

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MARCH 10, 2016 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 8, 2016.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 13, 2016 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 8, 2016.

**ROLL CALL**

Those in attendance were Councilwoman Butler, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Koster, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester, and Mayor Nametko. Also present was Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk and Robert Oostdyk, Esq.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No minutes were presented at this meeting.

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

- Mr. Jimenez of 25 Amendola Dr. came forward to discuss an issue with his neighbor at 27 Amendola Drive. The neighbor continues to have junk in front of his house which includes tires, trailers, and old wood. It is an eyesore that is a detriment to the neighborhood. Mr. Blakeslee has been to the site and asked the neighbor to clean it up. etc

Councilman Sylvester asked if the neighbor has he been warned. Mr. Blakeslee replied "yes." Councilman Sylvester recommended that a summons be written. It was decided that Chief Blesson will go to the site tomorrow. Councilman Sylvester noted that this is everyone's problem.

Mr. Jimenez stated that he did not want to badger the neighbor, but he needs to take care of his property.

The Mayor asked if anything was cleaned on that property. Mr. Blakeslee replied "yes" and added that the junk must be building up again. The Council asked additional questions about the state of the property.

The Mayor proclaimed that the neighbor will be cited first thing on Monday.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE 2016 BUDGET**

The Mayor commented that this was a challenging year. He thanked Val Dolan, Jason Gabloff, and Mr. Blakeslee for their work on the 2016 budget. The Mayor explained that this was not an easy assignment.

### **Resolution #2016-30-TO INTRODUCE THE 2016 BUDGET**

A motion to introduce the 2016 budget was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID COST ESTIMATE**

The Mayor asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. No one stepped forward.

A Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **Resolution #2016-29 - Resolution to Approve the 2016 Cost Estimate for the Borough's Special Improvement District.**

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes      Abstain: Councilman Laureys

### **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

- 1. Ordinance 2016-2 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A CHARITABLE SOLICITATION PERMIT FOR AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE CORP OF STANHOPE/NETCONG'S "COIN**

DROP" ON JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> 2016 AND ON SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, AND SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ALLEN STREET AND LEDGEWOOD AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2016-2 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

The Mayor asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. No one stepped forward.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2016-2 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

**2. Ordinance 2016-3 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 268, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE VIII SCHEDULES, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2016-3 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

The Mayor asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. No one stepped forward.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2016-3 was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

**3. Ordinance 2016-4 - ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2016-4 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

The Mayor asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. No one stepped forward.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2016-4 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**

1. Mr. Blakeslee wanted to comment on the rental registration program. Hackettstown is continuing their program by having registration and fees paid, but with no inspections. He would like to know if our attorney could do research on this issue. He is afraid we will lose progress on this activity if we don't move forward. Bob Oostdyk asked what the fee covers. Mr. Blakeslee replied that we never said the fee was for inspection, it was to register. The Mayor added that the reason we ask for rental registration was not to do inspections it was to monitor the properties and conditions in these homes. It is important for us to know where the rentals are. Mr. Blakeslee said it helps us to get in between tenants to check for property maintenance issues. He would like to know if there is some way to do this without being in violation.

Bob Oostdyk replies that the town can still do inspections with tenant changes. Mr. Blakeslee said Netcong Heights will not participate if we continue.

Councilman Sylvester suggested we change our rates for change of occupancy. Bob Oostdyk said we need to charge what the cost is for the inspections. This should not be a money making situation.

With Netcong Heights we are more aware of tenants moving in there than before this program. Councilman Hathaway commented that if we keep doing registration we would be able to see name changes. Maybe charge less for yearly registration and up changes. There are laws that allow us to check changes of tenants. Mr. Oostdyk will do research on this legislation.

Councilman Laureys asked for an explanation on why we are holding non occupied properties to a higher standard than owner occupied. The Mayor explained this also protects the tenants who are renting. Therefore, the landlord has to provide the minimum. Councilman Laureys felt that this was discriminatory to landlords. The difference is that the legislature feels when someone owns their home they have a vested interest in that property, tenants do not have that interest.

2. Memo for animal control officer: Mr. Blakeslee had a conversation with Mt. Olive. He provided the details of that call. The cost would be significantly more than what we are paying our employee. There may be some other things we can look at over the course of the year to improve this situation.

The Mayor noted that he spoke with the Mayor of Stanhope regarding this topic. She responded that they use Hopatcong at approximately 200 dollars per call. They are also looking for other options.

Councilman Laureys asked what the savings would be. Mr. Blakeslee replied that it only covers the cost of the keeping of the animals.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance & Insurance:

E. Still

J. Sylvester

In the month of February the Borough had total income in the amount \$1,520,772.66 as compared to the previous year of \$1,280,142.38.

For the month of February, 2016:

#### Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2016 the Borough received \$879.25 vs. \$770.70 in 2015

#### Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

In 2016 the Borough received \$5,225.20 vs. \$6,918.04 in 2015

#### State Aid

In 2016 the Borough received \$0.00 vs. \$0.00 in 2015

#### Grants in Aid

In 2016 the Borough received \$2,400.00 vs. \$0.00 in 2015

*The Borough received a \$2,400 grant to conduct motor vehicle inspections.*

#### Taxes Collected

In 2016 the Borough collected \$1,512,268.21 vs. \$1,272,453.64 in 2015

*The Borough collected \$227,377.34 more in current year taxes in 2016 than in 2015 and \$20,200.70 more in delinquent taxes in 2016 than in 2015.*

Income Total Year to Date:

*In 2016 the Borough had total income, year to date of \$2,034,123.59, \$65,635.14 more than in 2015.*

Economic Development:            R. Hathaway            E. Still

Councilman Hathaway reported that the Quirk property has reached further agreement with Crown Point. They will continue environmental work so construction can begin. They are now working with planner and will now go to the Planning Board. In addition, they have been productive in their work with the DEP for a drainage solution.

There was a meeting with New Jersey Transit a month ago, they have changed their posture on their properties and will be asking for bid proposals for the sale of their properties to developers. Paul Phillips our planner is currently going over the proposal with the town's interests in mind. New Jersey Transit wants to have a selected bidder by the summer. At present Councilman Hathaway thinks this all looks like a good plan however everything is subject to change because it is transit.

Another developer expressed interested in the Pocketbook Factory property. It is on hold for now. Crown Point is moving along.

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

For February, 2015:

Ambulance Corps:

Total Calls: 57 with 5 out of town

Total Patients: 29

Total trips to the hospital: 29

Total Miles Travelled: 975

Total Hours Volunteered: 230 hours and 53 Minutes

Total Assists to the Netcong fire Department: 2

Fire Department:

In town Alarms: 2

Mutual Aid, Budd Lake: 1

RIC: 2

Squad Assist: 4

Total Calls: 9  
Drills: 7  
Meetings: 7  
Other (apparatus checks :) 1  
Total Firefighters: 53  
Total Involvements: 24  
Total Man Hours: 397.6

Police Report:

Total Calls: 393  
Motor Vehicle Summons: 135, 6 of which were overweight trucks in the town center.  
Awarded for *safe harbors*  
Training: 296 hours *note that all training was conducted free of charge*  
Municipal Court: \$11,231.27

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

**D.P.W. Monthly Report March 2016**

Road Department: Installed a new cutting edge on the backhoe ....Performed service on all DPW vehicles. ...Replaced a broken stop sign on Brookside at Wiltop Rd....

Water Department: Performed February water meter readings.... Repaired a broken meter at 50 Allen St.... Repaired a frozen meter at the Quirk building.... Repaired a broken water box at 36 Hillside Ave.... Repaired a chlorine leak at well 5\_

Sewer Department: Grey Supply was called back in to repair a 3ft piece of sewer main that was damaged while they were installing the new gas line for NJ Natural Gas....Performed visual sewer manhole inspections for sewer maintenance report ....Attended a meeting with the EPA regarding our sewer maintenance and inspection program and were found to be in total compliance

Buildings & Grounds: Picked up 25 Christmas trees ....Performed weekly generator monitoring at all Borough properties.... Demolished and removed the old salt shed to make room for the new storage building at the DPW garage...

Other: Mike, Tom, Joe and Alfie attended a Fast Track to Safety seminar in Andover. ...Tom, Joe, and Alfie attended a NJ One Call Safe Dig class at the Morris County Fire Academy....

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

Update 3/10/3016

1. On Saturday March 5th Recreation sponsored a bus trip into the city to see Something Rotten. It was one of the funniest show's we've sponsored and enjoyed by all.
2. We are planning our next trip in August which will be Beautiful (The Carole King Story). More details to follow
3. On March 19th Recreation will co-sponsor an Easter event with the PTA. Event will be at the Netcong Elementary School from 1-3.
4. Signups for our annual Town wide Garage Sale and Junk in Your Trunk will be Saturday April 9th from 9-12 at Boro Hall. We may have to change date of event due to a conflict with the Train Station (which is where Junk in the trunk will be from 8-3).

Public Services:  
(Human Services  
Recycling & Solid  
Waste Disposal

T. Laureys

P. Butler

#### Dial a Ride Report for February, 2016

Days of Service: 20  
Miles: 948  
Number of Stops: 75  
Nutrition (2 People): 14  
Food Shopping: (20 People):55  
# of Meals on Wheels: 16  
Medical appointments: 21  
Other Appointments: 41  
People using Services: 45  
Cancels: 19  
Denials: 4  
Units: 304  
Hours: 103.25  
Additional Notes: 1 new senior

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business brought up at this meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Social Affair Permit – Knights of Columbus – Lakeland Little League Benefit



A motion was made by Councilman Koster And Seconded by Councilman Still to approve this permit.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

Abstain: Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Sylvester

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

Council President – posed a question about the time frame for ordinances. The Mayor and Council responded.

Councilman Laureys – noted that the SID cost estimate expense portion was not itemized. Why is it not done as in previous years? Councilman Hathaway explained this is just an estimate not the actual budget. Councilman Hathaway noted it would be prudent for the SID not to disclose everything due to possible criticism.

Councilman Sylvester – was looking into legislation that involves PILOT programs and sharing of those funds with other entities sponsored by our districts legislators. We need to put together a letter with our objections and get supports from other towns. Councilman Hathaway made some calls and found it does not affect them at this time. This could come at a significant cost if this passes. Councilman Still said larger cities will support this. Councilman Hathaway says we should let the League know. The Mayor said our attorney does not get it. This is the tool to use to get developers to come to your town. Jason Gabloff says he will go to the finance officers and league to let them know this is happening as the Mayors in every town need to grow this as a tool to use. Everything in the state goes up 2 ½ percent yrt the towns have to stay under 2%. Councilman Still offered that a resolution can be composed by Fred Semrau and sent out. The Mayor noted that he would write our attorney.

Councilman Hathaway wished to report that the school fundraiser went very well and \$10,000 was raised. The event was very well attended. The goal is for a chrome book for every child from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up. Councilman Hathaway also wanted to report that the Lake Board completed the 319 Grant. Local legislators with the exception of Mike Carroll responded with support. Councilman Hathaway also received a really excellent letter of support from the chairman of the Environmental Commission.

Councilman Still – asked if Jason Gabloff would come up and talk about budget.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 2016- 31-** To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 15-00003 - Keith Kaskie and Christopher Ramirez, 62 Koclas Dr.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Resolution 2016- 32** – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 15-00005 – Gergatsoulis – 1 Carmine Dr.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. **Resolution 2016- 33** – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 15-00010 – Walsh – 18 Dell Ave.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

4. **Resolution 2016- 34** – To Transfer Items of Appropriation in the 2015 Current Fund Reserve Budget Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:4-58

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

5. **Resolution 2016- 35** – Consenting to a Treatment Works Approval Application to Provide Sewer Service for Property Owned by Progressive Properties, Inc. Located at Railroad Avenue, Block 8, Lot 36, in the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris and State of New Jersey

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

6. **Resolution 2016- 36** – Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Rutgers University, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension for a Bat Acoustic Survey

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

## **7. Resolution 2016- 37 – Authorizing the Self-Examination of 2016 Budget**

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1. Capital Ordinance 2016-5 – Authorizing the Making of Various Public Improvements and Acquisitions In, by and for the Borough, Appropriating Therefor the Sum of \$63,000.00 and Providing that Such Sum So Appropriated Shall Be Raised from Capital Fund Balance of the Borough.**

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2016-5 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2016-5 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Mr. Jason Gabloff provided a summary of the budget. He maintained that the town is in good financial condition.

The Mayor reported that the committee found that the town needs to control the capital budget in the future. Our reserves are slowly going down. We need to slow down on capital spending and build our reserves. We are contributing funds in savings for upcoming needs. We are small and have over eight hundred thousand in debt. Mr. Gabloff has started a plan to prepare for the needs of DPW and Police. Many towns don't think ahead. Our finance committee does which is beneficial.

The Mayor noted that the town may see an increase in our water collection fees this year. An audit will be conducted in April or May. The committee would like to check a few things before the water report is complete.

The Mayor also noted that PILOT funding would help to pay down the Infrastructure loan which was the original plan.

2. **Bond Ordinance 2016-6** - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE WATER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$240,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A FEDERAL GRANT, TO FULLY FUND AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE WATER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2016-6 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2016-6 on First Reading was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilwoman Butler.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **REPORTS**

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

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
------	-------	---	-----

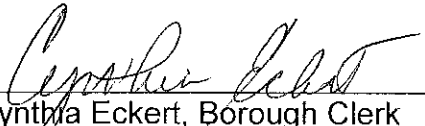
### **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session at this meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 8:41 PM and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk