

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
September 12, 2024**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD SEPTEMBER 12, 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 Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk and Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Minutes** – Agenda Meeting – August 1, 2024
Regular Meeting – August 8, 2024

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Wayne Anthony of 24 Dell Ave. noticed The Village Green has leveled out some dirt. He is still concerned with the pipe that is not connected. He described what was passed by the Planning Board in reference to this pipe. Mr. Blakeslee stated the contractor is aware of this issue. Mr. Anthony thanked the Council for their time.

Mr. Bob Kirchman, 86 Koclas Dr, has lived here for 40 years. He is concerned about the pickle ball court across the street from his house. The noise from it is very loud. It is especially bad during the weekends. He spoke with other neighbors who feel the same. It is causing a quality-of-life issue in the neighborhood. The people coming to play are not only from Netcong, they come from all over. They even wait in line to play. Councilman Nametko stated they are now making quieter balls to use that will make less noise which may be a solution to this issue. He asked if we can mandate this type of ball be used. The borough attorney said he feels we do have the ability to mandate this. There was further discussion among the Council on this subject. The borough attorney will look into this issue. There is concern on how to regulate this. The mayor suggested a sound deadening guard or net. Councilman Sylvester suggested implementing user fees. Mr. Blakeslee noted that this is a green acres park so it is available for all users. There was discussion on possible fees. Mr. Kirchman stated this starts at 8am. There are no gates at this time. The Council is working on getting gates installed on the pickle ball court. Mr. Kirchman thanked the Council for their time.

Mrs. Maria DeFazio, 15 Allen Terrace, is here to find out what is happening with the Allen Terrace resurfacing. Councilman Hathaway explained why this is taking so long. They stated it will be milled and paved. She was concerned that it would be a one-way street which will be inconvenient. There was discussion among the Council on the traffic light issue in that area. She also had another question about no dogs in the park. She wants to know why. Mr. Blakeslee gave the reasons for not having dogs in the parks. She thanked the Council for their time.

Mrs. Michele Ruocco, 39 Main St., noted that we have a master plan and wondered if it is accessible to the public. Mr. Blakeslee explained this is a large document that would be difficult to display. He also explained that it is posted online. She is suggesting an aerial view of the town and the current projects. Councilman Hathaway stated other towns have a tax map with proposed projects labeled on it. Mr. Blakeslee offered that the town could do something like this. She thinks this would help with the disconnect between the residents and Council because it would provide upcoming project details to avoid anger among the residents as they do not understand the whole process. She thinks education to the people in simple terms is important. She wondered if it could be a newsletter, podcast, etc. It might alleviate false assumptions. She thanked the Council for their time.

There was further discussion among the Council about finding better ways to notify residents of current projects. A recap of the meeting was suggested. Mr. Blakeslee stated it is something we could do. He stated this is the reason for us to post the pictures of projects on the walls of the town hall. He feels a bullet point recap could be done. It would be up on our website. There was further discussion. The mayor suggested we give it a try. There was further discussion on sending a notification with the quarterly water bills. Mr. Matthew Eddy, 25 Flanders Rd., agreed with Michele's concerns. He read two of the current resolutions wanting to know why someone withdrew their bid. Mr. Blakeslee explained why the bid was withdrawn. He wants to know why details of this type of issue

are not explained in more detail to the public. It was suggested that more detail should be added to the agenda to make it more understandable.

Mr. John Parks, 26 Hilts Lane., wanted to know if there is any movement on the paving of Hilts Lane. The mayor explained the gas company will be paving it. It will not be done by the town.

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Syvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

None presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

It was noted that the Planning Board meeting date was incorrect. The meeting is September 23.

Councilman Nametko asked about a bid speck regarding a sidewalk issue.

Councilman Sylvester had a question about Optimum. He wanted to know if we would get another grant from them. It was determined that would not be the case.

August 2024 Report

31 rental inspections done

3 COH resale inspections done

7 Tenant change inspections at 34 Bank Street

Year-to-Date Report

481 rental units issued (221 non-apartment complex units issued)

508 rental units in-progress* (48 non-apartment complex units in-progress) (Most of this is Netcong Heights and the inspections are scheduled for September 17th - October 3rd)

7 rental units never responded to 3rd requests. (all non-apartment buildings) (4 may be owner occupied and have not yet clarified with us)

3 COH resales issued

*in-progress means that they have either been inspected and correcting issues, missing information, currently scheduled, or are currently under construction/renovation and spoken to us on their status.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: J. Nametko J. Sylvester

Councilman Nametko read the finance report and added that state aid is down this year. The PILOT should begin soon at 2 Flanders Rd. Mr. Blakeslee added additional information regarding 2 Flanders Rd. They agreed to purchase a large piece of equipment for the borough but prices have increased greatly since the agreement was made. He also stated they are still waiting to get a certificate of completion. Councilman Hathaway stated he wanted the increase in revenue coming from the PILOT to be clear.

For the month of August 2024, the Borough had a total income in the amount of \$1,582,232.94 as compared to \$1,276,116.33 in 2023.

For the month of August 2024:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2024 the Borough received \$4,168.45 compared to \$2,933.85 in 2023.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees:

The Borough received \$32,031.70 in 2024 compared to \$33,504.15 in 2023.

State Aid:

There was \$178,511.74 received in 2024 and \$196,449.98 in 2023.

Grants in Aid:

There was \$129,457.94 received in 2024 for Grants in Aid and nothing was received in 2023.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$1,183,706.14 in 2024 compared to \$1,020,608.29 in 2023.

Water and Sewer Utility:

The Borough collected \$37,816.51 in 2024 compared to \$22,210.06 in 2023.

Solid Waste Utility:

There was \$16,540.46 collected this past month.

Total Current Fund Year to Date:

The total Current Fund Income Year to date for 2024 is \$9,318,946.61 as opposed to \$8,758,641.82 in 2023.

Total Water and Sewer Utility to Date:

The total Water and Sewer Utility Income Year to date for 2024 is \$908,786.67 as opposed to \$899,168.13 collected in 2023.

Total Solid Waste Utility to Date:
The Solid Waste Utility collected Year to date is \$192,751.37.

Total of all Funds to Date:
Total collected from all funds Year to date is \$10,420,484.65 in 2024 compared to \$9,661,179.95 in 2023.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway J. Nametko

Councilman Hathaway stated that not much is going on. He had commented on the parking lot grant and securing this property to do it. Mr. Blakeslee noted that he has set up a meeting to acquire the property.

Councilman Sylvester asked about ShopRite. Mr. Blakeslee explained they are trying to work out an issue with the vendor that was supposed to provide the Distribution center. Councilman Sylvester asked about the Main St. project. Once they get approval from the planning board meeting, they will move forward. Councilman Sylvester asked about the cannabis store. Councilman Nametko stated the security has just been installed in the building. They are continuing to work toward an opening. Councilman Nametko provided additional detail on this issue.

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

Councilman Sylvester read the fire, police and ambulance reports

Fire Department

The following is a list of all activities for Netcong Fire Department for the month of August, 2024.

Total Calls: 20

General Alarms: 12

Motor Vehicle Accidents: 2

Mutual Aid: 6

Total Members: 34

Time Volunteered: 110 Hours and 37 Minutes

Drills: 10

Total Members: 38

Time Volunteered: 164 Hours

Administrative Details: 9

Total Members: 51

Time Volunteered: 481 Hours

Monthly Total: 51 Members volunteered 755 Hours 37 Minutes

Fire Prevention:

Total Inspections: 20

Total Violations: 21
Permits Issued: 9
Penalty Money Collected: \$3,500
Administrative: 6

Police

Total Calls: 743
Radar detail: 78.5 hours

The Police Department is in dire need of alternates and crossing guards.

Ambulance Corps.

Calls: 38
Total Patients: 22
Total Hospital Trips: 17
Miles: 456
Hours: 131 hours 27 minutes

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities: J. Albensi R. Hathaway

Councilman Albensi read the DPW and water operator reports.

Road Department:

Picked up 28 cy of grass and 24 cy of brush... Cleaned Main St and Maple Ave curb lines.....Watered Boro flower pots....Installed cross hatch striping and delineators on Prospect St....Paved potholes and water repairs townwide....Painted parking lines on Main St and Maple Ave....

Water Department:

Repair water leak at 10 Center St....Performed quarterly water meter readings....

Sewer Department:

Performed preventative maintenance sewer line cleaning at known trouble areas.....

Buildings & Grounds:

Cain Fire equipment was in to inspect all Boro fire extinguishers....Cut grass at Boro properties....Samurai Const installed new roof on the DiRenzo park gazebo....Netcong Fire Inspector performed Boro fire safety inspections....Removed old water fountain at Boro Hall for a new filtered system from Cintas....

Other:

Delivered and returned county light towers and barricades in support of Assumption Fireworks and Netcong Day...DPW employees attended JIF safety training classes....

The well pumped 45,048,000 gallons less than in 2023.

Recreation: T. Morton J. Albensi

Councilman Morton reported that for Netcong Day, there were over 800 people. He thanked Netcong Recreation, Police Dept. Fire Dept. PTA and Ambulance Squad. He also thanked the Mayor and Council. He thanked DPW for preparing the field. He thanked the borough hall staff and Wayne Anthony, Bob Olivo, Tim Hess and crossing guards along with LVR for providing a golf cart. He thanked all volunteers who helped to make the day a success. He thanked Councilman Laureys and Councilman Hathaway for participating in the dunk tank. Trunk and Treat is being worked on now to take place on October 20th.

Public Services: T. Laureys T. Morton
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal

Dial A Ride Report for August
Days of Service: 19
Miles: 979
Of Stops: 60
Nutrition: for 1 : 11
Food Shopping: 34
of Meals on Wheels: 9
Medical Appointments: 38
Other Appointments: 22
People Using Services: 28
Cancels: 7
Denials: 0
Units: 202
Hours: 79
Additional: 3 days off

For the month of August there was 89.85 tons of Garbage picked up in town. That included 41 bulk items that were also picked up during the month.

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President Sylvester provided an update on the lake project extension at Arbolino Park. There was a meeting last Friday with DEP and District 24 legislators which went well. We need to keep moving forward to move the boundary line and get the design made. Mr. Blakeslee stated these are already in play. Fire Dept. took 2nd for Pierce and color guard and 1st for marching and 1st in formation/uniform.

Councilman Hathaway asked about the firehouse parking lot project. They are working on bid specs now. He wants to know if the Council had seen it. Mr. Blakeslee will send the design out to the Council. The money is available to complete the project.

He stated Family Fun Day was a good showing despite the weather. It was a great showing for our community. He thought it was a great job.

Councilman Hathaway offered great news: the Lake Board has received new equipment to maintain the lake. All the work is done with volunteers.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Netcong Day was great. Mr. Eddy also participated in the dunk tank.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 2024- 100-** Authorizing the Refund of Taxes to Corelogic Solutions, LLC Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-3.32
2. **Resolution 2024-101-** A Resolution Approving the Withdrawal of a Bid Submitted by ADG Contracting Corp. Doing Business as Crossroads Paving Related to The Jenny Lind Street Resurfacing and Sidewalk Improvement Project in The Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey
3. **Resolution 2024-102-** A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to D.L.S. Contracting, Inc., For the Jenny Lind Street Resurfacing and Sidewalk Improvement Project in The Borough of Netcong, County of Morris, State of New Jersey

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

4. **Resolution 2024-103-** To Adopt the Provisions of Chapter 48 (N.J.S.A 52:14.17.38) Under Which a Public Employer May Agree to Pay for the SHBP and/or SEHPB Coverage of Certain Retirees

Councilman Sylvester asked for this resolution to be tabled for more detail.

A Motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Morton to table this resolution.

PROCLAMATIONS

None presented.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

None presented

REPORTS

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

BILLS

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Matthew Eddy, 25 Flanders Rd. asked if Netcong Day was profitable. Councilman Morton stated they are still working on the numbers. He also stated they charged less admission this year. He asked for more clarification regarding the EDA parking lot grant.

Mr. Blakeslee explained we are looking to provide more offsite parking downtown. There are 2 properties available. We did not get the grant because the property was not in our possession at the time the grant was submitted.

Councilman Sylvester also stated he will be putting out the reports from the police, fire and ambulance.

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

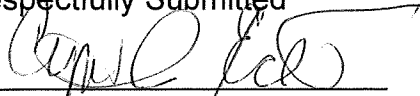
There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester at 8:33PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WITHDRAWAL OF A BID SUBMITTED BY
ADG CONTRACTING CORP. DOING BUSINESS AS CROSSROADS PAVING
RELATED TO THE JENNY LIND STREET RESURFACING AND SIDEWALK
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF
MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong solicited bids for the Jenny Lind Street Resurfacing and Sidewalk Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk, on August 29, 2024, received two (2) bids for the above-referenced project; and

WHEREAS, ADG Contracting Corp., doing business as Crossroads Paving (hereinafter referred to as "Crossroads") submitted the lowest bid in the amount of \$241,912.00; and

WHEREAS, Crossroads made a timely request to withdraw the bid submitted, such request having been made on August 30, 2024, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-23.3; and

WHEREAS, Crossroads stated that it made a material error in calculation as to a specified item within the bid specification; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer and Borough Administrator have reviewed the withdrawal request in good faith and has determined that the bid submitted by Crossroads is substantially lower than the engineer's estimate as provided by the Borough Engineer; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by Crossroads is approximately 23% less than the Borough Engineer's estimate and is approximately 20% less than the next lowest bid received; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the recommendations provided to the Council, the Council believes that the variation in the bid amount substantiates the material calculation error and it is appropriate to grant the request to withdraw the bid submitted by Crossroads.

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 request of ADG Contracting Corp. doing business as Crossroads Paving to withdraw its bid submitted on August 29, 2024, for the Jenny Lind Street Resurfacing and Sidewalk Improvement Project is hereby approved.

2. The bid guarantee as submitted by ADG Contracting Corp. doing business as Crossroads Paving shall be returned to the bidder.

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

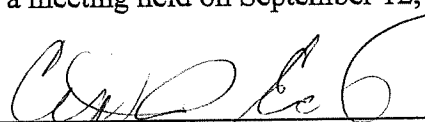
By:


Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated: 9/16/24

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 September 12, 2024.


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO D.L.S. CONTRACTING, INC., FOR THE JENNY LIND STREET RESURFACING AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong solicited bids for the Jenny Lind Street Resurfacing and Sidewalk Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk, on August 29, 2024, received two (2) bids for the above-referenced project; and

WHEREAS, the apparent low bidder, ADG Contracting Corp., doing business as Crossroads Paving, submitted a timely request to withdraw its bid, which request has been granted; and

WHEREAS, D.L.S. Contracting, Inc., submitted the lowest responsible and responsive bid pursuant to the Borough's specifications for the above-referenced contract; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer and Borough Attorney have reviewed the bids and have found that the bid submitted by D.L.S. Contracting, Inc., is in proper form and may be awarded by the Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council wishes to award the contract to D.L.S. Contracting, Inc., in accordance with its bid proposal in the amount of \$303,053.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Netcong has certified that funds are available for this purpose.

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. A contract for the Jenny Lind Street Resurfacing and Sidewalk Improvement Project is hereby awarded to D.L.S. CONTRACTING, INC., 36 Montesano Road, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004, in accordance with its bid proposal, dated August 28, 2024, for an amount not to exceed \$303,053.00.

2. The award of this contract is subject to and expressly conditioned upon receipt of \$250,000.00 in funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

3. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with D.L.S. Contracting, Inc., in accordance with its bid proposal dated August 28, 2024, in the amount of \$303,053.00 as provided.

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

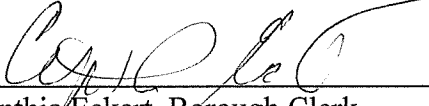
By:


Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated: 9/16/24

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