

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2022 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

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 14, 2022.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper
of the Borough of Netcong on January 19, 2022 and emailing a
copy to the Star Ledger on January 14, 2022.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Albensi, Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Morton, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Sylvester, Councilman Still 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. Bob Colananni, Chestnut St., discussed recent issues in reference to the ordinance passed several years ago. Quite a few vehicles are parked on Mc. Mullen and Chestnut St, With the snow on the sides of the road, vehicles are parked far out into the street. He called the police about it and asked for tickets to be written but that has not happened. The Mayor stated we would notify our police department to find out what is going on. He stated this may have been done as a courtesy for the restaurant. Mr. Colananni stated he is concerned because the ordinance is not being followed. He mentioned a sign that was on the door of the restaurant warning patrons about the parking on the street that was working well but is no longer there. There was brief discussion among the Council and

administrator regarding this matter, including replacing the signs. Mr. Colananni stated there were 15 cars parked on these streets. He thanked the Council for their time

Mrs. Jen Santana, 20 Hillside Ave, was following up on emails she has been sending about the basketball courts. She is concerned because in the past the basketball courts were always open all year. Her kids could play all year round. Now they are locked up in the winter. She would like to know if the Council would consider opening up the courts all year round again. Basketball is the only sport that Netcong has in the school. The Mayor stated the old courts were old and not in good condition. There is a concern that the new courts which were expensive to put in may have damage if used in the winter when there is ice and snow. Councilman Hathaway stated the recreation committee gives recommendations on when the courts should be open. It is our policy at this time to close the courts from November to April 1st. The DPW supervisor would be the person to contact to see if the courts can be open. Mrs. Santana stated she understands if there is ice and snow they would be closed. Councilman Hathaway stated she should contact the recreation committee. Councilman Morton stated he would bring this up at the next recreation meeting.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

RESOLUTION 2022-20 TO RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Mayor read the resolution:

***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,** The Covid-19 pandemic, has caused food insecurity for many families; and*

***Whereas,** Past Chief James Blesson and Councilman Robert Hathaway saw the need to provide food for residents in Netcong and surrounding towns; and*

***Whereas,** The Netcong Emergency Food Bank was established in March 2020; and*

***Whereas,** Mayor Joe Nametko volunteered to be the director of the Netcong Emergency Food Bank from its onset; and*

***Whereas,** three Netcong residents stepped forward to assist with the emergency food bank, spending over 1200 hours at their outdoor post feeding the hungry in 2021, despite the fact January 2021 was the coldest on record since 2010 with wind chills below zero and summer 2021 was the 6th hottest on record with 36 days over 90 degrees and heat index levels as high as 104; and*

***Whereas,** Jeanette Mostowicz, Olivia Nametko and MaryLou Stracco have served tirelessly to provide over 4,500 bags of food and over 8,000 meals including over 3,500 pounds of fruits and*

vegetables, 8,000 pounds of frozen chicken, ground beef, ground turkey and ham, 240 dozen eggs, 150 pounds of butter and countless quarts of milk and other items to over 2,200 families; and

Whereas, their consistent dedication has brought relief to many families.

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 Jeanette Mostowicz, Olivia Nametko and MaryLou Stracco for their past and continuing service to the Borough of Netcong, and its citizens.

PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Mayor presented Olivia Nametko, Mary Lou Stracco and Jeanette Mostkowicz their awards.

POLICE CHIEF COMMENDATION – PTL. MATT PAONESSA AND PTL. ROB POPELKA

Police Chief Russell VanHouten provided commendation to Netcong Officer Paonessa and Stanhope Officer Popelka commending them on their quick actions and professionalism. He presented them with lifesaving bars for their uniforms and will recommend them for the 200 club this year. The Mayor stated there will be new life saving equipment in each police vehicle.

PRESENTATION – RETIREMENT - WILLIAM HART

Proclamation- Recognizing William “Bill” Hart for His Years of Service to the Borough of Netcong

Chief VanHouten read the proclamation for Mr. Hart and presented it to him. Mr. Hart said a few words to the audience. He thanked the borough for all they have done for him.

Mr. Van Houten thanked the Council for their time.

The Mayor also thanked the Borough Clerk for all her efforts in putting the awards project together.

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

None Presented

CORRESPONDENCE

None Presented

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee presented the following updates:

- Proposal to switch service- he contacted the vendor interested in providing this service- Mr. Blakeslee will contact references and see additional quotes.
- New assistant starts next Monday.
- Grant Application – presentation of Feb. 24th for Arbolino Park
- The basketball court issue was mentioned in his administrator report. He provided a few details and stated the DPW superintendent understands the children wanting to play on the courts. The Mayor stated last year the courts were open and not always used. He stated the DPW should be the ones to open and close the gates since they maintain the courts.
- ARP community challenge grant for additional work at Arbolino Park will be submitted in March.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT

JANUARY 2022

RENTAL/RESALE INSPECTION

49 MAIN ST
90 STOLL ST
4 MAIN ST
4 DELL AVE #1
4 DELL AVE #2
49 ALLEN ST
28 CHURCH ST
NETCONG HEIGHTS
B1A8
B2A8
B3A1
B3A7
B4A12
B8A8
B14A8
B15A2
B15A8
B17/A3

MAINTENANCE ISSUE - SNOW

13 STOLL ST
9-11 STOLL ST
31 LEDGEWOOD
4, 6, 8 LEDGEWOOD
2 MAIN ST
41 DELL
45 DELL
VILLAGE PLACE
14 DELL AVE
31 LEDGEWOOD AVE

21 KOCLAS
90 STOLL
TRASH
1 KINGS RD - TRASH ON/AROUND THE PROPERTY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

Councilman Still put the report on record. He thanked Mr. Blakeslee for the draft budget.

For the month of January 2022, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$661,900.02 as compared to \$577,598.56 in January 2021.

For the month of January 2022:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA): In 2022 the Borough received \$1,732.00 compared to \$1,877.04 in 2021

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees: The Borough received \$20,192.95 in 2021 compared to \$19,869.35 in 2021.

State Aid: There was no state aid in either 2021 or 2022.

Grants in Aid: There was \$972.07 received in Grants in Aid for 2022 and \$1,297.98 in 2021.

Taxes Collected: The Borough collected \$639,003.00 in 2022 compared to \$554,524.73 in 2021. The 2022 amount includes payment for the PILOT at 34 Bank St.

Income Total Year to Date: The Total Income Year to date for 2021 is \$661,900.02 as opposed to \$577,569.10 in 2021.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway noted that he had a meeting with Crown Point. Crown Point has agreed to install improved fencing at Arbolino Park.

Quirk Property intends to sell the property to Landmark Properties who own Netcong Heights and the proposed St. Michael's project. The Council will need to approve this transaction. Landmark has been notified the Council will have to approve this and the details on how this would happen. He gave details on the transfer of the PILOT and the transfer fees involved. Concern was expressed about how they would handle this new property as there are issues at Netcong Heights. The Council will have the opportunity to be sure they are financially secure first.

Crown Point has agreed to improve the fencing at Arbolino Park.

*Public Safety:
(Police, Fire, Rescue)*

J. Sylvester

T. Laureys

Councilman Sylvester gave his report for the police department, Fire Dept. and Fire Prevention Bureau. (Ambulance reports will be provided in March)

Police Department:

Total Calls: 700

Motor Vehicle Incidents: 70

Radar incidents: 53

Local Warrants: 1

Fire Department, January 2022

Total Calls: 9

General Alarms: 5

Squad Assists: 0

Mutual Aid: 4

Total Members: 24

Time Volunteered: 88 hours, 59 minutes

Drills: 3

Total Members: 28

Time Volunteered: 101 hours, 15 minutes

Administrative Details: 2

Total Members: 25

Time Volunteered: 39 hours, 45 minutes

TOTAL MEMBERS: 36

Total Time Volunteered: 229 hours, 59 minutes

Fire Prevention:

Performed inspections and administrative work.

Bureau Total Hours: 34 Hours

Additional Monthly Notes: Planning for 2022 began. Met with Administrator and Clerk to go over reorganization of the Bureau. Previous FO returned all supplies, keys, and equipment. Reorganization of files and educational materials were performed by FO and FI. FO and the New Fire Chief met to discuss Bureau improvements. 1 Imminent Hazard/Complaint inspection performed and followed up on (CSS 35 Love Lane).

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

J. Albensi

R. Hathaway

D.P.W. Monthly Report February 2022

Road Department: Replaced a broken stop sign on College Rd....Repaired a catch basin on Old Waterloo Road.... Picked up 187 Christmas trees through this season.....

Water Department: Performed water main repairs on Bank St and Amendola Dr and inspected the repair of a broken water main in Netcong Heights....

Sewer Department: Helen Way contractor broke and repaired a sewer lateral to the Family Ford building...

Buildings & Grounds: Removed all Borough Christmas decorations and Peterson Tree Service was in to remove Main Street and Christmas tree decorations... Replaced a broken interior light in the garage bay at FH #2....Painted all the plumbing in the well houses....

Parks & Recreation: Installed split rail fence at Arbolino Park entrance...

Snow: Removed snow from intersections after storms.... Worked snow storms and ice events on Jan 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 16th, 20th, 23th, and 28th...

Recycling Department: Joe Fiorello started working on the annual tonnage report

Other: New mason dump truck has been delayed 3 months and is now at the fabricator who is waiting on parts for the plow equipment installation.... Mike and Tim attended a water sampling class in Wharton....

Pumped 9712.00 more Gallons in Jan 22 than in Jan 21

Recreation:

T. Morton

J. Albensi

Councilman Morton provided details about the Reorganization within Recreation.

Kim Albensi – president

Bob Olivo – Vice President

Joe Direnzo - Treasurer

Secretary - Jessica Park

He thanked Sharon Still for all her years of service and work behind the scenes still helping during the transition.

He also thanked Joy Sylvester, Tammy Leader and Donna Bauer for their years of service.

Public Services:

T. Laureys

T. Morton

(Human Services

Recycling & Solid

Waste Disposal

DIAL A RIDE MONTHLY REPORT

Month: JANUARY 2022

Days of Service: 19

Miles: 921

of Stops: 52

Nutrition: -

Food Shopping: 23

of Meals on Wheels: 19

Medical Appointments: 33

Other Appointments: 15

People Using Services: 35

Cancels: 6
Denials: 0
Units: 128
Hours: 72

OLD BUSINESS

None Presented

NEW BUSINESS

None Presented

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Hathaway- all would have recognized the Mayor for the volunteer award but cannot because Council members are not eligible. However, the Mayor has spent countless hours with the food bank and should be recognized for his efforts. The Mayor stated it is a joy.

The Mayor was thankful and noted he likes what he does.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

No comment at this time.

RESOLUTIONS Voted in Block

- 1. Resolution 2022-28-** To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 21-00002
- 2. Resolution 2022-29-** Canceling the Tax Assessment on the Properties Known as Block 16.01, Lot 25.01 and Block 16.01, Lot 24
- 3. Resolution 2022-30-** Authorizing the Settlement of the 2021 Tax Appeal Pertaining to Block 16.01, Lots 25.01 &24

Councilman Sylvester asked why there is an appeal on 2022-29. Mr. Blakeslee explained the company did not take into account the PILOT agreement so an appeal was necessary to bring the valuation in compliance with the PILOT. He also explained the second resolution is to cancel the 2nd half year taxes.

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the three resolutions noted above.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2022-1** - An Ordinance Authorizing The Chief Of Police To Execute An Application For A Charitable Solicitation Permit For Netcong Volunteer Fire Company No. 1's "Coin Drop" On Memorial Day Weekend And Columbus Day Weekend At The Intersections Of Allen Street And Ledgewood Avenue And Main Street And Route 46 And Route 183 In The Borough Of Netcong, County Of Morris, State Of New Jersey

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2022-1- and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albeni.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2022-1- on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Morton.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

PROCLAMATIONS

None Presented

REPORTS

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

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

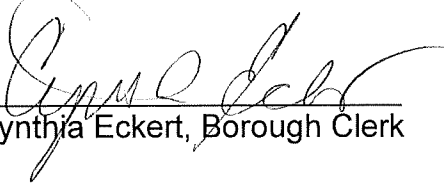
CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still, seconded by Councilman Hathaway and passed by unanimous voice vote at 8:18PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk