

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD FEBRUARY 09, 2012 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 6, 2012.
2. Publishing a notice in The Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 11, 2012 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 6, 2012.

ROLL CALL

Members of the Borough Council present at roll call were: Laureys, Hathaway, Sylvester, Still, Acquaro, Koster and Mayor Nametko. Ralph Blakeslee, Borough Administrator & Deputy Clerk, Mr. Tony Bucco and Dolores Dalessandro, Borough Clerk were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Mayor asked if the Council had time to review the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2012. He asked for questions or comments. There were none.

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still to approve the minutes.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

The Mayor asked if anyone from the audience would like to speak at this meeting.

Ms. Andrea Dealmagro of Hopatcong NJ stepped forward. She asked to speak about Hydraulic Fracturing. She explained the process briefly and noted that the topic was covered in the president's state of the union address. She presented a scenario that indicated the drainage issue might present pollutants to the town aquifers. She stated that NJ would need to act upon this very soon. She noted that Pennsylvania is doing this and NY State is not far behind. She advised the Council to educate themselves on this topic and possibly look into a resolution pro or against, depending upon how the Council viewed this topic with regard to Netcong. The Mayor thanked Ms. Dealmagro for presenting this timely topic.

Mr. James Arbolino, 23 Allen Street, Netcong, NJ came to voice his opposition regarding the renewal of the SID Budget. He is a businessman and has not seen any progress over the past 10 years even though he has contributed \$2,300 towards it. He asked if anyone could explain whatever progress that the SID has made. He continued that he waited a month to come before the Council about another issue. He was angry about a picture's presentation on the face of the borough's calendar of the monument near the lake in memory of veterans. He stated the monument was not maintained and did not look presentable. He continued that the State doesn't care about the maintenance of this monument. He was wondering if the monument could be moved to a place where it would be properly maintained. The Mayor noted that the picture honored the vets for which he was grateful. The Mayor said he did not notice the leaves in the photo. Mr. Arbolino replied he could understand that. He asked the Mayor to take a look now.

Mr. Ben Dellamo, Church Street, Netcong, NJ stated that he has repeated this many times and still feels that the SID is like an assault to the business people. He was frustrated that it keeps getting voted in, yet has been worthless. He wanted to know what they have done. NCP Council Liaison Hathaway noted that the welcome to Netcong signs have been lighted and there was a contribution to Netcong Day. Mr. Dellamo did not feel these were worthwhile contributions. He felt the SID has run its course and should not be run by the Council. It should be run by business people to help the businesses. Mr. Dellamo mentioned that the town no longer adds funds to this anymore. The Council discussed this and verified that the town stopped paying 3 to 5 years ago. The Mayor noted that if there were complaints, the businessmen should have been at the meetings stating their concerns. Mr. Dellamo stated if the town gives their budget back – enough to do something, then people like him will come back.

Ms. Bernadette Dalessandro, 32 Barone Street, Netcong, NJ wanted to discuss the resolution regarding the vote for the school board and taking away the vote for the school budgets. She wanted the Council to know that she was representing the tax payers, not the school board. She could not conceive why the right to vote was being taken away. She also felt that if there was a school board that is not prudent with its money, they are being given the right to raise the taxes 2% every year. She feels in time this amount will be so high, many will not be able to afford it. She continued that the vote promotes a "due diligence" for the budget.

Ms. Donna Infancolino owns 'All in the Icing' on Main Street, Netcong NJ. She joined the NCP a year ago and sees value in it. She felt it has promoted all the Netcong business owners to help each other. She was grateful for the NCP sign grant and how this helped her business. She invited everyone to come to the next SID meeting which would be January 23rd.

Ms. Jena Thomas, Stanhope, NJ owns a pre-school type business in Netcong for a year. She stated she was going to open her business in Stanhope but chose Netcong because of how she was welcome and because of the SID. She felt the meeting she attended was helpful.

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Still. The motion was seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes.

The Mayor opened the meeting for public hearing regarding the SID Cost Estimate.

Ms. Bernadette Dalessandro stated that she has no idea what the SID does. She requested a brief overview so she and others in the room can follow the discussion.

The Mayor replied that the SID was formed about eleven years ago. Prior to that there was a Netcong Businessmen's Association which faded out. The work was mostly regarding sign grants and façade grants. He noted most of the new signs on Main Street were assisted by this. The Mayor was most impressed by the turn around in business in Netcong over the past three years. He explained the differences in the assessment. He stated the challenges of moving the SID forward. He noted that the Council found in the past that the funding for SID was not fully utilized and the Council pulled their (\$5,000) amount out. Last year he noted the SID funding was utilized. He felt that if the money was spent wisely, he wanted the Council to consider putting the funding back into the SID. The Council discussed the decorations, signage and event assistance that the SID has provided.

Mr. James Arbolino noted that he was unaware of what SID did even though he has been a businessman in Netcong for 50 years.

Mr. Bill Lerman is a property owner at 17 Maple Avenue, Netcong NJ and Brian Yelinko of 125 Main Street (Route 46) have been on the NCP since before it started (eleven years.) Mr. Lerman noted that it has been difficult to communicate all the good the NCP has done to the business owners and property owners. Recently, he feels the NCP has gone in different directions and is not what it originally was supposed to be. Mr. Lerman read the Mission Statement and Objectives from the original business plan. He emphasized that it was a self help device by which business people will make business decisions benefiting the business district. He noted it worked that way for about five years, there were changes in personnel, and

consultants were hired. He added that they determined that consultants should not be hired and money was wasted on this. They did not agree with the suggestion that a consultant should be brought back in and wanted to stick with the original vision.

Mr. Brian Yelinko stated he was on the fence with this topic. He used to look forward to the projects and enjoyed the accomplishments. For the past five years, he felt the NCP has become more negative. He thinks it is due to the sentiment that comes from the Council that has been related back to them. He felt it should be more reflective of a business organization rather than a community group. He felt the consultants were not worth the money. He stated that Stuart was condescending and had a bad attitude that did not benefit the NCP. He felt that the organization has strayed so far away from its original objective that it should be disbanded. However, if the NCP could be refocused back to the original vision, it could provide benefit to the business owners in Netcong and he provided some examples. The Mayor noted that the four new people in the SID over the past year were a positive reflection. Mr. Yelinko agreed that new blood was a great sign. He admitted that his follow up was not always great and with all the ideas he brought to the group, he needed help to get them to fruition. He stated that the new people should be focused on what the "old" SID was all about in order to realize what was to be done.

Mr. Todd Portsmore, 16 Dell Ave, Netcong NJ had a couple of questions. He wanted to know when the SID started with a consultant. It was noted that there were several consultants with the last one over a year ago and more recently an executive director was retained. He noted with what he has seen with improvements over the past year when he drives through the town, he supports the NCP. The Mayor noted that Netcong is a business friendly town and there is a new Zoning Officer.

Ms. Gina Thomas, business owner in Netcong noted that eleven years is a long time for an objective to run especially when the economic environment has changed so much. She noted the importance of leadership and proper delegation of assignments. She agreed with the negative comments regarding the SID stated earlier, but felt that with the new blood and with strong leadership the group could be refocused and make a difference.

Mr. Ben Dellamo asked who paid for the flower pots, signs and other benefits in previous years. The Mayor responded that Mr. Dellamo paid with the exception of this year. He noted that some of the work performed by the NCP this year was good but perhaps too little and too late. He repeated that if the town was to kick in the \$5000 again, it would make a positive statement and contribution.

With no one else stepping forward, the Mayor asked for a motion to close the public hearing. A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilwoman Acquaro.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

Councilwoman Acquaro asked for clarification of Resolution #2012-23. It was noted that this was a preliminary step prior to budget approval. Councilman Hathaway reiterated his comments from the last meeting regarding the need for an administrator for the SID. Councilman Sylvester also agreed that someone like Stuart was needed to push the SID forward.

A motion to table the Resolution to March 8, 2012 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Acquaro.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. Adoption of Ordinance #2012-1:
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A CHARITABLE SOLICITATION PERMIT FOR NETCONG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1's "COIN DROP" ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ALLEN STREET AND LEDGEWOOD AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND RT. 46 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY..

A Motion to Read by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

The Mayor solicited for comments or questions regarding the Ordinance.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

A Motion to Adopt ordinance #2012-1 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Koster

2. Adoption of Ordinance #2012-2
AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$5,000 TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF LAPTOPS AND COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT CARS AVAILABLE IN THE RESERVE FOR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT IN THE BOROUGH'S CAPITAL FUND IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY.

A Motion to Read by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

The Mayor solicited comment from the public.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2012-2 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented at this Meeting.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee reported that the owners of Jose's Restaurant wished to set up a tent to celebrate Cinco de Mayo as well as obtain a special alcohol license. This would be celebrated for one week. The Mayor inquired about having a police presence. Mr. Bucco noted there were many issues of compliance including restricted access for minors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Councilman Still asked all the Council Members to review the budget that they received and let him know of any questions or comments.

In the month of January the Borough had total income in the amount of \$469,061.50 as compared to the previous year of \$468,301.25

Year to Date:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

\$2,914.60 in 2012 vs. \$1,406.16 in 2011

A positive cash flow of \$1,508.44

Other Licenses:

\$29,436.54 in 2012 vs. \$18,848.61 in 2011

A positive cash flow of \$10,587.93

State Aid

\$0/\$0

State aid has not been set for 2012

Grants in Aid
\$0/\$0

No grants have yet to be received in 2012

Taxes Collected
\$436,510.36 in 2012 vs. \$448,046.48 in 2011.

A decrease over last year in the amount of \$11,536.12.
Decrease due to a reduction in receipts from delinquent taxes, lien redemptions and interest on taxes.

Income Total Year to Date:
\$469,061.50 in 2012 vs. \$468,301.25 in 2011.

An increase in total income of \$760.25 over last year.

Councilman Still noted that they are starting to see money from the Mt. Olive Court shared service.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

The redevelopment Council and DOT are having a meeting on the 24th to discuss the issues related to the construction project and how they are effecting the drainage and how there can be some remediation. They are seeking DOT participation. Two developers have expressed interest in property in town. King Realty asked for a tour for a group of investors. RPM contacted Mr. Blakeslee regarding renewed interest in the old handbag factory. He noted that this was more activity then usual and that this was a positive sign.

The Mayor highlighted letters of support from Senator Bucco regarding the construction and drainage issues.

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

Ambulance Corps.

No report was received for the month of January

Police Department

For the month of January, the Netcong Police Department answered 260 calls. 29 summonses were issued. The police also investigated 18 automobile accidents. Radar patrol totaled 37 hours. Foot patrol was 6.5 hours.

Councilman Sylvester provided grant information.

Fire Department

For the month of January, there were 8 fire incidents, 3 Meetings, and 3 Training/Drills. 61 firefighters donated 629.9 hours to the Residents of Netcong.

There was a meeting with the Chief and Asst. Chief to go over the budget and cap requests.

Dept. of Public Works & Utilities: **E. Koster R. Hathaway**

For the month of January, Councilman Koster reported the following:

Water Department

- Located a water leak inside the old Cozy Drive Inn bldg. which lost over 200,000 gallons of water but all the lost water was registered through the meter
- Repaired a 6" water main break on Railroad Ave.

Road Department

- Made repairs to DPW equipment as needed.

Buildings and Grounds

- Took down all Christmas decorations throughout the town and put in storage.

Recycling

- Chipped brush from the 10/29 storm
- Collected approximately 350 Christmas trees from the residents for recycling

Snow and Ice Control

- Called in the plowing contractor during the storm of 1/21 for a total of 30 truck hours and a total cost of \$2,615.00
- Used 55 ton of salt for snow and ice control in January

Other:

- Please be advised that the storm drain on NJ Transit property is still clogged (waiting for a meeting between Netcong, NJ Transit and DOT)

Comments:

- Received a price quote to install an electrical outlet at each of our decorative lights (42 lights) for the amount of \$4,830.00, this would allow for electric for Christmas and other decorating
- Changed the steering column in truck 571

Councilman Koster wanted to note that to date; the borough has pumped 389,400 gallons less in 2012 than in 2011. The Mayor asked about the water audit which will be conducted in the spring. Councilman Koster discussed the hydraulic fracturing.

Recreation: T. Acquaro C. Laureys

The Recreation Committee just sent 46 people on the snow tubing event at Shawnee Mountain. Pictures will be on the website shortly. On March 24 at the Knights of Columbus, the Recreation Committee will be holding an egg decorating contest. This will be open to all ages. There will be a tricky tray on May 19th. The Summer programs are in development. The next meeting is the 22nd of February.

Public Services: C. Laureys T. Acquaro
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal)

For the month of January, 2012 Councilwoman Laureys reported the following:

Days of Service: 20
Miles: 1164
of Stops: 92
Nutrition: 41
Food Shopping: 42
Number of Meals on Wheels: 20
Medical Appointments: 31
Other Appointments: 38
People Using Services: 35
Cancels: 28
Denials: 3
Units: 344
Hours: 117

Notes: Bus had to be jump started 3 times. Emergency brake cable broke. Councilwoman Laureys and the Mayor discussed a grant for cleaning school grounds that were over two acres. The Mayor also discussed the plans/proposal to get funding for a new van.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Circle Project.

Mr. Blakeslee noted updates on the swirl project and requests from the DOT on his Administrative Report. Councilman Hathaway added that Bob Olivo and Bob Guerin went to a scheduled meeting and no one showed up. He is concerned that this issue has been going on for a month and is frustrated. The Mayor and Council discussed

setting up a strategic meeting with NJ Transit. Mr. Blakeslee will follow up on this.

2. Update on Obtaining Funds for Elevator or Chair Lift at Fire Company No. 1.

Mr. Blakeslee noted the meeting with the FDA to kick this off was postponed to the end of this month. No date was set yet. The Mayor requested a meeting date of the 24th.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Robert Olivo Jr. as a Fireman for Fire Company No. 2

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Approval of Shannon Fluke as a Firewoman for Fire Co. No. 1.

A Motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council discussed movement of the Veteran's monument or how to maintain it on State property.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution #2012-27 Establishing the Election of Members of the Netcong Board of Education as the First Tuesday after the First Monday in November.

Councilman Still stated that this should be voted upon by the School Board. Councilwoman Acquaro asked if it doesn't move this year – does that set a precedent for future years. Mr. Bucco explained it did not, but once voted in it is set for four years.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Acquaro to table this Resolution and was seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Hathaway

2. Resolution #2012-28 To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 11-00001 on Block 9 Lot 28.

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Introduction of Ordinance #2012-3:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG AND REQUIRING AND REGULATING SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL.**

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2012-3 and Read by Title only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

The Mayor asked for comment. Councilman Hathaway noted the research he and Mr. Guerin completed by checking with other municipalities regarding this ordinance. Impervious coverage will be a separate ordinance.

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2012-3 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilwoman Acquaro.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Introduction of Ordinance #2012-4
AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PORTION OF THE FLANDERS ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2012-4 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

There were no questions or comments regarding this ordinance.

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2012-4 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. **Introduction of Ordinance #2012-5:
AN ORDINANCE REPEALING THE POLITICAL SIGN RESTRICTIONS ESTABLISHED IN CHAPTER 194, LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

A Motion to introduce Ordinance #2012-5 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilwoman Acquaro and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

No: Councilmen Sylvester and Still

Councilman Sylvester felt this was setting a negative precedent. He was concerned that the Council had to go this route.

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2012-5 on First Reading was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilwoman Acquaro.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

No: Councilmen Sylvester and Still

REPORTS

A Motion to incorporate all reports into the minutes was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to pay all bills when funds become available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Acquaro.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the specified subject matter.

2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

- **Personnel – Police Chief**

3. It is anticipated that the minutes on the subject matters of the closed session will be made public upon conclusion, dismissal or settlement of litigation; or final resolution of agreements on personnel matters; and in any event, when appropriate pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-7 and 4-13.

4. The Council will come back into open session and may take further action.

Councilman Sylvester made a motion to go into closed session. Councilman Hathaway seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 6 Yes.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 P.M. by Councilman Still and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Dalessandro, Borough Clerk