

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JUNE 8, 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 Sylvester, and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

**PRESENTATION BY MORRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Cathy Burd, Asst. County Administrator, and Susan Calentone, County Library Director came forward to discuss the library issues with the MAIN. They would like to try a pilot program; the library would come to the Borough once per week to assist residents with the county services for three months. They would supply IT equipment and phones for this. The towns with no libraries can use the County Library or the County College of Morris Library. The issue with this is the residents getting to these locations. They felt a pilot program from 1:00-6:00 pm once per week would assist residents in obtaining books. They would bring the books wanted by Netcong residents and issue library cards during this time. Councilman Sylvester asked if they would be able to do research or use periodicals. Ms. Burd said there would be a PC there for checking in and library cards. The Mayor asked if the resident has a young family can they still provide the children's programming. Ms. Calentone said that differs for each library. The Mayor said he wants them to understand something has been broken somewhere. He explained how Netcong would be picking up the whole lift for Mt. Olive (\$25,000.00) He is not happy with the MAIN. Ms. Burd explained about

how the MAIN came about and the county no longer has control over the MAIN at this time. She noted that the Freeholders are not happy with this situation. She explained why they went to MAIN. Morris County pays MAIN \$220,000.00 per year from \$150,000.00. Mr. Bucco asked if the County has the ability to take over this service. Ms. Calentone said it would be too expensive. Ms. Burd provided information to support her comment. They both continued to explain they performed studies to see if it was feasible to take it back. The Mayor related why he was not happy with his meeting with the MAIN. Ms. Burd and Ms. Calentone offered that they are willing to go speak about this to any interested groups (seniors etc.) The Mayor thanked them for their time.

## **MORRIS COUNTY FREEHOLDER PRESENTATION – OVERVIEW OF 2017 COUNTY BUDGET**

Freeholder Smith and Cathy Burd presented the county budget. She also provided more details about the library pilot.

Councilman Hathaway said it seems incredibly improper to withhold the fair usage of a library by MAIN. He felt the Freeholders should not be allowing this. Ms. Smith understands and agrees with him. She stated she is trying to accommodate Netcong residents. Councilman Hathaway felt this is just remediation, not a solution. He said it is not right to say we need to pay as much as Mt. Olive to use Mt. Olives books which are our books as well. He stated that he is not happy with this. Ms. Burd said Mt. Olive is paying for Morris County and Mt. Olive. Mr. Bucco said he feels the Freeholders need to stand up to the MAIN and tell them the County will take back the Main. Freeholder Smith said this is still an ongoing situation they will continue to work on. The Mayor said the MAIN salaries have increased by 30%.

Ms. Smith explained how she will be reviewing the budget. She provided the goals of the budget. She said they have made a great effort to continue on their AAA rating. She continued to explain the reasons for their budget. They have been working on their mission statement and vision. She read their mission statement. She explained the budget increases for this year. She noted the increase in health benefits. She spoke about some issues and particulars about the costs of Morris View Nursing Home. She explained about the county wide EMS Services Program which is there to cover the towns that do not have daytime ambulance coverage. The Mayor asked where these units are located. Residents will only be charged what insurance covers. This was done very carefully so as not to offend volunteers. The Mayor stated this is becoming a common issue due to working families. Ms. Smith continued through her program. She said she is very happy with the new Sheriff and his programs. Councilman Sylvester said he thought the 911 Emergency would be free. Ms. Smith will come back to this issue later. She explained until she was a Freeholder she never knew we were responsible for our bridges. She goes on to explain the capital expenses. She explained their strategic planning. She then

explained the watch list on things they do not have all the answers to. She reviewed this list for the Council and attendees.

The Mayor commented, and he has brought this up to every freeholder; some of them were commenting how they had frozen taxes for many years. The Mayor felt that this is a disservice to the residents because the budget is held at 0. This will eventually affect the services or surplus at some point. He went on to explain his reasons for this and used examples of the Netcong budget. He requested that Ms. Smith take this message back to the other Freeholders. Ms. Smith replied that this needs to be done responsibly, that is fine, but you do need to look ahead when budgeting and planning. The Mayor said he will agree to disagree. He used the state pension as an example.

Councilman Sylvester asked about the communication center, we are now around \$80,000.00 per year. They were told years ago this would become a free service for the towns. He wants to know why we are being charged for this service. Ms. Smith explained how previous Freeholders had made promises years ago and most of them are no longer Freeholders. Ms. Smith explained this is not wholly in the tax base as it was initially. The Mayor set an example of a situation where a municipality that doesn't pay for the service may end up using it in certain situations. She did admit everyone does use it to some extent. Councilman Sylvester questioned how the charges are done. He questioned why we are being charged per radio. As a small town we have fewer calls then the larger towns but are charged for radios not calls. Councilman Laureys asked why we are not being charged by calls. Ms. Smith explained this was set up by previous Freeholders and this is not a dead issue. It will still be discussed by the current Freeholders. She mentioned there are many shared services that the county provides. They are now looking into items that are not being shared.

Councilman Hathaway agreed with Councilman Sylvester in that we are paying more than we should. There was further discussion on the emergency dispatch issues.

Councilman Hathaway continued by explaining that we have a disproportionate sharing of service because Netcong goes to help other towns but we still have to pay more. He feels the little guys are not being treated fairly. It is not a fair share situation. The comp center we pay for contacts Netcong for their RIC services. Netcong is being penalized for our specialized services.

The Mayor described Netcong Day to Freeholder Smith and Mr. Blakeslee invited her to attend. Ms. Smith offered that everyone is welcome to contact her on her cellphone.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

Councilman Sylvester explained the committee has spent much time to come up with specs for the new truck.

Rob Schellhammer, current Fire Chief – Plane St. Stanhope –stepped up to the microphone and commented that this has taken a bit of time because they have done their due diligence to make sure this is beneficial for the residents.

Pete Schroeder, previous Fire Chief stepped forward to present the specs for the truck and how they came to the results. He provided the process they used for making their decision and provided the specifications of the vehicle. He also explained this truck will be built to fit in the existing firehouse. To keep costs down, they have decided to use the smaller of the two engines available. They asked another town that has the same truck what their experience with it has been. They were very pleased with it. This truck will carry a black box, a first for our town. This truck contains everything needed to fight a fire. They are already looking into setting up training for this truck. It is a three day course. The Mayor said he wanted to make sure everyone knows both Co. #1 and Co. #2 will be trained to use this truck. Councilman Koster said the company building this truck is family owned and run. They are located in Ohio and Pennsylvania. The Mayor thanked Pete and the committee for all of their efforts.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No Minutes were presented at this meeting.

### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mike O'Bremski from JCP&L came to this meeting to present a check from JCP&L to be a sponsor for Netcong Day. He will be coming to the event.

Bernadette Dalesandro – 32 Barone St. – wanted to report that since the BOE started the liaison program coming to the council meetings – it is starting to pay off. With the Library Pilot Program the school may consider providing a space for the County to use their services. She felt this pilot program is something the Borough should embrace. The Mayor wants to know if the public coming in and out of the school would be a problem. Ms. Dalesandro said this would probably be better after hours or the annex could be used to house this program. She said she sees much potential for the collaboration between the borough and school. She said we will have to work around the security issues during the day. She will take this back to the board for discussion. She was equally impressed to learn they could use the County College of Morris library. Councilman Laureys isn't sure about the security in the school, but the annex would be a good option. Ms. Dalesandro said the main building will not have children for the summer so it could be used for the 3 month pilot. The Mayor suggested that he and Mr. Blakeslee meet with Dr. Cinotti to explore the options.

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

## **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

- 1. Ordinance 2017-6** – To Amend Chapter 54, Police Department, Article IV, Fees, Section 54-16, Fees, Paragraph F, Contracted Police Services, Subparagraph (3) of the Code of the Borough of Netcong, Morris County, New Jersey

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2017-6 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public. No one stepped forward.

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2017-6 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 4 yes

- 2. Bond Ordinance 2017-7** – BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF THE RAILROAD AVENUE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT (PHASE II) 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 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 Read Bond Ordinance 2017-7 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public. No one stepped forward.

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Bond Ordinance #2017-7 was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 4

**CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was presented at this meeting.

**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Blakeslee reported about a conference call with SAKS metering company to get an update on the meter installations. Everything is going smoothly.

Councilman Sylvester inquired about Mr. Maisano's possible development on Ledgewood Ave.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance & Insurance:                    E. Still                    J. Sylvester

In the month of May of 2017 the Borough had total income in the amount \$1,405,024.44 as compared to the previous year of \$1,411, 174.31.

For the month of May 2017:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2017 the Borough received \$875.00 vs. \$801.90 in 2016

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

In 2017 the Borough received \$18,163.85 vs. \$17,048.91 in 2016.

State Aid

No state aid was received in May of 2017.

Grants in Aid

The Borough received \$1,324.70 from Highway Safety/Safe Corridor Program in May.

Taxes Collected

In May of 2017 the Borough collected \$1,384,660.89 vs. \$1,385,783.04 in 2016

Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2017 was \$4,147,649.40 opposed \$4,095,907.31 in 2016.

Economic Development:            R. Hathaway            E. Still



**Buildings & Grounds:** Installed the water tank in truck 572 for flower maintenance.... Installed flowers and soil and put out 47 new self-watering flower planters donated by the NCP ....Cleaned the Welcome to Netcong flower beds and planted new flowers....Advanced Mechanical was in to perform annual service on all Borough air conditioning units ....Hung the Welcome to Netcong banners ....Mobility Inc. was in to perform an annual service on the elevator at FH 1. . . . Spread QP in the washed out areas of Indian Field ....Hung American Flags on Main St and Maple Ave....

**Parks & Recreation:** Started grass cutting at all Borough Parks and properties....

**Other:** Sr. Van had to have a new muffler installed at Dover Clutch and Brake.... Based on an excellent safety rating from our JIF, the Borough qualified for a \$900 gift certificate from Grainger which allowed us to purchase a new Dewalt 5 piece cordless tool kit, a new grinder as well as safety glasses, gloves and vests....A special thanks to Joanne Hartland who played an integral role in keeping track of the data that helped us qualify for a \$900 gift certificate....

Recreation: P. Butler T. Laureys

1. Tai Chi class has finally been able to meet outside at DiRenzo Park. Our attendance averages 12 participants each week but expect that number to grow now that the warmer weather is approaching. The Mayor and Instructor plan to meet with the Senior Citizens in the near future, hoping to promote the importance of exercise. Hopefully we can get them to the Tai Chi class.
2. Our concerts begin Friday June 23rd and will run every Friday night through the end of August. The first concert will include our Kids Color In The Park Contest beginning at 7pm. Entertainment by Jo Jo.
3. We are working on a Fishing Trip to Pt. Pleasant - date to be determined. Email blast will be going out soon.
4. Broadway Show to School of Rock - Saturday July 29th. Only 10 seats left!!

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



## Waste Disposal

Councilman Laureys reported the following for the month of May :

Days of service: 21  
Miles: 915  
Number of stops: 90  
Nutrition for 2 people: 14  
Food shopping 19 people: 59  
Number of Meals on Wheels: 8  
Medical Appointments: 17  
Other Appointments: 52  
People Using Services: 43  
Cancels: 21  
Denials: 5  
Units: 356  
Hours: 100.25

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### 1. Railroad Ave. – Drainage Issue

Mr. Blakeslee provided follow up on the issue that Ms. Amico had brought up several weeks ago. Mr. Blakeslee contacted Netcong Heights and they would prefer to not participate in a dye test for this issue. He said we will do a few tests without going on the private property to see if any conclusions can be made. Mr. Blakeslee will notify Ms. Amico this week.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 1. MSA Dump Truck

The Mayor explained we need to try to obtain the dump truck from the MSA. Councilman Sylvester explained why this issue is taking so long

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

There was brief discussion about the steps to take to finance and process the purchase of the fire truck. Mr. Blakeslee explained what he will do to start the process. Councilman Koster asked if a vote is necessary to start the process. Mr. Blakeslee did not think this was needed. The Council and Mr. Bucco discussed this at length. There will be savings in time going through the consortium. There may need to be a special meeting to accomplish this.

Councilman Hathaway offered that on August 19<sup>th</sup> – there will be a duck race at the lake. The Raffle license has been applied for in Stanhope.

This Sunday there will be a Youth Fishing Contest at the Stanhope Park.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

The Mayor asked a boy scout in the audience to come forward. Ian McConnell attends Netcong middle school and is graduating next week. Mr. Bucco asked how many merit badges he has. Councilman Laureys asked if a requirement for a badge is attending a public meeting. He explained what he has to do to earn his badge. The Mayor thanks him for attending the meeting.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**1. Resolution 2017- 68 – Granting Renewal of Liquor Licenses 2017-2018**

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

Roll Call: 3 Yes (incl. the Mayor) Abstain: Councilmen Sylvester and Hathaway

**2. Resolution 2017- 69 – Granting Renewal of Liquor License No. 1428-33-009-005 for Annette McMahon and Directing the Borough Clerk to Issue Same**

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

Roll Call: 3 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

**3. Resolution 2017- 70 –Granting Renewal of Liquor License No. 1428-44-008-003 for Quick Chek Food Stores and Directing the Borough Clerk to Issue Same**

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

Roll Call: 3 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

**4. Resolution 2017- 71 –Dedication by Rider for Police Off Duty Trust Fund**

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

**5. Resolution 2017- 72 – Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation N.J.S.A 40A:4-87**

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

6. **Resolution 2017- 73** –Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 for the Ledgewood Ave. Streetscape, Phase II Contract with JC Contracting, Inc.

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

7. **Resolution 2017- 74** –Authorizing the Award of a Contract to John Garcia Construction, Inc. for the Railroad Ave. Water Main Improvements – Phase II Project in the Borough of Netcong

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

No ordinances were introduced at this meeting.

### **REPORTS**

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

### **BILLS**

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

### **CLOSED SESSION**

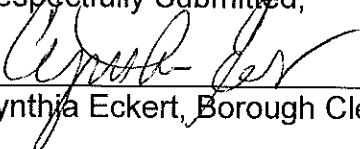
There was no closed session during this meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway at 9:28PM and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk