

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
November 14, 2024**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD NOVEMBER 14, 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 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**

None presented.

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mr. Wayne Anthony, 25 Dell Ave., wanted to know what is happening with the Allen St. project at the Village Place and if there is any documentation that the pipe has been found. Mr. Blakeslee stated he has been issued two violations to his site plan and the pipe was found. Mr. Anthony commented regarding some things he has seen going on there. Mr. Blakeslee confirmed he has been cited for these issues. His major concern is that the pipe was found. There were further comments made by Mr. Anthony and Mr. Blakeslee on this subject. Mr. Blakeslee provided some detail on the information that was listed in the letters of violation. He thanked the Council for their time.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

1. Ordinance 2024-19- AN ORDINANCE TO AMENDING CHAPTER 217, "PARKS", SECTION 9 "ACTS PROHIBITED" AND SECTION 10, "HOURS OF OPERATION" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, TO PROHIBIT DOGS IN THE BOROUGH PARKS AND REVISE THE HOURS OF OPERATION.

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2024-19- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Defeat Ordinance 2024-19 was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None presented.

### **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Blakeslee stated the abatement letters requested last week have been served. ShopRite has repaired the wall.

Councilman Albensi asked about the possible library shared service. Mr. Blakeslee stated any resident can pay \$250.00 per year and use any library in the county. He gave further explanation of the information he discovered this past week on different avenues to provide additional library services. He stated the borough would have to work with the MAIN for this. Mr. Blakeslee added we do have a number of residents who take advantage of the current service we have from the Morris County Library. The librarian is very pleasant. He is concerned we will lose this service from the county. The mayor stated most of the residents asking for this service work during the day and are not able to take advantage of the current service.

## **Rental Registration Report 11/12/24**

### **October 2024 Report**

159 rental inspections done during the month

3 COH resale inspections done

### **Year-to-Date Report**

974 rental units issued (257 non-apartment complex units issued)

17 rental units in-progress\* (17 non-apartment complex units in-progress)

6 rental units never responded to 3<sup>rd</sup> requests. (all non-apartment buildings) (4 may be owner occupied and have not yet clarified with us, letters sent again to confirm)

\*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 his report. He did mention a camera for sewer lines and explained where the funds to purchase it is coming from. There is zero cost to the taxpayers for this equipment. Mr. Bucco stated he spoke with the governor today about restoring the municipal aid in the 2025 budget.

For the month of October 2024, the Borough had a total income of \$859,059.63 as compared to \$837,553.66 in 2023.

For the month of October 2024:

#### **Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):**

In 2024 the Borough received \$6,610.75 compared to \$4,208.66 in 2023.

#### **Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees:**

The Borough received \$24,960.89 in 2024 compared to \$36,340.94 in 2023.

#### **State Aid:**

There was \$59,503.91 received in 2024 and \$121,924.45 in 2023.

#### **Grants in Aid:**

There was \$18,900.62 received in 2024 for Grants in Aid and \$743.00 in 2023.

#### **Taxes Collected:**

The Borough collected \$640,829.00 in 2024 compared to \$574,628.26 in 2023.

#### **Water and Sewer Utility:**

The Borough collected \$86,963.71 in 2024 compared to \$99,168.35 in 2023.

Solid Waste Utility:

There was \$21,290.75 collected this past month.

Total Current Fund Year to Date:

The total Current Fund Income Year to date for 2024 is \$10,330,206.47 as opposed to \$9,776,219.70 in 2023.

Total Water and Sewer Utility to Date:

The total Water and Sewer Utility Income Year to date for 2024 is \$1,324,851.62 as opposed to \$1,350,470.98 collected in 2023.

Total Solid Waste Utility to Date:

The Solid Waste Utility collected Year to date is \$232,784.88.

Total of all Funds to Date:

Total collected from all funds Year to date is \$11,887,842.97 in 2024 compared to \$11,131,020.68 in 2023.

Economic Development:            R. Hathaway            J. Nametko

Councilman Nametko gave a report on the EDC as Councilman Hathaway was absent this evening. He gave detail on the Rock-Solid project which will move forward shortly as the lot line issue has been resolved. The Allen Mansion project should move forward soon.

Bud to Bloom will be opening soon.

Highlands Center designation will be heard at next month's meeting.

The Dellamo project has been on hold waiting for JCP&L to remove the wires before demolition.

Councilman Sylvester stated Bud to Bloom is applying for all appropriate permits to hold their special event. He wanted to make it clear there is no favoritism for this event. He wants to be sure there will not be sales during this event. There was discussion among the Council in reference to this event. Mr. Blakeslee stated a meeting was held with the principles of the company to review all necessary permits and regulations that will be needed for the event. He does not foresee any issues.

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

Fire Department

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

Total Calls: 14

General Alarms: 5  
Hazmat: 1  
Motor Vehicle Accidents: 1  
Structure Fires: 3  
Mutual Aid Assignments: 2  
RIC Assignments: 1  
EMS Assists: 1  
Total Members: 31  
Time Volunteered: 62 hours and 35 minutes  
Drills: 8  
Total Members: 29  
Time Volunteered: 181 Hours  
Administrative Details: 10  
Total Members: 46  
Time Volunteered: 558 Hours  
Monthly Total: 46 Members, 801 Hours and 35 Minutes

#### Fire Prevention

Total Inspections: 73  
Total violations: 107  
Permits Received: 5  
Permits Issued: 3  
Penalties: 0  
Administration: 10  
Bureau Monthly Hours: 68  
Notes: Investigated the origin and cause of three fires that occurred within Netcong Borough. Inspected the Netcong Heights and Crown Walk apartment complexes. Performed Fire Safety educational programs at Netcong School and Stepping Stones Montessori School.

#### Police Report:

Motor Vehicle Check or Stop: 188  
Radar Detail: 77  
Check Property: 166  
Administrative: 108  
Total Calls: 847

Dept. of Public  
Works & Utilities:

J. Albensi

R. Hathaway

Councilman Albensi read his reports. The mayor mentioned we may be issuing water restrictions. Everyone should be following the governor's restrictions. He asked that everyone conserve where they can.

**Road Department:** Picked up 8 cy of grass and 20 cy of brush, and 24cy of leaf bags...Rebuilt 8 storm drain catch basins....Raised manhole lids on Hiltz lane as well as Bank St repairs for NJ Nat gas paving project....Center St final paving was performed....

**Water Department:** Performed fall hydrant flushing....

**Snow:** worked on installing and checking all snow equipment....

**Buildings & Grounds:** Removed all flower pots put into storage....Addressed all abatement issues from the Borough's fire code official....Performed multiple leaf clean ups at DiRenzo Park....

**Recycling Department:** Installed and built out a new attendant shed at the recycle center....

**Other:** Assisted in pulling weed harvester out of Lake Musconetcong ... DPW employees attended multiple safety training video classes....

Well: Pumped 5,200,000 gallons less than in 2023. Reduction of water use was discussed.

Recreation:

T. Morton

J. Albensi

1. Dec.1 :Annual Holiday Parade all are invited.
2. Dec 3: Holiday Shop at School.
3. Dec.15: Holiday Decorating Contest judging

Public Services:  
(Human Services  
Recycling & Solid  
Waste Disposal)

T. Laureys

T. Morton

Dial A Ride Report for October  
Days of Service: 21  
Miles:985

# Of Stops:66  
Nutrition: for 1: 10  
Food Shopping:35  
# of Meals on Wheels:10  
Medical Appointments: 39  
Other Appointments:26  
People Using Services:31  
Cancels:7  
Denials:0  
Units:196  
Hours:87.75

For the month of October there was 72.53 tons of Garbage picked up in town. That also included 59 bulk items also picked up during the month. Total income year to date is \$232,784.88 and total expenses year to date are \$227,811.05. This number does not include the \$23,550.16 collected in December 2023 in prepaids.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Affordable Housing - Round 4- the mayor stated Netcong is required to have 50 units in this new round. There are still unanswered questions as to if this will be the final requirement. Mr. Bucco stated by the end of January the borough will have to accept the number given by the state or appeal this. He gave further detail on the particulars of these numbers. Mr. Bucco feels the borough will be able to reach these numbers with the developments that have already taken place. He stated, Netcong is in fairly good shape compared to other communities. There was further discussion on this issue among the Council and Mr. Bucco. Councilman Nametko has several comments on this issue. Councilman Sylvester stated we have already satisfied the 3<sup>rd</sup> round numbers.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL**

The Council President had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Laureys gave a statement on how the Council should be following the proper role of government. He plans to discuss this further when the resolutions are addressed.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

None at this time.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**1. Resolution 2024-113-** Authorizing the Purchase of a Portable Pipe Inspection Unit from Tri-State Environmental Services, LLC Through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey

A Motion to Adopt Resolution 2024-113 was made by Councilman Albensi and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

**2. Resolution 2024- 114-** Resolution of Support for the Application of the Growing Stage to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's Activation, Revitalization and Transformation Phase II Grant Program

Councilman Laureys commented on this resolution. He read line by line and made comments on the detailed information that was provided to the Council. He feels the government should not help some businesses and not others. Government should not be helping businesses. Councilman Nametko stated this is an arts grant. The other businesses mentioned are not dealing with the arts. He also stated this organization has taken a run-down building and turned it into a great asset to the community. He stated if this is not going to the Growing Stage it will go to some other organization. Councilman Laureys gave his comments on this. He feels all should be treated equally. Councilman Sylvester stated the Growing Stage is not a business, it is a nonprofit.

A Motion to Adopt Resolution 2024-114 was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 4 Yes                      No: Councilman Laureys

## **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

None presented

## **REPORTS**

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

## **BILLS**

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes



### **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mr. Stephen Fredericks, Growing Stage President, of 305 Center St. Hackettstown- wanted to express his thanks. The Growing Stage had the benefit of bringing in over 8 thousand people into the borough last year. He gave further information on all the accomplishments of the Growing Stage. This spring marks 30 years since Mr. Fredericks came to the Council to ask for approval. It is now on the County State and National list of Historic Places. The Council congratulated Mr. Fredricks.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

### **CLOSED SESSION**

A Closed session was not held this evening.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Albensi at 8:13PM.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

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Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A PORTABLE  
PIPE INSPECTION UNIT FROM TRI-STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES, LLC THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES  
COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Netcong identified a need to purchase a truck mounted pipe inspection unit for the Public Works Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Tri-State Environmental Services, LLC has been awarded contract #ESCNJ Contract 23/24-04, CO-OP #65 MCESCCPS through Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative System (ESCNJ); and


**WHEREAS**, the purchase will be financed using a combination of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds and a contribution from the developer of 2 Flanders Road; 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. The contract to purchase new Tri-Vision Pipe Inspection Truck Mounted Portable Pipe Inspection System is hereby awarded to Tri State Environmental Services, LLC 112 Phillips Road, PO Box 605, Milford NJ, 08848, in an amount not to exceed \$67,326.25 and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the quote received November 7, 2024 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.

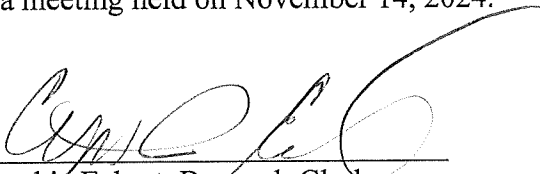
**BOROUGH OF NETCONG**

By:   
Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated:

**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 14, 2024.

  
Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE GROWING STAGE  
TO THE NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S ACTIVATION,  
REVITALIZATION, AND TRANSFORMATION PHASE II GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) administers the Activision, Revitalization, and Transformation (A.R.T.) Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Eligibility for the program is limited to Transit Village Municipalities, a title only the Borough of Netcong and Town of Dover hold in the County of Morris; and

**WHEREAS** The Growing Stage, an integral part of the culture and atmosphere of the Borough of Netcong led by Stephen L. Fredericks (TGS Rep), has presented to the Borough their application for the program, and has requested support and partnership;

**NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey that Borough Council supports the application of the growing Stage to the NJEDA A.R.T. Phase II Program for a grant total of \$500,000; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to write a letter of support and partnership to the NJEDA on behalf of the Borough Council.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Elmer M. Still, Mayor

**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 14, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk