

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD NOVEMBER 14, 2019 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 4, 2019.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 9, 2019 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 4, 2019.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Albensi, 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 – October 3, 2019
- Regular Meeting – October 10, 2019

A Motion to Approve the above listed minutes was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

No ordinances were presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board – 2020 Budget

Mayor Nametko questioned the increase in the budget this year. Councilman Hathaway provided an explanation for the changes. The main reason for the increase is that their fund balance has been exhausted because the state has not contributed enough funds to cover costs. There was a brief discussion on this matter. Mayor Nametko asked about the Lake Musconetcong Community Association's involvement. Councilman Hathaway discussed their involvement. He also provided information about the state's involvement. Councilman Sylvester asked what the mission is for the Lake Musconetcong Community Association. The Mayor explained their mission is to treat from the shoreline out 200 feet. The MCA collects private funds to do this. Councilman Hathaway detailed on how their funds are used and the treatments that they do in the lake. Councilman Hathaway stated they did contribute funds to the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board this past year; he continued to provide details on the ways the Community Association is treating the lake. Councilman Hathaway suggested the Borough could possibly approach the goose egg addling and goose collection as a shared service between the towns surrounding the lake so this would defray the costs for the Lake Board. There was lengthy discussion on this subject. Councilman Albensi asked if there is a way to roll the new spoils into the cost to share among all the towns. Councilman Hathaway gave details on the spoils issue which has been resolved. The hydro rake is still an issue with the State. Councilman Hathaway said there was good news to report. The probiotic used in the Arbolino Park section of the lake has given another foot of depth in the area. It may be possible to get a larger project going in the future.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee provided several highlights:

Item #5 Arbolino Tank Drainage:

Mr. Canfield's email was included in the report. Mr. Canfield gave a report on the work done there. They had difficulty clearing anything out of the pipe. The project was unsuccessful. The pipe is packed with debris which was beyond the scope of the Borough's equipment. Mr. Blakeslee stated the Council needs to decide what to do. The Mayor stated we do not own the pipe. Another resident in the past was told the town was not responsible to fix their issue so he feels we need to stay consistent with this situation. Councilman Laureys asked how the Borough was able to go on this property. He is unsure who should be responsible for this situation. He feels this will become a larger problem and the Borough will have to do something to fix it. He thinks in the end we should be responsible for maintaining this pipe line. He feels it could be up to six property owners that this pipe runs through. He went on to name the properties that

could be involved. Councilman Laureys asked if we know who put these pipes in. It was determined that no one knows who is responsible or when they were installed and there are several pipes involved. There was further discussion on the possible solutions. Councilman Hathaway concluded more temporary easements will have to be done and the Borough has to do something. Councilman Sylvester asked what is clogging the pipes. Councilman Koster said it is large rocks and silt. Councilman Hathaway concluded there could be other things in the lines. Councilman Laureys asked how many feet of pipe is involved. Mr. Canfield stated probably 200 feet. Councilman Hathaway feels there could be as much as 500 feet Councilman Koster said it could be even more. Councilman Albensi asked if this is our water. The Mayor stated it comes from the railroad. Councilman Sylvester explained where it runs. Councilman Albensi feels we need to take care of this before we have a serious issue. There is discussion on who has machines to do this. There was further lengthy discussion among the Mayor and Council on the possible problems and solutions. It is determined the Borough should find someone to come clean out the pipe as a next step. Councilman Hathaway would vote 'yes' to clean the pipes if we have permanent easements done for all properties involved. Mr. Bucco explained there would be restrictions to the land owners if permanent easements are put into place. Councilman Sylvester agrees with doing the permanent easements. It is determined this will incur a cost to the Borough. Mr. Bucco suggests doing these easements will become the responsibility of the borough and if more pipes are found it would be a burden to the Borough. Councilman Koster suggested we just clean out the pipe as it exists since we already have a temporary easement in place. Mr. Canfield said a camera inspection would have to be done first.

Councilman Koster made a motion to get quotes to find a company that can clean out the pipe. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Reservoir Property:

(Owned by the Borough) The Borough Engineer put together a possible sub - division in order to prepare for the sale of this property. Mr. Blakeslee detailed the possible sub-division. The Mayor asked if there was a solution to the water service line on that property. There was discussion on the details of this matter. Councilman Still suggested we approach the adjoining property owners first. Mr. Blakeslee will make the arrangements with Mr. Bucco.

Community Development Block Grant for 2020:

The Borough Engineer suggested applying for an Elm Street Reconstruction Project which would include the removal of an old asbestos water line. Councilman Koster asked about the size of the pipe. Councilman Hathaway asked who will prepare this application. Mr. Blakeslee said Mr. Guerin and Mr. Blakeslee would apply for the grant. There was discussion among the Council on the particulars of this possible project. Councilman Sylvester asked why Elm St. was not included in the last project. He added if this is done after the current projects, it will cause issues. Councilman Hathaway felt this needed to be addressed since an asbestos pipe is involved. Councilman Still asked if there are other asbestos pipes in the Borough. Mr. Canfield said there are and he will

give a list to the Council. This subject had to be mentioned at a public meeting in order to go forward. The Council is in agreement this should be done.

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Councilman Still asked this be put on record.

For the month of October 2019 the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$915,447.55 as compared to October 2018 of \$828,779.60.

For the month of October 2019:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2019 the Borough received \$2,711.50 compared to \$1,591.63 in 2018.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$14,672.44 in 2019 compared to \$26,188.52 in 2018.

State Aid:

There was \$58,785.90 in State Aid received for 2019 and \$58,785.90 in 2018.

Grants in Aid:

We received \$566.00 in 2019 and \$5,437.01 was received in 2018.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$838,711.71 in 2019 compared to \$736,776.54 in 2018.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2019 is \$8,564,054.19 as compared to \$7,993,300.64 in 2018.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

- Crown Walk: The project is moving forward.
- Crown Point: Moving aggressively forward. Also, in dialog with Salmon Bros.
- Woodmont: Some conceptual drawings were submitted.
- Shop Rite: Still going back and forth with them. A site plan has been agreed regarding parking and aesthetic issues seem to have come to resolution.

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

Mr. Sylvester will put reports on record except for Police Department. He read the police report. He also mentioned there is a resolution to hire SJ Reilly. He recommends the Council approve his appointment tonight.

Police:

Total Calls: 554

Motor Vehicle Summons: 115

Local Warrants: 6

Ambulance (September) :

Total Calls: 57

Total Patients: 37

Total Trips to Hospital: 30

Miles Travelled: 1062

Hours Volunteered: 560 hours 22 minutes

Assists: 1 with Netcong Fire department

Fire Prevention (October):

Inspections:

2 State Life Hazard Uses

1 Re-Inspection

2 Violations Abated

3 Certificates of Inspection

Total Field Hours: 1.5

Total Administrative Hours: 7.5

Conducted Fire Prevention week Presentations to 145 Students

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Highlights:

- New mason dump functioning
- New employee doing well
- Night time hydrant flushing worked very well. Mr. Hess had suggested this.

Road Department:

Repaired 2 storm drains on Amendola Dr. Repaired a damaged crosswalk sign on Ledgewood Ave. at Allen Terrace Received the new F-450 mason dump ... Repaired broken sign and replaced the boulder at Prospect St. and Allen Terrace Picked up 24 cy of grass, 84 cy of brush, and 88 cy of leaves

Water Department:

Performed fall hydrant flushing ... Crown Point relocated water mains for new storm drain pipe and to eliminate old main on the property Repaired a service line leak at 16 Amendola Dr. .. Performed mark outs for the Wiltop Rd. curb and road project as well as mark outs for the gas Main installed on Stoll St

Buildings & Grounds:

Cleaned out the welcome to Netcong planters A.S. Barlin in for annual sprinkler system inspection Excavated and filled an area with stone for the new PD shed Repaired damaged sensor on poles for the Christmas decorations on Main St Relocated the gas line at the DPW garage for the placement of the new FH 1 out garage

Parks & Recreation:

Mitigation area was completed at Arbolino Park and the Park and ride Assisted with signs and cones and trash cans for trunk or treat Installed the conduit for the new camera installation at DiRenzo Park Closed the parks and winterized the bathrooms.

Other:

Mike attended an ethics class in Woodridge Tim attended a fast track to safety class in Lincoln Park Jeff Jozowski started with the DPW on October 15th Unsuccessfully attempted to clear the storm drain line in the area of the Tony Tank/Assumption properties

Recreation: J. Albensi T. Laureys

Councilman Albensi read his reports for Municipal Alliance and Recreation.

1. Last Saturday Rec hosted a bus trip into NYC to see Chicago. The show as well as the seats were awesome. Great time had by all.
2. Our annual Trunk or Treat took place on Saturday Oct 26th at the Netcong Train Station. Our DJ, JOJO kept the crowd entertained from 4-7. The trunks out did themselves this year!! Our new addition this year was a Halloween back drop for family photos. The Recreation Commission cooked up 200 pretzels and 440 hot dogs, all gone before our event ended at 7. A special thanks to the NCP (provided entertainment) and the Municipal Alliance (paid for hotdogs)!
3. We are diligently working on our 2019 Holiday Parade. We already have about a dozen participants signed up. Now just need a Santa!!!
4. As we look toward 2020, we already have our summer concerts booked and have just booked our first NYC bus trip - March 7, 2020 Broadway Sensation - Aint Too Proud - the Temptation Story.
5. We will also be bringing back Tai Chi/Qi Gong classes which will begin in May. This program is holding steady with at least 20 in attendance each week.

Public Services: T. Laureys J. Albensi
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal

Councilman Laureys read his report.

October, 2019

Days of Service: 23

Miles: 1446
Number of Stops: 90
Nutrition for 2 people: 20
Food Shopping: 56
Number of Meals on Wheels: 13
Medical Appointments: 12
Other Appointments: 169
People Using Services: 43
Cancels: 6
Denials: 0
Units: 356
Hours: 106.25

OLD BUSINESS

1. Phase II Arbolino Park Improvements

Mr. Blakeslee put this in his report. It is recommended we reject the bids and do an RFP for the work which will be under the threshold. He gave details on the process to finish this project.

2. Tony Tank Drainage Issue

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President had two topics:

1. Double congratulate Tony as Senator Appointment and Assembly win.
2. Received complaints the recycle bin lids have been broken. Ralph will contact the MUA.

Councilman Sylvester – he attended Roxbury's Board of Adjustment meeting with the Mayor about the PILOT gas station. They expressed their concerns and the soon to be new owner has no problem with putting a sign for no left turns for trucks. He detailed items that were discussed at that meeting. There was discussion among the Council on this issue.

Councilman Hathaway apologized for not being available for last week's meeting via phone. The state park service intended to clean the swirl chamber today unannounced. He was not happy that we were not informed ahead of time. He felt this was purposeful to avoid the Borough overseeing the process. He is not happy with the lack of cooperation. The Borough does not have access to the locks on the chamber now. He

also wanted to congratulate Tony on his win. Happy Thanksgiving to all. It was noted that Mr. Bucco will not be at the next council meeting he will be on vacation.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

NJ DEP has issued a sample ordinance for soil removal. Mr. Bucco and Mr. Guerin gave a look at this ordinance and felt it was acceptable. He would like to change our current ordinance to match the sample ordinance. Mr. Bucco explained his concerns about the stringent regulations and wanted to be sure the council realizes the changes will make it more difficult for developers. Mr. Bucco suggested the economic development committee review the changes before he does an amended ordinance. There was discussion among the council on the details and process to do this.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions voted by block

1. **Resolution 2019-104** – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 17-00006.
2. **Resolution 2019-105** – Authorizing the Approval of Change Order #1 for the Arbolino Park Improvements Phase 1 Contract with Picerno-Giordano, LLC.
3. **Resolution 2019-106** - Calling for Study Commission to Review the Open Public Records Act.
4. **Resolution 2019-107** – To Appoint S.J. Reilly, Patrolman for the Netcong Borough Police Department.
5. **Resolution 2019-108** – Rejecting All Bids Received for the Arbolino Park Improvements, Phase 2, in the Borough of Netcong.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2019-16** – To Amend Chapter 268 "Vehicles and Traffic" Article IX, Stop Intersections, of the Code of the Borough of Netcong Providing for a Stop Intersection at College Rd. and Stoll St. with the Stop Sign on Stoll St.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2019-16- and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2019-16 on First Reading was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Ordinance 2019-17** – To Amend Chapter 194 Land Development Procedures, Article V Administration and Procedures, Section 27 Notice of Hearings on Applications, of the Code of the Borough of Netcong.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2019-17 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2019-17 on First Reading was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

REPORTS

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

BILLS

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:52PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk