

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JANUARY 2, 2020 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Nametko called the meeting to order at 7:00 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.

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION

The Borough Clerk read the Statement of Determination.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Joseph A. Nametko
Councilman Robert E. Hathaway Jr.
Councilman Thomas A. Laureys

All were sworn in by the Borough Clerk.

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.

MAYOR COMMENTS

The Mayor gave his remarks to the audience and recognized those special guests who attended.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Council and our Borough employees, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year.

In 2019, the Borough lost several residents including Mary Pierson who would have been 100 years old in December. Mary played an important part in Netcong's history and played a part in many elected officials lives.

We also lost a member of our Council who was loved by everyone who knew him. Joe Albensi served our residents as a longtime member of the Recreation Commission, the Netcong Alliance, the Planning Board and as a member of this council. Joe will certainly be missed by everyone, but as you can see, his son JW has stepped in to continue Joe's legacy.

For the last two years, the Netcong Fire Department has been under the direction of Fire Chief Jack Sylvester III. I am sure the Council and all our residents will join me in saying to Jackie, GREAT JOB! We look forward to Chief Sylvester joining all of our past fire department Chiefs in sharing with the other line officers in the department all of experience he gained over the last two years. In a few minutes, we will witness the swearing in Eddie Koster as our Fire Chief for the next 2 years. This will be Eddie's 2nd term as Chief of the Netcong Fire Department.

For the past 12 years, I used this forum to individually thank our first responders and office staff. Last year, early Sunday morning on December 22nd, I witnessed firsthand how six independent departments acted as ONE incredible team to fight the fire that destroyed the Koch building at the corner of Main St. and Maple Ave. Thanks to the combined efforts of our Police Department, Fire Department and the Ladies Auxiliary, the Office of Emergency Management, the Department of Public Works and the Stanhope-Netcong First Aid Squad everyone got out safely and the buildings adjacent to the Koch building were saved. I would also like to acknowledge Ralph Blakeslee, our Borough Administrator for all his help that day.

On behalf of the Council I would like to thank everyone of the men and women who left their homes very early that December morning. I would also like to thank all of the mutual aid teams who assisted our Netcong departments.

We are blessed with a large number of dedicated volunteers who give many hours of their time on our Planning Board, Recreation Commission, the Netcong Alliance, Board of Health and Netcong Community Partnership. My sincere thanks to everyone who sits on the boards and committees. I want them to know I appreciate all their time and efforts they give to each organization and their contribution to our residents.

-----2019 Accomplishments -----

Phase 1 Arbolino Park Enhancements.

1. That project is funded in part by a CDBG of \$80,000.
 2. resurface both tennis courts, convert one to a BB court.
 3. new fence around the courts.
 4. Look for the GRAND Opening of our new tennis and basketball court in this spring.
- Thanks to a \$220,000 NJDOT Grant we resurfaced Carolyn Way, Lower Wiltop Road and Oak Street.
 - This past summer we had the ground breaking of our FIRST redevelopment project: 34 BANK. If you travel on Bank or Jenny Lind Streets, you will see the **126-unit** apartment complex is well underway and on schedule for a 2020 ribbon cutting.
 - We completed the rehabilitation of one of our wells resulting in a large increase of gallons pump-able per hour.

2020 Projects

- Our 2nd redevelopment project, known as Crown Walk is expected to break ground this spring on the property where the old pocketbook factory property stood. Crown Walk will consist of 86 apartment units.
- There are 2 other redevelopment projects on the table you will be hearing more about later this year.
- We have to perform a Revaluation of all Netcong properties in 2020. The results of the REVAL will be reflected in 2021 taxes.
- Another large endeavor on our schedule this year is a Master Plan Update. We will be reaching out to volunteers in the FIRST QUARTER to form a committee to work with the Borough Planner set the future directions for Netcong .
- Our State Town Center Designation is expiring at the end of this June. Being designated a Town Center increases our chance to receive DOT and other grants from the State, so we will start working on our application in the weeks to come.
- Another project we have to complete this year is our Water System Asset Management Plan
- We will continue the Rehab of our wells this year, concentrating on well #5.
- With funding from a community development block grant we received; we will start Phase 2 of the Arbolino Park upgrade project including the installation of ADA compliant exercise equipment in the area of the old basketball court.
- Thanks to a **\$86,421.50 Morris County Trail grant**, we plan to start construction on the pedestrian bridge replacement and trail work at Arbolino.

- *The water main at Elm Street needs to be replaced. To help offset the cost of the project, we are applying to the County for funding through a CDBG for the amount of \$80K.*
- *Last year we surveyed families living on Stoll Street and College Road regarding the installation of speed tables on those streets. After almost 99% positive feedback, we will move forward with that project in 2020 to install the traffic calming speed tables on Stoll and College.*
- *This year we will be resurfacing Brookside Road, Locust Road and Dogwood Road with a grant from the DOT in the amount of \$154,000.*
- *With the assistance of our new Borough Engineer, John Ruschke of Mott McDonald, we will start design work on resurfacing and drainage improvements on Helen Way thanks to a DOT grant in the **amount of \$126,000.***

As you can see, it will be another busy year in Netcong. As in past years, the ONLY way the Borough can accomplish as much as we do, is by all the hard work of our paid employees and great volunteers.

Each project I just mentioned above has a committee associated with it. The committees are made up of two dedicated Councilmen, office staff, our professional staff and resident volunteers. The combined effort and teamwork of each committee is what allows us to get so much done each year. I cannot thank enough all of the committee members and all of our functional departments for all they do for residents of the Borough of Netcong. Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Council Appointment

A Motion was made to select Jack Sylvester by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

SWEARING IN OF FIRE CHIEF AND ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

Fire Chief Edward Koster Sr.
Assistant Fire Chief Duane Hartle

Both were sworn in by the Borough Clerk.

RESOLUTION 2020-20 TO RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The resolution was passed with a motion from Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Mayor read the resolution and presented it and a plaque to Joe Albensi's family.

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG

Whereas, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong have established a Volunteer of the Year Award, in the memory of Barbara Ryan, who during the course of her life made many contributions and spent countless hours volunteering in the Borough of Netcong. This award honors an outstanding volunteer each year; and

Whereas, Joseph (Joe) Albensi Jr., and his wife Karen have been long time residents of our Borough, raising a family of three children and running a local business; and,

Whereas, Joe was the definition of a community volunteer, believing that all should give back to the community we live in; and,

Whereas, Joe lived this belief by serving as a member of the Borough's Recreation Commission since 2001, one of its longest serving members, and fully participating in every event, including every Friday night Concert in the Park; and,

Whereas, Joe's commitment was further demonstrated through his many hours as a youth coach for CYO Basketball, Indians Football, Lakeland Little League and the Byram Girls Softball League and by his participation in the Municipal Alliance, as a member of the Planning Board, and as a member of the Borough Council where he served as a liaison and advocate for these organizations and interests; and,

Whereas, Joe was not only a firm believer in "hometown pride" but demonstrated his commitment to improving the quality of life in the Borough of Netcong each and every day; and,

Whereas, Joe's commitment to his family and his community served as an example for all of us to emulate, and as a community we know that he will never be able to be replaced and that he is, already, missed more than he could ever know.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey that the Borough hereby bestows the **Borough of Netcong Barbara Ryan Volunteer of the Year Award** upon Joseph Albensi Jr. for his service to the Borough of Netcong, its citizens and organizations.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

(Mayor's Recommendation with Advice & Consent of the Council)

Finance & Insurance:	E. Still	J. Sylvester
Economic Development:	R. Hathaway	E. Still
Public Safety: (Police, Fire, Rescue)	J. Sylvester	E. Koster
Dept. of Public Works & Utilities:	E. Koster	R. Hathaway
Recreation:	J. Albensi	T. Laureys
Public Services: (Human Services Recycling & Solid Waste Disposal)	T. Laureys	J. Albensi

A Motion to approve the above listed committee assignments was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

MAYOR APPOINTMENTS (Requires Advice and Consent of the Council)

Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer: Ralph Blakeslee (1 Year)

Deputy Code Enforcement Officer: No Appointment (1Year term)

Deputy Borough Clerk: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy Tax Collector: Diana Katzenstein

Sewer Collector: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy Sewer Collector: Cynthia Eckert

Water Collector: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy Water Collector: Cynthia Eckert

Assessment Searcher: Cynthia Eckert

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Mendel

Clean Communities Coordinator: Michael Canfield

Fire Official: Ronald Puco – Cert. #110806 (1 Year term)

Fire Prevention Inspectors: Michael Pellek – Cert. #101410 (1 Year term)
Mark Sylvester – Cert. #177302 (1 Year term)

Special Police Officer (Class II) Harry Garlick

Police Matron: Shannon Fluke

School Crossing Guards: (N.J.S.A.40A40:9-154.1-1 yr. terms)

Benjamin Dalessandro
William Hart
Sandra Mendel
Amanda Goble-Liebman
Ralph Simmerano
Melissa Sylvester

Alternates:

Wayne Benvenuto
Donna Crown
Robert DiBernard
Frank Schomp
Steven Vervaet

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board: None

Board of Health: Henry Repp - (3 Year Term Exp. 12/31/22)

A Motion to Approve the Above Listed Appointments was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Planning Board: Class 1 - Mayor Joseph Nametko (1 Year term-No Action Required)

(Mayor Appointments – No Vote Required)

Class 2 – Wayne Anthony (1 Year term)

Class 4- Robert Olivo (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/23)

Class 4 –Ben Dellamo (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/23)

Alternate #1- None

Alternate #2- Open Seat (2 Year Term Exp. 12/31/20)

(Council Appointment)

Class 3 – Joseph W. Albensi (1 Year term) Council Representative

A Motion to approve the Class 3 Appointment was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Recreation Commission: (Mayor Appt. No vote required)

Robert Olivo- 5 Year Term – Expires 12/31/2024

Joseph W. Albensi - Council Liaison (1 Year term) (Council Appointment)

A Motion to approve Council Appointment was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Municipal Alliance Committee:

Officer Thomas Borgia (3 Year term) Expires 12/31/22

Lisa Gates Schuffenhauer (4 Year term) Expires 12/31/23

Joseph W. Albensi – Council Liaison (1 Year term)

A Motion to approve Council Appointment was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee Appointments for 2020:

Joseph W. Albensi - (Appointment by Mayor)

Ralph Blakeslee, Alternate - (Appointment by Mayor)

Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor - (Appointment by Governing Body)

A Motion to approve these appointments was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Animal Control
Officer: Thomas Mendel (1 Year term)

Alternate Animal
Control Officer: Joseph Fiorello (1 Year term)

A Motion to approve the above listed appointments was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Special Improvement District Of Netcong Borough, Inc.

Appointment of Trustees:

Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor, Ex Officio

Robert Hathaway, Council Representative (Appointed by Council - 1year term)

Leigh Ann Von Hagen Pietz, Borough Resident (4 year term)

A Motion to adopt the above referenced appointments was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes: Councilmen Hathaway, Koster, Still, Sylvester, Albensi

1 No: Councilman Laureys

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution #2020-1 To Honor Volunteers
2. Resolution #2020-2 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Attorney, Anthony M. Bucco, Esq. for 2020.
3. Resolution #2020-3 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for Special Tax Counsel, Fred Semrau, Esq. for 2019.
4. Resolution #2020-4 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for Borough Auditor, Valerie Dolan of Nisivoccia LLP for 2020.
5. Resolution #2020-5 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Engineer, John Ruschke of Mott McDonald for 2020.
6. Resolution #2020-6 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Bond Council to Steven Rogut of Rogut McCarthy, LLC

7. Resolution #2020-7 Depositories for 2020 as Follows:
 - Fulton Bank Inc.
 - Valley Bank
 - TD Bank
 - New Jersey Cash Management Fund

8. Resolution #2020-8 Official Newspapers as Follows:
Daily Record and The Star Ledger

9. Resolution #2020-9 Resolution Designating Newspapers to Receive Notices and Fixing Charges.

10. Resolution #2020-10 Fixing Rates of Interest (8%) and Penalty on Delinquent taxes, (18%) Assessments and Other Municipal Charges.

11. Resolution #2020-1- Authorizing Investments by the Borough in Certain Bonds and Other Obligations.

12. Resolution #2020-12 Regular Public Meeting Dates and Work Session Dates of the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong.

13. Resolution #2020-13 Authorizing Temporary Budgets For The Borough of Netcong as Provided by N.J.S.A.40A:4-19.

14. Resolution #2020-14 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee and Elmer Still, As Commissioner and Alternate for the Morris County Joint Municipal Insurance Fund.

15. Resolution #2020-15 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee as Public Agency Compliance Officer.

16. Resolution #2020-16 To Appoint the Vozza Agency as the Borough of Netcong's Risk Management Consultant.

17. Resolution #2020-17 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee as Housing Liason Officer.

18. Resolution #2020-18 Authorizing the Payment of Annual Stipends to Certain Borough Employees

19. Resolution #2020-19 To Appoint Christie Stachnick as Qualified Purchasing Agent

A Motion to Adopt Resolutions 2020-1 to 2020-19 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Bryce from Tony Bucco's office presented the Council with the yearly count of motions:

- Councilman Laureys received honorable mention for 2018 1 motion – 2019 -5 motions
- Councilman Albensi- 25 best start
- Councilman Still most disappointing only 113 down from 118
- Most Improved – Councilman Koster last year 6 this year 121
- Runner up 111 2018, 2019 135 – Council President Sylvester
- Winner 2018 184, 2019 144 Councilman Hathaway

Councilman Laureys commented that he received a letter from the American Legion Ambulance Corp. He asked the Council compare the money given to the Fire Dept. NCP and Ambulance Squad. The squad is requesting additional funds to help cover their costs. He requested we change our practice to provide more funds direct all funds from NCP to fire dept. and ambulance squad NCP money to emergency squads

A motion was made by Councilman Laureys to stop funding the NCP. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 1 No: Councilmen Hathaway, Koster, Still, Sylvester 1 Yes: Councilman Laureys

Abstain: Councilman Albensi

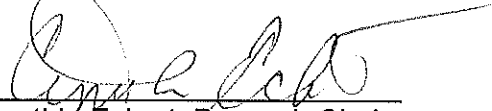
A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 7:45PM.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk