

**BOROUGH OF NETCONG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 14, 2026**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD MAY 14, 2026, 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 9, 2026.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 14, 2026, and emailing a copy to the Star Ledger on January 9, 2026.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance this evening were Councilman Eddy, Councilman Barbaro, 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 Laureys and seconded by Councilman Morton.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Valerie Dolan, Auditor and Jason Gabloff, CFO To Address Mayor and Council

Ordinance 2026-12 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank .

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2026-12-Read by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester
Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2026-12 was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Auditor Valerie 'Dolan and CFO Jason Gabloff stepped forward.

The budget was reviewed by the state this year. The budget was sent to the state on April 10th. They received the list of items requested by the state at 4:00 pm yesterday and spent the evening last night gathering all the information. They sent all items needed early this morning and the budget was approved by the state at 2:00PM today. The budget will be able to be adopted this evening. She stated this is a good budget. This year's budget season was quite difficult. Increases have been high across the state. Mr. Gabloff stated Ralph, Ricky, the CFO and Auditor have worked hard to keep the budget down and build a stable budget for each year going forward.

The Mayor and the Finance Chair, Councilman Nametko thanked them for their hard work. Councilman Nametko feels we are on the right track going forward. He stated this was a challenging year. He thanked the Mayor and Councilman Sylvester for their patience.

There were no other comments from the Council. Mr. Blakeslee spoke very highly of Mrs. Dolan and Mr. Gabloff especially on the last day as they worked hard to get this budget done for today. He stated having meetings with each department in the fall was a very important practice and should be done going forward. Mr. Blakeslee asked if we could ask our auditor about the new rules for calculating overtime. Mrs. Dolan gave details on the new federal law. We can still pay overtime, but reporting will be done differently. This is a reporting nightmare not actual payment. The report can only report the qualified overtime. There are limits for the reporting. This will be difficult for the payroll clerk, CFO and Auditors. Overtime will still be paid out, but it may not qualify as an exemption on a tax return. Mr. Gabloff stated this has been something that has been discussed among the municipalities trying to understand how this works.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026 BUDGET

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

Resolution 2026-53-To Read the 2026 Budget by Title Only.

A motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Resolution 2026-54-To Adopt the 2026 Budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ANNUAL AUDIT

Valerie Dolan commented on the audit she gave. The current fund balance was an increase of \$366,000 over the previous year. Water Operating was down a bit which was expected. Sewer was also down. New rates will help increase this for next year. Solid waste shows a fund balance of \$50,000. Tax Collection rate for 2025 was 98.4%. There is only 1 municipal lien. She explained the debt and how much for each fund. After looking at the debt, it was decided to continue to do bond anticipation notes. This will control the debt. Mrs. Dolan only had one recommendation to add to the report: Segregation of duties which she has recommended before.

There were no questions from the Council.

The Council thanked them for their time

1. Resolution 2026-44- Certification of the Annual Audit.

A motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

2. Resolution 2026-45-To Approve the 2025 Corrective Action Plan.

A motion was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026 SID BUDGET

A Motion to open the Public Hearing Was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

No: Councilman Laureys

Councilman Laureys wanted to remind everyone that this Budget was originally supposed to be a temporary situation. He added that the existing businesses don't want this.

There was discussion about a survey previously completed. Councilman Eddy asked when this survey was done. Councilman Laureys stated it was in 2014. He had several comments on the survey that was conducted. Councilman Barbero is grateful the NCP is still in existence. He stated they are helping to do the hometown hero program. He thinks they are a big help to our community. He has been to several of their meetings, and he is very grateful for them. Councilman Nametko stated the whole program has changed and the current members are very active in participating. He stated they have come a long way and do great work not only for the center of town, but they are branching out to Rt. 46. Again, he feels they are doing a great job. Councilman Laureys thanked Councilman Nametko for his comments. He would like to have another current survey to see if the members still want this program. They should be the ones to decide if they want to keep it. If they want it, he will vote for it.

Councilman Eddy understands how Councilman Laureys feels. However, he sees how much they give to our community. He feels they donate more than we give them. There was further discussion about this issue. Councilman Laureys feels there should be a democratic process.

No public came forward to speak regarding this topic.

Motion to close Public Hearing

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Resolution 2026-46- Approving the 2026 Budget for the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District of the Borough of Netcong.

A motion was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Nametko to approve this resolution.

Roll Call: 5 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

- 1. Ordinance 2026-13-** An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Certain Officers and Employees of The Borough of Netcong, In the County of Morris, State of New Jersey

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2026-13-by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon Was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2026-13 Was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Laureys.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

- 2. Ordinance 2026-14-** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 227 of The Revised General Ordinances of The Borough of Netcong and Providing for The Appointment of up to Two Alternate Members of The Recreation Committee

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2026-14- by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon Was made by Councilman Barbero and seconded by Councilman Morton.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Close the Public Hearing Was made by Councilman Laureys and seconded by Councilman Barbero.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2026-14 was made by Councilman Barbaro and seconded by Councilman Morton.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

- 3. Ordinance 2026-15 -** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 194, "Land Development Procedures," of The Code of The Borough of Netcong and Amending the Regulations Governing Cannabis Retailers

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2026-15-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 the Public Hearing Was made by Councilman Laureys and seconded by Councilman Morton.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2026-15 was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

- 4. Bond Ordinance 2026-16-** Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Making Of Various Public Improvements And The Acquisition Of New Additional Or Replacement Equipment And Machinery And A New Automotive Vehicle, Including Original Apparatus And Equipment, In, By And For The Borough Of Netcong, In The County Of Morris, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$1,112,320 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Appropriate Various Grants, To Make A Down Payment Or Fund Appropriations From The Capital Improvement Fund, 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 Read Bond Ordinance 2026-16-by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon Was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Close the Public Hearing Was made by Councilman Laureys and seconded by Councilman Eddy.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Bond Ordinance 2026-16 was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

- 5. Bond Ordinance 2026-17-** 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 \$251,000 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 Read Bond Ordinance 2026-17-by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Laureys and seconded by Councilman Barbero.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Bond Ordinance 2026-17 Made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

- 6. Capital Ordinance 2026-18-** Capital Ordinance of The Borough of Netcong, In The County of Morris, New Jersey Authorizing Various Vehicle and Equipment Acquisitions In, By and for The Sewer Utility of The Borough, Appropriating Therefor The Sum of \$122,000 And Providing That Such Sum So Appropriated Shall Be Raised from The Sewer Utility Capital Improvement Fund.

A Motion to Read Capital Ordinance 2026-18-by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon Was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

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

A Motion to Adopt Capital Ordinance 2026-18 Was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

7. **Capital Ordinance 2026-19-** Capital Ordinance Of The Borough Of Netcong, In The County Of Morris, New Jersey Authorizing The Undertaking Of A Hydrological Study For A New Well Location In The Vicinity Of Well No. 1a In, By And For The Water Utility Of The Borough, Appropriating Therefor The Sum Of \$30,000 And Providing That Such Sum So Appropriated Shall Be Raised From The Water Utility Capital Improvement Fund.

A Motion to Read Capital Ordinance 2026-19-by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

Councilman Laureys asked when the study will be done. Mr. Blakeslee will have more info.

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

A Motion to Adopt Capital Ordinance 2026-19 was made by Councilman Nametko and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 6 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

None Presented.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee would like to draw attention to a possible change in the zoning ordinance about 6-foot fences. He noted that going to the planning board for this is expensive. This would only be a change for backyard fences, not front yards. He also mentioned that several Main Street businesses inquired about outside dining. He would like to get permission from the Council to do some research on how to accomplish this. There was brief discussion among the Council on this issue. Councilman Laureys asked what the current ordinance states. Mr. Blakeslee stated the current ordinance only allows 4 feet. Most residents are asking for 6 feet. Councilman Laureys stated previous discussion among the Council was only a concern for corners for site issues. Councilman Nametko stated maybe we should allow the zoning officer to decide this issue. The attorney stated it should be an all or nothing ordinance. Councilman Sylvester stated the planning board allows them, anyway, why are we charging them by going to the planning board. Councilman Sylvester asked if we could give some restrictions on where they can be located. There was further discussion on this issue. Councilman Laureys asked if they

could put this on the property line or easement. Mr. Blakeslee stated they put it there at their own risk and provided additional details. The attorney stated there is no law on this issue, it is something the Council can decide to put in the ordinance. It is not a legal question but more of a policy. There was discussion on easement issues. The mayor asked Mr. Blakeslee to write up this change and present it to the Council. The Council agreed on this 6-foot fence change. Mr. Blakeslee will also work on the outdoor dining with the police chief to be sure this is not a safety issue and bring it back for discussion. Councilman Nametko stated we allowed this during COVID.

Rental Registration Report 5/14/26

April 2026 Report

50 rental inspections completed during the month
20 Tenant change inspections in Netcong Heights/34 BNK
2 COH resale inspections

Year-to-Date Report

257 rental units issued
661 rental units in-progress* (103 regular units, 558 apartments)
41 units not responded yet (working on getting a list together to start summonses)
*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 April 2026, the Borough had a total income of \$547,025.93 as compared to \$587,219.93 in 2025.

For the month of April 2026:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA):

In 2026 the Borough received \$22,662.93 compared to \$8,776.25 in 2025.

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

The Borough received \$46,534.77 in 2026 compared to \$24,418.58 in 2025.

State Aid:

Nothing was received in 2025 or 2026.

Grants in Aid:

We did not receive anything in 2026 compared to \$3,736.03 in 2025 for Grants in Aid.

Taxes Collected:

The Borough collected \$420,868.16 in 2026 compared to \$465,816.68 in 2025.

Water and Sewer Utility:

The Borough collected \$23,834.34 in 2026 compared to \$53,915.11 in 2025.

Solid Waste Utility:

The Borough collected \$33,125.73 in 2026 compared to \$30,557.28 in 2025.

Total Current Fund Year to Date:

The total Current Fund Income Year to date for 2026 is \$3,429,595.09 as opposed to

\$4,430,901.11 in 2025. This difference is largely in part to the \$990,000 received as Grants in Aid in 2025.

Total Water and Sewer Utility to Date:

The total Water and Sewer Utility Income Year to date for 2026 is \$486,782.29 as opposed to \$481,689.46 collected in 2025.

Total Solid Waste Utility to Date:

The Solid Waste Utility Income Year to date for 2026 is \$168,390.78 as opposed to \$151,743.35 collected in 2025.

Total of all Funds to Date:

Total collected from all funds Year to date is \$4,084,768.16 in 2026 compared to \$5,064,333.92 in 2025.

Economic Development: T. Morton J. Nametko

Shop Rite has drafted amendments for the Council review. Mr. Blakeslee added that they want to put a commissary kitchen in the new section.

Rock Solid: there has been a meeting requested but has not been set up yet.

Mountain View: met with them several weeks ago and they will submit a written summary.

Task Force update: 250th Celebration on June 20th Councilman Morton thanked Councilman Sylvester for the signs. He noted that they are \$200.00 away from our donation goal. He gave several details on some of the activities for this event. Hometown hero requests are out; they have had one response. The Legion will put out another request for more names.

Public Safety: J. Sylvester W. Barbero
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

Police Report

Motor vehicles check or stop: 290

Radar detail: 99

Check property: 114

Check schools: 51

Administration: 121 Selective enforcements: 54

Check Park or golf course: 83

Fire Department

The following is a list of all activities for Netcong Fire Department for the month of April

Total Calls: 8

Hours: 44.97

General Alarms: 8

Mutual Aid: 3

RIC Assignments: 3

MVA: 0
Total Members: 35
Time Volunteered: 44.97 Hours Drills: 4
Total Members: 28
Time Volunteered: 354.7 Hours

Fire Prevention

Total Inspections Col 23
Total violations found: 38
Fire safety permits issued: 3
Penalty money collected: 108 Dollars
Monthly Bureau Hours: 29
Additional monthly Notes:
Completed inspections of the Netcong public School as well as the Isolatek and Kingsview complexes

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities: M. Eddy T. Laureys

Councilman Eddy highlighted that new garbage cans have been installed on Main St. Councilman Morton asked about the lighting for the Dorenzo playground. Mr. Hess is waiting for quotes and looking at solar options.

Road Department;

1. Topsoiled and seeded Indians Field
2. Checked catch basin lids and problem location before storm
3. Repaired catch basin North St.@ Railroad Ave
4. Topsoiled and seeded Dorenzo park
5. Cleaned and opened Bathrooms for the season
6. Performing weekly grass, brush and leaf collections
7. Fixed ruts and poles on Ikes Lane
8. Chipped Xmas trees
9. Moved bulks storage piles to water dept in preparation of paving
10. Installed temp tubes for handicap signage at park and ride
11. Put new garbage cans out on Main St
12. Cut outfall pipes at Water St. and Lake St
13. Replaced brakes on senior van
14. Fixed Belgium block curb on Amendola Dr.

Water Department;

1. Checked wells Daily
2. Did water reports

3. Took water samples
4. Mark outs as needed
5. Back filled along the roadway at water dept.

Parks and Recreations:

1. Did property cleanups and started mowing for the season
- Recycling;
1. Submitted tonnage report

The Water department pumped 351,300 more gallons this year over last year.

Recreation: W. Barbero T. Morton

Councilman Barbero reported that town cleanup day was May 3rd. It was well attended. He thanked the Girl Scout Daisy troop for their help.

- The townwide garage sale is this weekend. Mr. Anthony will put out signs
- Concerts in the Park are ready to go.
- The local restaurants are not responding to participating, they are now looking for food trucks.
- The 250th will have a house decorating contest and coloring contest.
- The Netcong School had their budget presentation. There will be a 7% increase. They have switched health insurance. They have a shortfall due to loss of state aid. They are asking that the lines on the speed bumps be painted yellow instead of white. The police chief will see if that is possible.

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

Dial A Ride Report for March

Days of Service: 20
Miles: 1025
Of Stops: 67
Nutrition: for 1 : 11
Food Shopping: 31
of Meals on Wheels: 8
Medical Appointments: 44
Other Appointments: 23
People Using Services: 30
Cancels: 8
Denials: 0
Units: 186
Hours: 85

Dial A Ride Report for April

Days of Service: 19
Miles: 972
Of Stops: 65
Nutrition: for 1 : 11
Food Shopping: 33
of Meals on Wheels: 10
Medical Appointments: 42
Other Appointments: 23
People Using Services: 27
Cancels: 7
Denials: 0
Units: 190
Hours: 77.5

For the month of April there were 71.04 tons of Garbage, 15.65 tons of Recyclable material picked up in town, and 6.95 tons of recyclables picked up from the Recycle Center. This also included 26 bulk items picked up during the month.

Total income year to date is \$168,390.78 and total expenses year to date are \$83,753.75. The Trex challenge has yielded 648.86 pounds of plastics towards our total of 1,000 pounds.

OLD BUSINESS

None Presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

The Council President, Councilman Sylvester, had a question about the overlay. Mr. Blakeslee is in the process of working on the Stoll St. overlay. Councilman Laureys attends the Netcong School Concert today. Seniors were invited to an early afternoon show.

Councilman Nametko received an award from the county. It was the Cissy Laureys Award for an outstanding senior from each town. He thanked the Council for their recommendation. The mayor stated this award was well deserved.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The mayor had no comments at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

6. **Resolution 2026-47-** Authorizing the Tax Collector to Prepare and Mail Estimated Tax Bills in Accordance with P.L. 1994, C. 72.
7. **Resolution 2026-48-**Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 25-00002
8. **Resolution 2026-49-**Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Henry's Asphalt Paving, LLC to Pave a Section of Route 183
9. **Resolution 2026-50-**Appointing Hunter Gabloff – Part Time Office Assistant
10. **Resolution 2026-51-** A Resolution Consenting to a Treatment Works Approval Application To Provide Sewer Service For RSB Netcong LLC (Rock Solid Builders), Block 15, Lots 29, 30, 31, 32, & 33 In The Borough Of Netcong, County of Morris and State of New Jersey

11. **Resolution 2026-52- 2026 Salary Resolution**

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

Roll Call: 6 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

None Presented.

PROCLAMATIONS

None Presented.

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 Laureys and seconded by Councilman Eddy.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session held this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Sylvester and Moved by unanimous voice vote at 8:46 PM.

Roll Call: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Eckert

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk