

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
October 3, 2024**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD OCTOBER 3, 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 (via speakerphone) and Mayor Still. Also present was Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk and Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded to Councilman Morton.

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 October 10, 2024.

1. **Minutes** – Agenda Meeting – September 5, 2024
Regular Meeting – September 12, 2024

A motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the minutes.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Ordinance Adoption - None presented.

3. Correspondence –Letter –Netcong Elementary School

Mrs. Eckert read the thank you letter to the Council.

4. Letter from Pat Marsico- 41 Koclas Dr. - Boardwalk by the lake.

Councilman Hathaway requested to speak on this subject. He stated this project has been discussed among the Council for many years. This would be part of the Morris County Greenway going from Bloomfield to west of the borough. He added detail regarding the length that would run through our borough. He had a map showing where the path would be located. He stated the boardwalk would not be on private property. The project would be ADA friendly. He stated part of this project has been completed. He provided details on these locations and current issues. He also noted Councilman Sylvester has proposed increasing Arbolino Park which is in the design phase at this time. He also added the path will go around the furnace pond which was included in the 34 Bank St. project. It does also exist on the Semper Development site plan. Verizon will also give an easement to allow the path through their property. He continued discussion regarding the plans for this project. Councilman Nametko commented on the current improvements accomplished with this plan that have made a more pleasant experience for pedestrians. He hopes this project can go further. Councilman Laureys asked about some of the issues raised in the letter from Mrs. Marsico about the weed harvester etc. Councilman Hathaway stated he is not concerned about difficulties with weed removal from the lake. Councilman Laureys questioned the possibility of weed control in these areas. Councilman Hathaway noted Mrs. Marsico and Jeanette Mostkowitz have been very active volunteers for the care of the lake. He considered their comments in their letter. DEP would have the final say in how this would be installed. There was further discussion among the Council on this subject. Councilman Hathaway explained how this boardwalk would probably be installed. It would have to meet DEP standards. He feels there may be some misunderstanding with the stakeholders. Councilman Nametko provided several comments on the weed concerns.

5. Old Business – None presented

6. New Business- None presented

7. 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 SEHBP Coverage of Certain Retirees

Mr. Blakeslee explained the details of this resolution regarding a retired employee.

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

8. Resolution 2024-104- Establishing a Public Comment Decorum Policy for Public Meetings.

Councilman Laureys had questions on the wording of this ordinance. He would like to hold this until next week when the borough attorney is present. He gave several examples. The mayor stated we do not have to do this. Councilman Hathaway commented on his interpretation of Councilman Laurey's concerns. There was further discussion on the contents of this resolution. Mr. Blakeslee explained how the wording of this ordinance was developed. Councilman Sylvester stated these policies seem to be a common practice. He added this topic has been reviewed by the Supreme Court. There was further discussion on the details of this policy. He stated these things have been vetted through the courts. Councilman Hathaway gave a sample of what he feels would be a better way to word this policy. The mayor had several comments on this subject. There was further discussion on the wording of this policy.

A Motion to table resolution to next week was made by Councilman Laureys and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilmen Nametko and Sylvester

A Motion to amend the "or" in the resolution was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Nametko.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

9. Resolution 2024-105- To Appoint Andreas Pavlov as Mechanic Level 1 for Department of Public Works

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

10. Resolution 2024-106- To Appoint Michael Theriault as Operator Level 5 for Department of Public Works

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

11. Ordinance Introduction – None presented this evening.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Council President: There was a meeting this past week with representatives for the Netcong FOP. They are looking to increase the force by two officers. Call volume will be over 10,000 by the end of the year. During the day there is only one patrolman on duty due to mandatory training increases. He provided several reasons why more police officers are needed. The calls now take a large amount of time to process which can take hours, taking them off the road. Councilman Sylvester told them we can start with one officer, not two. He explained how to accomplish this. The total number would be 14 officers. He is asking for permission for the chief to hire an additional officer. Councilman Hathaway had comments on this issue. He feels we need to have two additional officers. There was further discussion among the Council on this issue. Councilman Hathaway feels our officers do a great job on keeping the residents safe. Mr. Blakeslee related last year's budget work by our auditor and CFO which gave the ability for the details in the 2025 budget. He explained the next PILOT that should begin shortly. There was discussion among the Council and administrator on the PILOT for 2 Flanders. The mayor stated the crime happening now is serious stuff. There are a lot of domestic violence calls which require two officers. Councilman Laureys wants to know how this will affect the budget. There was discussion among the Council on the costs. Councilman Sylvester noted that this would be a 2-year project.

A Motion to give the Police Chief permission to start the hiring process for one new officer to be in training by January was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Nametko.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Councilman Hathaway wanted to discuss the Rock-Solid application and the planning board: there is a property line dispute between the Palumbo barbershop and the developer. This may hold up the development project. This will have to go back to the planning board again. The proposed lines only affect the setbacks of the project. They could come back for completeness. He is hoping to have them back in committee. Mr. Blakeslee stated he has been in contact with the developer. They are reviewing the issue and will get back to him. Councilman Hathaway is concerned. The mayor stated he will request the planning board take this off the agenda until this is resolved.

Councilman Nametko reported that on Saturday Sept. 14th, they had a food drive for the food bank. He is thankful for the help from the police department and particularly officer S.J. Reilly.

Councilman Morton had a question on training for community pass. Mr. Blakeslee responded.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The mayor stated that he is grateful for the dedicated staff in all departments.

PROCLAMATION

None presented.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Hathaway at 8:24PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk



State Health Benefits Program (SHBP)
School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP)

RESOLUTION

2024-103

To be completed by the employing agency's Certifying Officer.

A resolution 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 SEHBP coverage of certain retirees.

BE IT RESOLVED

1. The Borough of Netcong 009000
Corporate Name of Employer SHBP/SEHBP Employer Location Number

hereby elects to adopt the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.38 and adhere to the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Health Benefits Commission and School Employees' Health Benefits Commission to implement the provisions of that law.

2. This resolution affects employees as shown on the attached *Chapter 48 Resolution Addendum*. It is effective on the 1st day of December, 2013.
Month Year

3. We are aware that adoption of this resolution does not free us of the obligation to pay for post-retirement medical benefits of retirees or employees who qualified for those payments under any *Chapter 88 Resolution* or *Chapter 48 Resolution* adopted previously by this governing body.

4. We agree that this resolution will remain in effect until properly amended or revoked with the SHBP and/or SEHBP. We recognize that while we participate with the SHBP and/or SEHBP, we are responsible for providing the payment for post-retirement medical coverage as listed in the attached *Chapter 48 Resolution Addendum* for all employees who qualify for this coverage while this resolution is in force.

5. We understand that we are required to provide the New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (NJDPB) complete copies of all contracts, ordinances, and resolutions that detail post-retirement medical payment obligations we undertake. We also recognize that we may be required to provide the NJDPB with information needed to carry out the terms of this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the:

Borough of Netcong 913-347-0252
Corporate Name of Employer Phone Number

23 Maple Ave Netcong NJ 07857
Street Address City State Zip Code

Ralph Blakeslee Borough Administrator rblakeslee@netcong.org
Print Name Official Title Email Address

Ralph Blakeslee 10 / 3 / 2024
Signature Date

25 22-6002125
Number of Employees Employer's State Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Mail Completed Resolution to: **New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits
Health Benefits Bureau
P.O. Box 299
Trenton, NJ 08625-0299**

Email Completed Resolution to: **HBRetired@treas.nj.gov**



State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) and School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP)
CHAPTER 48 RESOLUTION ADDENDUM

Effective Date of Resolution 12 / 1 / 2013 Form to be used for: Medical Dental Both

Employer Name Borough of Netcong
Corporate Name of Employer, SHBP/SEHBP Netcong Employer Location Number

| CLASS OF EMPLOYEES Examples: police officers, clerical workers, bargaining unit (PBA, CWA), nonaligned, or individual(s) | N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.38 Provisions Adopted | | | | | | Premium Payment Retirees If Yes Show % | Premium Payment Dependents | | Medicare Reimbursement | | Premium Payment Surviving Spouses | | Do Benefits Apply to Current Retirees | | If Benefits Do Not Apply To Current Retirees, Give Effective Date |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| | 1) Retired on a Disability Retirement | 2) Retired w/25 or + years of service | 2a) Number of years service w/employer | 3) Retired age 65 + w/25 years service | 3a) Number of years service w/employer | 4) Retired 62 or older w/15 years or more service w/employer | | No | If Yes Show % | No | If Yes Show % | No | If Yes Show % | No | If Yes Show % | |
| All Non Union | | X | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fulltime Employees | | | | | | | 80% | X | | X | | X | | X | | 11/14/2013 |
| Dolores Dalessandro | | X | 25 | | | | 100% | X | | X | | X | | X | | 8/1/2012 |
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Note: An age requirement is not permitted on Provisions 1 or 2; Provisions 3 and 4 already have an age requirement.

Date Resolution Submitted 10 / 4 / 2024 Name of Certifying Officer Sason Gabloff Area Code and Phone Number 973-347-0252

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC COMMENT DECORUM POLICY FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act as found at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(a), a municipal governing body during a public meeting is required to set aside a portion of same, the length of which is to be determined by the municipal governing body for public comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council encourages public participation and public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council notes that the public comment period of each of its Council meetings is a limited public forum that allows for public comment on any type of governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council in its encouragement of such public comment, is not only welcoming of favorable comment but also unfavorable, critical, robust public comment on governmental issues; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council also believes that in order for constructive and engaged public participation, such public comments should be relevant matters of public interest and concern and not be disruptive, repetitious or of a discriminative, abusive or gratuitously explicative nature; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council believes that is in the best interest to promulgate a policy to establish necessary and appropriate expectations of public comment that promotes efficient government and communication.

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 following public comment policy be hereby adopted and posted conspicuously within the Council chambers and stated at the outset of all public comment periods:

1. As required by public law and considerations of good government, the Borough Council welcomes any and all comments, suggestions and questions during the public comment period relating to Borough issues, noting that the public comment period is to allow for public comment and not specifically dialogue. Public comment shall be limited to five (5) minutes for each speaker without yielding of time. The Borough Council will not discuss appropriately privileged matters, such as litigation and personnel issues during this period and public commenters are requested to be polite and respectful when making comment. It is also requested that those making public comment avoid repetitive statements. Please be aware that comments that are abusive and intended to intimidate any individual or group of individuals because of race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin or ethnicity will not be tolerated, nor will public comment that is excessively vulgar or obscene intended to cause public alarm or be disorderly with the purpose of preventing, disrupting or interfering with the Borough Council meeting.

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

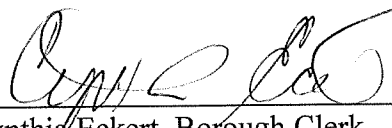
By:


Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated: 10/17/24

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 October 3, 2024.


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, that the following named persons be appointed and paid salaries in 2024.

| EMPLOYEE | TITLE | Salary |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Andreas Pavlov | Mechanic, Level 1 | \$49,920 |

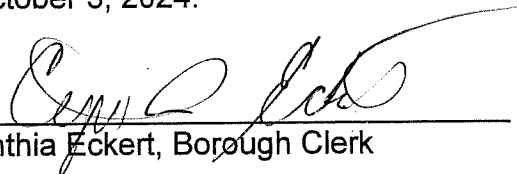
This resolution shall take effect immediately.



Elmer Still, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Cynthia Eckert, Clerk of the Borough of Netcong, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong at a meeting held on October 3, 2024.



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, that the following named persons be appointed and paid the following salary”

| EMPLOYEE | TITLE | Salary |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Mike Theriault | Operator Level 5 | \$49,920 |

This resolution shall take effect immediately.



Elmer Still, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Cynthia Eckert, Clerk of the Borough of Netcong, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong at a meeting held on October 3, 2024.



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk