

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG**  
**REORGANIZATION MEETING/REGULAR MEETING**  
**JANUARY 13, 2022**

Mayor Nametko called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, 2022.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 13, 2022 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 8, 2022.

**STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION**

Mr. Blakeslee read the statement of determination.

**SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilman Joseph W. Albensi III and Councilman Todd Morton were sworn in.

**ROLL CALL**

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Albensi, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Morton, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator.

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

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

Before I make my opening remarks, I would like to recognize several individuals who joined us this evening.

This time last year we were looking forward to a much better year in 2021 and hoping COVID-19 would be an event for the record books. By August, there was some glimmer

of hope, that would be the case; then came Alpha, Delta and now the Omicron variant and here we are again this evening wearing masks again.

While COVID had some effect on Borough employees and volunteers, our residents and business noticed no changes in our service.

Throughout 2021 Council members, Borough employees, our Department of Public Works, our Police and Fire Departments and our Ambulance Squad were there providing the high level of service our residents and businesses are accustomed to.

Also, by mid-year our volunteer organizations including Recreation, Planning Board, Board of Health and the Netcong Community Partnership were finally able to meet in person to continue their support of our community. Thank-you one in all!

Since March 2020 many needy families have relied on the dedication of THREE volunteers who, MANNED, or in this case, I should say WOMANNED the Netcong Emergency Food Bank.

They worked outside during the coldest January 2021 since 2010 and the 6th hottest summer on record.

I am glad to report Mary Lou Stracco, Jeanette Mostowicz and my wife Olivia, the three food bank volunteers will be recognized by the Council as the Volunteers Of The Year at our Regular Council meeting in February.

#### FIRE DEPT

- On behalf of the Council and all of the residents of Netcong, I would like to offer our sincere THANKS to departing fire department Chief, Ed Koster. Eddie has now completed his second two-year term as Chief of the Netcong Fire Department. We appreciate all of your efforts Ed.
- Once again in 2021, another COVID year, our firemen and women responded when the alarm sounded.
- What most of us don't release, along with responding to every call for their help, our firemen and women are required to attend hours of TRAINING, DRILLS and MEETINGS.
- I was fortunate to spend one morning watching as some of our FD members took Ice Rescue training to achieve that certification. They literally crawled across the ice on Lake Musconetcong and then plunged into the icy water. While their dry suits MIGHT have kept them from freezing, their faces were not covered from the fridged water. Incredible. Thank-you to all of our FD Members.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

- After many years as a patrolman, a Sergeant and the Chief of Police Jim Blesson decided to retire at the end of 2021.
- Jim was known to almost everyone in Netcong and was always there for anyone who needed help.
- We all wish Jim a healthy, happy retirement.
- COVID certainly did not minimize the calls our police department had to answer in 2021. Along with dealing with traffic stops and normal patrol, our police department responded to well over 7,000 calls.
- To ensure the safety of our overnight police staff, we hired another officer so there will always be 2 officers on the overnight shift.
- In a few minutes, we will be swearing in a new Chief, a New Lieutenant and a new sergeant.
- In the next few months, our new Chief, Russ Van Houten will be appointing a full-time detective.
- We look forward to working with the new leaders and our entire police department in 2022 and beyond.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- I am glad to report the 126-unit project, 34 Bank is now fully occupied.
- This spring, the 86-unit Crown Walk project under construction at the location of the Old Pocket Book Factory, will be completed and ready to be occupied.
- The Economic Development Committee continues to work with parties interested in doing re-development projects in Netcong. This committee continues to ensure any growth in our Borough is SMART GROWTH.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- Our multiply-phase improvements to Arbolino Park are moving along smoothly since Phase 1 was completed providing new tennis and basketball courts.
- Phase 2, including our OUTDOOR ADA/Senior compliant exercise equipment is complete and our Pickle Ball Court is installed. Unfortunately, like many other items, the fencing for the pickle ball court is still on backorder. Hopefully, the fence will be available this spring and the court will be ready for use.
- Our Trail Grant has provided 3 ADA Parking spots near our Kayak ramp and dock. The trail that now runs through Arbolino park is connected to our lot on Allen St via a new bridge over the lake inlet.

- Thanks to over \$275,000.00 in NJDOT grants we initiated improvements to Helen Way, Brookside Rd, Locust St. and Dogwood Rd. Resurfacing will be done this spring.
- A new water line and resurfacing of Elm St is also scheduled for later this year.

#### WRAP UP

With all of the challenges of COVID-19, thanks to the dedication of our Council, all of our employees and volunteers Netcong is still strong and we continue to do a great job servicing the Netcong residents and businesses.

I cannot thank you enough for all of the work you did in 2021 and I look forward to working with each of you in 2022.

Have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

### **SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Council Appointment**

A Motion to appoint Jack Sylvester Council President was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Laureys.

Roll Call: 5 Yes      Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

### **ANNOUNCEMENT – VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Presentation and approval of resolution to be held at the February regular meeting.

### **SWEARING IN OF FIRE CHIEF AND ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF**

Fire Chief - Duane Hartle  
Assistant Fire Chief – Raymond Bock

### **SWEARING IN OF POLICE CHIEF**

Russell Van Houten

### **SWEARING IN OF POLICE LIEUTENANT**

Anthony Coppolella

### **SWEARING IN OF POLICE SERGEANT**

Joseph Matits

## **Comments from Police Chief**

The Police Chief provided a statement.

## **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:                            J. Sylvester            T. Laureys  
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

Dept. of Public  
Works & Utilities:                    J. Albensi            R. Hathaway

Recreation:                            T. Morton            J. Albensi

Public Services:                    T. Laureys            T. Morton  
(Human Services  
Recycling & Solid  
Waste Disposal)

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: James Arbolino (1Year term)

Deputy Borough Clerk: Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy Tax Collector: None

Sewer Collector:    Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy Sewer Collector: Cynthia Eckert

Water Collector:    Ralph Blakeslee

Deputy Water Collector: Cynthia Eckert

Assessment Searcher: Cynthia Eckert

Recycling Coordinator: Joseph Fiorello

Clean Communities Coordinator: Michael Canfield

Assistant Public Works Superintendent: Timothy Hess

Fire Official: Mark Sylvester – Cert. #177302 (1 Year term)

Fire Prevention  
Inspector/Fire  
Investigator: Michael Pellek – Cert. #101410 (1 Year term)

Fire Prevention  
Inspector: Kyle Bolan -Cert. #184010 (1 Year term)

Special Police  
Officer (Class II) Harry Garlick  
Daniel Rafferty

Police Matron: Shannon Bock

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

Guards: Donna Crawn

Benjamin Dalessandro

William Hart

Sandra Mendel

Ralph Simmerano

Melissa Sylvester

Steven Vervaet

Alternates:

Tom Patamia

Frank Schomp

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board: None

Board of Health: Alan Cook -(3 Year Term Exp. 12/31/24)

Barbara Repp - (3 Year Term Exp. 12/31/24)

Henry Repp - (3 Year Term Exp. 12/31/24)

A Motion to Approve the Above Listed Appointments was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton.  
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- Thomas Huffman (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/25)

Class 4- Theresa Vervaet (4 Year Term Exp. 12/31/25)

(Council Appointment)

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

A Motion to approve the Class 3 Appointment was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Albensi

Recreation Commission: (Mayor Appt.-No vote required)

Joseph DiRenzo - 5 Year Term – Expires 12/31/2026

Alan Cook - 5 Year Term – Expires 12/31/2026

Sara Benson - 5 Year Term – Expires 12/31/2026

Todd Morton - Council Liaison (1 Year term) (Council Appointment)

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Morton

Municipal Alliance Committee:

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

A Motion to approve Council Appointment was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Albensi

## **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS**

Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee Appointments for 2022:

Joseph W. Albensi - (Appointment by Mayor)

Ralph Blakeslee, Alternate - (Appointment by Mayor)

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

A Motion to approve the above listed appointment was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Albensi

Alternate Animal

Control Officer: Joseph Fiorello (1 Year term)

A Motion to approve the above listed appointment was made by Councilman Sylvester 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 (2-year term)

A Motion to adopt the above referenced appointments was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys Abstain: Councilman Hathaway

## **RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution #2022-1 To Honor Volunteers
2. Resolution #2021-2 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Attorney, Anthony M. Bucco, Esq. for 2021.
3. Resolution #2022-3 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for



Professional Services for Special Tax Counsel, Fred Semrau, Esq.  
for 2022.

4. Resolution #2022-4 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for Borough Auditor, Valerie Dolan of Nisivoccia LLP for 2022.

5. Resolution #2022-5 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Borough Engineer, John Ruschke of Mott McDonald for 2022.

6. Resolution #2022-6 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services for the Bond Council to Steven Rogut of Rogut McCarthy, LLC

7. Resolution #2022-7 Depositories for 2022 as Follows:  
Fulton Bank Inc.  
Valley Bank  
TD Bank  
New Jersey Cash Management Fund

8. Resolution #2022-8 Official Newspapers as Follows:  
Daily Record and The Star Ledger

9. Resolution #2022-9 Resolution Designating Newspapers to Receive Notices and Fixing Charges.

10. Resolution #2022-10 Fixing Rates of Interest (8%) and Penalty on Delinquent Taxes, (18%) Assessments and Other Municipal Charges.

11. Resolution #2022-11 Authorizing Investments by the Borough in Certain Bonds and Other Obligations.

12. Resolution #2022-12 Regular Public Meeting Dates and Work Session Dates of the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong.

13. Resolution #2022-13 Authorizing Temporary Budgets for The Borough of Netcong as Provided by N.J.S.A.40A:4-19.

14. Resolution #2022-14 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee and Elmer Still, As Commissioner and Alternate for the Morris County Joint Municipal Insurance Fund.

15. Resolution #2022-15 To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee as Public Agency Compliance Officer.

16. Resolution #2022-16 - To Appoint the Vozza Agency as the

Borough of Netcong's Risk Management Consultant.

17. Resolution #2022-17 - To Appoint Ralph Blakeslee as Housing Liaison Officer.

18. Resolution #2022-18 – Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commissions “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”

19. Resolution #2022-19 – To Appoint Christie Stachnick as Interim Qualified Purchasing Agent

A Motion to Adopt Resolutions 2022-1 to 2022-19 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

## **END REORGANIZATION MEETING**

**The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council for January 13th, 2022 began at 7:43PM.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Agenda Meeting – December 2, 2021
- Regular Meeting – December 9, 2021

A Motion to Approve the Above Listed Minutes was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Abstain: Councilman Morton

### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

None were presented.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was presented.

### **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Blakeslee thanked the limited staff that managed the office so well.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT DECEMBER 2021

INSPECTIONS

17 AMENDOLA DR  
6 DOGWOOD  
17 AMENDOLA DR - REINSPECT  
65 ALLEN ST  
27 DELL AVE  
3 CHURCH ST  
29 COLLEGE RD  
3 CHURCH ST - REINSPECT  
60 STOLL ST  
16 BARONE ST  
16 ½ BARONE ST  
21C BARONE ST  
NETCONG HEIGHTS  
BLDG 1/APT 8  
BLDG 2/APT 8  
BLDG 3/APT1  
BLDG 3/APT 7  
BLDG 8/APT 8  
BLDG 14/APT 8  
BLDG 15/APT 7  
BLDG 15/APT8  
BLDG 17/APT3  
83 ALLEN ST – COUCHES LEFT OUTSIDE/NO STICKERS  
6 NORTH ST – PEOPLE LIVING IN THE BASEMENT

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE & INSURANCE:            E. STILL                    J. SYLVESTER**

For the month of December 2021, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$72,088.99 as compared to \$234,920.45 in December 2020.

For the month of December 2021:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA): In 2021 the Borough received \$1,480.00 compared to \$16,931.62 in 2020

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees: The Borough received \$5,048.37 in 2021 compared to \$3,177.46 in 2020.

State Aid: There was \$19,595.30 in 2021 and \$19,614.90 in 2020.

Grants in Aid: We did not receive anything in 2021 and \$37,270.17 in 2020.

Taxes Collected: The Borough collected \$45,965.32 in 2021 compared to \$157,926.30 in 2020.

Income Total Year to Date: The Total Income Year to date for 2021 is \$11,132,088.61 as opposed to \$10,859,166.59 in 2020.

***ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: R. HATHAWAY E. STILL***

***PUBLIC SAFETY: J. SYLVESTER T. LAUREYS  
(POLICE, FIRE, RESCUE)***

Police  
Total Calls: 607

***DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS J. ALBENSI R. HATHAWAY***

D.P.W. Monthly Report January 2022

Road Department: Brought back all the County's signs and lights for the Holiday Parade.... Installed no parking this side signs on Jenny Lind St and Bank St....NJ Natural Gas lowered the gas main under the new culvert on Helen Way.... Installed hot patch asphalt on Carmine Dr.... Performed a final town wide leaf run....Performed 2 week long town wide storm drain cleaning program....

Water Department: ABB Inc performed bi-annual meter calibrations at the well houses...

Buildings & Grounds: Fixed heat at FH #2 kitchen areas....

Parks & Recreation: Started installation of split rail fence at the Arbolino Park entrance....

Snow: Ordered 50 tons of salt for stock....Worked with Netcong PD to have all basketball hoops removed from curb lines for the snow plow season....

Other: Attended a 4th qtr safety meeting with the JIF....Mike Canfield attended a zoom clean community meeting....Mike Canfield attended a NJ water webinar....Jeff Jozowski attended a CPR recertification class....

**RECREATION:**

**T. MORTON**

**J. ALBENSI**

**PUBLIC SERVICES:**

**T. LAUREYS**

**T. MORTON**

**(Human Services  
Recycling & Solid  
Waste Disposal**

**DIAL A RIDE MONTHLY REPORT**

Month: December 2021

Days of Service: 20

Miles: 843

#of Stops:52

Nutrition: 2 people, 13

Food Shopping: 24

# of Meals on Wheels: 18

Medical Appointments:50

Other Appointments: 10

People Using Services: 18

Cancels: 4

Denials:0

Units: 168

Hours: 80

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **New Business**-Appointment of Daniel Esposito. as a Junior Firefighter for Fire Co. No. 2

A motion was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the appointment.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 2022- 21**-Resolution Authorizing A Modification To A Federal Aid Agreement With The NJDOT.
2. **Resolution 2022-22** – Authorizing a Tax Refund for Block 10 Lot 21, 12 Allen Terrace

A Motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still to approve the two resolutions noted above.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **PROCLAMATION**

#### **NETCONG BOROUGH SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK**

WHEREAS, all children in Netcong Borough should have access to the highest-quality education possible; and,

WHEREAS, Netcong Borough recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing all students in Government to be successful adults; and,

WHEREAS, quality education is critically important to the economic vitality of Netcong Borough; and,

WHEREAS, educational variety not only helps to diversify our economy, but also enhances the vibrancy of our community; and,

WHEREAS, Netcong Borough has many high-quality teaching professionals who are committed to educating our children; and,

WHEREAS, School Choice Week is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Joseph A. Nametko do hereby recognize January 23- January 29, 2022 as Netcong Borough School Choice Week, and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

None presented

### **REPORTS**

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

**BILLS**

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

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 7:51 PM and was moved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk