

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD NOVEMBER 14, 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

Present at this evening's meeting were Councilman Laureys, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Sylvester, Councilman Still, Councilwoman Butler, Councilman Koster and Mayor Nametko. Also present was Mrs. Eckert, borough clerk and Mr. Bucco borough attorney.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

- Charles Cedro – 6 Allen St. – Mr. Cedro wished to thank the Mayor and Councilman Hathaway for their time and involvement regarding all of the drainage issues. In particular, he was grateful that they attended the meeting in Trenton. He requested an update on the Trenton meeting held on Nov. 8th. The Mayor provided some information and expressed that he was disappointed that the DEP was not in attendance. He added that the Department of Transportation did not invite the DEP. Councilman Hathaway and Mr. Bucco also provided some information. The Mayor noted that the DOT recommended that they follow up regarding the swirl chamber situation with the DEP. Councilman Hathaway reported that he has not heard back yet from the DEP regarding the swirl chamber. The Mayor and Council are waiting for the notes taken at the meeting by Mr. Blakeslee to further clarify all the issues presented at this meeting.

Mr. Cedro said he would be very comfortable if a backup plan was available.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented for review this evening.

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

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

(See Planning Board Resolution No. 2013- Resolution of the Netcong Borough Planning Board Reviewing Ordinance 2013-14 for Master Plan Consistency and Comments)

The Mayor reported that the planning board has reviewed this ordinance and finds it in compliance with the master plan. The Mayor solicited questions or comments from the Council and noted that the redevelopment plan attorney was in the audience to supply answers.

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2013-14 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public regarding this ordinance. No one from the audience stepped forward.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2013-14 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from Municipal Alliance – Family Day 2014

Councilwoman Butler provided some details regarding the future event. Food will be served. She is planning to request that Maple Avenue is closed for this event.

She also noted that the Boy Scouts will be involved with the event. The Mayor requested that more information should be presented at upcoming meetings.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The Mayor acknowledged that the Council has received the borough administrator report. He requested that members of the Council submit questions to Mr. Blakeslee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

In the month of October, the Borough had total income in the amount of \$1,008,185.57 as compared to the previous year of \$459,948.60.

Year to Date for the month of October:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

\$13,665.30 received in 2012 compared to \$16,964.97 in 2013

Increases in municipal court fees contributed to the increase.

State Aid

\$58,785.38 in CMPTRA and Energy Receipts Taxes were received from the State in October. No change in amounts.

Grants in Aid

\$5,222.00 received in 2012 compared to \$32,441.31 in 2013.

\$28,691.58 received from FEMA State of NJ for Hurricane Sandy expense reimbursement. Also received \$3,183.73 from the County's Dial-A-Ride grant program.

Taxes Collected

Taxes collected in October of 2013 were \$898,385.61 as compared to \$380,544.75 collected in October of 2012.

Receipts from current year taxes contributed to the increase this month.

Income Total Year to Date:

Total year to date revenues collected is \$7,377,669.77 in 2013 as opposed to \$6,550,998.51 collected in 2012.

An increase in total income of \$826,671.26

Councilman Still provided an update regarding apartment inspections.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway noted that the meeting in Trenton was already discussed and that additional development discussion is planned for later this meeting. He noted that there are new interests in properties at the borough.

Gina Thomas stepped forward from the audience to present the SID report.

Media Relations- Automotive Services feature was published in the October edition of the Musconetcong News. The Harvest Festival on October 26th has been promoted on the website and FB Page.

Website- Fixed broken links on the website. Working on a listing of all vacant properties.

Facebook Page- We have 423 likes!! We have 126 visits to the Facebook page with 321 page views! People are talking about what we are doing in the downtown - our new visits this month are at 75.40%. Working on initiative to link businesses to the page in a more collaborative and cohesive way.

Operations-

1. Launching our first cooperative advertising with the Musconetcong News, 19 spaces sold with a full page all about Netcong business due out on November 19th.
2. Our Ad ties in with our Buy Local campaign starting with Small Business Saturday on November 30th.
3. Looking into an Art Place grant with the hopes of collaborating with The Growing Stage.
4. Sustainable New Jersey is offering a grant that we are considering applying for in hopes to create some infrastructure improvements.

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

Councilman Sylvester reported that for the month of October, the Ambulance Corps had 53 calls 2 of which were out of town. They treated a total of 33 patients and made 33 trips to the hospital. The miles traveled were 811 miles and the hours volunteered were 177 hours and 41 minutes.

The Netcong Fire Department in October had 2 general alarms. There were 6 meetings and 6 drills. 51 firefighters volunteered a total of 113 hours. The task force meeting for the Fire Department was postponed last night due to the death of a firefighter. The meeting will be rescheduled for next week

The Borough Police answered a total of 359 calls. They wrote a total of 113 motor vehicle summonses. There were also 11 local ordinances summonses.

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Councilman Koster requested to hold his report until the next month.

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

Councilwoman Butler reported the following for October:

1. The Annual Halloween Parade and Trunk or Treat was a huge success. There were 26 decorated vehicles and many children and adults in costumes. Recreation provided hot dogs and hot pretzels as well as hot cider and coffee; PTA had a candy corn guessing game, NFD Ladies Auxiliary had a Scarecrow contest with winners from Budd Lake Auxiliary and an L VR Guidance Counselor. In addition to the Recreation Commission & PTA, thanks go out to NCP and Municipal Alliance for donating desserts.
2. The Great Wolf Bus trip took place last Thursday, Nov 7. We had one filled bus as well as several families meet at the Lodge. Over 60 in attendance. A fun time was had by all.
3. Our next bus trip is Saturday, Nov 23 which will be to see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. This trip sold out within a few days of notice going out. We will consider the possibility of 2 buses in the future.
4. The winners of the annual Halloween House decorating contest were announced at the Trunk or Treat and included the Milliron, Falato, & DeDecker families.
5. Judging for the Holiday House decorating contest will be Sunday Dec. 15th.
6. We are aggressively getting ready for our upcoming Holiday Parade. We have several registrations already and welcome many more. This year we have included a Business Decorating Contest and as of today have 3 entries. We still need to get out flyers to many of the businesses. We look forward to seeing all of you on December 1st. Parade starts at 5 with tree lighting immediately following.

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

T. Laureys

P. Butler

Councilman Laureys reported the following for the month of October:

Days of service: 22

Miles: 1433

Number of stops: 123

Nutrition for 7 people: 52

Food shopping 21 people: 52

Number of Meals on Wheels: 16

Medical Appointments: 32

Other Appointments: 64
People Using Services: 43
Cancels: 25
Denials: 11
Units: 429
Hours: 127.25
Additional Notes: one new disabled

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bucco requested to speak on several issues:

1. The Retirement Resolution adopted at the Nov. 7th meeting. The current Ordinance needs to be amended or repealed to reflect the updated information.
2. A resolution should be composed for the Fire Dept Task Force which should include info on sub committees.
3. The Property Maintenance Resolution adopted several months ago, needs a follow up resolution stating property locations, work completed and cost of work in order to place liens on the properties. Mr. Bucco explained the procedure for this.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented at this meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Still wished to remind everyone that it is now budget season.

Councilman Hathaway reported that the Lake Board hosted a shoreline clean up for Lake Musconetcong on Saturday, November 9th. 30 volunteers attended to remove debris. Bells Mansion provided lunch for all the volunteers.

Councilman Koster asked a question about how FEMA money received is disbursed. Councilman Still responded.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

No resolutions were presented at this meeting.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2013- 15** - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 75, Special Improvement District, by Revising the Existing Tier System and Establishing a New Assessment Rate in Schedule A and Amending Sections 75-5, District Management Corporation, 75-6, Budget and 75-10, Stabilization of the Sid Assessment of the Code of the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris and the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Bucco asked questions for clarification regarding this ordinance. Councilman Hathaway also had some questions and comments. The Mayor and Council continued to discuss this ordinance for approximately 20 minutes. Some of this discussion was regarding undeveloped land, vacant property and taxation.

The redevelopment attorney came up from the audience and provided some answers for the Council.

Mr. Bucco provided Ms. Eckert some word changes for this ordinance.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2013-15 and Read by Title Only with the amendments discussed during this session was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded By Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2013-15 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilman Laureys and Councilman Koster

REPORTS

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

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

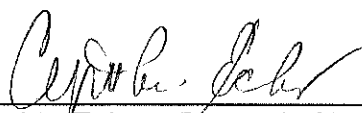
CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 8:52 PM and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk