

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 13, 2025**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD March 13, 2025 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 21, 2025.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 21, 2025 and emailing a copy to the Star Ledger on January 22, 2025.

**ROLL CALL**

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Eddy, 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**

None presented.

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

Mr. Robert Olivo, 31 Wiltop Rd., wished to discuss a few things. First: several intersections that are dangerous, the bottom of Center St. turning on to Rt. 46. He is concerned about the obstruction to line of sight when turning. He is requesting a no turn on red sign. There was discussion among the Council on how to resolve this. Second: Wiltop Rd. onto Carolyn Way there is a bush there obstructing the sight line. A letter should be sent to residents to trim the bush. Third: Pulling out of the recycling

center; a bush is in line of sight. Councilman Eddy stated this is his property and he will be removing it. Fourth; In October 2024 there was a resolution passed for retirement benefits. He wanted an explanation on this. The mayor explained why this resolution was passed. There was continued discussion among Mr. Olivo and the Mayor on this issue. Members of the Council explained the reasons for this. Councilman Hathaway gave further information on this issue. Mr. Olivo thanked the Council for their time.

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

### **ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS**

1. **Ordinance 2025-2-** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A CHARITABLE SOLICITATION PERMIT FOR AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE CORP OF STANHOPE/NETCONG'S "COIN DROP" ON JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> 2025 AND ON SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, AND SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> 2025 AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ALLEN STREET AND LEDGEWOOD AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2025-2 - by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Morton.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Close Public Hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2025-2 was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Laureys.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. American Legion – Memorial Day Parade

A Motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve this request for a parade with conditions.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Blakeslee had nothing new to discuss at this time.

Councilman Hathaway asked for an explanation of why the trail grant will not be ready for submission on time. He had comments on this section of the administrator report. He is concerned that there should be follow up on this issue. He is not happy that we are missing this grant again for 5 years in a row. Mr. Blakeslee explained the issues that are holding this up. He stated we have the borough attorney and John Hansen working on this which is costing money. Councilman Hathaway had heated comments on this issue. There was further discussion on this among the Council. The mayor requested Mr. Proctor take care of this while Mr. Blakeslee is on vacation. Councilman Laureys asked if we can find a different contact at Verizon that can be contacted to expedite this. There is lengthy discussion among the Council on this matter. Councilman Sylvester asked what is needed to move this forward, he is willing to assist. Councilman Hathaway provided an explanation.

### **Rental Registration Report 3/6/25**

#### **February 2025 Report**

41 rental inspections done during the month

4 COH resale inspections done

11 Change of Tenant inspections for Netcong Heights/34 Bank

32 Rental Certificates issued

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

66 rental units issued (0 apartment complex units issued)

131 rental units in-progress\* (46 of these are apartment complex units in-progress)

803 units not responded yet (674 of these are apartment complex units)

1000 rental units total (720 apartment complex units)

\*in-progress means one of these statuses: paid, scheduled inspection, failed inspection, getting missing information, under construction.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance & Insurance:

J. Nametko

J. Sylvester

For the month of February 2025, the Borough had a total income of \$2,340,465.41 as compared to \$2,505,006.46 in 2024.

For the month of February 2025:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2025 the Borough received \$5,059.03 compared to \$16,015.75 in 2024.  
In 2024 *there was a \$13k refund from the state.*

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees:

The Borough received \$28,926.48 in 2025 compared to \$34,586.83 in 2024.  
*Interest rates have dropped so this is the cause of this deficiency.*

State Aid:

Nothing was received in 2025 or 2024.

Grants in Aid:

We received \$187,500.00 in 2025 and \$129,353.32 in 2024 for Grants in Aid.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$2,092,388.09 in 2025 compared to \$2,290,623.23 in 2024.

Water and Sewer Utility:

The Borough collected \$12,491.33 in 2025 compared to \$20,522.40 in 2024.

Solid Waste Utility:

The Borough collected \$14,100.48 in 2025 compared to \$13,904.93 in 2024.

Total Current Fund Year to Date:

The total Current Fund Income Year to date for 2025 is \$3,023,463.13 as opposed to \$2,994,736.87 in 2024.

Total Water and Sewer Utility to Date:

The total Water and Sewer Utility Income Year to date for 2025 is \$78,291.57 as opposed to \$77,165.27 collected in 2024.

Total Solid Waste Utility to Date:

The Solid Waste Utility Income Year to date for 2025 is \$108,125.85 as opposed to \$68,126.95 collected in 2024.

Total of all Funds to Date:

Total collected from all funds Year to date is \$3,209,880.55 in 2025 compared to \$3,140,029.09 in 2024.

Economic Development:      R. Hathaway      J. Nametko

Councilman Hathaway noted that a lot of details are in the Administrator report.

Main Street Streetscape pre construction meetings may start April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Rock Solid (Koch property): Pre construction meeting is planned to discuss how to coordinate with streetscape project

Mt. View: there was a meeting with EDC. Minor details were discussed. They also asked about sidewalk relief. They will need to go back to the planning board, but they were told there would not be any sidewalk relief in any project. There was discussion among the Council on the sidewalk issue.

Highlands Conformance: getting close to completion of public comment. Ratification should be finalized at their April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

There was discussion with the police about the Koclas Dr. parking. They have no problem with this. There can be concessions for Concert in the Park events. There was also discussion on Main St. no parking; they feel it could conform with the winter parking. There would need to have ordinances adopted to change to no overnight parking on Main St. year-round. It would also include Maple Ave. up to the Borough Hall.

#### Fire Prevention

Inspections: 72

Violations: 31

Permits Issued: 3

Penalties: 0

Admin: 1

Total Hours: 61

The following is a list of all activities for Netcong Fire Department for February, 2025.

Calls: 12

Residential Structure Fires: 1

Mutual Aid: 3

RIC Assignments: 3

MVA: 1

Ice Rescue: 1

General Alarms: 3

Total Members: 31

Time Volunteered: 142.91

Drills: 6

Total Members: 39

Time Volunteered: 148

Administrative Details: 4

Total Members: 37

Time Volunteered: 93

Monthly Total: 42 Members  
Time Volunteered: 383 hours and 55 minutes  
Ambulance Corps, February  
Total Calls: 48  
Total Patients: 28  
Total Hospital Trips: 22  
Miles Travelled: 569  
Hours Volunteered: 182 hours 21 Minutes  
Assists: 1, Stanhope

Police Department: February  
Total Calls For Service: 670  
Motor Vehicle Check Or Stop 133  
Radar Detail 78  
Check Property - 87  
Administrative 66  
Abduction / Kidnapping 5

Dept. of Public  
Works & Utilities: M. Eddy R. Hathaway

Road Department; snow removal on roadways and sidewalks, serviced PD vehicles, serviced DPW vehicles.

Water Department: Read water meters, made repairs to water meters, repaired the water main break on Bank Street. Checked vacant homes for water leaks.

Sewer Department; investigated a strong smell of sewage on Railroad Ave.

Buildings and Grounds; Trimmed back brush at water dept, fixed heater and hot water heater at DPW building.

Parks and Recreations; policed park grounds and cleaned up garbage and debris.

Recycling;

Other: Right to Know survey completed for DPW and water dept.

Recreation: T. Morton T. Laureys

Councilman Morton reported that the Community Fair was held in February. It was well attended from the community group side, not as much with residents.

St. Patrick's Day breakfast was also well attended.

Easter Egg Hunt and Garage Sale signups at Drenzo Park in April.

Public Services: T. Laureys M. Eddy  
(Human Services  
Recycling & Solid

Waste Disposal  
Dial A Ride Report for February  
Days of Service:19  
Miles:996  
# Of Stops: 59  
Nutrition: for 1: 11  
Food Shopping: 32  
# of Meals on Wheels: 12  
Medical Appointments: 34  
Other Appointments: 25  
People Using Services:31  
Cancels:9  
Denials:0  
Units:179  
Hours:76.75

For the month of February there was 65.49 tons of Garbage picked up in town. That also included 18 bulk items picked up during the month.  
Total income year to date is \$108,125.85 and total expenses year to date are \$20,871.90.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Parking on Koclas Dr.- already discussed during reports

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Growing Stage - Social Affair Permit

A Motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Hathaway to approve the permit.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

Council President Nametko commented on the PILOT billing notices. He gave a bit of history on these properties. He then provided the amount of money coming in with the PILOTS to offset losses in the ratables for this year. He stated it costs money to run this town. He gave details on some of the costs and the reasons for them. He stated the PILOT money helps cover the cost of needed funds to keep our residents safe. The PILOTS help offset costs.

Councilman Sylvester reported that the Fire Dept. is having a dime to donate at Polo's Tuesday, March 25th 20% of cost will go to the Fire. Dept.

Councilman Hathaway noted that Councilman Morton's report was humble. There were many people at the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. Councilman Morton handles this event through McDonalds. The Council acknowledged how much Councilman Morton does for the town through McDonalds. He also had a question about the sound barriers to be placed at the Pickle Ball Court. He is concerned there could be vandalism as there will not be a site line through this.

Councilman Eddy asked for permission from the Council to be able to post on Facebook. Councilman Laureys asked if this will be informative only. Councilman Eddy stated he would just like to do a synopsis of the events that were discussed at the meeting. He would like to inform the public. Councilman Sylvester stated if you really want to know what is happening you can attend the meetings. Mr. Rutenberg- Boro attorney representative, asked questions about what would be posted. The Council had discussion on this. The mayor suggested a quarterly newsletter. Councilman Eddy took a seminar on this. Councilman Hathaway does not have a problem with this. Councilman Nametko is concerned about this practice. Councilman Laureys and Councilman Hathaway are all for free speech. It was decided that Councilman Eddy can do this.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

The mayor would like to have a discussion on the ordinance to have specific hours for the pickle ball and basketball courts as well as dogs in the park. Mr. Blakeslee will prepare this for the next meeting. Councilman Nametko had several comments on the pickle ball court issue. He is suggesting only soft paddles and balls be allowed to be used. He asked Mr. Blakeslee to send out the ordinance for the Council to review before the next meeting.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 2025-35-** A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services to Perform Lead-Based Paint Inspection for The Borough

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**

None Presented.



## **REPORTS**

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

*It was noted that at this time the Council President asked that a PILOT summary he will prepare be entered into the minutes*

## **PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING**

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

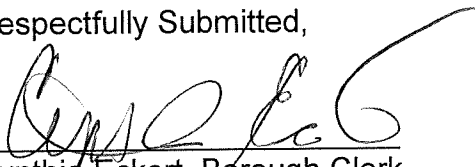
## **CLOSED SESSION**

None this evening.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester at 8:31PM.  
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**Ordinance 2025-2**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A CHARITABLE SOLICITATION PERMIT FOR AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE CORP OF STANHOPE/NETCONG'S "COIN DROP" ON JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> 2025 AND ON SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, AND SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ALLEN STREET AND LEDGEWOOD AVENUE AND MAIN STREET AND ROUTE 46 IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, the members of American Legion Ambulance Corp of Stanhope/ Netcong wish to hold their annual "Coin Drop" on June 6<sup>th</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup> 2025, with rain dates of June 20<sup>th</sup>, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and on September 5<sup>th</sup>, and September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with rain dates of September 19<sup>th</sup>, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the intersections of Allen Street and Ledgewood Avenue and Main Street and Rt. 46 in the Borough of Netcong; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 39:4-60 requires charitable organizations to obtain municipal approval before soliciting contributions within a municipal roadway; and

**WHEREAS**, charitable organizations are also required to obtain a Charitable Solicitation permit from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (hereinafter, "NJDOT"); and

**WHEREAS**, the NJDOT application must be accompanied by a certified copy of a municipal ordinance approving the solicitation and authorizing the appropriate municipal official to execute the application on behalf of the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough's Chief of Police has reviewed the Ambulance Corp's solicitation plan and has found same to be acceptable and in accordance with the NJDOT's guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council wishes to approve the Ambulance Corp's request in accordance with the procedures established in N.J.S.A. 39:4-60.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong, in the County of Morris, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The Borough of Netcong hereby approves the American Legion Ambulance Corp of Stanhope/Netcong's request to hold a "Coin Drop" at the intersection of Allen Street and Ledgewood Avenue. The dates and times approved for said solicitation are as follows: Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2025, between the

hours of 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with rain dates of June 20<sup>th</sup>, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 between the hours of 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with rain dates of September 19<sup>th</sup> and September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**SECTION 2.** The approval authorized herein is subject to and expressly conditioned upon the following:

- a. The Ambulance Corp's compliance with all rules, regulations and guidelines promulgated by the NJDOT for charitable solicitations, including, but not limited to, the posting of any and all necessary warning signs; and
- b. The approval of the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the NJDOT.

**SECTION 3.** The Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed to execute the application for a Charitable Solicitation Permit for American Legion Ambulance Corp of Stanhope/Netcong's "Coin Drop," provided the above-stated conditions are met. The Netcong Borough Police Department shall be responsible for supervising the solicitation and enforcing the terms of the Charitable Solicitation Permit issued by the NJDOT.

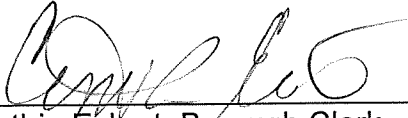
**SECTION 4.** All ordinances of the Borough of Netcong, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION 5.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 6.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage, approval and publication as required by law.


**BOROUGH OF NETCONG  
COUNTY OF MORRIS  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**ATTEST:**

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

Introduced: 2/13/25

Adopted: 2/13/25

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elmer Still, Mayor

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PERFORM LEAD-BASED PAINT  
INSPECTION FOR THE BOROUGH**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey passed P.L. 2021, Ch. 182 requiring municipalities to inspect all rental properties constructed before 1978 for hazardous lead paint conditions via local public agency or third-party contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Netcong ("Borough") has a previous third-party contract for such services which has expired; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Netcong has a need to obtain the services to perform lead-based paint inspections and has determined to award the contract as a professional service without obtaining competitive bids or quotations; and

**WHEREAS**, the anticipated term of this contract is one year; and

**WHEREAS**, LEW Environmental has been identified as the contractor creates the least financial burden on the residents of the Borough and the least administrative strain on the staff of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council wishes to authorize the award of the contract for lead-based paint inspection services.

**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 is hereby awarded to LEW Environmental for lead-based paint inspection services.

2. Any and all Borough officials are hereby authorized to take whatever actions may be necessary to implement the terms of this Resolution.

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

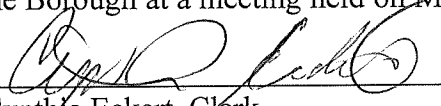
By:

  
Elmer M. Still, Mayor

Dated: 3/14/25

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 March 13, 2025.

  
Cynthia Eckert, Clerk