

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
April 10, 2025**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD APRIL 10, 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

A Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Sylvester as no one stepped forward.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The mayor thanked all involved in the budget process for their efforts. Mr. Gabloff stepped forward to give a brief synopsis on the budget. He spoke about the tax increase for this year with no reduction of services and a good capital plan.

This year is a self- review, which includes a checklist. We are under both the levy and appropriations cap. He stated the PILOT income helped keep in the cap. Fund balance is in good shape the same as the last several years. Councilman Hathaway stated we are actually providing additional services. He thanked the finance committee for a great job. Councilman Nametko commented about the \$16,000 fund balance. He would like to see any MRNA funds be added to the fund balance or pay down more debt instead of spending the funds. Councilman Laureys asked have we ever dipped into our cap bank money. Mr. Gabloff stated it has not been dipped into since around 2008-2010. Councilman Nametko had several comments on this topic. Councilman Laureys asked about the cap money process. Mr. Gabloff discussed the process. The mayor thanked Mr. Gabloff for his time.

Valerie Dolan, Auditor and Jason Gabloff, CFO Present for Introduction

A. Ordinance Introduction – Ordinance 2025-3: To Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

A Motion was made to introduce this ordinance by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Ordinance #2025-3: on First Reading was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

B. Resolution 2025-39: Introduction of the 2025 Municipal Budget.

A Motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID COST ESTIMATE

A Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Sylvester and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 6

Resolution #2025-40 - Resolution to Approve the 2025 Cost Estimate for the Borough's Special Improvement District.

Councilman Laureys made several comments regarding previous SID budgets: 2015-2024. He passed out a listing of the budgets to the Mayor and Council. He continued by providing details and his opinion regarding these figures and expenses. He feels it is inefficient for the borough to be providing funds to the SID each year. He gave his opinion on SID advertising and its effectiveness as well. He feels the Council should no longer give a contribution to the SID.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

None presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

None presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Councilman Sylvester asked about a meeting with Roxbury regarding annexation for Arbolino Park. It was determined it will take place on April 17th.

Rental Registration Report 4/2/25

March 2025 Report

84 rental inspections done during the month

5 COH resale inspections done

39 Rental Certificates issued

Year-to-Date Report

103 rental units issued (0 apartment complex units issued)

158 rental units in-progress* (126 of these are apartment complex units in-progress)

700 units not responded yet (594 of these are apartment complex units)

1001 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 March 2025, the Borough had a total income of \$1,267,233.44 as compared to \$461,171.44 in 2024.

For the month of March 2025:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2025 the Borough received \$3,198.50 compared to \$20,094.92 in 2024.

In 2024 we received Construction Fees from Byram and to date we have not this year.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerk's Fees:

The Borough received \$27,190.03 in 2025 compared to \$37,901.12 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 \$730,082.60 in 2025 and \$6,137.37 in 2024 for Grants in Aid.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$144,219.31 in 2025 compared to \$35,146.72 in 2024.

Water and Sewer Utility:

The Borough collected \$349,482.78 in 2025 compared to \$341,746.04 in 2024.

Solid Waste Utility:

The Borough collected \$13,060.22 in 2025 compared to \$20,145.27 in 2024.

Total Current Fund Year to Date:

The total Current Fund Income Year to date for 2025 is \$3,928,153.57 as opposed to \$3,094,017.00 in 2024.

Total Water and Sewer Utility to Date:

The total Water and Sewer Utility Income Year to date for 2025 is \$427,774.35 as opposed to \$418,911.31 collected in 2024.

Total Solid Waste Utility to Date:

The Solid Waste Utility Income Year to date for 2025 is \$121,186.07 as opposed to \$88,272.22 collected in 2024.

Total of all Funds to Date:

Total collected from all funds Year to date is \$4,477,113.99 in 2025 compared to \$3,601,200.53 in 2024.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway J. Nametko

Councilman Hathaway brought samples of the pavers for the Main Street Redevelopment Project.

The Finance Committee has put the downtown parking (Bank Street Improvement Area) on hold for now. The committee will begin engineering studies in 2026. He gave further detail on this proposed project.

The Patamia property (Allen House) has all permits at this time. They are planning on a groundbreaking ceremony soon.

The Morris County Grant has been submitted for the Trail Project. Final deadline to approve is in June 6th.

There was a meeting with Roxbury Township on April 17th to discuss Arbolino Park expansion.

Mr. Blakeslee stated Rock Solid (Koch Property) is filing for demolition permits at this time. Hopefully there will be activity there by June.

Councilman Nametko stated the work of Councilman Sylvester, Councilman Hathaway and Mr. Bucco was what gave us the opportunity for the Trail Grant.

Public Safety
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

J. Sylvester

T. Morton

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

Calls: 12

Mutual Aid: 5

RIC Assignments: 2

Vehicle Fires: 1

General Alarms: 4

Total Members: 29

Time Volunteered: 66.82

Drills: 9

Total Members: 39

Time Volunteered: 281

Administrative Details: 6

Total Members: 46

Time Volunteered: 178

Monthly Total: 46 Members

Time Volunteered: 525 hours and 49 minutes

Councilman Sylvester read a letter from the state congratulating Chief Bock and several other firefighters for saving someone who had fallen through the ice and vehicle fire.

Netcong Fire Protection

Total Inspections: 47

Total Violations Found: 6

Fire Safety Permits Issued: 3

Penalty Money Collected: \$0

Admin: Follow ups: 2, Investigation: 2

Netcong Police Dept:

Motor Vehicle Check or stop: 293

Radar Detail: 84

Check Property: 160

Administrative: 83

Grand Total: 935

Dept. of Public

Works & Utilities:

M. Eddy

R. Hathaway

Road Department:

Cleaned and inspected catch basins, installed material bin walls at DPW, removed stump for Netcong school, repaired 3 catch basins, work on DPW vehicles

Water Department:

Markouts, fixed curb stop on Allen St, installed new storm drain pipe across Dell Ave

Sewer Department:

Buildings and Grounds; cleaned and resealed roof on elevator at FD1, did property clean up at recycling center

Parks and Recreations:

picked up materials for new split rail fence at Dorenzo park

Recycling:

installed gutter on new shed at the recycling center, Joe started working on the tonnage report

Water Operator Report: 711,000 gallons more pumped this month

Councilman Eddy stated we will be switching over to French and Perello for the next I&I study. He also read the water operator report.

Recreation:

T. Morton

T. Laureys

Councilman Morton reported that the weather is not going to cooperate for this weekend's egg hunt which has been moved to the American Legion from 12-2. There will be sign-ups for the garage sale as well. Councilman Morton stated there has been a task force established to bring all volunteer groups together. There have been 2 meetings so far which have been very productive. They are planning a combined event next year.

Public Services:

T. Laureys

M. Eddy

(Human Services

Recycling & Solid

Waste Disposal)

Dial A Ride Report for March

Days of Service: 121

Miles:952

Of Stops:79

Nutrition: for 1: 12

Food Shopping:29

of Meals on Wheels:10

Medical Appointments: 45

Other Appointments:34

People Using Services:28

Cancels:7

Denials:0

Units:206

Hours:84.25

Total income year to date is \$121,186.07 and total expenses year to date are \$54,796.21 Councilman Nametko had commented on our recycling. A report came out and the borough was the second to the bottom of the list. He is wondering if we need to do a campaign to encourage recycling in town. There was brief discussion among the Council on this subject. Councilman Hathaway would like to know what a current report would look like. He noted there was no reflection of E-waste. There was further discussion by the Council regarding what might be missing on the reports. The mayor stated we need to put a reminder in the tax or water sewer billing.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Morton wanted to mention that the police department was also at the task force meeting. He added that Mr. Hess and his men are installing the new fencing at Arbolino Park. He thanked them for their work.

Councilman Laureys was hoping the SID will do a survey of its members soon.

Councilman Hathaway started with a statement "What do you think the result would be if we census the community as to whether they wanted to pay taxes?" He noted that there was a long-standing relationship at this Dais. He went on to further explain that the committee leaders are here on this dais for a reason. He is concerned that Councilman Laureys is overstepping as the SID is not part of his committee. Opinions, back points, and quantification are welcome at this dais. These should be presented at the SID meetings or to the Council Chair of that committee. They are not appropriate at a recorded Public Council Meeting and he objects to them. Councilman Hathaway ended with "I hope that we can conduct ourselves with better decorum in the future." There was continued discussion among the Council.

Councilman Nametko stated when the Council provides funds to the SID it is not only for decorations as Councilman Laureys stated. He then provided examples of expenditures to enhance Netcong.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The mayor responded to the discussion during "Privilege of the floor..." He stated that when you have any statements to make, you need to go to the committee meetings not the public meetings.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2025-41- A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Pacific Construction, LLC For the Lead Service Line Replacement Project in The Borough of Netcong, Morris County, New Jersey

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

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. Bond Ordinance 2025-4-BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$365,500 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE GRANT, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2025-4 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Eddy.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2025-4 on First Reading was made by Councilman Eddy and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Bond Ordinance 2025-5- BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE WATER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$155,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

A Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2025-5 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Eddy and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2025-5 on First Reading was made by Councilman Eddy and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

3. Bond Ordinance 2025-6- BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF IMPROVEMENTS TO BARONE STREET IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$360,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

A motion to Introduce Ordinance #2025-6 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Eddy and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2025-6 on First Reading was made by Councilman Eddy and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Laureys 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

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

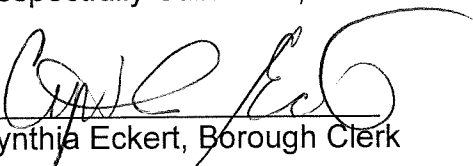
CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Eddy at 8:28PM.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

CALENDAR YEAR 2025
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong in the County of Morris, finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2025 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong hereby determines that a 1% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$40,473.35 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Netcong in the County of Morris, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2025 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Netcong shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$141,656.73 and that the CY 2025 municipal budget for the Borough of Netcong be approved and Adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

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

ATTEST:

By: _____
Elmer Still, Mayor

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

Introduced: 4/10/25

Adopted:

RESOLUTION #2025-39

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenue and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Budget Summary be published in the Daily Record in the issue of April 16, 2025.

The Governing Body of the Borough of Netcong does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2025.

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the Governing Body of the Borough of Netcong, County of Morris on April 10, 2025.

A hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the Municipal Building on May 8, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2025 may be presented by the taxpayers or other interested persons.

The above resolution was adopted on a motion made by Mr. seconded by Mr.

Roll Call – Yes:

No:

Absent:

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

By: _____

Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated: 4/11/25

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 regular meeting held on April 10, 2025.

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2025 COST ESTIMATE
FOR THE SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OF THE
BOROUGH OF NETCONG**

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Netcong established a Special Improvement District within the Borough of Netcong; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator, in conjunction with the Borough's Chief Financial Officer, has prepared the projected 2025 Cost Estimate for said Special Improvement District, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has considered the proposed cost estimate and a public hearing has been held thereon; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration of all of the relevant materials and any public comment that has been made concerning same, the Borough Council wishes to approve the attached Cost Estimate as recommended.

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 2025 Cost Estimate for the Special Improvement District, attached hereto and made a part hereof, is hereby formally approved and adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the said Cost Estimate be provided to the Borough's Tax Assessor for preparation of an assessment roll for the Special Improvement District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise a public hearing on the proposed assessments in accordance with the requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:56-80c, at the Borough's regular meeting on May 8, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

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 April 10, 2025.

Cynthia Eckert, Clerk



2025 COST ESTIMATE FOR NETCONG SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

It is estimated that the Special Improvement district will expend \$46,525 in the year 2025. The categories in which money will be spent are expected to be:

1. Business Promotions, Retention, Attraction
2. Community Engagement
3. Operations and Beautification
4. Special Events/Netcong Day*
5. Administration, Professional Services

The revenue to cover these expenses is scheduled to come from the following sources:

- Commercial Property Assessment: \$ 31,000**
- Contributions from the Netcong Borough: \$ 6,000
- 2024 Fund Balance: \$17,614
- TOTAL REVENUE: \$ 54,614

* This number will be finalized as additional assessments are calculated in the coming months. Any additional funds will be directed towards the first four items listed under expenditures.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO PACIFIC CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR THE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Borough of Netcong solicited bids for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk, on March 20, 2025, received seven (7) bids for the above-referenced project; and

WHEREAS, Pacific Construction, LLC 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 Pacific Construction, LLC is in proper form and may be awarded by the Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council wishes to award the contract to Pacific Construction, LLC in accordance with its base bid, plus supplemental bid "A", in the amount of \$588,723.00; 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 Lead Service Line Replacement Project is hereby awarded to Pacific Construction, LLC, 350 Montgomery Street, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055, in accordance with its base bid proposal, plus supplemental bid "A", in the amount not to exceed \$588,723.00.

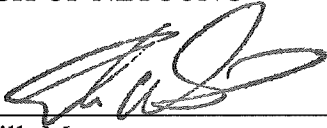
2. The award of this contract is subject to and expressly conditioned upon the approval of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the funding of the project.

3. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Pacific Construction, LLC in accordance with its bid proposal in the amount of \$588,723.00 provided the condition set forth in Paragraph 2 is satisfied.

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BOROUGH OF NETCONG

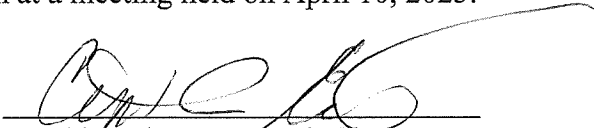
By:


Elmer Still, Mayor

Dated: 4/11/25

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 April 10, 2025.


Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk