

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 2, 2024**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MAY 2, 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

NETCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Netcong School Budget

Kathleen Walsh, Superintendent and Paul Stabile, Business Administrator presented their 2024-2025 budget.

Mrs. Walsh provided detailed information on improvements/accomplishments that have been done for the 2023-2024 school year. She then provided information regarding the goals for 2024-2025. She will be requesting the borough send out a survey to residents. Mr. Stabile then provided statistics on the budget and details regarding the state aid program. He stated there will be additional state aid received. He explained how the state aid is calculated. He discussed some of the variables for costs, aid and funding. He

continued to explain the shared services they use throughout the year. He shared the proposed budget numbers for the operating budgets, grants and debt service and expenditures. He gave detail on capital projects that have been completed. Mr. Stabile provided a chart showing the Tax Levy throughout the years. Mrs. Walsh gave a brief recap on the budget. The Mayor asked if there were any questions. Councilman Nametko stated Mrs. Evans and her students help him with the food bank. He stated she should be congratulated for what she and her students do when they are here to help with the food bank as well as other community projects. Since there were no questions, the Mayor thanked them for their 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

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The following items are for discussion purposes only. Any action on these items will take place at the meeting of May 9, 2024.

1. Minutes – April 4, 2024

A motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Laureys to approve these minutes.

Roll Call: 3 Yes Abstain: Councilmen Albensi, Hathaway and Sylvester.

2. Minutes – April 11, 2024

A motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Laureys to approve these minutes.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

3. Hearing and Adoption of the 2024 Municipal Budget

a. **Ordinance Adoption – Ordinance 2024-13** - Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

b. **Resolution 2024-63-** Resolution For Self-Examination Of 2024 Budget

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

- c. **Resolution 2024-64** -To Read the 2024 Budget by Title Only.

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

- d. **Resolution 2024-65**-To Adopt the 2024 Budget

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

4. **ANNUAL AUDIT**

- a. **Resolution #2024-66** - Certification of the Annual Audit.

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

- b. **Resolution #2024-67**-To Approve the 2023 Corrective Action Plan.

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

i.

5. **Public Hearing and Adoption of SID Budget**

Public Hearing SID Budget

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

Resolution 2024-68 – Approving the 2024 Budget for the Special Improvement District of the Borough of Netcong

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

6. **Ordinance Adoption - Ordinance 2024- 14-** An Ordinance Fixing The Salaries Of Certain Officers And Employees Of The Borough Of Netcong, In The County Of Morris, State Of New Jersey

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

7. **Capital Ordinance Adoption – Capital Ordinance 2024- 15-** Capital Ordinance To Appropriate The Sum Of \$75,000 For The Acquisition Of Various Fire Department Equipment In, By And For The Borough Of Netcong, In The County Of Morris, State Of New Jersey, And Providing That Such Sum So Appropriated Shall Be Raised From A Federal Grant.

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

8. **Bond Ordinance Adoption – Bond Ordinance 2024- 16-** BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW

JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$786,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

9. Bond Ordinance Adoption – Bond Ordinance 2024- 17- BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE WATER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$335,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

10. Bond Ordinance Adoption – Bond Ordinance 2024- 18- BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF IMPROVEMENTS TO HILLSIDE AVENUE IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$325,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

To be carried to the May 9th meeting.

11. Correspondence - None presented.

12. Old Business - None presented.

13. New Business- Proposed Head Wall – Lake Musconetcong

Councilman Sylvester provided an explanation on this proposed project. He is looking for the State of NJ to lease this property on the lake to the borough and also to put a sea wall from the inlet to where the harvester is parked and also clearing the land of dying trees and garbage that lines the shore. He would like to see this area restored to its original state so residents can fish in this area. He also plans to find businesses/volunteers to help with the renovation. If the state agrees to this, the borough will most likely need to have a professional drawing done to complete this project. He is asking for permission to move forward with this project. Councilman Nametko stated he thinks this is a great idea. There was discussion among the Council on this subject. Councilman Hathaway feels the money will be easier to get than the permission to do this. He stated we are going to need to hire specialized professionals to complete these types of projects and grants. He has tried to get the Arbolino Park project done. He feels we need to commit to hiring

professionals to do this. There is unused grant money every year. Mr. Blakeslee stated there is money in the capital budget for the trail grant project. He gave detail on this. There was further discussion on this subject among the Council. Councilman Hathaway reiterated we need an engineer with experience in this area to accomplish our goals. Councilman Nametko stated we have new legislators who may help.

A Motion to hire a specialized engineer to get permits/grants for the lake projects was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Nametko.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

14. Resolution 2024-61- Participant's Resolution Leap Implementation Grant

Councilman Nametko asked for an explanation on this grant. Mr. Blakeslee provided details on the purpose of this grant.

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

15. Resolution 2024- 62- Authorizing the Tax Collector to Prepare and Mail Estimated Tax Bills in Accordance with P.L. 1994, C. 72.

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

16. Ordinance Introduction – None presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President- He asked what was the cost of a second garbage can.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The mayor had no comments at this time.

PROCLAMATION

None presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Pat Kunckel, 13 Church St., is concerned about the proposed traffic light at Maple Ave and Rt. 183. He is concerned about what will happen if the traffic backs up on Maple Ave. impeding the fire department from exiting the firehouse during an emergency. There was discussion among Mr. Blakeslee and the Council on this issue. Councilman

Hathaway stated we just hired a traffic engineer, when we get the design from the state, we should have our engineer take a look at it.

Mrs. Kim Albensi, 42 College Rd. stated that she and her husband have a connection with an autism awareness organization. There is a banner available for the playground to aid nonverbal children. She would like to know if this is possible to add to the new playground. There would be no charge for this. It was decided to have this be discussed next week so the attorney can give his opinion on this. There was further discussion on this issue and the completion of the playground. Mrs. Albensi will send the information to Mr. Blakeslee.

Mr. Matthew Eddy had a town inspector drop by to close out a 2016 permit. He wanted to know why they are doing this now. Mr. Blakeslee explained there were a number of permits that were never closed out, so the new inspector is attempting to go through the outstanding permits to close them out. He went on to explain the inspection done when a house is sold are only for safety issues not outstanding construction permits. The mayor wants a change in this issue. Mr. Blakeslee will discuss this with the construction official.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

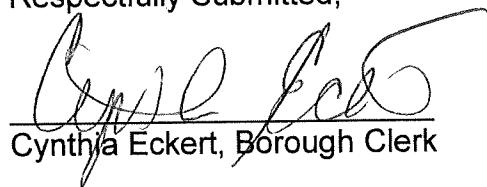
CLOSED SESSION

None this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Hathaway, seconded by Councilman Albensi and moved by unanimous voice vote at 8:29PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**PARTICIPANT'S RESOLUTION
LEAP IMPLEMENTATION GRANT**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has appropriated \$7.5 million for Shared Services and School District Consolidation Study and Implementation Grants to assist local units with the study, development, and implementation of new shared and regional services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is tasked with administering these grant funds through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP); and

WHEREAS, LEAP Implementation Grants exist to support costs associated with shared service implementation to ensure that meaningful, efficiency generating initiatives are not hindered by short term transitional expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hopatcong, Borough of Netcong, Borough of Mount Arlington, Township of Byram, and Township of Sparta propose to enter into a shared services agreement, but face certain expenses associated with implementation that present a burden to the local units; and


WHEREAS, the purpose of this shared services agreement is to implement shared services for animal control and shelter, which will benefit the residents of all participating local units; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hopatcong has agreed to be the lead agency in this program and will submit the application to DLGS on behalf of all participating units; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Netcong, that the Borough of Netcong does hereby join with the Borough of Hopatcong in applying for a LEAP Implementation Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 to support implementation of this shared service.

CERTIFICATION

I, Cynthia Eckert, Clerk of the Borough of Netcong in the County of Morris, and the State of New Jersey do hereby Certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true copy of the Original Resolution duly passed and adopted by a majority of the full membership of the Borough of Netcong at its meeting of May 2, 2024.


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

RESOLUTION #2024-62

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 1994, C. 72

WHEREAS, due to the late approval by the State of New Jersey of the Borough of Netcong's 2024 Budget, the Morris County Board of Taxation is unable to certify the tax rates of the Borough, and the Borough of Netcong Tax Collector will be unable to mail the Borough's 2024-2025 tax bills on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong's Tax Collector, in consultation with the Borough's Chief Financial Officer, has computed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3, and they have both signed a certification showing the tax levies for the previous year, the tax rates and the range of permitted estimated tax levies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris and the State of New Jersey on this 2nd day of May 2024 as follows:

The Borough of Netcong Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the Borough of Netcong for the third installment of 2024 taxes. The Tax Collector shall proceed on the 7th day of June 2024 and take such actions as are permitted and required by L. 1994, c. 72 (N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3).

The entire estimated tax levy is set at 11,134,353.33

In accordance with the law, the third quarter installment of 2024 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the twenty-sixth (26TH) day after the date of mailing of the tax bills with interest charged back to the statutory due date of August 1, 2024.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

By: _____

Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated: 5/3/24

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 May 2, 2024.

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

CALCULATION OF THE 2024 ESTIMATED TAX RATE

Proposed
2024 Borough Budget as Introduced
2024 Estimated Borough Local School Budget
2024 Estimated Regional School Budget
2024 Estimated Morris County Levy

2023 TAX LEVY & TAX RATE

2024 ESTIMATED RANGE ForTAX LEVY (Percentage of 2023 Levy)

	<u>LEVY</u>	<u>TAX RATE</u>		<u>95%</u>	<u>105%</u>
LOCAL	3,144,764.00	0.982	LOCAL	2,987,525.80	3,302,002.20
REGIONAL			REGIONAL		
SCHOOL	2,476,664.00	0.774	SCHOOL	2,352,830.80	2,600,497.20
LOCAL			LOCAL		
SCHOOL	4,535,140.00	1.418	SCHOOL	4,308,383.00	4,761,897.00
COUNTY	871,161.84	0.273	COUNTY	827,603.75	914,719.93
TOTALS:	11,027,729.84	3.447		10,476,343.35	11,579,116.33

2024 ESTIMATED TAX RATE

2024 Ratable Total – 324,657,700

Amount to be raised by Taxation:
LOCAL 3,094,898.50

REGIONAL
SCHOOL 2,526,197.00

LOCAL
SCHOOL 4,625,843.00

COUNTY 887,414.83

TOTALS 11,134,353.33

Tax Rate:
0.968 2024 (Introduced Budget)

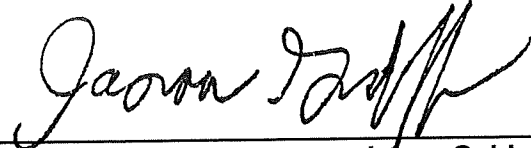
0.790 2023 (Estimated Budget)

1.447 2023 (Estimated Budget)

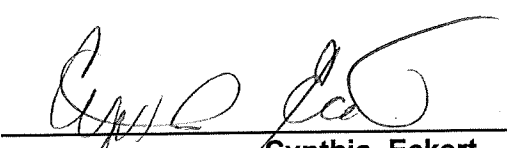
0.278 2023 (Estimated Budget)

3.483

PREPARED AND CERTIFIED BY:



Jason Gabloff
CFO



Cynthia Eckert
Tax Collector