

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
November 7, 2024**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD NOVEMBER 7, 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.

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 Hathaway, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Morton, Councilman Nametko, Councilman Sylvester and Mayor Still. Also present was Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk and Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Jim Arbolino, 23 Allen Street, is here tonight to discuss the old firehouse building on Main St. He has been before the Council multiple times about this building. He wants to know why nothing has been done to improve this building. He feels this building should be condemned. It is a disgrace. He knows the owner is a member of the Netcong Community Partnership. He is frustrated that nothing has been done. He feels this is not right. He wants to know why a sign has not been posted on this building with a deadline to fix it or it will be condemned.

Councilman Hathaway stated lists of contractors that had been provided to the owner of this property and the property owner had excuses as to why he could not use them. Councilman Laureys wants to know the proper procedure for these types of situations. Mr. Blakeslee addressed his question. Councilman Laureys then asked how many notices have been provided to this property owner. He wants to be sure we apply the law equally across the board. Mr. Blakeslee made a comment on this question. Mr. Blakeslee explained this owner has done some improvements but not enough. There was further discussion among the Council on this issue. Mr. Arbolino had additional comments on

how this should be handled. Mr. Blakeslee responded to his comments. There was continued discussion on this issue. Councilman Sylvester suggested sending a letter tomorrow saying the owner has 30 days to complete repairs or he will be fined every day the work is not done. The Council was in agreement with this suggestion.

Councilman Hathaway stated he would like a written response from the owner as to why he cannot do the repairs. There was lengthy discussion on other issues similar to this that have arisen in the past.

Mr. Arbolino also wanted to know how to dispose of old fire extinguishers and shredded paper. The Council explained to him how to get rid of both.

A Motion to Authorize and Direct Mr. Blakeslee to compose a letter to include painting and siding repairs to the owner to produce a signed contract with 30 days to make all repairs within 6 months was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Nametko.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PROCLAMATION

1. Honoring Veterans

The mayor will be presenting this to the American Legion on Sunday, November 10, 2024.

PROCLAMATION BOROUGH OF NETCONG

Whereas, the men and women who served in our armed forces have demonstrated their willingness to satisfy the greatest obligation of their citizenship; and

Whereas, it is fitting that we set aside a special day each year to honor all of our veterans and to express our esteem for them; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has set aside one day a year as a legal holiday and designated it a VETERAN'S DAY in honor of our veterans and as a day designated to the cause of world peace;

Now, Therefore, I the undersigned Mayor of Netcong Borough do hereby call upon all of our citizens to observe Monday, November 11, 2024, as Veteran's Day, and ask that the day be

observed with appropriate ceremonies not only in tribute to our veterans but also in rededication on the cause of peace with honor throughout the world.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal to be affixed this 7th day of November, 2024.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The following items are for discussion purposes only. Any action on these items will take place at the meeting of November 14, 2024.

1. **Minutes** –Agenda Meeting – October 3, 2024
Regular Meeting – October 10, 2024

Closed Session – March 12, 2015

Closed Session – October 4, 2018

Closed Session – October 11, 2018

Closed Session – July 11, 2019

Closed Session – October 10, 2019

Closed Session – October 8, 2020

Closed Session – December 9, 2021

Closed Session – March 3, 2022

A Motion to approve the meeting minutes noted above was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Nametko.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Ordinance Adoptions-** None presented

3. **Correspondence** - None presented

4. **Old Business** – Councilman Morton asked about the Shoprite wall- Mr. Blakeslee explained ShopRite is of the opinion the Borough is responsible for the repairs. Councilman Hathaway wants to know why we are not writing a summons on this and let the court sort this out. Lt. Coppolella came forward to explain there was insurance listed on this but out of state. He provided further information on this subject. There was further discussion among the Council on this issue. Councilman Hathaway stated to his understanding if this is on the site plan it is ShopRite's responsibility. Councilman Laureys asked how this will be handled to be sure it is handled equally. There was further discussion on this issue. The Council thanked Mr. Coppolella for his time.

5. **New Business-** Offshore Wind Development

The mayor brought this to the Council because it will affect all residents of the state. Councilman Nametko provided Key Statistics that he has heard about these windmills and the difficulty in maintaining and disposing of them. Councilman Laureys had several

comments as well. One being the effect these windmills have on wildlife. He expanded on this subject and noted that hydro-electric power is more effective than windmills. The mayor would like to know if the Council wants to be part of this fight. The Council is agreeable to it.

6. New Business – Bud to Bloom – Special Event Request

Ms. Ariel Mizrahi and Mr. Kyle Dellamo stepped forward to give an update on their business. They have passed all of their state inspections. They are waiting for their final license from the state so they can open. They plan on opening in 2024. They would like to do a soft opening earlier and have their grand opening on New Year's Eve. She continued to explain in detail the plans for the grand opening. They will have security there. Councilman Sylvester suggested she have a meeting with the Police Chief to discuss the particulars. They are considering having food and possibly a DJ for the event. They are looking to include local businesses for this event. A 50/50 raffle may be a possibility. Councilman Nametko asked what the hours would be for the DJ. Councilman Hathaway stated there may be a problem with loud music with the nearby neighbors and noted other concerns. He wanted to know if the ordinance will be followed when it comes to sale. Ariel stated there would be no sales after the time stated in the ordinance. Mr. Blakeslee gave details on permits that might be needed for food, raffles, alcohol and noise ordinances. The mayor suggested they come to the office during the week to give them all the permit applications they need. The mayor does not have an issue with this event and the Council is on board. Kyle and Ariel thanked the Council for their time.

7. Resolution 2024- 108– 2025 Holiday Schedule

8. Resolution 2024- 109– To Award a Contract to Supply and Install a Split Rail Fence at Arbolino Park

Councilman Nametko had a question about this resolution. He wanted to know if we already have money for this, which we do.

9. Resolution 2024-110- To Award a Contract to Core and Main for the Supply of Water Meters

10. Resolution 2024-111- To Appoint Hunter Gabloff – Temporary Office Assistant

11. Resolution 2024-112- To Award a Contract to Supply and Install Fire Alarm Systems in Municipal Buildings

A motion was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the five resolutions noted above.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

12. Ordinance Introduction – None presented

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President has had questions from residents about the tax bills. He had a chart to explain the breakdown of the taxes. He stated the school taxes are increasing, not the local tax. He explained the local tax savings that have been made. There was discussion among the Council on this subject. Councilman Nametko stated much debt has been paid down protecting the residents from major increases.

Councilman Hathaway brought up a grant application that the Growing Stage is applying for. He provided details on this. The Growing Stage is looking for a resolution of support from the borough for this grant. He explained what the Growing Stage will be doing with the funds from this grant. He would like to have a resolution on the agenda next week. Councilman Sylvester said the Growing Stage has been nothing but an asset to our borough. He stated they should not even think the Council would not support them.

Councilman Hathaway wanted to know where we stand with the engineer RFP. Mr. Blakeslee explained reviews are being done and two firms are coming in for 2nd interviews. Councilman Hathaway explained the reasons for his questions on this. He is concerned with our current engineer and how they have handled some of the current projects. He wants to be sure we have a new engineer for the reorganization. The mayor has assured the Council there will be a new engineer appointed at the reorganization. Councilman Nametko asked if this will be for the planning board as well. The mayor replied 'yes.'

Councilman Hathaway stated after election day he was in the borough hall parking lot and could hear loud music playing at a residential property across the street. Lt. Coppolella stepped forward to explain how the noise ordinance is handled at this time. The police can send a letter to the board of health because they have to address the complaint as it is considered noise pollution. Lt. Coppolella stated a notice has been sent to Mt. Olive Board of Health to address this situation. He gave further explanation on this. He said there are limited tools to enforce this type of issue. Councilman Sylvester asked if the police are knocking on doors and issuing summons. Councilman Hathaway stated the board of health process is not in our ordinance. He is concerned about that. He feels we should update our ordinance. Lt. Coppolella gave further explanation on this subject. There was discussion among the Council on this issue. Councilman Sylvester asked we pull the noise ordinance and send it to the Council for review and possibly update it to be clearer. The Council thanked Lt. Coppolella for his time.

MAYORS COMMENTS

The mayor had no comments at this time.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Matthew Eddy, 25 Flanders Rd., asked about the I&I problem. The mayor stated that they are still working on it. Councilman Hathaway stated there is an anomaly in the Wiltop

area. He provided further detail on this issue. He also stated this will not continue until the weather changes and we get some rain and provided further detail on this topic. Mr. Blakeslee stated he can provide Mr. Eddy with the reports. Councilman Sylvester stated the numbers have come back down to normal. He asked if the borough has a camera. Councilman Hathaway responded.

Mrs. Bernadette Dalesandro asked about the closed session minutes.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was held this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester at 8:40PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk


RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris, and State of New Jersey, that the attached Holiday Schedule be and is hereby adopted for the 2025 calendar year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Clerk shall post a copy of the 2025 Holiday Schedule on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and shall provide a copy of said schedule to all permanent full-time employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

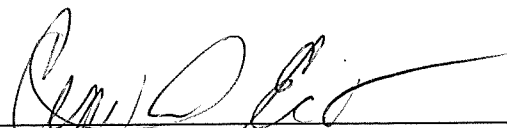
By: 

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 November 7, 2024.



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

2025 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Martin L. King Day	Monday, January 20, 2025
Presidents Day	Monday, February 17, 2025
Good Friday	Friday, April 18, 2025
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26, 2025
Independence Day	Friday, July 4, 2025
Labor Day	Monday, September 1, 2025
Columbus Day	Monday, October 13, 2025
Veteran's Day	Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 27, 2025
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 28, 2025
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25, 2025
Election Day	November 5, 2025 - Borough Hall Open – Employee Floating Holiday to be used on December 26, 2025

**A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO SUPPLY AND
INSTALL A SPLIT RAIL FENCE AT ARBOLINO PARK**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong desires to install a split rail fence in order to delineate conservation areas along the shoreline of Arbolino Park; and

WHEREAS, funding for the fence has been provided by the developer of 34 Bank Street as part of a wetlands diversion agreement with the NJDEP; and

WHEREAS, the developer in question provided the funds for the fence and its installation, which has been sitting in a trust held by the Borough; and


WHEREAS, Challenger Fence, Inc., 53 Kentucky Avenue, Paterson NJ, 07503 has submitted a quote under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, MCCPC Contract #47; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer 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 to supply and install a split rail fence at Arbolino Park is hereby awarded to Challenger Fence Inc., 53 Kentucky Avenue, Paterson NJ, 07503 in an amount not to exceed \$7,530 and in accordance with October 8, 2024 quote, number Q24-06576, and on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.
2. The Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract on behalf of the Borough.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

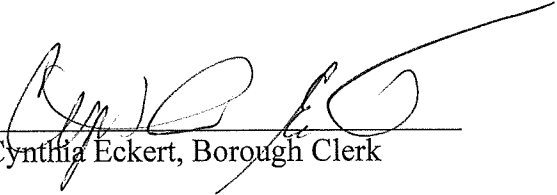
BOROUGH OF NETCONG

By: 
Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated: 11/11/24

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 November 7, 2024.


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO CORE AND MAIN
FOR THE SUPPLY OF WATER METERS**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong desires to obtain water meters; and


WHEREAS, Core & Main, 61 Gross Ave, Edison NJ, 08837 has submitted a quote under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, MCCPC Contract #47; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer 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 to supply water meters is awarded to Core & Main, 61 Gross Avenue, Edison NJ, 08837 in an amount not to exceed \$4,640 and in accordance with October 16, 2024 quote, number 3814899, and on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.
2. The Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract on behalf of the Borough.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.


BOROUGH OF NETCONG

By: 
Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated: 11/8/24

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 November 7, 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 at the set per hour rate:

EMPLOYEE	TITLE	Rate
Hunter Gabloff	Part Time Office Assistant	\$15.50

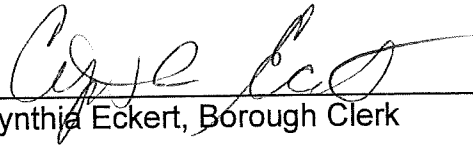
This resolution shall take effect immediately.



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



Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO SUPPLY AND
INSTALL FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS IN MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong desires to install fire alarms in its buildings; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent of Public Works solicited written quotes for fire alarm service; and


WHEREAS, three (3) quotes were received and Abcode Security, 83 Main Street, Newton New Jersey, 07860 submitted the lowest responsible written quote; and

WHEREAS, funding is provided is authorized by paragraph B (i) of Ordinance 2024-16, and the Borough's Chief Financial Officer 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 to supply and install fire monitoring and alarm systems in the Borough's buildings is awarded to Abcode Security, 83 Main Street, Newton New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$53,876.25 and in accordance with October 8, 2024 quote, numbers Q0057, Q0059, Q0060, Q00561, Q00562 and on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.
2. The Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract on behalf of the Borough.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

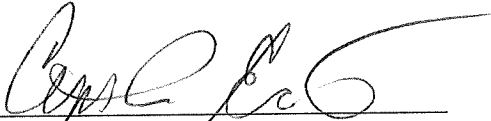
BOROUGH OF NETCONG

By: 
Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated: 11/8/24

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 November 7, 2024.


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

Fire Alarm Quotes 2024

	Encore		Alarms Plus			Abcode
DPW	\$26,255.00		\$28,610.00			\$11,056.00
Municipal Bldg	\$37,307.50		\$39,710.00			\$18,534.50
FH 1	\$21,661.00		\$26,555.00			\$10,113.75
Fh 2	\$20,958.50		\$24,220.00			\$9,850.00
Annex Bldg	\$7,950.00		\$8,170.00			\$4,322.50
Total	\$114,132.00		\$127,265.00			\$53,876.25