

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD August 12, 2021 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM.

Mayor Nametko called the 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 8, 2021.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 13, 2021 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 8, 2021.

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 was Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mrs. Bernadette Dalesandro, 32 Barone St., thanked the Council for the speed limit signs on Railroad Ave .She is very pleased. She thanked Sgt. VanHouten for taking care of her request.

Mr. Ian O'Connell, 3 Burt St., is here to propose an eagle project. He would like to build a chess board in DiRenzo Park. He explained the details of the project. He explained the benefits and reasons for him picking this type project for the town. He handed out packets showing the design and cost estimate for this project. The packet also depicted pictures of where the placement will be. He has lived in Netcong most of his life and would like to provide this for the town. He is hoping to have the project completed by the end of August.

The mayor asked if this could be located in the shade as opposed to a sunny place. Mr. Canfield stated there are several places in the shade that would work.

Councilman Koster asked if people would have to bring their own chess pieces to play. Only the board will be provided. The mayor stated we can send out notification once the project is complete. There was brief discussion among the Council on this and several questions for Ian.

A Motion made to approve this Eagle Scout project by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Seeing no additional speakers from the public, a Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

Ordinance 2021-19- An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 268 "Vehicles and Traffic", Article IX, Stop Intersections, of The Code Of The Borough Of Netcong Providing For A Four Way Stop Intersection At Water Street And Dell Avenue

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2021-19 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Mr. Wayne Anthony had a question about the presentation of the traffic light. It was answered to his satisfaction.

No additional questions were asked by the public.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2021-19 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The mayor explained that Mr. Blakeslee has a personal emergency to attend to and questions regarding the report could be emailed to him.

1. Railroad Avenue Drainage. I have visited the site several times, including once meeting with Ms. Amico. I can confirm that there is a catch basin, located to the right of the Amico's driveway. I also found an email memo that Bob Guerin had issued dated August 1st which is attached. Please note the last paragraph of that memo. When I met with Ms. Amico, she confirmed that 1) there is a PVC pipe that runs from the dry-well on the east side of her property, underneath her driveway, to the catch basin; 2) that Ms. Amico cleans the pipe on a regular basis.
2. Arbolino Tank/Assumption Society Noise and Operations Complaints. On Tuesday, July 6th and July 27th I inspected the Netcong Tank property. Significant improvements have been made and I am satisfied that by the end of August the property will be in compliance.
3. Finance. 2021 Budget. A mid-year budget meeting with the Finance Committee and the CFO was held on July 7th at 6:30 PM. A discussion also took place regarding possible uses of ARP funds.

Cancellation of Capital Fund Balances. Resolutions 2021-81, 82 and 83 cancel various capital account fund balances as recommended by the Borough Auditor and CFO.

Chapter 159 Revenue Items. Resolutions 2021-84 and 85 approve two unanticipated items of revenue into the 2021 budget. The first resolution appropriates \$15,000 from the American Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARP). The second resolution appropriates \$15,000 from the Cable TV grant received this year. Cindy and I have asked that these funds be used to purchase upgraded meeting room recording equipment and software. See Purchasing, Audio/Video Meeting Room Recording Equipment for more information.

Purchasing, Fire Department SCBA. This year's capital budget provided \$56,000 to purchase replacement SCBA Air Packs for the Fire Department. The Borough will be receiving a USDA grant of \$25,000 towards the purchase of this equipment. It is necessary for the Borough to proceed with the purchase before receiving the grant funds. The Borough received permission from the USDA, which is attached, last week to proceed with the purchase. Resolution 2021-86 authorizes the purchase, which is through State Contract.

Purchasing, Audio/Video Meeting Room Recording Equipment. Over the last several months Cindy and I have been reviewing the options for updating the meeting room audio and recording systems. The current laptop used for Borough Council and Planning Board meetings is at the end of its life, and the version of Windows and the current recording software, FTR, is no longer supported. We met with our vendor, who provided us with a complete upgrade of the recording software, the audio and sound system, with an integrated Zoom platform. It also includes new microphones, camera for remote meetings. Cindy and I both believe that any new system should incorporate remote meeting capability if circumstances warrant such a shift. The

complete system \$25,593. The purchase, which is authorized by Resolution 2021-87, is through State Contract and as previously noted will come from a portion of the ARP funds and the Cable TV technology grant.

Orphan Lot. The interested party is having some difficulty finding a title search company. I have given him some names of companies that have worked for the Borough in the past.

Municipal Court. Please note that I will now be attaching the month report from the Court and my internal financial tracking spreadsheet. For the month of June, the Borough received \$2,678.98 from the court.

Emergency Management Shared Service. The Borough has received a check from the Borough of Stanhope in the amount of \$3,375.50, one half of the Emergency Management Coordinator's salary.

Sale of Old Reservoir. I have sent a follow up letter to both property owners regarding how they wish to address the encroachment issues. If I do not receive a response, I will turn the matter over to the Borough Attorney.

Woodmont Sewer Transmission Payment. The developer's payment of \$6,594.08 for the period of 12/20 to 5/21 has been received.

Water System Acoustical Testing Grant. The Borough has been notified that it was not awarded the grant to set up an acoustical monitoring system for its water infrastructure. Trenton, North Brunswick, Manchester and Washington Township were awarded grants that total over \$1,127,518. Our Borough Engineer observed that it appears that the Board of Public Utilities awarded the grants that had 30% unaccounted water. Two of the grantees had close to 50% unaccounted water. By comparison the Borough system is not nearly as bad. There is no indication whether the Board of Public Utilities will offer a second round of funding.

Public Works. Arbolino Park Bridge & Trail Project. Footings for the pedestrian bridge have been placed and paving areas are being prepped.

Arbolino Park Pickle Ball Court. The court, weather permitting, will be painted this month. The paint will need two weeks to cure before the striping is installed.

Elm Street Water Main Improvement Project. Project start pending.

Brookside, Locust, Dogwood Roads & Helen Way Improvements. Project scheduled to start on August 6th.

Safe Routes to Schools Grant. Draft preliminary engineering report is completed, and we are awaiting final approval by the NJDOT.

Sewer, Amendment to Woodmont Parc Sewer Transmission Agreement. Over the last several months the Mayor, Borough Engineer and I have been working on an amendment to the STA with Woodmont Park, a copy of which is attached. The agreement clarifies the quarterly rent formula, establishes a \$3,500 sewer meter maintenance fee and a 5% administrative fee. A resolution approving the amendment will be on the agenda next week.

Sewer, Quick Chek Interlocal Agreement. We have finally finished work on the interlocal agreement between Roxbury Township and the Borough. Resolution 2021-78 authorizes the agreement between the two municipalities. A sewer transmission agreement has already been entered into with Quick Chek and the Borough received its first \$12,500 under the agreement. The second payment of \$12,500 will be made one year after initial operation.

Sewer, Kingtown Mountain Sewer Transmission Agreement. A resolution authorizing a sewer transmission agreement with Kington Mountain will be on the agenda. The truck stop will be capped at 3,100 gallons a day (Quick Chek is 4,000 gallons a day) and the owner has agreed to pay:

- A \$5,000 application fee
- A \$30,000 connection fee
- Quarterly rents as determined by the formula previously set up by Bob Guerin
- A meter usage fee of \$500 annually
- An administrative fee of 5% on the quarterly rent

Public Safety. Public Safety Committee. Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 12th, at 6:30 PM.

State Mandated Body Cameras. On the agenda for next Thursday is a funding ordinance for the state mandated police body worn cameras. Since this was an unanticipated capital expense the CFO and I are recommending that Borough utilize \$15,000 from the capital reserve for police equipment, \$15,000 from the general capital reserve and the balance from the State Attorney General's grant program.

Speed Tables/Traffic Control. On the agenda for Thursday, August 12th is adoption of an ordinance that will establish a 4-Way stop intersection at Dell Avenue and Water Street. The DPW and Police Department are preparing to install the new stop signs, painted stop bars and notify the public of the new traffic pattern.

Koclas Drive Shoreline Maintenance. Josh Osowski, Regional Superintendent of the State Park Service confirmed that the service did cut back the brush on the parts of the Koclas Drive shoreline within their immediate control. He informed me that there is a new Superintendent of Lake Hopatcong Park and that he will be arranging a meeting with her. Finally, he mentioned that the State will be reviewing its policy on allowing the public and property owners use of the shoreline along the lake.

Stoll Street NJ TRANSIT Maintenance. I met, remotely, with representatives from NJ TRANSIT last month regarding their property along Stoll Street. Sergeants Coppolella and Van Houten also attended. The following items were discussed:

- Regarding the encouragement issues, NJ TRANSIT will be consulting the AG's office on how to proceed with the buildings, parking areas and movable property located on their property.
- By the end of the week NJ TRANSIT will advise as to the anticipated date that one of its cleanup crews will be in Netcong.
- It is understood that the cleanup crew's activities will be limited to removal of trash

and debris, not brush and weed removal.

- NJ TRANSIT will review the possibility of installing signs along its property on Stoll Street so that property owners and tenants are aware of TRANSIT's ownership.
- The Borough has offered to assist the cleanup crew with traffic control and public works assistance if necessary.
- The Borough will continue to engage property owners in the area to obtain property maintenance compliance and will act as a conduit between NJ TRANSIT and the property owners.
- The Borough communicated that the situation is reaching the point where elected officials may become involved.

5. Economic Development. Crown Point-Deed Restriction. On the agenda for Thursday's meeting is a resolution 2021-76 authorizing the execution of a deed restriction by the mayor for the affordable housing units at 34 Bank Street (Crown Point) There are 13 deed restricted units. The breakdown is:

- 2 very low-income units, one 1 bedroom, one 2 bedroom,
- 5 low-income units, three 2 bedrooms, two 3 bedrooms,
- 6 moderate income units, one 1 bedroom, four 2 bedrooms and one 3 bedrooms.

Community Grants, Planning & Housing is administering the tenant applications for the developer. See the attachment for more information or the Borough web site.

Crown Point-Performance Bond. On the agenda is a resolution releasing the developers Performance Bond. Please see Borough Engineer's June 16th correspondence for additional information.

ShopRite. Closing on the Wiltop Road sale took place the week of July 19th and payment has been received.

Crown Walk (Pocketbook Factory). The Borough Engineer is preparing plans to send to the NJ DOT for the walkway improvements along Route 46. As you may recall the developer will be contributing \$125,000 towards the cost of the project.

6. Pending Items.

- a. Adler Sewer Transmission Agreement – follow up with Roxbury and developer.
- b. Update Personnel Policy (Required by the JIF to be completed by November 2021)
- c. Center Designation and Master Plan Update
- d. Follow up with JCP&L on Maple & Ledgewood Avenue Lighting.
- e. Grease Trap regulations

JULY 2021 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT
RENTAL/RESALE INSPECTIONS
14 BARONE ST

93A & B ALLEN ST
100 A & B MAIN ST
27 DELL AVE
93 A & B ALLEN ST
100 A & B MAIN ST
88 KOCLAS DR
16C MAIN ST

MAINTENANCE VIOLATIONS

62 KOCLAS DR - GRASS
77 ALLEN ST-TRASH IN SIDE YARD
85 STOLL ST- GRASS 2No WARNING
101 STOLL ST-GRASS
31 LEDGEWOOD AVE-GRASS
38 CENTER ST- MATTRESS/DEBRIS IN YARD
94 MAIN - GRASS
11 LOCUST ST- DEBRIS IN YARD
8 BURTIST-DEBRIS IN DRIVEWAY
10 BURTIST-DEBRIS ON PORCH
6 BURTI ST-ABANDONED VEHICLE - REPORTED TO PD

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & INSURANCE: E. STILL J. SYLVESTER

Councilman Still read his report. He wishes Ralph well with his family emergency that occurred today.

For the month of July 2021, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$1,508,769.60 as compared to \$686,481.17 in July 2020.

For the month of July 2021:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2021 the Borough received \$132,130.70 compared to \$2,336.00 in 2020

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees:

The Borough received \$4,307.29 in 2021 compared to \$5,589.81 in 2020.

State Aid:

There was \$9,477.00 in 2021 as compared to \$180.00 in 2020.

Grants in Aid:

We did not receive any Grants in Aid for 2021 or 2020.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$1,362,854.61 in 2021 compared to \$678,375.36 in 2020.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2021 is \$6,820,647.03 as opposed to \$5,661,656.21 in 2020.

The mayor asked about energy receipts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: R. HATHAWAY E. STILL

Councilman Hathaway discussed details of the meeting of the EDC tomorrow. The bank property has been purchased and they are meeting tomorrow to hear about their ideas for redevelopment.

The Isolatek property has closed and is trying to purchase the adjacent Woodmont property as well. The new owner has also purchased the old copy machine building and is refurbishing it at this time. They have also done several other homes in town. There was a brief discussion of the development in this area of the town which is next to the crown point development. Councilman Sylvester asked if we will be developing something other than rentals. Councilman Hathaway stated the market at this time is for rentals. Councilman Sylvester is concerned about the density in that area. Councilman Hathaway stated we should be within our density limits.

Councilman Hathaway also discussed the following: Mr. O'Brien who lives near the new development expressed concerns about the noise coming from the AC units in the new complex. The developer has agreed to plant some greenery to buffer the noise. They will be doing the planting once the weather permits.

**PUBLIC SAFETY: J. SYLVESTER E. KOSTER
(POLICE, FIRE, RESCUE)**

Councilman Sylvester read his reports. The police and fire depts. received an anonymous letter complaining about the fireworks. Since there was no name or address on it he did not read it.

The police are now including the radar log in their report. This will be done on a regular basis to slow driver's down. The Police dept. has hit the ground running in light of Chief Blesson's retirement. Sgt.'s Coppolella and VanHouten are working long hours to clean up files. When the current patrolman finishes training, they will be restructuring the department.

Police

643 Total Calls

11 motor vehicle incidents

97 motor vehicle summonses

8 local ordinances

Radar log: 96.5 hours duty

Ambulance Corps

June

TOTAL CALLS: 47

TOTAL: 33 PATIENTS

TOTAL HOSPITAL TRIPS: 29

MILES TRAVELLED: 899 miles

HOURS VOLUNTEERED: 243 hrs 26 mins

May

TOTAL CALLS: 44

TOTAL HOSPITAL TRIPS: 23

TOTAL: 36 PATIENTS

MILES TRAVELLED: 699 miles

HOURS VOLUNTEERED: 134 hrs 49 mins

Fire Department

TOTAL INCIDENTS:12

TOTAL DRILLS: 1

TOTAL SPECIAL DETAILS: 4

MONTHLY 34 Members Volunteered

TOTAL: 142 Hours & 47 Minutes

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
HATHAWAY**

E. KOSTER

R.

Councilman Koster read the DPW report and well log.

Road Department: Removed the American flags from Main St and Maple Ave...
.Performed a storm related brush and chipper run.... Watered all flower pots one time in July... ..installed 25 mph signs on Love Lane...

Water Department: Performed quarterly water sampling Buildings & Grounds: Peterson Tree service installed the new netting at Arbolino Park

Other: Worked on insulating and paneling the food pantry shed... .Sgt Coppolella assisted with the rough electric for the shed... .Performed a clean up of the property at 22 Wiltop Rd.... Assisted in launching the weed harvester into Lake Musconetcong... .DPW and Sgt Coppolella supported tasks for the St Cesario feast including pick up and set up of message boards, light towers, barricades, and cones from the County and State DOT.... Peterson Tree service assisted with the removal of the FH 1 siren and DPW brought it to Longo Services for repair and refurbishing.

Well log:2,507,00 gallons less than last year.

RECREATION:

J. ALBENSI

T. LAUREYS

Councilman Albensi read his report.

1. Our last concert of the season is tomorrow night with entertainment by the Symphonies. We have had a wonderful concert series this year, and were able to provide some of the finest entertainment around. Rec is already booking bands for next year - actually we only have a few more open weeks.
2. Rec will be hosting and End of Summer Family Bash/Fun Day Event is Saturday 8/28 from 1-4 with rain date of Sunday 8/29, same time. We will have a Juggler (Bill Ceddia) and also JOJO. Hotdogs/water/ice cream will be served. Sure to be a fun day for all!
3. Rec has added a few new members, Jessica Parks and Joe DiRenzo.
4. The Trunk or Treat event is just around the corner, so we are working on event specifics.
5. Also working on the Holiday Parade.

**PUBLIC SERVICES:
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal**

T. LAUREYS

J. ALBENSI

Councilman Laureys read the June and July reports and the recycle report from Mr. Fiorello, Recycle coordinator.

DIAL A RIDE MONTHLY REPORT

Month: July, 2021
Days of Service: 18
Miles: 847
#of Stops ;26
Nutrition: 0
Food Shopping: 23
of Meals on Wheels: 15
Medical Appointments:19
Other Appointments: 4
People Using Services: 16 +015 meals
Cancels: 2
Denials:0
Units: 92
Hours: 64.5

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Catherine C. Barry Firefighter for Fire Co. No.1

A Motion was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the appointment.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President: feels sorry for the new firefighter because she was on the roll for 2 years and application was lost until now.

Councilman Laureys: Asked about the Ordinance for noise. Councilman Sylvester gave some detail on the issue of the time frames in the current ordinance. They would like to know if we can remove the timeframes that are stated in the ordinance. Mr. Bucco will take a look at the ordinance and the current state ordinance to see if we can eliminate them. There was discussion among the council on this subject. The mayor stated they will have Mr. Blakeslee query several other ordinances for their noise issues. Mr. Bucco will do some research. He feels the police do have the tools necessary at this time to enforce. The neighbors in question were approached by the police

The mayor reminded everyone about the fireworks.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mount Olive has obtained a grant to do covid vaccines once a month. They will be here on food bank day to give vaccines to those who want it.

We need to rethink one of our ordinances: trash. There is discussion among the Council regarding this subject. Councilman Hathaway stated there is sufficient time in our ordinance for garbage to be placed at the curb and when it needs to be brought in. Mr. Bucco stated the ordinance is crystal clear. A summons should be issued if it is left on the street.

PROCLAMATIONS

No proclamations were presented.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 2020- 88- Authorizing the Acceptance and Execution of a Sewage Transmission Agreement Between Pilot Travel Center and the Borough of Netcong

2. Resolution 2021-89 – Authorizing the Amendment to a Sewage Transmission Agreement Between Roxwood Associates, LLC and The Borough of Netcong

Councilman Still noted that Stanhope does have sewage to sell.

A Motion was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve both resolutions.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. Capital Ordinance 2021-20 - Capital Ordinance to Appropriate the Sum Of \$60,000 For The Acquisition of Police Body Cameras And Related Equipment In, By And For The Borough Of Netcong, In The County Of Morris, State Of New Jersey, And Providing That Such Sum So Appropriated Shall Be Raised From A State Grant, Borough Reserve Funds And The Capital Improvement Fund Of The Borough .

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2021-20 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2021-20 on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

REPORTS

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

BILLS

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

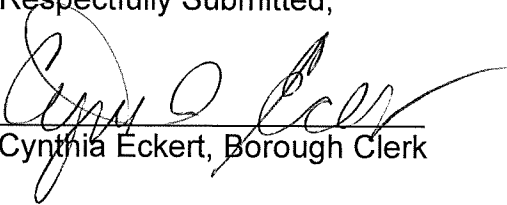
CLOSED SESSION

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 8:17PM and was moved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

