

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD FEBRUARY 1, 2024 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Still 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 5, 2024.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper
of the Borough of Netcong on January 10, 2024 and emailing a
copy to the Star Ledger on January 5, 2024.

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Ben Dellamo, 123 Ledgewood Ave., discussed something that has been sprung on the Planning Board. He added he is not here to complain and he is not representing the PB. He stated he knows the Council is aware of the lawsuit. He feels this was handled poorly. He wanted to know if the JIF would represent the board. He stated the planning board had no knowledge of what was going on with this lawsuit. He was not pleased as well as concerned with how the planning board attorney handled this. He stated we did not defend ourselves in this lawsuit. He gave further comments on this issue. He is concerned about the location of this billboard and the way this lawsuit was handled. Councilman Sylvester asked if we had recourse. Mr. Blakeslee stated the council should go into executive session next week when our borough attorney is here. Mr. Dellamo feels the planning board was not notified properly on this issue. Councilman Hathaway asked

about the voting instruction that was given to the board. The planning board attorney stopped the vote and stated if you can't vote yes, abstain. Councilman Sylvester asked if this is why we hired this attorney. There was further discussion among the Council on this issue. Councilman Hathaway explained the issues that brought this to light. Mr. Dellamo felt that this action in its current state would set a very negative precedent. Mayor Still thanked Mr. Dellamo for his time and said the Council will bring it to a closed session. There was further discussion on the details of this issue.

Mr. Wayne Anthony, 24 Dell Ave., presented pictures of the drainage issues on the corner of Dell Ave. and Water Street which have been going on for approx. 10 years. He gave details on this issue. He gave detail on where the water flows and that the storm drains are clogged. He explained how some storm drains are clogged and collapsing. He would like to know when this will be resolved. He is getting water in his basement because the water is jumping the curb in his yard. The mayor stated we will send DPW there tomorrow to see what is happening. Mr. Anthony stated the DPW is not to blame, they come right away when called about these issues and they clean out the drains. There was further discussion on this issue. One of the residents had water in his first floor living room during the last bad storm. Mr. Blakeslee stated this was an issue that was discussed in the public works committee meeting and steps will be taken to remediate this problem. He also commented there are issues with the work going on at the Village Place. Councilman Sylvester suggested a stop work order be put in place. The mayor thanked Mr. Anthony for his time.

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Nametko.

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 February 8, 2024.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – January 4, 2024 Reorganization Meeting
2. **Approval of Minutes** – January 11, 2024 Regular Meeting

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. **Ordinance Adoption – Ordinance 2024-1** –An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 243 "Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse" and Chapter 155 "Fees" of the Code of the Borough of Netcong

To be carried to the February 8th meeting.

4. **Ordinance Adoption – Ordinance 2024-2** – 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 15, Lots 29, 30, 31, 32 And 33

To be carried to the February 8th meeting.

5. **Ordinance Adoption – Ordinance 2024-3** – An Ordinance Repealing Article XII Of Chapter 194 And Adopting New Chapter 246, “Stormwater Control”, Of The Revised General Ordinances Of The Borough Of Netcong To Include New Articles Concerning Stormwater Control And Salt Storage On Privately Owned Property.

To be carried to the February 8th meeting.

6. **Correspondence** –Netcong Planning Board – Resolution 2024-05

7. **Old Business** - None presented.

8. **New Business** – None presented.

9. **Resolution – 2024-32**-To Apply for a Grant from the Department of Community Affairs to Replace the DiRenzo Park Bathroom Structure Compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

10. **Resolution – 2024-33** – Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2025

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

11. **Resolution – 2024-34**-Rejecting All Bids Received for the Direnzo Park Playground Floor and Installation and Authorizing the Borough Administrator to Re-Advertise for Bids for Said Project.

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

12. **Resolution – 2024-35**-Supporting the Federal Fair Housing Law and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

13. **Resolution – 2024-36**-Authorizing the Submission of a CDBG Application to Fund Phase 1 of the Amendola Drive Watermain Improvement Project

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

14. **Ordinance Introduction – Ordinance 2024-4** - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 157 "Fire Prevention" Of the Code of The Borough of Netcong.

There was brief discussion on this issue among the Council regarding this ordinance. Mr. Blakeslee provided additional information for the Council.

To be carried to the February 8th meeting.

15. **Proclamation PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

The Council President noted that one of the volunteers during a call had a motor vehicle accident. The accident report was completed and the repair work was done. The Volunteer paid for the repairs. The JIF covers from the time they leave the driveway to the time they return. He gave details on an issue that the JIF is doing. Mr. Blakeslee provided an explanation on this issue and how the state insurance system works. The JIF will contact the personal insurance of the volunteer and make a decision on how the claim is processed. The claim is put through the JIF first and then the private insurance is contacted. There was further discussion among the Council on this issue. Councilman Sylvester feels the JIF is trying to skirt their responsibility to pay. Mr. Blakeslee will speak with our risk managers on this subject. The mayor wants to know how much this claim was and if the JIF will not pay then the town will pay for the repairs until there is a settlement with the JIF. Councilman Hathaway would like this under old business to have a discussion while our attorney is here. Councilman Hathaway suggested the borough holds gap insurance to alleviate a volunteer's personal policies from being affected.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The mayor had no comments at this time.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

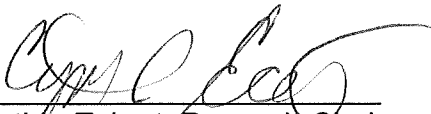
CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Albensi at 8:08PM to adjourn the meeting.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

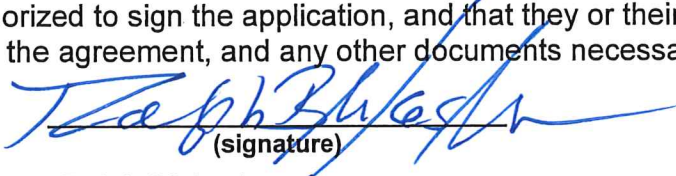
RESOLUTION 2024-32

Whereas, the Borough of Netcong
(formal name of organization)
desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
for approximately \$ 100,000
(dollar amount of request) to carry out a project to Replace the DiRenzo
Park bathroom structure with a new structure compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act
(briefly describe the project)

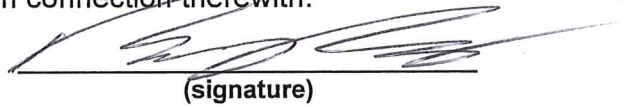
Be it therefore RESOLVED,

1) that the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong
(formal name of organization)
does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,
2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore,
upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does
further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully
executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant
to the terms of the agreement between
the Borough of Netcong
(formal name of organization)
and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are
authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to
sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:


(signature)

Ralph Blakeslee
(type or print name)
Borough Administrator
(title)


(signature)

Richard Proctor
(type or print name)
Assistant Borough Administrator
(title)

CERTIFICATION:

I, Cynthia Eckert, the Municipal Clerk,
(name of Board Secretary / Government Clerk) (title of position - Board Secretary or Government Clerk)
of the Borough of Netcong
(formal name of organization)
hereby certify that at a meeting of the Board of Directors / Governing Body held on February 1, 2024
(meeting date)
the above *RESOLUTION* was duly adopted.

AFFIX GOV'T,
CORPORATE OR
NOTARY SEAL


(Signature of Secretary of the Board of Directors or Government Clerk)

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2025

Resolution 2024-33

FORM 1B

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Morris;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Netcong Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2025 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$2,450.00
Cash Match	\$612.50
In-Kind	\$1,837.50
2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: _____

Elmer Still, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Cynthia Eckert, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution duly authorized by the Borough Council on this 1st day of February, 2024.

Cynthia Eckert

Cynthia Eckert, Municipal Clerk

A RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE DIRENZO PARK PLAYGROUND FLOOR AND INSTALLATION AND AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR TO RE-ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR SAID PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong solicited bids for the installation of Playground Equipment and Pour-in-Place Rubber Flooring; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2024, the Borough received eight bids for the performance of said work; and

WHEREAS, all of the bids received by the Borough exceeded the Borough's remaining budget for the DiRenzo Park Playground Project; and


WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has recommended that the Borough Council reject all bids received and re-advertise for said work; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has considered the recommendation of the Borough Administrator and wishes to reject all bids and re-advertise for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Borough of Netcong hereby rejects all bids received for the above-entitled project pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2.
2. The Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to re-advertise for bids for the DiRenzo Park Playground which bids shall be received on February 21, 2024.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

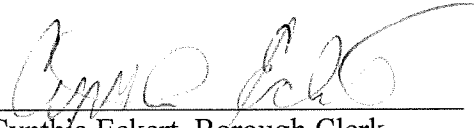
BOROUGH OF NETCONG

By: 
Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated:

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 February 1, 2024.


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW AND THE
NEW JERSEY LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong supports Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. It is the policy of Borough of Netcong to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, nationality, familial status, marital or domestic partnership status, affectional or sexual orientation, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, genetic information, liability for military service, mental or physical disability, perceived disability, AIDS/HIV status and Lawful Income or Source of Lawful Rent Payment (Section 8).

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong further objects to discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap, or disability as prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. Therefore, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong do hereby approve the following resolution.


BE IT RESOLVED, that within available resources, the Borough of Netcong will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against under one of the aforementioned categories, to seek equity under federal and state laws by filing a complaint with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough of Netcong shall publicize this resolution and through this publicity shall cause owners of real estate, developers, and builders to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Federal Fair Housing Law, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, and any local laws or ordinances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the municipality will at a minimum include, but not be limited to: (1) the printing and publicizing of this resolution, a fair housing public notice and other applicable fair housing information through local media, community contacts and placement on the Municipal website and in other social media; (2) distribution of posters, flyers, and any other means which will bring to the attention of those affected, the knowledge of their respective responsibilities and rights concerning equal opportunity in housing.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

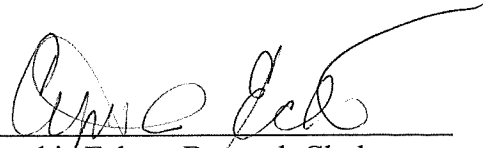
By: _____


Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated:

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 February 1, 2024.



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CDBG APPLICATION TO FUND PHASE 1 OF THE AMENDOLA DRIVE WATERMAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong, State of New Jersey desires to apply to the Morris County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program; and,


WHEREAS, the Netcong Borough Council wishes to authorize an application to the Morris County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for the Phase 1 of the Amendola Drive Watermain Improvement Project;

WHEREAS, If awarded CDBG funds, the Municipality shall implement the activities in a manner to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong, State of New Jersey formally authorize submission of an application to the Morris County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for the Amendola Watermain Improvement Project.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

By:

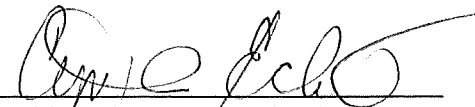


Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated:

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 February 1, 2024.



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk