

## ***BOROUGH OF NETCONG***

**MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD JANUARY 12, 2023 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nametko 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 6, 2023.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper  
of the Borough of Netcong on January 11, 2023 and emailing a  
copy to the Star Ledger on January 6, 2023.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Agenda Meeting – December 1, 2023
- Regular Meeting – December 8, 2023

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the bills noted above.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mrs. Bernadette Dalesandro wished everyone a happy new year. She introduced Clarissa Chapman who has been elected to the Board of Education.

Mr. Craig Sanborne, 13 Maryann Terrace Stanhope, is representing the Lakeland Little League. He is the president of the association. In the past, Stanhope and Netcong have always budgeted a stipend per child. He is requesting a onetime stipend as opposed to a per child stipend. They visited Stanhope council meeting this past Tuesday night. He realizes there are less children in Netcong and not asking for the same amount of a stipend as the other towns. The field needs work. The mayor suggested he write a letter to the finance committee or recreation committee for this request. Councilman Morton also explained he can come to the recreation meeting and explain exactly what they need and the committee will consider it. He thanked the council for their time.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

None presented

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None presented

### **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

*For the Record: Mr. Bucco arrived at 7:36PM. He was honoring a young man who just came back from service in Japan.*

#### **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT**

##### **DECEMBER 2022**

##### **RENTAL/RESALE INSPECTIONS**

38 RAILROAD AVE – 2 UNITS

51-57 MAIN ST – 3 UNITS

100 MAIN ST

93 ALLEN ST – 2 UNITS

72 KOCLAS DR

33 STOLL ST

11 STOLL ST

15 STOLL ST

19 STOLL ST

16 MAIN ST – 3 UNITS

2 HELEN WAY

55 ALLEN ST

51-53 ALLEN ST – REINSPECT

31 ALLEN ST

31 STOLL ST  
9 STOLL – 2 UNITS  
13 STOLL – 2 UNITS  
17 STOLL – 2 UNITS

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance & Insurance:                      E. Still                      J. Sylvester

Councilman Still read his report. The committee will be meeting for a budget committee meeting when the administrator returns from vacation.

For the month of December 2022, the Borough had a total income of \$111,888.03 as compared to \$72,088.99 in December 2022.

For the month of December 2022:

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

In 2022 the Borough received \$7,086.95 compared to \$1,480.00 in 2021

#### **Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees:**

The Borough received \$24,862.33 in 2022 compared to \$5,048.37 in 2021.

#### **State Aid:**

We received \$20,642.19 in state aid for 2022 and \$19,595.30 in 2021.

#### **Grants in Aid:**

The Borough received \$1,198.32 in 2022 and nothing in 2021.

#### **Taxes Collected:**

The Borough collected \$58,098.24 in 2022 compared to \$45,965.32 in 2021.

#### **Income Total Year to Date:**

The Total Income Year to date for 2022 is \$12,051,798.02 as opposed to \$11,259,191.91 in 2021.

Economic Development:                      R. Hathaway                      E. Still

Councilman Hathaway wished to report about a meeting with the owners of 34 BNK and the old bank building to discuss the sale of the bank drive thru parking lot and the details of the amount of parking spaces and the use of them. He stated they will be asking for a special planning board meeting to present their plans for this project. He stated our borough engineer was at this meeting to give advice regarding the particulars on this. Our planner Paul Philips was not at this meeting. 34 BNK are planning on purchasing this lot to put in approx. 25 spaces for 34 BNK St. Councilman Sylvester asked about flex parking.

Councilman Hathaway explained there would be dedicated spaces for the 34 BNK property and flex parking for retail parking during the day. There are 2 proposed apartments in the bank building on main St. and 4 spaces would need to be dedicated for those apartments. The flex ratio would be based on square footage. He provided additional detail on this subject. This meeting was to give the borough's input on their particulars on this usage.

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

Councilman Sylvester mentioned a set of specs have been delivered for the new fire truck. The cost is \$830,000.00. There is a 10% increase coming in April. There will be collaboration among the finance committee to come up with a plan to pay for this. Mr. Bucco stated this was in line with a recent purchase from another town. Councilman Sylvester stated this would be a Pearce truck. Several vendors were looked at but Pearce was the best. The fire dept. will be here in February to give a presentation on this. Councilman Laureys asked how much is in the fund that has been established for the purchase of the fire truck.

#### OCTOBER 2022 Ambulance report

Total Calls: 80

48 Patients

Total Hospital Trips: 33

Miles Traveled: 1,086 Miles

Hours Volunteered: 300 hrs 53 mins

#### NOVEMBER 2022 Ambulance report

Total Calls: 73

Total Patients: 47

Total Hospital Trips: 38

Miles Traveled: 1065

Hours Volunteered: 226 hours 49 min

Two Assists

#### DECEMBER 2022 Ambulance Report

Total Calls: 85

Total Patients: 61

Total Hospital Trips: 45

Miles Traveled: 1346

Hours Volunteered: 266 hours 7 min

#### 2022 Year End Fire Prevention Report

The 2022 year has been a year of progress and change for the Netcong Fire Prevention Bureau. I would like to provide you all with a brief summary of our year and what we were able to accomplish.

2022 started with new Bureau personnel and a new approved/organized budget to support the Bureau. The Bureau was immediately granted administrative assistance from Borough Staff, Jane Youds. Early in the year, our office moved from Netcong Fire Company #1 to the Borough Hall. Our filing system was reorganized and Bureau operating procedures were established. A new laptop was bought and put into service aiding staff in quickly inputting inspection reports. The Bureau received our first cell phone helping residents and business owners get into contact with staff quickly and efficiently.

In March, the NJ Division of Fire Safety performed an Audit of the Netcong Fire Prevention Bureau. All violations issued to the Borough were corrected by early Summer. The Bureau switched the inspection software to a cloud-based program allowing Borough Administration, Police and Fire Departments to access contact information for business owners at any time. In the summer, a new Bureau patch was approved and new uniforms for staff members were put in service. At the August Borough Council Meeting, new/updated fire prevention ordinances were voted on and approved by the Borough Council.

Being that October was National Fire Prevention Month, the Bureau held several educational outreach programs to schools reaching over 170 Borough Students. In the Fall, staff members also began reaching out to business owners attempting to collect Past Due State Life Hazard Use Bills, (some dating back to 1999) successfully collecting close to \$10,000 of past due invoices. The Bureau was also selected by the NJ Department of Community Affairs in the Operation Save a Life Program to receive 50 new smoke alarms to hand out in the winter of 2022. Inspector Kyle Boylan completed the 80-hour NJ IAAI Fire Investigator Course at Passaic County Fire Academy. The first Fire Prevention Vehicle was turned over to the Bureau in December and was loaded with brand new equipment to aid staff members in fire inspections and fire investigations.

Throughout 2022, the Bureau continuously found unregistered businesses in the Borough and were able to register and inspect a total of 22 new Life Hazard Use businesses and 48 new Non-Life Hazard Use businesses. In 2022, we inspected 47 Life Hazard Uses and 125 Non-Life Hazard Uses, issuing a total of 892 fire code violations. 43 fire safety permits were issued and inspected. The Bureau handled 2 fire investigations, 14 complaints, 3 plan reviews, and assisted the Fire Department in 22 building follow-ups.

Police Report December

Traffic Offense All Other:40

Selective Enforcement Traffic: 39

Radar :48

Total Calls: 638

Dept. of Public  
Works & Utilities:

J. Albensi

R. Hathaway

Councilman Albensi asked Mr. Hess, Water Operator about our Well 1A

D.P.W. Monthly Report January 2023

Road Department: Prepped stage and stairs for holiday parade....Brought Holiday Parade lights and message boards back to the County....Performed season ending brush and leaf bag pick up....Cleared debris from drains on McMullen St....Met with Mt Olive to hand off keys and go over route details for new garbage service....

Water Department: George Walters began annual leak detection survey....

Buildings & Grounds: Resolved all outstanding abatements recommended by PEOSHA....Had fuel oil delivered to all Borough generators....

Snow: Salted and plowed on December 11th,15th, and 23<sup>rd</sup>....

Other: Jeff Jozowski resigned from the Dept of Public works and a new employee recommendation will be made soon....Joe Fiorello continued classes for Certified Recycling Professional....Mike Canfield attended 4<sup>th</sup> qtr safety meeting....

Water Pumped::3,000.439 more gallons than in 2022.

Recreation:

T. Morton

J. Albensi

Councilman Morton reported that there is a meeting on Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup>. They will be finalizing the details of the father/daughter dance to be held in February.

Public Services:  
(Human Services  
Recycling & Solid  
Waste Disposal

T. Laureys

T. Morton

Councilman Laureys read his report:

Days of Service:21

Miles: 994

Number of Stops:70

Nutrition for 1:13

Food Shopping: 24

Number of Meals on Wheels: 17

Medical Appointments: 51

Other Appointments: 21

People using Services: 36  
Cancels: 9  
Denials: 0  
Units: 202  
Hours: 88

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None presented.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None presented.

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

Council President Still had no comments at this time.

Councilman Sylvester: Since we tabled the resolution to reappoint the borough engineer, what is happening with the borough engineer, do we go out for RFP or just reappoint the firm for this year. There was discussion among the council on this subject. The mayor gave comments on the challenge of this situation. Councilman Hathaway gave comments on this subject. He has concerns about the several grants that were not handled properly. He is not happy with the current firm. Councilman Sylvester stated he was under the impression this firm was a one stop shopping firm. But it has turned out to not be that way. The mayor stated we need to go to specialists for certain projects. Councilman Sylvester stated that is not what we signed up for. The council was under the impression this firm could handle all of these issues. There was further discussion on this subject. Mr. Bucco stated every specialized issue will warrant RFP's and award contracts for each individual project. There was discussion about the trail grant.

A Motion to RFP for new borough engineering firm was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

The mayor had no comments at this time.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 2023-22-** Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Primepoint, LCC. For The Performance of Payroll Services in The Borough of Netcong
2. **Resolution 2023-23** - Observing January 2023 as School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey

3. **Resolution 2023-24-** Authorizing the Participation in the LEAP Implementation Grant (Applicants Resolution) for the Purpose of Acquiring Residential Solid Waste Carts

4. **Resolution 2023-25-** To Appoint Andrew DiRenzo as DPW Laborer

5. **Resolution 2023-26-** Liquor License Place to Place Transfer – Polo’s Bar and Grill

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

1. **Ordinance 2023-1** – To Vacate and Extinguish Any and All Public Rights in and to West Street Located in the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris and State of New Jersey

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2023-1- and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2023-1- on First Reading was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **Proclamations**

None presented.

### **REPORTS**

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

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
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### **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 and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:05PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted

  
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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk