

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JULY 13, 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 Still, Councilman Sylvester, and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no minutes presented at this meeting.

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

- Ms. Bernadette Dalesandro, Board of Education President: On behalf of Netcong BOE Ms. Dalesandro thanked the Mayor and Council for agreeing to help remove the old playground and continuing the shared service agreement.
- Ms. Jennifer Santana – Hillside Ave. – wished to discuss the last Board of Education meeting. She explained that she sits on the BOE and has to make many difficult decisions. She continued to say that the Board members are all volunteers who put in many long hours and are often criticized for their decisions. She is concerned because of the comments by some of the Council members during their board meeting. She was upset that this would come from a Council member. She feels these actions are unacceptable. She said we all need to work together to make our town great.

- Ms. Karen Amico –52 Railroad Ave. – She noticed the property at 72 Railroad Ave is for sale. She asked how this will affect her road and the improvements. She is concerned about the catch basin that was supposed to be put in with that project. She noted that currently there are no drains by her house. She knows Netcong Heights did not agree to do a dye test. She asked what the town will be doing to add additional drainage.

The Mayor explained the process for a builder who purchases that property and how they need to come to the town to explain how they will develop the property. He reasoned that the projects the town has started have nothing to do with the development of the Progressive Properties parcel. Councilman Hathaway mentions the developer will have to provide plans for improvements and a master plan. Progressive Properties has an approved plan which would have to be followed by the new owners. Mr. Bucco stated that this is not an uncommon practice for a developer to get approved plans and then sell the property to a different redeveloper. He explains how important it is to have a developer's agreement. He continues to explain the process involved. Councilman Hathaway explains at the last meeting the particulars of this developer's agreement were discussed. Mrs. Amico asked if the new developer has to follow these plans. With the work being done with the Phase 2 project she wants to know if there will be additional drains in this plan. Mr. Blakeslee will set up an appointment with her so she can view the plans. She also requested an update on the Phase 2 project on Railroad Ave. Mr. Blakeslee provided particulars on this subject. Ms. Amico thanked the Council for their time.

A motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.  
Roll Call: 4 Yes

### **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

There were no ordinance adoptions presented at this meeting

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Resignation Letter – Pat Butler

Councilman Still accepted the resignation letter we regret. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

Mr. Bucco explained the process for moving forward. The Council will need to approve a new member at the Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting,

## **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

The following was highlighted:

- MSA Truck would be a good addition to our fleet. Councilman Sylvester explains the particulars on this.
- Mr. Blakeslee noted that the paperwork for the trust fund loan is complete and the Borough is waiting for the payout.
- Mr. Blakeslee is working on the USDA grant for the front doors.
- The shred event was very successful and we may be doing another one in the fall. That was payed for with Clean Communities funds.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance & Insurance:                      E. Still                      J. Sylvester

In the month of June of 2017 the Borough had total income in the amount \$112,223.18 as compared to the previous year of \$70,389.91.

### **For the month of June 2017:**

#### Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2017 the Borough received \$2,078.60 in MRNA funds, versus \$1,920.08

#### Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

In 2017 the Borough received \$9,392.72 vs. in 2016 \$10,091.59.

#### State Aid

No state aid was received in May of 2017.

#### Grants in Aid

In July of 2017 the Borough received \$14,057.59 in grant funding. In July of 2016 the Borough received \$2,247.70.

*In June the Borough received \$5,500 in Click It or Ticket grant funds and \$6,406.08 in Clean Communities grant funds.*

#### Taxes Collected

In June of 2017 the Borough collected \$86,694.27 vs. \$56,130.54 in 2016.

*The collection rate for Current Years Taxes is up for the month of June.*

Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2017 was \$4,259,872.58 opposed \$4,166,297.22 in 2016.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway reported the following:

- Met with Crown Point they are in the process of making their Planning Board application, 90% of DEP concerns are resolved and expecting a fall groundbreaking.
- The purchaser of the Pocketbook Factory is looking to change some of the plans for this project and may return to the Planning Board. He believes this is now on a "faster track."
- Met with Mr. Maisano. He is looking for an understanding of what the Borough is interested in developing along Ledgewood Ave.
- Outreach from Woodmont who owns two of the Transit Village lots suggested the possibly of selling those properties.

Mr. Blakeslee mentioned Shop Rite called today about demolishing the first house on Down St.

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

**Ambulance Corps**

Total Calls: 60, 5 were out of town  
Total Patients: 54  
Trips to the Hospital: 46  
Total Miles: 1282  
Total hours Volunteered: 285 hrs. 29 mins.

**Fire Department**

Total Fire Calls: 6  
Drills: 5  
Meetings: 6  
Training: 1  
Total fire fighters: 55  
Total Involvements: 18  
Total Man Hours: 327.4

**Police Department:**

Total Calls: 378

Motor Vehicle Summons: 98  
Local Summons: 7

Councilman Sylvester also discussed signs that the Police Chief is interested in purchasing. There will be no cost to the Borough.

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

**D.P. W. Monthly Report July 2017**

Road Department: Installed new pump on watering truck for Borough flowers .... Replaced yield sign with a stop sign at the corner of Flanders Rd and Bank St. ... Installed No Outlet and No Trucks signage on Upper Flanders Rd.... Installed two No Parking signs on Ledgewood Ave near Maple Ave.... Picked up 52 cubic yards of grass.... Picked up 132 cubic yards of brush.... Picked up 8 cy of chipped brush.... Patched pot holes throughout town...

Water Department: Reservoir upgrade project began in early June and is currently nearing completion, full report to be presented upon completion of project. ... Repair a water box at 18 Allen Terrace and 10 Togno St...Assisted Crowne Point with the coordination of test pits on Bank St.... Water leak at Verizon on Mains St on the business owner side.... Water leak repaired by DPW on RR Ave at Union St.. ...

Buildings & Grounds: Clean park bathrooms daily and prepare for weekly concerts ... .Installed No Alcohol signs at DiRenzo Park.... Annual fire sprinkler inspection performed at Borough Hall.... R&J Control was in for quarterly servicing of generators.... Trimmed back fire lanes at the Park and Ride and Lake St.... Called Peterson Tree service in to remove a dead tree on Main St near Jenny Lind that was in the Borough right of way....

Recycling: Held a successful shred event at the recycle center that received positive feedback and will plan to schedule similar events in the future....  
Other: DPW still performs weekly watering of flowers at the Welcome to Netcong Signs but has not yet had to refill the reservoirs on the new flower pots, saving anywhere between 6 and 9 hrs. of manpower per week .... Sold the old flower pots on Gov Deals for \$185.00....

Recreation:                                      P. Butler                                      T. Laureys

The Mayor read this report.

1. Concerts are off to a great start. We enjoyed two bands on the 4th of July, with hot dogs and cake in between shows.

2. We still have 5 more tickets for anyone wishing to attend School of Rock on July 29th. Bus leaves train station at 10:30. \$85 per person. Reach out to Sharon for more information.
3. On July 28th we will host our annual Christmas Cookies in July contest. The audience will be the judge and a prize will be awarded for first place.
4. Don't forget our Tai Chi classes, running every Saturday morning at 10am at Drenzo Park. This is a great relaxation exercise hour.
5. This month we will be sending out our "Save the Dates" for our annual Holiday Parade.

Public Services:  
 (Human Services  
 Recycling & Solid  
 Waste Disposal

T. Laureys

P. Butler

The Mayor read this report.

Dial A Ride Monthly Report for June 2017

Days of Service: 22

Miles: 1239

Number of Stops: 110

Nutrition for 2 people: 18

Food shopping for 22 people: 45

Number of Meals on wheels: 8

Medical Appointments: 37

Other Appointments: 52

People Using Services: 44

Cancel: 15

Denials: 5

Units: 348

Hours: 100.5

Additional Notes: 2 new seniors, 1 new disabled

The Mayor related that Mt. Olive has asked if we could fill in with the Netcong van as a backup for them. The Council responded that the borough is already overburdened with Netcong issues.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business presented at this meeting

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Appoint Members to the Public Space Improvement Advisory Committee:

The Mayor specifies what this is for. Mr. Bucco explains he would like to prepare a resolution for the August meeting so there is something logged into the minutes for ever. This will protect the Borough. The Council decides to carry this to the August meeting.

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

President Sylvester informed the Council that the banners at the lake have been donated by High Grade Beverage at no cost.

Councilman Sylvester asked questions about the proposed projects in progress: Quirk and Pocketbook Factory. These projects constitute almost 400 units on 1/3 of the property of Netcong Heights. He asked if we have done traffic studies for this. Councilman Hathaway provides his opinion regarding this. There is discussion on this subject among the Council. Councilman Hathaway explains there will be traffic studies done for these projects before going forward. Councilman Sylvester is concerned as a consequence of our projects as well as projects of the surrounding towns.

Councilman Hathaway provided updates about the lake. The hydro rake should be delivered soon. The Lake Board will be having a wet down for this piece of equipment. A 50/50 fundraiser will take place to benefit both Fire Departments. Estimates have been received for the biological product which will reduce the muck in Arbolino Cove. He is hoping these will make significant changes to the lake. There will be a water chestnut pull by Americore this Saturday between 10 and 2. Canoes and kayaks will be provided. Almost all water chestnuts are now gone.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENT**

- Library services opened last week. It is going well. You can use the county library card at any library to sit and read or use their programs. The books would be brought here if necessary.
- Confirmation for recreation master plan additional \$1500.00.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 2017- 80-** Resolution for Dedication – By – Rider for Donation for Public Space Improvement Advisory Committee Trust Fund
2. **Resolution 2017- 81-** Authorizing the Abatement of Property Maintenance Ordinance Violations by the Borough
3. **Resolution 2017- 82-** Urging the State Legislature to Extend the 2% Cap on Police and Fire Arbitration Contract Awards

#### **4. Resolution 2017- 83 - Capital Budget Amendment**

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the four resolutions noted above.

Roll Call: four Yes

#### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

No ordinance introductions were presented at this meeting

#### **REPORTS**

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes

#### **BILLS**

A motion to pay all the bills when funds are available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 4 Yes

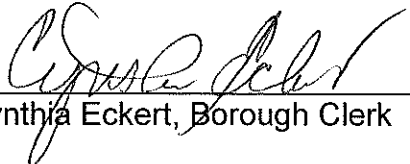
#### **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session this evening.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 8:18 PM seconded by Councilman Hathaway and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk