

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MARCH 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 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**

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID COST ESTIMATE**

A Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

**Resolution #2022-35 - Resolution to Approve the 2022 Cost Estimate for the Borough's Special Improvement District.**

A Motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the resolution.

Roll Call: 4 Yes      No: Councilman Laureys

**ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

**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 Read Ordinance 2022-1 - 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 Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2022-1 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None was presented.

**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Blakeslee informed the council they need to take the risk management webinar for the MEL. Netcong gets a 250.00 credit for it.

Also, cyber liability insurance is a hot topic these days. The MEL is looking into forming a cyber security joint insurance fund. He included details on MEL. The mayor wanted to know how often our servers are backed up and are they on and off site. He provided his reasoning for this question. Councilman Laureys asked what the timeline is for this plan.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT FEBRUARY 2022

RENTAL/RESALE INSPECTIONS

2 HELEN WAY

5 BROOKSIDE

31 ALLEN ST UNIT #2  
NETCONG HEIGHTS  
BLDG 4/APT 6  
BLDG 6/APT 7  
BLDG 7/APT 8  
BLDG 7/APT 10  
BLDG 17/APT 6  
BLDG 17/APT 9  
BLDG 20/APT 4  
BLDG 23/APT 1  
BLDG 35/APT 1  
BLDG 36/APT 4  
SNOW – SIDEWALKS  
89 STOLL ST  
FAMILY FORD – MAPLE AVE  
2 LEDGEWOOD AVE  
31 ALLEN ST  
QUICK CHEK – MAPLE AVE SIDE  
15 HILLSIDE  
85 STOLL

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance & Insurance:            E. Still                            J. Sylvester**

For the month of February 2022, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$1,924,212.75 as compared to \$1,856,562.73 in February 2021.

For the month of February 2022:

**Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):**

In 2022 the Borough received \$26,140.50 compared to \$11,568.75 in 2021

**Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:**

The Borough received \$5,917.26 in 2022 compared to \$4,748.62 in 2021.

**State Aid:**

There was no state aid in either 2021 or 2022.

Grants in Aid:

There were no Grants in Aid for 2022 and \$2,880.46 in 2021.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$1,892,154.99 in 2022 compared to \$1,856,562.73 in 2021.

Income Total Year to Date:

The Total Income Year to date for 2022 is \$2,586, 112.77 as opposed to \$2,453,359.12 in 2021.

**Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still**

Councilman Hathaway stated it was a big night for the borough. One of our municipal partners will turn their interest over to another community entity. He provided details on this and the entities involved along with the benefits received by the borough involving drainage problems.

Crown Point has delivered everything that was asked for. Now Landmark, who has been a part of the borough for a long time, will be purchasing the 34 BNK property. He detailed this exchange and the particulars on it and how both parties have been more than willing to work with the borough to ensure it is done in the borough's best interest. He reviewed all of the situations that transpired with the process. Crown Point would have to get this project completed originally. Both Crown Point and Landmark have been willing to put in the last section of sidewalk by this property. He noted the resolutions that are on the agenda tonight.

There is no new news on the ShopRite project tonight. Councilman Sylvester stated the fire inspector had several items that needed to be addressed and Shop Rite agreed to the changes.

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

The police department is back to full staff and moving forward in the right direction. The annual totals for the Ambulance Squad for 2021 were reviewed. The new members of the Fire Prevention Department have moved to the borough hall and are bringing it up to current standards.

Police Report, February, 2022

Total Calls: 827  
Selective Enforcement, traffic:52  
Radar: 79  
Traffic enforcement/Stop:315

Ambulance Corps Jan, 2022

Total Calls: 57  
Total Patients: 40  
Total Hospital Trips: 26

Miles Traveled: 811  
Hours Volunteered: 172 hours, 46 min.

Fire Department

Total Calls: 5  
General Alarms: 4  
Squad Assists: 0  
Mutual Aid: 1  
Drills: 5  
Administrative Details: 5  
TOTAL MEMBERS: 45  
Total Time Volunteered: 169 hours, 37 minutes

Fire Prevention

Total Inspections:9  
Total Violations Found:35  
Fire Safety Permits Received:2  
Plan Reviews:1

**Dept. of Public**

**Works & Utilities:**

**J.Albensi**

**R. Hathaway**

**March 2022**

**Road Department:** Performed a final Christmas tree pick up.... Worked on cold patching potholes....Made storm basin repairs on Union St and Amendola Dr...

**Water Department:** Performed February meter readings.... Installed more location and flow markers on various hydrants throughout town.... Installed 10 more Storz adapters on hydrant locations provided by Chief Hartle....Repaired a broken steamer cap on a hydrant on Rt 46....

**Buildings & Grounds:** Repaired gas heater at DPW garage....Move cabinets at FH1 and Borough Hall to get set up for the Fire Prevention office at the Municipal Building.... Started cleaning and repainting the garbage cans on Main St and Maple Ave....

**Snow:** Performed intersection snow removal....Performed salt runs or plowing on February 4th, 13th, 24th, and 25th....

**Recycling Department:** Joe Fiorello worked on Recycling Tonnage Grant info....

**Other:** Joe Fiorello attended a recycling grant class...

158,100 gallons less water pumped for this year over last year.

**Recreation:**

**T. Morton**

**J. Albensi**

Councilman Morton read the recreation report.

1. At Recreation's February Meeting the usage guidelines for the basketball courts at Arbolino Park were discussed. Recreation is in agreement with Mike Canfield that the courts should be open until the first snowfall. Once the first snowfall occurs the courts should be locked up until the snow has completely melted. This process will repeat itself until we get to the spring to ensure that the courts are always providing a safe experience. As we move into next winter, we are hoping these guidelines can be put in place to allow for more use of the courts.

2. Recreation will be asking for assistance with any available grants to possibly add a toddler section on to the DiRenzo park playground.

3. Recreation is looking at the possibility of making its' family fun day into a larger event possibly at Indian's field. This is still in the planning stages but some thought of having entertainment, bounce houses, vendors, food trucks, youth sports groups ran contests and more is being discussed.

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

**T. Laureys**

**T. Morton**

Dial a Ride, Feb. 2022

Days of Service: 18

Miles: 874

# of Stops: 43

Nutrition: 0

Food Shopping: 26

# of Meals on Wheels: 20

Medical Appointments: 35

Other Appointments: 9

People Using Services: 21 + 20 Meals

Cancels: 7

Denials: 0

Units: 140

Hours: 73.5

**OLD BUSINESS**

None was presented.

**NEW BUSINESS**

34 Bank Street Certificate of Completion/Transfer of PILOT

Councilman Laureys had a question: should this be done after all the conditions are done? Councilman Hathaway stated this is the terms of completion for Crown Point to get their CO's. He stated the details why it is ok to do this; as well as the process for it.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

President Sylvester- RFP for borough attorney – He knows this was discussed previously. He doesn't know why we have to do this for the borough attorney if we have no plan of changing the firm we use. The mayor stated when it was discussed about going out for the planning board attorney there is law that states we must do this occasionally. Mr. Bucco stated it is not necessary to go out for FRP's occasionally. Councilman Hathaway stated this takes time and is not good business if we don't really want to change. He understands this is a best practice procedure but the value of people's time is important. The mayor queried the Council members for their stance on this. Mr. Bucco stated it is not required. Mr. Blakeslee stated this is a question on the best practices checklist.

A unanimous voice vote maintained that it is not necessary to go out for an RFP.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

The Mayor had no additional comments.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 2022-36-** Municipal Alliance Grant for Fiscal Year 2023
2. **Resolution 2022-37-** Appoint Austin Popelka as DPW Laborer
3. **Resolution 2022-38-** Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Monmouth Telecom
4. **Resolution 2022-39-** Authorizing the Execution of a Certificate of Completion for the 34 Bank Street Project
5. **Resolution 2022-40-** Authorizing the Reduction of an Escrow Account Established for the Purposes of Guaranteeing Offsite Improvements by Crown Walk Urban Renewal, LLC and the Establishment of an Escrow Account for the Design, Permitting and Construction of Sidewalks Along Route 46.
6. **Resolution 2022-41-** Rescinding the Award of a Contract to Watchguard Video and Authorizing the Award of a New Contract to LensLock, Inc. for the Purchase of Police Body Cameras for the Netcong Borough Police Department
7. **Resolution 2022-42-** Authorizing the Acceptance of a Maintenance Bond and Approving the Release of the Reduced Performance Guarantee Posted by Progressive Properties, Inc. for the Railroad Avenue Development, Block 8, Lot 36 in the Borough of Netcong

8. **Resolution 2022-43-** Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding Between Landmark Companies, LLC and the Borough of Netcong Regarding Improvements to be Made at “Netcong Heights”.

9. **Resolution 2022-44-** Consenting to the Transfer of the Long-Term Tax Exemption Financial Agreement from 34 BNK Street Urban Renewal, LLC to 34 BNK at Netcong Urban Renewal, LLC and Authorizing the Execution of An Assignment Agreement

Councilman Laureys had a comment regarding the Crown Point and Landmark resolutions. He stated Crown Point has been true to their word and Landmark’s presentation last week has given him a better view on them and that they will follow through on their promises.

A Motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve the above noted resolutions.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

1. **Ordinance 2022-2 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A CHARITABLE SOLICITATION PERMIT FOR AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE CORP OF STANHOPE/NETCONG’S “COIN DROP” ON JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> 2022 AND ON SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, AND SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ALLEN STREET AND LEDGEWOOD AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2022-2- and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albeni.

Roll Call: 5 Yes.

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2022-2- 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 Laureys and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **BILLS**

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



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 Morton.

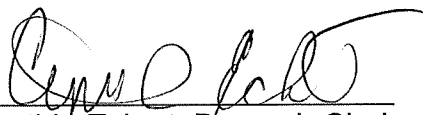
Roll Call: 5 Yes

**CLOSED SESSION**

A closed session was not held this evening.

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi at 8:09PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk