Stanhope Fire Department.

The Netcong Fire Department had 6 general alarms. There were 5 meetings and 7 drills and one special detail. 56 firefighters worked a total of 471.6 hours.

The Borough Police are expecting delivery of new cars.

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Water Department:

- The final stage of the water main installation for the circle project has been completed with capping the old water main at Helen Way where the new main was connected. Repaired a broken water curb stop at 15 College Rd. Replaced the sidewalk at number 1 Koclas Dr. from a past repair. Repaved the area at 32 Flanders Rd. from a past water leak.

Road Department:

- Phase 2 of the Prospect Street project has been started and will be completed when signs are installed and the crosswalks are painted. Repaired a collapsed catch basin on Center Street.

Buildings & Grounds:

- Cut grass at all Borough properties weekly. Put all Borough owned flowerpots in storage for the winter season. Removed the American flags from main Street and Maple Avenue. Performed maintenance to the gutters and leaders at Town Hall.

Recycling:

- Collected 12 loads of grass and 24 loads of brush from the residents in September.

Snow and ice control:

- Prepped all snow removal equipment to ensure operation.

Training:

- (Olivo) Open Source Government

Other:

- Built a mobile stage to be used for Borough functions. Assisted with Netcong Day as needed. Returned all sign boards to the County that were needed for Netcong Day. Provided cones for the Kings Road block party.

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

Councilwoman Butler reported the following for September:

1. October 26 will be the annual Halloween Parade and Trunk or Treat cosponsored by the Netcong PTA, Netcong Community Partnership, Municipal Alliance, and Netcong Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. The event will kick off at 5 PM and will include DJ entertainment. Recreation will be providing hot dogs and pretzels as well as cider and coffee; Netcong Community Partnership along with alliance will be providing desserts; PTA will have many decorated trunks competing for that 1st prize and will have a candy guessing game and some goodies for the kids. The Netcong Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a scarecrow contest hoping for participants from the fire departments, police and ambulance companies, school, businesses, individuals and families.
2. This year's Great Wolf Lodge trip will take place on Thursday, November 7. We have one bus going which is sold out. Anyone else wishing to join can meet us there.
3. The Halloween house decorating contest will take place on Wednesday, October 23. Prizes will be awarded for 1st 2nd and 3rd places.
4. Recreation Committee is sponsoring a bus trip to Radio City Christmas Spectacular on Saturday, November 23. The bus will be leaving the train station at 11:30 AM. This event is sold out.
5. We are now working on the holiday parade and getting flyers out to all. Will be reaching out to Chief Blesson and Chief Koster to assure a seamless event.

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

T. Laureys

P. Butler

Councilman Laureys reported the following for the month of September:

Days of service: 20
Miles: 1116
Number of stops: 98
Nutrition for 6 people: 40
Food shopping 19 people: 42
Number of Meals on Wheels: 18
Medical Appointments: 17
Other Appointments: 69
People Using Services: 45
Cancels: 21
Denials: 10
Units: 327
Hours: 108.25
Additional Notes: 1 new senior and one new disabled.

OLD BUSINESS

1. SID By-Laws/Ordinance

Councilman Hathaway mentioned that Ms. Thomas and Mr. Bucco have been working with him on this. Mr. Bucco reviewed all the documentation to make sure it was in line with the statute. He sent his analysis to the Council. Some additional updates need to be made to the document. He noted additional discussion was planned for this evening after this meeting. The Mayor requested that this ordinance gets passed before year end.

2. Holiday Tree Location

Councilman Hathaway, Bob Olivo and Councilman Koster met to find a good location for the new holiday tree. It was decided it should be placed behind the flag pole at Firehouse #1 taking up 1 parking space with a new plant bed and landscaping as well as electric supply. Mr. Hathaway estimates the cost to be approximately \$3000.00. Mr. Olivo has agreed to move several vehicles in order to provide additional parking for the firehouse. The Council discussed appropriation of the funds.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Best Practices Worksheet

The worksheet was completed by Mr. Blakeslee and Jason Gabloff (CFO). The Borough obtained a score of 48 out of 50 points which means the Borough will receive all of the state aid.

2. Letter from Progressive Properties – Sewer System Allocation for Bock 8 Lot 36

Mr. Howard Spear of Randolph, New Jersey stepped forward to represent Progressive Properties. He provided a brief description of the plan. Mr. Bucco pointed out that a developer's agreement will be required for this. Mr. Bucco agreed to complete it.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President had nothing to report.

Councilman Koster made a request. He was hoping that whoever put the American flags on the new retaining wall (circle project) will continue with the placement. He was impressed with the appearance.

Councilman Koster also wanted to remind everyone about the Fireman's Inspection Monday, October 14, 2013. Everyone should meet at the Hilltop Firehouse at 5:30.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor wished to address the Fire Department Task Force issue discussed at last week's meeting. He suggested possible sub committees:

- Equipment
- Finance
- Buildings and Grounds
- Legal

Councilwoman Butler was interested in having an assessment of needs. Councilman Hathaway discussed the members of the task force, noting citizens should be included. The Mayor recommended that long-term planning will be required to assess the needs. He also stated careful consideration of consolidating and perhaps avoiding future costs and gaining savings needs to be entertained. Mr. Bucco offered advice on the legal structure of the future fire Department. The Council continued discussion regarding the responsibilities and makeup of the task force.

Mr. Blakeslee will work on organizing to have the task force ready in November.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

A Motion was made By Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster to approve this resolution.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 3. Resolution 2013- 98** – To Appoint Keith Flaherty as Patrolman of the Netcong Police Department.

A Motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 4. Resolution 2013-99** – Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application for the New Jersey Department of Transportation Highway Safety Fund Program Grant (Safe Corridors)

A Motion Was Made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Butler to approve this resolution.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

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

Mr. Bucco outlined some changes in the wording of this ordinance. Councilman Hathaway provided some background and all the work that was put in to the development of this ordinance. Councilman Laureys requested some background information.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2013-14 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and Seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2013-14 on First Reading Was Made by Councilman Hathaway and Seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilwoman Butler and Seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available Was Made by Councilman Still and Seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll	Call:	5	Yes
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CLOSED SESSION

There were no closed sessions during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 9:27 PM and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk