

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MAY 14, 2020 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM.

Mayor Nametko called the virtual meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STATEMENT OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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 3, 2020.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 15, 2020 and sending a copy to the Star Ledger on January 3, 2020.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Ben Dellamo, 30 Church St., thanked the council for their time. Two issues – May 3rd email in reference to the Shop Rite site plan, he is in favor of this project but is concerned about the parking issue with this plan. He detailed his concerns which involved the atmosphere of the Planning Board at this time. He thanked the Council for their consideration.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

STANHOPE NETCONG AMBULANCE SQUAD COVID- 19 UPDATE

Mr. Derek Kuncken, Captain, presented a Covid-19 Update to the Council.

Mr. Kuncken gave his presentation to the Council on ambulance squad operations since the COVID-19 pandemic began. He thanked the council for their time. The Mayor thanked the ambulance squad for all that they are doing at this time as well as his gratefulness for the volunteers and the time that they give.

Councilman Sylvester asked Mr. Kuncken to thank the squad on his behalf for all that they do. He asked Mr. Bucco why the County Freeholders are involved in authorizing a fund drive. Mr. Kuncken explained the process for these approvals. There was discussion among the Council, Mr. Kuncken and Mr. Bucco on this issue. The Mayor asked if Mr. Bucco could check on this issue. Councilman Koster said the Fire Department also received a letter that their coin drop has been put on hold as well. The Chief of Police said he can get clarification on this matter is necessary. There was lengthy discussion on this matter. The Police Chief will look into this tomorrow. Mr. Kuncken thanked the council for their time.

STANHOPE-NETCONG AMBULANCE SQUAD COVID-19 UPDATE

To put things into a better understanding, for the first quarter of the year we had seen a 20% increase in call volume compared to 2019. Since the onset of COVID-19, we have seen the volume slow to an average pace. The squad saw its first potential COVID case on March 14, 2020. Since then we have had 89 calls. Of those calls, 24% were calls for symptoms that could be classified as suspicion for COVID-19 and these patients were treated as such.

The squad has a few concerns since the outbreak of Coronavirus. PPE has become a term familiar to everyone, and everyone I'm sure knows healthcare workers are struggling to find appropriate amounts for their respective agencies. Since COVID-19, PPE, meaning a full suit with gown, eye-wear, etc., use has become more common in everyday operations. Currently, on every call the crew is using an N95 mask, a surgical mask over the N95, and gloves, however patients with COVID-19 like symptoms such as SOB, cough, fever or any flu-like symptoms, requires the crew to wear a full set therefore we are burning through PPE like wild fire. When this outbreak began we ordered from our supplier a large amount of PPE, but it is still back ordered and not received. Through our OEM in Morris County, and the very generous members of our respective communities we have received donations of PPE. We can't thank our community enough for their support. As a status report to date, we are well equipped except for protective gowns and cleaning wipes.

While the volume has slowed, our time on each call has doubled, if not tripled due to decon procedures. The procedure consists of a wipe down with cleaning wipes, followed by an Ultraviolet light decon treatment provided by the local hospitals. When this started we recognized the need for increased decon of our units, so we purchased a fogging machine and drove to East Rutherford to pick up a special hospital grade virocide to be used with the fogger. We fog our ambulances a minimum of once a week, as well as after every patient exhibiting COVID like symptoms.

We are functioning with reduced manpower due to many reasons. One is age restrictions as members below 18 and members above 65 are considered high-risk per the CDC and was recommended they do not ride the ambulance to limit exposure. Some other factors are quarantined members due to exposure from our agency or elsewhere, and restrictions from our members' employers for those that are dispatchers. As an organization of 100% volunteer, fear has had an impact on manpower at times as well. That being said we remain at an adequate level to handle our responsibilities.

We have concerns moving forward regarding funding as a non-billing, 100% volunteer agency. The concerns are for added expenses due to COVID-19 as well as decreased income from regularly scheduled fundraisers that may be affected by COVID. Such as, will they occur? And will the fundraising success be impacted due to the financial struggles everyone in America is experiencing right now? As of yesterday, we found out our June bucket drop will not be authorized. To finish off our status report, while we have transported 22 people with COVID symptoms, our biggest fear and concern is that we have no idea of the results of the COVID testing. There is no report back to us about the results of the COVID tests of our patients. We essentially have no idea how many patients, or which patients, have tested positive for Coronavirus. Therefore, we are currently dealing with a very large risk every time we step on the truck.

However, with all this information and risk, the members of our ambulance squad continue to volunteer to step on the truck every day and assist our community in whatever way we can during this uncharted time.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

VALERIE DOLAN, AUDITOR –JASON GABLOFF, CFO - REVIEW OF BUDGET

The Mayor gave the floor to Mrs. Dolan and Mr. Gabloff to give details of the budget. Mr. Gabloff highlighted some important points on the 2020 budget. He noted that we are

in a good financial position and should have no problem even with the Corona-19 Pandemic.

Mrs. Dolan provided several details regarding the budget. She included discussing the possible problems with revenue and cash flow due to the pandemic.

Council President Sylvester asked how our revenue fared after this 2nd quarter revenue. Mr. Gabloff stated right now we are on track. The Mayor stated Mr. Gabloff has completed a survey for the state in reference to revenue.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2020 BUDGET

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Resolution 2020-56 - To Read the 2020 Budget by Title Only.

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

Roll Call: 5 yes

Resolution 2020-57- To Adopt the 2020 Budget.

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

Roll Call: 5 yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2020 SID BUDGET

A Motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Resolution #2020-58 – A Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the 2020 Budget of The Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District.

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Capital Ordinance 2020-7** - CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING VARIOUS EQUIPMENT ACQUISITIONS IN, BY AND FOR THE WATER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$22,500 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM THE WATER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Councilman Sylvester asked 'do we have to spend the money if we pass these ordinances.' The Mayor said we can hold off. Mr. Blakeslee explained how some items should be moved forward on as they are partially funded by the USDA emergency grant and one that was included in the 2019 capital budget. There have been discussions on which projects should be on hold if necessary.

A Motion to Read Capital Ordinance 2020-7- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Capital Ordinance 2020-7 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Capital Ordinance 2020-8**-CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF A PORTION OF THE COST OF THE ACQUISITION OF AN ASPHALT ROLLER IN, BY AND FOR THE SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$10,500 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

A Motion to Read Capital Ordinance 2020-8- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Capital Ordinance 2020-8 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

3. **Bond Ordinance 2020-9** – BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$335,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE STATE GRANTS, 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 2020-9- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Bond Ordinance 2020-9 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

4. **Bond Ordinance 2020-10** - BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$288,200 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, 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 2020-10- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Bond Ordinance 2020-10 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

5. **Ordinance 2020-11 - AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2020-11- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Councilman Hathaway had a concern about this ordinance and specific employees. Mr. Blakeslee explained the ordinance just sets the range for salaries. The resolution sets the specific salaries. Councilman Laureys asked if the salaries cannot go above the ranges in this ordinance. Mr. Blakeslee affirmed that. The Mayor explained this is done every few years. He also explained the salary resolution shows the specific salaries for each employee.

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2020-11 was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email – Mr. Ben Dellamo- Shop Rite

Councilman Hathaway stated Mr. Dellamo's statements in the beginning of this meeting is sufficient on this subject. Councilman Laureys suggested we consider what Mr. Dellamo had to say before we make decisions on this parking issue and that Shop Rite may have to find other solutions to their parking issues.

2. Letter – Arborist – Ash Borer/Trees

Councilman Hathaway gave several comments on this letter. It is not necessary for homeowners to take down ash trees in their yard. This letter was not accurate.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee reported the following updates:

Talking with Health Officer and Borough Clerk about plan to bring staff back into the office. We may have to do many things by appointment only. We will be installing plexi-glass screens at the front counter.

The Finance committee will have a meeting on the cash flow issues.

We will be joining a new Co-Op that supplies medical equipment found by Jen Meehan. NJ Transit local aid applications will take place with engineer, there are several possibilities.

Pocketbook Factory: He called Mr. Markowitz for update on his project. He stated everyone is doing a good job during these trying circumstances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

For the month of April 2020, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$517,480.12 as compared to April 2019 of \$1, 175,511.83.

For the month of April 2020:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2020the Borough received \$7,101.55 compared to \$3,786.35 in 2019

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$7,052.79 compared to \$20,468.64 in 2019.

State Aid:

We didn't receive any state aid in April 2020 or in April 2019.

Grants in Aid:

There were no Grants in Aid received by the Borough in April 2020 or in April 2019.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$503,325.78 in 2020 compared to \$1,151,256.84 in 2019.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2020 is \$3,123,764.23 as opposed to \$3,647,303.94 in 2019.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Crown Point moving forward quickly – has small issue with Byram Construction but that was resolved quickly.

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

Councilman Sylvester reported the following:
We have no COVID-19 positive cases with public safety employees and volunteers.

The Fire Departments would like to open their buildings next week. He would like the Mayor to open the firehouses on Monday nights for meetings and drills. The Mayor requests they practice social distancing if they do open. Councilman Sylvester will have a meeting with the officers to be sure these procedures are followed.
Councilman Laureys thanked the fireman for all they do.

The Mayor wanted to thank Police Chief Blesson and his officers for their work with the food drive that was started by Councilman Hathaway. Also, Wayne Benvenuto our Dial a Ride driver for his work in purchasing food for the food bank. We had 42 families come to the food bank today. Councilman Albensi offered a freezer to keep perishable foods frozen. The Chief will contact Councilman Albensi tomorrow.

Ambulance Squad February

TOTAL CALLS: 65
TOTAL: 56 PATIENTS
TOTAL HOSPITAL TRIPS: 40
MILEAGE AND MAN HOURS
MILES TRAVELED: 1, 141 miles
HOURS VOLUNTEERED: 185 hrs 52 mins

Ambulance Squad March

TOTAL CALLS: 46
TOTAL: 34 PATIENTS
TOTAL HOSPITAL TRIPS: 25
MILES TRAVELED: 684 miles
HOURS VOLUNTEERED: 102 hrs 47 mins

Police

Total Calls: 374

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

Road Department:

Installed American flags on Main St and Maple Ave ... Cleared a clogged basin at the bottom of Barone St.. .. Picked up 28 cy of grass, 80 cy of brush, and 60 cy of leaves

.....

Water Department:

Performed April hydrant flushing ... Installed new water meter at 65 RR ave ... Assisted with Crown Point pressure testing

Buildings & Grounds:

Set up recycle center for limited occupancy rules Picked up Pro Mix soil to start prepping the flower pots Cut grass at Borough Hall

Parks & Recreation:

Maintained closed parks and bathrooms with signage, fencing, cones, and caution tape due to Covid 19 restrictions

Other:

In response to the Covid 19 crisis, the DPW has been operating on split shifts to keep employees separated in an attempt to not have to quarantine the entire dept. if an employee were to be diagnosed with the illness ... The dept. is also practicing 6 ft distancing and individually designated truck use when at work DPW has used both the UV light and the ozone generator to disinfect vehicles, DPW offices, and Fire Dept trucks upon request ...Mike Canfield attended a Clean Community webinar Tim Hess attended a water treatment webinar ... The DPW attended a storm water training video webinar....

Recreation:

J. Albensi

T. Laureys

Councilman Albensi thanked everyone for the great job they are doing during this time.

He announced that they are canceling the June concerts and rescheduling for next year. The Mayor is concerned there will be too many people attending to have them. The Mayor and Mr. Blakeslee will discuss that this week to make a decision on this.

Public Services:
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal

T. Laureys

J. Albensi

Councilman Laureys filed his report.

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President – commented on the subject of sidewalks which included two projects on Jenny Lind St. He noted that it is our attorney's opinion the spirit of the ordinance is to put sidewalks in areas where there is development. He does not understand why sidewalks were not asked for with these projects. He would lean on the engineer's opinion on this subject. He is confused as to why the planning board is not given information. He went into detail regarding this subject. He feels there is a disconnect on this issue. The Mayor gave several comments on this subject. Mr. Bucco provided an explanation on this subject. He suggested we amend the site plan ordinance to require sidewalks on all developments. Councilman Hathaway gave comment on this issue. He listened to both Planning Board meeting recordings to be sure he understood the situation and gave his heated lengthy opinion on what transpired. He was not pleased with how these meetings were conducted. He read portions of a resolution that was passed by the Council.

Councilman Sylvester agreed with Councilman Hathaway.

A motion was made to Send a letter to Planning Board advising them of their displeasure of applications without requiring sidewalks was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

There was further discussion among the council on the details of this issue. Mr. Bucco provided his concerns. Mr. Bucco explained it would not be a problem for our engineer to contact Morgan's engineer to see if they will put in the sidewalks. They may agree to it. Councilman Hathaway stated that this may be one way to handle it. Mr. Bucco suggested this be done soon. There was discussion between Mr. Bucco and Councilman Hathaway on the particulars on this subject. There was a suggestion about merging of the 3 lots owned by Morgan's. There was discussion on who could attend a meeting with the engineers to settle this issue. Mr. Blakeslee will set the meeting up. Mr. Bucco will start work on amending the ordinance to require sidewalks.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2020-59-** Authorizing the Acquisition of Seven Desktop Computers for the Netcong Police Department

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Resolution 2020-60-** Authorizing the Acquisition of Four Tablet Computers for the Netcong Police Department

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

3. **Resolution 2020-61-** Authorizing the Acquisition of a Utility Vehicle for the Department of Public Works Through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Co-Op #65MCESCCPS

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

4. **Resolution 2020-62-** Authorizing the Acquisition of Two Electronic Message Boards Through the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System Contract CC-0099-19

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

5. **Resolution 2020-63-** Authorizing Acquisition of Technology Equipment for Borough Administrative Offices and Netcong Police Department

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

6. **Resolution 2020-64-** Resolution Urging the State Of New Jersey To Provide Direct Stabilization Funding to Morris County from The Corona-virus Relief Fund

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

7. **Resolution 2020-65-** Determining the Cancellation of Liquor License No. 1428-31-012-001, Netcong Columbus Club

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

8. **Resolution 2020-66-** Authorize the Acceptance and Execution of an Agreement Between the Borough of Netcong and the Netcong Fraternal Order of Police Officers

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

9. **Resolution 2020 -67-** Authorizing the Appropriate Authority to Amend the Netcong Borough Police Department Rules and Regulations

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. Ordinance 2020 -12 - An Ordinance 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 Introduce Ordinance #2020-12 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2020-12 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

REPORTS

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

BILLS

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

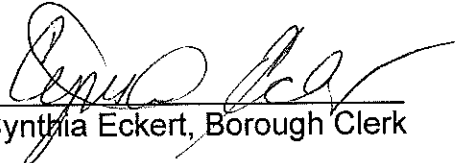
CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway at 9:29PM, seconded by Councilman Albensi and was moved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk