

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD FEBRUARY 16, 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.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

It was noted that the original meeting was to be held on February 9, 2017. Due to inclement weather the meeting was postponed until February 16, 2017.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented at this meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

No one from the audience stepped forward.

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID COST ESTIMATE

Mr. Steve Fredericks, president of the NCP came forward to read a report on the NCP accomplishments for 2016. He also spoke about tasks for 2017. He spoke about some of the new trustees for the board for 2017. The report included the following:

2016 Netcong Community Partnership Accomplishments

- *We published our first marketing study, The Netcong Business Climate and Market Report, sharing the statistics impacting our local economy, driving forces that shape both today and potentially tomorrow, and it identified steps we can take moving the business district of Netcong forward. This report included results from a survey of business owners about priorities to improve the business climate.*
- *We published and printed two informational postcards – one welcoming business into Netcong and the other promoting the businesses here in our community.*
- *We expanded our funding of Netcong Day, underwriting a portion of the entertainment as well as the KIDZ Zone as we have in the past.*
- *We worked with the Netcong PTA and the Netcong Recreation Committee to expand the Costume Parade to include a Pumpkin Illumination Project and Parade that not only positively impacted the community, but also our local school. Funding secured by the NCP.*
- *We secured partial funding for a new Netcong Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Element as part of the Get Active NJ grant from the New Jersey Prevention Network. It benefits our local community and helps drive our initiative to create more downtown foot-traffic into our business district. The Borough is matching the grant to create the final report.*
- *We purchased and planted two trees for Maple Avenue in an effort to improve the streetscape. One tree is installed on Maple Ave. The second tree is on hold until site contamination is addressed.*
- *We invested \$8,000 in new holiday decorations that were desperately needed.*
- *We secured funding to enhance the Annual Holiday Parade that we will do in conjunction with the Netcong Recreation Commission.*
- *We invested in our Website creating a social media avenue for our local business community that never existed before. We especially*

thank Marty Pisano for this effort.

- We arranged for and met with the property owner of the Main Street bank property and representatives of the Morris Arts organization to promote the concept of an alternative use for that property. Those talks are continuing and will include a representative of the Morris County Economic Development Corporation.*
- Finally, we purchased fifty (50) water efficient planters to be distributed throughout our business district for the amount of \$14,389. This is an investment that will not only continue to improve the streetscape, but will provide a significant savings to the Borough.*

Looking ahead to 2017:

- We are working with the Netcong Recreation Commission on the Netcong Restaurant Showcase on February 4 that will feature many of our town's restaurants.*
- We will present and discuss new entryway designs at our February meeting to help drive traffic to our Main Street business district.*

The Mayor stated that the differences between the NCP three years ago and today are like night and day. The meetings are run very professionally and are very productive now. The new trustee board gets things done. He is very pleased. The Mayor noted that now the business owners want to be a part of the NCP. The Mayor repeated that the NCP is doing a great job!

Councilman Laureys quoted parts of the budget and asked how the NCP can justify asking for more money when some business members are not happy with the NCP.

Mr. Fredericks replied that this increase is for the self - watering pots that will actually save the tax payers money because the DPW will not have to manually water the plants. He also stated that the topic of 'businesses not happy with the NCP' is from past performance. When business members were asked to be involved with the NCP they were honored to be asked. He offered that caution should be used regarding the statement that businesses are not interested.

Councilman Laurey's continued to ask about the additional two thousand dollars. The Mayor explained Netcong is a crossroad with major highways. We need to make our town visually appealing to residents and non- residents as well. If you go to any town that is thriving they have beautification programs to make their town an attraction.

Mr. Fredericks added that the business district needs to be attractive because this benefits the businesses and the community. A vibrant business district is important for residents and businesses as well.

Councilman Laurey's hoped that budget increases will not be an annual request. The Mayor replied that this depends upon the legitimate needs for next year.

Councilman Laurey's asked if they will be asking for this \$ 7000.00 every year. Mr. Fredericks said he cannot answer that question. Councilman Hathaway pointed out that grant funding from the NCP along with the contributions from Netcong day exceeded these funds.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Resolution #2017-31- Resolution to Approve the 2017 Cost Estimate for the Borough's Special Improvement District.

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

- 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 AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 AND ROUTE 183 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2017-1 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

The Mayor noted no audience in the room.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2017-1 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Still.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Netcong Police Department Letter – Re: Narcan Save

Councilman Sylvester read the letter for the Council.

2. Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board Letter – 2017 Budget
3. Township of Mt. Olive Letter– Water Connection

Mr. Bob Guerin requested to meet with streets and roads before this is brought to the full council. Councilman Hathaway provided background information.

4. Chris Colabella, Esq. Letter - Elena Ciasulli – 25 & 25A Flanders Rd. – Paving of Property

The Mayor explained that this is the property by the recycling center. The owner paved over the borough driveway while paving her driveway and would like to leave it there. The Mayor continued to say that the planning board is not in favor of leaving the pavement there. Councilman Laureys asked if this person is now asking for permission to leave the pavement after she did it without permission

Councilman Hathaway explained that this would require an easement and he feels we have several developers who may also be asking for easements. Therefore, he did not feel it was prudent to grant an easement to the owner of this property at this time. Councilman Hathaway recommended and an impervious coverage variance be granted instead. The Council members went into discussion. Councilman Still stated that we should not do this right now. There was a 'handshake deal' a while back which is still unresolved. The Council determined they should not grant the easement or allow them to leave the pavement.

A Motion made to deny request for easement and remove the pavement was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

5. Musconetcong Post 278 Letter – Permission to Conduct Memorial Day Parade

The Mayor commented that he has asked multiple times for them to stop at our monument salute and move on and they have not done that.

A motion to approve the parade was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

There were no questions for the Administrator. The Mayor noted that Mr. Blakeslee was with his wife because of a medical situation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

In the month of January of 2017 the Borough had total income in the amount \$624,241.75 as compared to the previous year of \$513,350.93.

For the month of January 2017:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2017 the Borough received \$1,528.61 vs. \$1,317.60 in 2016

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

In 2017 the Borough received \$27,699.66 vs. \$22,614.20 in 2016.

The Borough's cable franchise fee, which is paid every year at this time, was slightly less than 2016 fee (\$15,806 in 2016 vs. \$15,200 in 2017)

State Aid

No state aid was received in January of 2017 (or 2016 for that matter).

Grants in Aid

The Borough received \$1,900 in January from the State of New Jersey in motor vehicle inspections

Taxes Collected

In 2017 the Borough collected \$593,113.48 vs. \$489,419.13 in 2016

The Borough received \$19,673 in lien redemptions in January

Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2017 was \$624,241.75 opposed \$513,350.93 in 2016.

Councilman Still noted that there will be a few more meetings with the budget committee and then it will be presented to the Council.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway noted there was not much change since last report. There was a meeting with Crown Point on the Quirk property. Meeting with all parties will take place soon. The upstream drainage problem should be included. He added that we can expect RFV in 30 days for Transit Village.

Councilman Sylvester asked has sewer allotment been checked for all projects: Pocketbook Factory, Quirk Property, and Transit Village.

Councilman Hathaway responded that there has always been plenty of sewer allotments, water was a possible issue. The interconnect must be addressed. There will be a pre application meeting (meeting #2) with the DEP.

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

Totals for Ambulance Corp. for 2016:

Total Calls: 734
Out of town calls: 31
Trips to the hospital: 383
Total patients: 486
Miles Traveled: 10644
Hours Volunteered: 3718 hours 26 minutes
Assists: 8 to the Netcong Fire Dept.

January 2017 activity for the Netcong Fire Department:

Alarms: 5
Police Assist: 1
Total Calls: 6
Drills: 7
Meetings: 6
Other: 3
Special Details: 1
Training: 2
Total Fire Fighters: 53
Total involvements: 25
Total Man Hours: 733.5

Police Report for January 2017:

330 total calls
109 motor vehicle summonses
14 local summonses
A 1,300 dollar grant was awarded

Morgan's Funeral Home Letter – Councilman Sylvester read a thank you letter for the Police assistance with the funeral for Dominick Cecere as well as all the police do for our town.

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

D.P.W. Monthly Report February 2017

Road Department: picked up and chipped 180 Christmas trees...Performed annual inspection on the vehicle lift at the DPW garage...Patched pot holes at the Recycle Center and Love Lane...Fixed a downed pedestrian sign on Ledgewood Ave....

Water Department: Performed various mark out requests for Netcong Utilities....Continued marking water main through the woods from wells 1 & 2 to Upper Church St....Repaired a broken water box at 2 Tognno St... Fixed a broken hydrant at the corner of Upper Flanders Road and Rt 46...

Buildings & Grounds: Repaired leaks in Borough Hall bathrooms including installing a new sink...Backfilled around the new monument at #2 F.H.... Installed a new automatic urinal flusher at Borough Hall men's room....Took down all Christmas decorations and put in to storage....

Parks & Recreation: Set the posts for the new tennis wall to be installed at Arbolino Park...

Snow: Performed salt runs on January 6th, 7th, 11th, 14th, 23rd, and 24th

Other: Due to low reservoir levels, we had to raise the amount of hours our pumps ran through the month of January. There were no signs of a leak anywhere so we called in our leak detection specialist. He located a leak on a six inch main on McMullen St near the curb of the Family Ford parking lot. The main was covered by two very large rocks therefore the leak never surfaced. We scheduled the job the next day and repairs were made.

Avg. combined daily pumping hrs during the leak: 41 Avg. combined daily pumping hrs after the repair: 32 Savings of approximately 70,000 gallons a day

Other: The soil contamination found on Maple Ave has been turned over to a Licensed Site Remediation Professional and we are awaiting information of their findings

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

Councilman Still commented that the Taste of Netcong was very successful and raised \$2000.00 for the Growing Stage. The Mayor took pictures of each restaurant and gave them to the restaurant owners. The tickets for Bronx Tale are sold out.

Public Services:
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal

T. Laureys

P. Butler

For the Month of January

Days of Service:20
Miles: 907
Number of Stops: 67
Nutrition for 2 People: 13
Food shopping for 25 people: 66
Number of Meals on Wheels: 13
Medical Appointments: 10
Other Appointments: 38
People Using Services: 47
Cancels: 35
Denials: 2
Units: 308
Hours: 100.5

Mayor noted the email with recycle tonnage of 600 Tons. He noted the different materials that were recycled.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business presented at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Social Affair Permit – Hill Top Fire Co. #2 – Food Truck Festival

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

2. Social Affair Permit – Knights of Columbus – St. Patrick's Day Dinner

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

3. 2017 Goose Control

The Mayor asked for this to be put on the agenda. Councilman Still requested that we should do this for one more year.

Councilman Hathaway said the geese no longer stay for the winter. However, they will still be reproducing again and the amount will grow. He thinks we should leave it in the budget so the money is there if it is necessary. Councilman Still offered that this is still in the budget.

The Mayor suggested we need to contact the adjacent towns to see if they will contribute to paying for goose removal. Councilman Hathaway suggested we try to get some residents who are in the Lake Community Board to allow the USDA to go onto their property to collect the geese. Mr. Blakeslee will write a letter to these residents about this. The Mayor is willing to hand deliver these letters. Councilman Still says there are some people who are not happy with the geese being removed.

4. Denville Township – Letter of Opposition – Draft Rule- Ordinary Maintenance and Minor Work

Councilman Hathaway explained UCC rules now suggest one needs a permit for everything even small things such as changing an outlet. Councilman Still felt this law is just another law we don't need. Councilman Koster offered that some minor work done by the homeowner would be fine. However, he doesn't want a contractor coming in and doing work without a permit.

Councilman Hathaway said the codes were set up to cover the insurance companies not the resident. Mr. Oostdyk agreed with Councilman Hathaway. Councilman Laureys felt the owner should have some freedom to work on their own house. There is further discussion. Councilman Hathaway said this is really about changing the minor work code. He felt this should be revisited to make some changes.

Councilman Hathaway motioned "no" to letter of opposition. Councilman Koster seconded the motion.

Roll Call 5 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

- Councilman Hathaway – Announced the NEF Dinner on March 4th. He would like to use Borough Hall for Tricky Tray items. The Mayor and Council agree.
- Councilman Still – the guys did a great job with snow and ice removal. The Mayor said it was better to bring in the contractor early.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor read an article from the front page of the Daily Record. An offender was released after 6 burglary charges. He added that this is due to the bail reform.

Councilman Still said this was voted in by liberals who may or may not have realized what they were voting for. The County jails will be empty.

The Mayor was amazed at this. Councilman Sylvester said they let a level 3 Megan law offender

Sgt Anthony Coppolella related several incidences. One was a simple shop lifting arrest. It took two police officers 13 hours to process this arrest. The guidelines are very difficult. Domestic Violence arrests are much more difficult. He continued to explain the details regarding various scenarios. He also explained that this shortens the timeframe for processing. This does not provide enough time to collect the evidence.

Councilman Laureys said we need to let our legislators or Attorney General know that this is not working. The Mayor replied that towns are already doing resolutions to oppose this. Netcong will be joining them.

RESOLUTIONS

VOTED IN BLOCK

1. **Resolution 2017- 32-** To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 16-00008
2. **Resolution 2017- 33-** To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 14-00006
3. **Resolution 2017-34** – Rescinding Tax and Water/Sewer Cash Boxes and Establishing a Cash Change Box
4. **Resolution 2017-35** – Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle

A motion to approve the four resolutions noted above was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

- 1. Ordinance 2017-2 - 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 9TH, JUNE 10TH 2017 AND ON SEPTEMBER 8TH, AND SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2017 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 Introduce Ordinance #2017-2 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2017-2 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

REPORTS

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

There was no Closed Session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:55PM.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted:


Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.