

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD OCTOBER 5, 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.

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**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Agenda Meeting – September 7, 2017
- Regular Meeting – September 14, 2017

A Motion to Approve the September 7, 2017 Minutes was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.  
Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Approve the September 14, 2017 Minutes was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.  
Roll Call: 4 Yes      Abstain: Councilman Koster

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

George Quarrantey, President of the Netcong School Student Council, was introduced by the Mayor. His plan for this year is to help the school be a better place to have fun and learn and don't bully and be nice to one another. The Mayor reiterated what George said and agreed learning should be fun and more importantly, in a place where there is no bullying. If he can accomplish his plans it will be good for everyone.

Kim Arbolino – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Netcong School was present with Eva, the Student Body treasurer, and Student Body president George Quarrantey. She read a statement about the issues that have been occurring with the Color Run Fundraiser the school would like to conduct on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Mayor replied that he and the Finance Committee met with the Police Chief in reference to this problem. The Mayor explained how our Police Department is taxed financially and cannot always provide free services for school events. The Mayor offered that the school can use Indians Field next year to do the color run and possibly sell food at the Indians Field stand.

Andrew George of 31 Highland Ave., was Stanhope representing the Valley Road School Music Parents Association. He proposed an outdoor fundraising event in Drenzo Park with music, food and learning about the music program. There is a constant struggle to keep the music and art programs going at the Valley Rd. School. This event would help to produce funds for the music programs. The teacher hours have been decreased so the Parent Association is trying to help. The tentative date for this event is Saturday, April 14, 2018 with a rain date of Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. They already have liability insurance. He asked for permission to hold this event. Councilman Hathaway asked if they are charging admission. The Mayor asked if they have a park in Stanhope. Councilman Albensi explained Mr. George came to the Recreation Commission last year. He felt it would be better done at Arbolino Park. Councilman Albensi felt this should go to the Recreation Commission. The Mayor preferred that the Council decide if other towns should be using our parks for an event. Mr. George explained they feel it is not just a Stanhope community event but a generalized pitch for all music programs. Councilman Hathaway explained this should go through the Recreation Commission first then to the Council. Netcong resident events would take priority over other town users. He explained the main reason for coming to Netcong was because the parks are larger and have electricity for the bands. Councilman Albensi offered that at this point the Council needs to determine availability of the parks. The Mayor noted that there are only 5 parking spaces at the park. He recommended the Indian Little League Field for this event. It has all the required amenities and there is a large area for parking and not as many residents in the surrounding area. He asked if Mr. George would need to go to Roxbury for permission. Councilman Hathaway explained that although it is our field, they would have to go to Roxbury for food vendor permits etc. Councilman Hathaway suggested Lakeside Park on the Stanhope side of lake Musconetcong would be an ideal spot for their event and parking could be worked out with the Methodist Church.

Mr. George said he would relay this information to the Parent Association. Councilman Still stated that Mr. George would only need approval if this event

took place at DiRenzo Park. If it was at Indian Field, that may not be necessary. Councilman Still noted that there is a lot of room at Indian's Field. Mr. George thanked the Council for their time. Councilman Albensi provided Mr. George with the next meeting date for recreation

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

None were presented this evening.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from Chief Blesson – Netcong School Color Run
2. Letter from League of Municipalities – 2018 Dues

The Mayor asked the Council if there were any questions or comments from the Council regarding both pieces of correspondence.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. RFP – Banking Services

A Motion to allow the Borough Administrator to request proposals for banking services was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.  
Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. Cable Contract

There was an initial meeting a few months ago which exposed a long list of issues and processes to get this completed. We could have meetings with residents or just renew the franchise. The Mayor explained they have scholarships and grants available. The Mayor offered that the Council should not just sign the contract but do some negotiating. The Mayor asked the Council if they had any ideas for improvements to let Mr. Blakeslee know. Councilman Hathaway mentioned the Borough only gets one free line. The Mayor would like a copy of Roxbury's contract to compare and would like a copy forwarded to the Council.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Best Practices Report-

Mr. Blakeslee explained the process for the Council.

**2. Shop Rite Redevelopment – James Scott**

Mr. Scott addressed the Council on this subject. Councilman Hathaway provided background on this possible project. They are requesting a study to be completed by the Planning Board to see if the project meets the criteria for redevelopment.

Mr. Scott presented the views of Shop Rite and the development plan. He provided details for the reasons for wanting to redevelop this area. He explained how there are many challenges to this project in both physical layout and economics. They want to modernize the Netcong store. He stated that our planner is very talented and has been part of many of these projects. He explained the particulars of the plan and how Shop Rite acquired the properties on either side of the existing property. He explained it will take time for Shop Rite to come up with a firm plan. Whatever plan is decided it will be a definite improvement to the property. Much thought has gone into this plan and they are serious about making it happen.

The Mayor explained it was beneficial that Mr. Scott was at this meeting so the whole Council can understand the concept of the plan. Mr. Scott explained it takes a lot to get one of these projects off the ground. Councilman Albensi asked if the redevelopment projects planned will affect Shop Rites decisions on their project. There is lengthy discussion on the possibilities for this project. Councilman Laureys asked if there are any plans to review. Mr. Scott explained it is too preliminary at this time. Mr. Scott thanked the Council for their time.

**3. Crown Point Water/Sewer Allocation – Bob Guerin Report**

Mr. Blakeslee explained the next step would be for Mr. Bucco, Borough Attorney to compose a resolution. The Council provided Mr. Blakeslee permission to have Mr. Bucco build the resolution.

**4. Appointment of Matthew Eddy as a Firefighter for Fire Co. No. 1**

A motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the appointment.  
Roll Call: 5 Yes

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

Councilman Hathaway – Crown Point mitigation wetlands portion: there is not enough wetlands on their property so Crown Point would like to provide an improvement at the Arbolino Park and bridge. This will create some cost to the

Borough since we do not have proof of ownership of the property. We need to expedite this or it will hold up the Crown Point project. Mr. Blakeslee noted that a title search will be required. We do not have proof of title. It was noted that there would be a need to have an actual survey with meets and bounds. Mr. Guerin said this would be costly. We have done preliminary marking of property lines. It will need to come back to the Council for approval. There is lengthy discussion on why and how this will be done. Mr. Blakeslee explained Crown Point will be taking away wetlands so they need to create new ones. Councilman Albensi asked if they will be building a trail as well as the bridge. This is good news for the Borough which would receive a walking trail and cleaner area. Councilman Hathaway feels Crown Point is ready to pay a lot of the expense for this project.

### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

The Mayor had no comments at this time,

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 2017- 100** – Expressing Opposition to Legislative Proposals Regarding the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act
2. **Resolution 2017- 101** – Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 2 for the Ledgewood Ave. Phase II Contract with JC Contracting, Inc.
3. **Resolution 2017- 102** – Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 for the Reservoir Repairs Contract with V&K Construction, Inc.
4. **Resolution 2017- 103** – Authorizing and Directing the Planning Board to Undertake a Preliminary Investigation to Determine Whether an Area of the Borough of Netcong Meets the Statutory Criteria for a “Non-Condensation Area in need of Redevelopment” Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 Et Seq.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **PROCLAMATION**

No proclamations were presented.

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no ordinances introduced at this meeting.

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

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

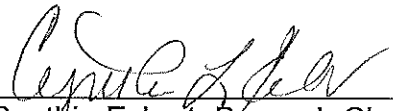
**CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session at this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made at 8:31 PM by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.  
Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk