

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JANUARY 12, 2017 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 6, 2017.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 11, 2017 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 6, 2017.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Agenda Meeting of December 1, 2016
- Regular Meeting of December 8, 2016
- Closed Session of November 10, 2016

A motion was made to approve the December 2016 and November 10, 2016 closed session minutes by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

There were no ordinance adoptions presented at this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. E-Mail - Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board

The Mayor stated that this will be sent to the Finance Committee

- 2. Our Lady of Assumption Society – August 12th Celebration at Arbolino Field

A Motion to allow the Assumption to have their August 12th Celebration was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 3. Bob Guerin, Borough Engineer – Recommendation Letter for Ledgewood Ave. Streetscape – Phase 2

The Mayor asked if there were any questions. There were none from the Council.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee provided highlights of his report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

In the month of December, 2016 the Borough had total income in the amount \$121, 71 1.80 as compared to the previous year of \$82,705 .30.

For the month of December, 2016:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2016 the Borough received \$1,315.00 vs. \$1,087.90 in 2015

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

In 2016 the Borough received \$6,078.50 vs. \$4,310.49 in 2015

State Aid

In December the Borough received \$19,595.30 in state aid, the same amount as in 2015.

Grants in Aid

No grant funds were received in December.

Taxes Collected

In 2016 the Borough collected \$94,783.00 vs. \$57,711.61 in 2015.

The Borough received "prepaid taxes" in the amount of \$52,061.14 in December, an approximate increase of \$40,000 over what was collected in December 2015. "Prepaid taxes" occur when a individual pays their property taxes in advance of the due date.

Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2016 is \$9,213,826.48, as opposed \$8,745,797.91 in 2015.

News- S&P Report AA rating: The Mayor was very enthused by this rating and noted that this will open the doors for investment agencies to take our debt at better rates. It is an indicator of how well the borough is being run.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway noted that there was nothing significant to report other than what is in the Administrator's report.

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

Ambulance Corps, Total Calls: 72

Out of town: 3
Patients: 55
Trips to hospital: 41
Miles 1087
Hours Volunteered: 339 hours, 17 minutes

Netcong Fire Department, Year of 2016

Total Alarms: 53
Out of town calls: Mutual Aid: 7, 2 RIC
In town squad assist: 39
Police assist: 2
Total Calls: 130
Drills: 84
Meetings: 57
Other: 9
Special Details: 19
Training: 16
Mandatory: 5
Total Fire Fighters: 55

Total Involvements: 336
Total Hours: 6693.4

Police Report
Total Calls: 276

The Mayor asked if it is unusual for our RIC team to be called to places like Mendham. Councilman Sylvester responded that the RIC team members are very limited County-wide so they depend upon Netcong to assist. Chief Schellhammer provided further explanation why the Netcong team was called to assist. He also explained that our team keeps up with the training for RIC.

The Mayor shared his concern that there may be an incident where our own men would need the RIC team and they would not be available for their own people because they were at another location. Chief Schellhammer responded. Councilman Koster stated that you are never your 'own' RIC team. Another town would be sent to assist our men. Chief Schellhammer provided the Council and explanation of how the system works.

The Mayor repeated his concerns especially regarding the funding. He added that the Council should contact the Freeholders and try to get assistance with funding for this service.

Councilman Hathaway commented that we seem to be used in other places to our own disadvantage. The Council continued to discuss this issue. Councilman Laureys asked if the Mayor would contact the County. The Mayor responded affirmatively.

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Road Department:

Continued picking up heavy leaf areas off curb linesBrought lights and message boards back to the county from the Holiday ParadeFinished town wide leaf bag pick up, 76 cy....Finished the end of the year brush run, 4 cy....Paved the hydro flush repair area on Hillside Ave....Installed a new street sign on Love Lane at Rt 46....

Water Department:

George Walters from New Tech, a leak detection company, came in to help locate 2 water leaks that had not surfaced. This led to water repairs at Bank St and RR Ave, as well as DPW found repairs on Burt St and Dell Ave....

Sewer Department:

Met with Crown Point engineers to assist with utility mark out information on Bank St.... Cleared a sewer lateral blockage at 12 Togno St....

Buildings & Grounds:

Finished installing all Borough Christmas decorationsRemoved benches from Main St. bump out areasInstalled and inspected the natural gas hook up at FH #2 annex building

Snow:

Performed road salting on Dec 5th, 6th, 11th, 12th, 17th, 24th and the 31", along with curb cut plowing on Dec 12th, and 17th

Other:

Met with JIF inspector to do building walk throughsAttended quarterly safety meeting with a representative of the Vozza Agency.... DPW employees watched the annual Storm Water Training Video....

Councilman Koster reviewed the well pump report and said we should consider having the water monitoring company come in more often to find leaks. He recommended one a year. The Mayor discussed this request and explained that the newer testing may be worth considering in order improving our water usage and waste.

Councilman Laureys stated that this may be a good cost savings. Councilman Hathaway provided an explanation of the cost savings.

Recreation: P. Butler T. Laureys

The Mayor provided an "unofficial" report. He stated that food tasting is in progress.

Public Services: T. Laureys P. Butler
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal

For December 2016:

- Days of service: 14
- Miles: 695
- Number of stops: 64
- Nutrition for 2 people: 5
- Food shopping 25 people: 55
- Number of Meals on Wheels: 13

Medical Appointments: 13
Other Appointments: 47
People Using Services: 47
Cancels: 25
Denials: 2
Units: 257
Hours: 70.5

Additional Note: One new senior

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fire Co. # 1 Bay Door Alterations

The Mayor asked for a synopsis. Mr. Blakeslee provided an overview. Mr. Phil came out and inspected the property. He suggested that we provide him with the dimensions of the truck and he will be able to zero in on the cost based on that. Mr. Phil did provide a quote and expressed concern about this job. Councilman Laureys says it is quite obvious we need to buy a truck that will fit in the building.

The Mayor says we just had an excellent rating with the S&P. This should allow us to be able to offer bonds. He realized a lot of firemen were not happy with him for not allowing a truck. He said we are now doing a lot of infrastructure work on our water system. The Borough may have extra money after these projects which may allow us to get a truck. If we had purchased a truck at that time we would not have the rating that we have. It makes us more desirable now to move forward with purchasing a truck. Councilman Still noted that the Borough should have \$125,000 at the end of this year in reserve for a fire truck. He felt we are ready to go as it should take a year to build this truck. He added that financially, this is the best time to do this. Councilman Hathaway reminded the Council that more money should be coming in with the development coming up. The Mayor made two requests: 1.) It is not a truck exclusive to one company but it is a town truck used by both companies. Councilman Koster explained the particulars of this truck. Discussion continued regarding this subject. Councilman Sylvester explained that they used to cross train on trucks and that these trucks are very sensitive pieces of equipment. The Mayor's second request was that anyone can drive the vehicle.

A Motion to take no further action on this report was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to allow the Fire Department to move forward with specifications for a new Fire Truck was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

NEW BUSINESS

1. Social Affair Permit – Growing Stage Theatre for Young Audiences – Netcong Restaurant Showcase

A motion to grant the permit was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

2. Fire Co. #2 Food Truck Fund Raiser - Motion to approve letter for NJDOT.

A motion was made to approve the letter giving permission for Fire Co. # 2 to conduct a Food Truck Fundraiser at the Train Station by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

It was noted that Mr. Blakeslee will write a letter.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council members had nothing to report at this time.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor spoke about a letter he received from the county looking for someone to be on the Open Space Committee. He asked if anyone is interested.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2017- 21** – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 16-00003- Vincia C. Williams

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Resolution 2017- 22-** Authorizing the Payment of Annual Stipends to Certain Borough Employees

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 3. Resolution 2017- 23-** Authorizing the Award of a Contract to V & K Construction, Inc. for the Repairs to the Borough's Water Storage Reservoir Located in the Township of Roxbury

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 4. Resolution 2017- 24-** Authorizing the Award of a Contract to J.C. Contracting, Inc. for the Ledgewood Ave. Streetscape Improvements Phase 2, Including Alternate A (Pedestrian Crosswalk), in the Borough of Netcong

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

- 1. Ordinance 2017-1** – 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 Ave. and Main Street and Route 46 and Route 183 N. in the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2017-1 and Read by Title only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Motion to Pass Ordinance #2017-1 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Koster 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 Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes


CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:23 PM to adjourn the meeting.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk