

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Nametko presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER – STATEMENT OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

Mayor Nametko called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

The Borough Clerk read the following statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act:

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 Netcong Borough Hall on January 7, 2011.
2. Publishing a notice in The Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 12, 2011 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 7, 2011.

ROLL CALL

Members of the Borough Council present at roll call were: Laureys, Hathaway, Sylvester, Still, Koster and Mayor Nametko. Ralph Blakeslee, Borough Administrator & Deputy Clerk, Wayne Anthony, Borough OEM Coordinator were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Agenda Meeting of August 4, 2011
- Regular Meeting of August 11, 2011
- Closed Session Meeting of July 14, 2011

The Mayor asked if the Council Members reviewed the minutes and if there were any questions.

A motion to approve the Above Listed Minutes was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Mr. Ben Dellamo, 30 Church Street, Netcong reminded the governing body that they were going to make a determination on whether to continue the Netcong Community Partnership this October. He noted that the key deliverable for the NCP was positive change or movement forward.

Mr. Wayne Anthony, Borough OEM Coordinator, gave a report on the Borough's response to Hurricane Irene. He noted that the command center was established at Netcong Firehouse #1, using the Fire Chief's command vehicle. The Netcong Fire Department responded to 65 requests for basement pump outs. The Netcong Circle, Route 183, McMullen Street, Helen Way, Route 46 by the railroad tracks and various other streets were closed due to flooding. The command center was open from 12 Midnight Saturday to 9:00 am Sunday, and was re-opened several times afterwards for basement pumps and flood relate calls. Several sections of the Borough remained without electricity until Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Anthony reported that all Borough Departments, paid and volunteer, worked extremely well and in a very professional manner. This was echoed by statements from Mayor Nametko and Councilman Hathaway.

Mr. Anthony stated that the only issue he would like to the governing body to consider, as a result of the storm, was the purchase of a MIRS base station radio for Netcong Fire House #1. He noted that the mobile MIRS radio unit is located in the Fire Chief's command vehicle, and as a result the vehicle needed to be running during the entire storm event, and could not leave the firehouse. After a brief discussion it was determined that the Borough should obtain cost estimates for purchasing the radio and considering it in the 2012 budget. Mr. Anthony hoped to have a quote for the next meeting.

Mr. Anthony also requested that a small portion of funding goes back to the service groups to buy rain/storm gear. Councilman Sylvester replied that once out of pocket expenses are recovered by the town, the additional purchases would be acceptable.

Mr. Thomas Howell, of 2 Dogwood Road was recognized. Mr. Howell noted his letter of August 24, 2011, in which he requests to have the gas line extended to Dogwood Road so he could install a gas furnace. His request was denied. Mayor Nametko cited the policy of the Borough and the NJ DOT, who funded paving the street that no road openings were allowed for a period of five years after a road, is paved.

A Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Koster. The motion was seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 5 Yes.

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. Adoption of Ordinance #2011-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 194, "LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG AND REGULATING THE LENGTH OF TIME IN WHICH CERTAIN TEMPORARY POLITICAL SIGNS MAY BE PLACED.

This ordinance will be carried to the September 8, 2011 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Thomas A. Howell, Requesting Permission to open Wiltop Road to Hook into the Gas Line.

The Mayor noted that this correspondence was discussed during the public session.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Governing Body Review of Best Practice Questionnaire.

Mr. Blakeslee report that he and the Borough CFO completed and submitted the questionnaire by the September 1st deadline. The Borough's scored a 94% which enable it to receive all of its State Aid. Mr. Blakeslee explained the updates made to the questionnaire.

A general discussion of the questions and responses took place. It was noted that a review of the Borough files could not locate any written mutual aid agreements for fire service, although there is a long standing practice of such cooperation. Councilman Sylvester noted that at one time the Borough's Joint Insurance Fund requested such an agreement to be authorized by resolution. He thought that might have occurred about ten years ago. Mr. Blakeslee indicated that he and Mrs. Dalessandro will focus their research in that direction.

The Mayor noted the benefits of holding the Joint open public meeting of the town and the Board of Education and the information that came from the meeting when questioning one of the responses on the questionnaire.

Discussion of the Best Practices Questionnaire will continue on September 8, 2011.

2. Discussion on the Boquet Roxbury Associates, LLC Request to Connect to the

Netcong Sewer System through Netcong Heights.

The Borough Engineer's letter of August 30th was noted. Some concern was expressed regarding the ability of the Borough's sewer mains to handle the increase flow from this development and the Blue Vista Development, also in Roxbury. Mr. Blakeslee was asked to speak with Mr. Guerin about this. It was recommended that discussion of this topic be continued on September 8th in executive session.

3. Netcong BOE Tax Levy Certification

Mr. Blakeslee noted the copy of an email communication from Valarie Dolan of Auditor's office. He recounted the history of this topic, which began when Mrs. Dalessandro noted an inconsistency when certifying the tax levy. She, along with Mrs. Ekert began to make inquiries and discovered the amount the Netcong School Business Administrator request for payment of debt service on form A-4F was incorrect. It listed \$50,000 rather than \$36,000. During their conversation with staff at the County Tax Board, they were advised to request from the School Board staff a correct A-4F form. Mr. Blakeslee reported that there seems to be some reluctance on the part of the School Board staff to make the correction, which has evolved into lengthy discussions with various professionals, including the both entities' auditors, the School Board's Bond Counsel and the Borough CFO.

After further discussion Mr. Blakeslee stated he would communicate with the School Board president regarding this situation and report back on September 8th.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

Councilman Still, noting the flooding in the Borough, raised the issue of several storm water control measures the State of New Jersey has installed in the last several years; including the "swirl tank" at the DEP Boat Landing off of Dell Avenue and the improvements to the drainage ditch at Main Street and Route 46 on New Jersey Transit's property. Councilman Still stated that since these installations were completed flooding has increased. General discussion took place and Mr. Blakeslee was asked to contact the Borough Engineer to 1) communicate the observations of how these improvements have failed, 2) review his files regarding the "swirl tank" and his recommendations regarding improvements to it and 3) other improvements that may need to be undertaken by the state to curtail flooding in Netcong. This item will be continued for discussion on the September 8, 2011 agenda.

Councilman Hathaway stated he was very impressed with how the Borough responded to the hurricane. He was amazed at the number of volunteers that came out to help. He also expressed thanks the volunteers, including First Aid and Fire, DPW staff and Police Department for keeping Netcong safe.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nametko noted that Natalie Harrington, the new Executive Director of the Netcong Community Partnership was present and asked her to give an update on the organization.

Ms. Harrington provided background information regarding the transition the NCP is undergoing. She mentioned the meetings she has been holding with the town's business members. Ms. Harrington described a couple of the fundraising projects and noted signs would be posted around the town. Ms. Harrington acknowledged the addition of Mr. Vic Pocarazza from ShopRite as a new member on the Board. Councilman Still asked about the budget tracking. She noted the upkeep of the flower pots and the trash can project.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution #2011-83 Authorizing the Execution of a Jurisdictional Agreement with The New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Mr. Blakeslee noted that the amended agreement had not yet arrived from the NJ DOT and suggested that the resolution be carried to the next meeting after he has had an opportunity to receive and review the corrected agreement.

2. Resolution #2011-92 To Renew the Liquor License for Harris Holding LLC.

Councilman Hathaway made a motion to approve Resolution #2011-92.
Councilman Koster seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 4 Yes Abstain: Councilman Sylvester

3. Resolution #2011-93 Renewal Agreement for membership in the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (MCCPC)

Mr. Blakeslee confirmed the value of this membership for the Council.

Councilman Koster made a motion to approve Resolution #2011-93. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion.
Roll Call: 5 Yes.

4. Resolution #2011-94 To Approve the 3 Year Contract for the F.O.P.

This will be carried to the next meeting as the Borough Attorney was out of power and was unable to draft the resolution.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

No ordinances were introduced at this session.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:24 PM was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Dalessandro, Borough Clerk