

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 7, 2023**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD DECEMBER 7, 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 Still, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Nametko. Also, present was Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mr. Matthew Eddy, 25 Flanders Rd. stated that there are 18 wheelers on Flanders Rd. using jake brakes at all hours of the day and night. He is concerned they will run into one of the houses. He made a suggestion to talk to Isolatek. The trucks do not have to travel on Flanders Rd. The mayor stated we have signs on a number of streets to not allow jake brakes. There was discussion among the Council regarding possible solutions for this. He would like to know if the town could speak with Isolatek about finding an entrance coming off of Love Lane. Mr. Blakeslee stated the borough has several meetings with Isolatek and he thinks there would not be a problem to speak with them about a solution to this issue. There was further conversation on this subject. Councilman Sylvester said this will be a topic of conversation at the public safety meeting next week. The mayor stated they will bring up the topic of Flanders Rd. as well at the next public safety meeting.

Mr. Eddie said there are also vehicles that speed on Flanders Rd. as well as knock down mail boxes. 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 Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

***The following items are for discussion purposes only. Any action on these items will take place at the meeting of December 14, 2023.***

1. **Minutes** – Agenda Meeting – November 2, 2023  
Regular Meeting – November 9, 2023

A Motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Laureys to approve the minutes.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. **Ordinance Adoptions-Ordinance 2023-21** - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, ET SEQ. FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT BLOCK 26, LOTS 6 AND A PORTION OF LOT 10

To be carried to the December 14th meeting.

3. **Ordinance Adoptions-Ordinance 2023-22-** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 98 "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG AND SETTING DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND RETAIL CANNABIS LICENSED PREMISES

To be carried to the December 14th meeting.

4. **Ordinance Adoptions-Ordinance 2023-23-** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPERSEDE ORDINANCE 2023-16 AND AMEND CHAPTER 194 "LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG FOR CONDITIONAL USE REGULATION OF RETAIL CANNABIS.

To be carried to the December 14th meeting.

5. **Ordinance Adoptions-Ordinance 2023-24-** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 194 "LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG.

To be carried to the December 14th meeting.

6. **Correspondence** – None presented.

7. **Old Business** – None presented.
8. **New Business**- None presented.
9. **Resolution 2023-99** – A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Stipends to Certain Borough Employees
10. **Resolution 2023–100**- A Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Small Balances Under \$10.00
11. **Resolution 2023–101**- Local Government Property/Casualty Insurance Increases
12. **Resolution 2023–102**- Authorizing a Display of Fireworks by the Arbolino Family on the Assumption Property, Block 8, Lot 23.01 in the Borough of Netcong

Councilman Sylvester said the family would like to thank everyone for expediting this.

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

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

None presented.

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

The Council President also thanked the employees for getting the fireworks done.

Councilman Sylvester had several comments. He is concerned about Allen Terrace. He does not want the vendor to be paid. They need to come back in the spring and mill and repave.

Councilman Sylvester also had questions about The Bank St. parking lot (previously the bank drive-thru)– he wanted to know how many spaces are dedicated to the bank building. He thought there were 12 spots dedicated to the bank building. However, it appears there are only 4. Councilman Sylvester wants to know what we can do to change that. Councilman Sylvester stated that he was not happy about this. Councilman Albensi gave an explanation on what he thought was decided. Mr. Blakeslee gave details on his understanding of the parking. There was supposed to be flex parking. Councilman Hathaway stated Paul Phillips will be here next week so the question can be asked then. There was further discussion among the Council on this subject. The mayor asked Mr. Blakeslee to contact Mr. Philips, the Borough Planner so he can prepare an answer for these questions at next week's meeting.

He also had an issue regarding the speed bumps on Allen Terrace. He feels this is another engineering issue that he would like corrected as well. The mayor asked when we should have a letter from our borough attorney. The mayor asked Mr. Blakeslee to contact our attorney tomorrow.

Councilman Hathaway stated the lake will be filled starting next Friday, December 15th. It will be a slow process.

### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

The mayor stated he had the opportunity to take the carolers around to the restaurants in town on Sunday night. They were very well received. He posted some pictures on Facebook. The owners and managers of the businesses came out to meet the carolers.

Mr. Blakeslee wanted to thank Mr. Canfield and the DPW for getting the new garbage cans disbursed to all the residents in a timely manner.

### **PROCLAMATION**

None presented.

### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mr. Matthew Eddy, 25 Flanders Rd., stated that regarding Ordinance 2023-21st: St. Michael's Church, wanted to let the Council know that most of the town residents do not want apartments there. The residents would prefer single family homes. He gave several reasons why this is something that should not occur. He understands housing is needed but the residents don't want the apartments. He gave further comments on this issue. Councilman Laureys wanted to speak with Mr. Eddy about this issue. He gave his opinion on the possible apartment complex and that he agrees with Mr. Eddy. Mr. Eddy stated he moved here for the family atmosphere. He feels if this apartment complex is built, that will no longer exist. Councilman Sylvester stated his fear is that we have already lost it. Mr. Eddy stated it is not lost yet, and gave reasons for that. He appreciated the Council's time on this issue.

Mr. John Parks, 26 Hilts Lane, is here to say he agrees with Mr. Eddy. He is here about his road again. He knows Mr. Blakeslee has reached out to NJ Transit and they have come to investigate but have not solved the issue. The water is now running into Maple Ave. The mayor asked what NJ Transit is going to do to fix this. It has been established this is a fairly simple fix according to our DPW superintendent. However, NJ Transit has not corrected the issue. Councilman Sylvester asked that Mr. Bucco, our attorney, write a letter to NJ Transit to get this situation corrected. Councilman Sylvester will call our legislators tomorrow. The mayor stated we are working on it. Mr. Parks thanked the Council. Mr. Blakeslee stated this is not on borough property, it is on NJ Transit so they will have to correct it.

Councilman Hathaway stated this is a public safety issue, which is the best way to get this repaired especially since the winter is here causing icing issues. The Council understands this is a problem and they will keep working at getting it repaired. Mr. Blakeslee said he would follow up tomorrow

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

**CLOSED SESSION**

A closed session was not held this evening.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting Was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:06PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF ANNUAL STIPENDS TO CERTAIN BOROUGH EMPLOYEES**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong has adopted a Professional Development Policy as part of its Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual; and

**WHEREAS**, the Professional Development Policy provides that in certain circumstances employees may be compensated with an annual stipend when they obtain licenses and/or certificates that are related to, but not required for their positions; and,

**WHEREAS**, as required by the Professional Development Policy the appropriate Department Heads and Borough Administrator have conducted a review of eligible personnel and have made the following recommendations; and,

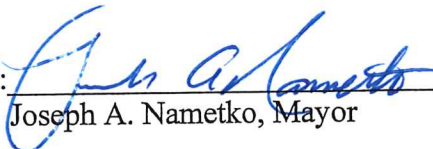
**WHEREAS**, there exist sufficient funds in the budget,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey; that stipend be paid to the following employees:

Joseph Fiorello \$ 500.00  
*Certified Animal Control Officer*

Jennifer Meehan \$ 500.00  
*Certified Municipal Registrar Certification*

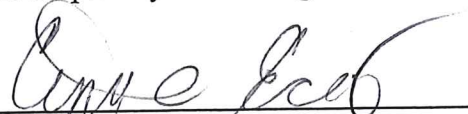
BOROUGH OF NETCONG

By:   
Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor

Dated: 12/11/23

CERTIFICATION

I, Cynthia Eckert, Clerk of the Borough of Netcong, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough at a meeting held on December 7, 2023.

  
Cynthia Eckert, Clerk

**RESOLUTION #2023-100**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF  
SMALL BALANCES UNDER THE AMOUNT OF \$10.00**

**WHEREAS**, there appears on the Borough's Official tax records the following small balances under the amount of \$10.00 as listed below; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector recommends the cancellation of these small balances.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong in the County of Morris State of New Jersey, that the proper officers be, and they are hereby authorized and directed to cancel the tax balances as hereafter listed below:

Block 2	Lot 36	Falato, Steven and Ruth	.19
Block 8	Lot 1.04	JS Interiors, LLC	1.89
Block 15	Lot 8	Larusso, William & Joanne	7.37
		Pietz, Richard & Von Hagen, Leigh	
Block 15	Lot 39	Ann	.03
Block 15	Lot 41	4 Main St. LLC	5.16
Block 19	Lot 16	Flanders Fourteen, LLC	8.22
Block 19	Lot 34.01	79 Main St. LLC	.20
Block 26	Lot 26	Dunn, Diane V.	.01
Block 27	Lot 4.01	Borelli, Ada	.01
Block 32	Lot 1	Radler, William & Tracey A.	9.93

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG**

  
Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor

I, Cynthia Eckert do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong at the regular meeting held December 7, 2023.

  
Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**Resolution 2023-101**

WHEREAS: Local Government is facing the largest budget increase for property/casualty insurance since the mid-1980s; and

WHEREAS: The property/casualty budget for the typical municipality has already experienced a 20% to 25% increase since 2021 and will experience another 12% to 20% increase in 2024; and

WHEREAS: New Jersey now has the highest workers' compensation premium rates in the country based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

WHEREAS: Workers' Compensation escalated because New Jersey judges are now reopening cases up to four and five times, whereas in the past they rarely reopened a case more than once; and

WHEREAS: Workers' Compensation also escalated because of a 2021 Department of Labor decision that directed workers' compensation to pay many accidental disability claims that previously were paid by the pension plans; and

WHEREAS: Another recent law created a presumption that firefighters diagnosed with cancer are eligible for workers' compensation; and

WHEREAS: During the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Legislature approved a law that made COVID contracted by first responders and essential employees compensable under New Jersey's workers' statute resulting in the COVID cost per employee being the second highest in the country; and

WHEREAS: Liability has increased because of the erosion of Title 59 protections in New Jersey's courts. Judges are now reluctant to grant summary judgement dismissing even frivolous claims because of the 2021 New Jersey Supreme Court decision in Gonzalez v. Jersey City; and

WHEREAS: The recent amendment in the sexual molestation statute of limitations also increased Title 59 liability costs. In some cases, towns are being sued based on allegations going back to the 1970s; and

WHEREAS: Property premiums are increasing rapidly because the world-wide frequency of large natural disasters has almost tripled since 2000. New Jersey alone was hit with Hurricane Irene in 2011, Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and Tropical Storm Ida in 2021; and

WHEREAS: Property insurance premiums are also indexed to replacement values that have jumped because of supply chain issues and the labor shortage; and

WHEREAS: Cyber liability premiums have more than doubled in recent years. Organizations without strong cyber risk controls are finding it difficult to purchase any coverage.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG THAT:**

- 1) The Legislature is urged to adopt budget and levy cap exemptions for property/casualty insurance and claims; and
- 2) The Administration and the Legislature should not adopt additional legislation or regulations that will increase municipal claims without a thorough and complete analysis of the cost; and
- 3) The New Jersey Department of Labor, the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs should meet with representatives of municipal government to discuss ways to reduce property/casualty costs.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

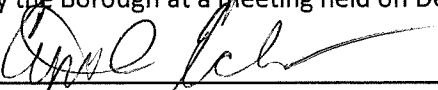
By:   
Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor

Dated: 12/11/23



CERTIFICATION

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Eckert, Clerk

## Cindy Eckert

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**From:** Cindy Eckert  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 3:34 PM  
**To:** 'mcerra@njlm.org '  
**Subject:** Netcong Borough Resolution 2023-101  
**Attachments:** reso 2023-101.pdf

Hello Director Cerra,  
Please see the attached resolution adopted at the December 7, 2023 Mayor and Council meeting.  
Regards,

*Cynthia L. Eckert*

Tax Collector/Borough Clerk/Registrar  
Netcong Borough  
23 Maple Ave.  
Netcong NJ 07857  
Phone: 973-347-0252 ext. 105  
E-Mail: [ceckert@netcong.org](mailto:ceckert@netcong.org)

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DISPLAY OF  
FIREWORKS BY THE ARBOLINO FAMILY ON THE ASSUMPTION PROPERTY,  
BLOCK 8, LOT 23.01 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG**

**WHEREAS**, the Arbolino Family wishes to conduct a display of fireworks on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at the Assumption Property, Block 8, Lot 23.01 in the Borough of Netcong; and

**WHEREAS**, The Arbolino Family has requested authorization to conduct said display at the above location on the above stated date; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council wishes to approve said request provided the conditions established in this Resolution are met.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris, and State of New Jersey, that the Arbolino Family (Applicant) is hereby authorized to conduct a firework display on Saturday, December 9, 2023, on the Assumption Property, Block 8, Lot 23.01 in the Borough of Netcong, commencing at 10:00 AM and ending at 11:00 PM provided the following conditions are met:

1. The Applicant providing insurance coverage as required by the Borough and Borough of Netcong being named as an additional insured on all of the Applicant's liability policies and the policies of the Fireworks contractor;
2. Approval by the Netcong Fire Prevention Bureau;
3. Approval by the Netcong Fire Department;
4. Approval by Our Lady of Assumption Society, Inc.;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Borough Police Department, Borough Fire Department, Borough Fire Official and Netcong/Stanhope First Aid Squad of the Borough's approval of said event.

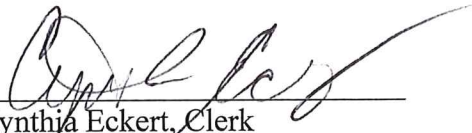
**BOROUGH OF NETCONG**

By:   
Joseph A. Nametko, Mayor

Dated: 12/11/23

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Cynthia Eckert, Clerk of the Borough of Netcong, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough at a meeting held on December 7, 2023.

  
Cynthia Eckert, Clerk