

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NETCONG HELD APRIL 13, 2017 AT THE NETCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23 MAPLE AVENUE, NETCONG, NEW JERSEY COMMENCING AT 7:30 P.M.

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

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 6, 2017.
2. Publishing a notice in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the Borough of Netcong on January 11, 2017 and mailing a copy to The Star Ledger on January 6, 2017.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance were Councilman Hathaway, Councilman Koster, Councilman Laureys, Councilman Still, Councilman Sylvester, and Mayor Nametko. Also present were Mr. Blakeslee, Borough Administrator and Mrs. Eckert, Borough Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented at this meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Ms. Karin Amico, 52 Railroad Ave, began by addressing the Progressive Property Extension and the water issue on her property that was investigated last year. Mr. Blakeslee explained what had been seen when the property was looked at last year by the Borough Engineer, Administrator, and DPW Superintendent. He explained some of the possible resolutions suggested for this issue. The Mayor asked if she has something else she is looking for. Mrs. Amico claimed there was no testing or documentation to show where this water was coming from. She wanted to know if there is a dye test that could be done to see if the water is coming from Netcong Heights. She believes the source of the water is from water runoff from the Heights.

(For the record, Mr. Bucco arrived at 7:35PM.)

The Mayor stated that if there is an issue between two property owners they have to resolve it among themselves and the Borough would not get involved. He continued to say that the engineer and DPW had been out there several times. There did not seem to be water coming from the Heights. Mr. Canfield explained he had walked the property and he did not see any outlet pipe from the heights dumping water onto their property. Mr. Blakeslee added that the parking lots are pitched away from her property. Ms. Amico maintained that the water is not coming onto her property from the parking lot. Mr. Bucco wanted to verify that it is runoff from the parking lots of the heights. He continued that if that was the case, action would be against the heights because the height is private property. Ms. Amico wanted to know why the town is not concerned if there is flooding. She asked about the installation of additional drainage. Mr. Bucco explained if they did that for all properties that have problems the taxes would be very high. She continued to discuss the drainage issue. She would like to know if this issue could be resolved when Progressive Properties builds on their subdivision. The Mayor asked if there will be the installation of a catch basin where the new subdivision will be. Councilman Still asked if Ms. Amico wants the Borough to put a catch basin on her property. She responded "no," she wants a dye test done to see where that water is coming from. Councilman Hathaway asked if there is a planned basin on the other side of the street. The Mayor asked if she has tried any of the recommendations from our engineer. She responded by noting that this is a continual problem. Councilman Hathaway said some of the catch basins do continuously run. He explained that this problem is ongoing and getting worse. The Mayor asked if we have had tests done for leaks at the heights. Mr Canfield explains the leaks at the heights are usually readily noticeable and easy to find. The Mayor asked if we have the authority to go onto the heights property to investigate. Mr. Bucco said the Borough could send a letter to the heights asking to allow access to test this. If they do not agree to it, the Borough would not be able to access the property. Mr. Bucco provided details as to why the issues between two private properties cannot be handled by the Borough. Mr. Blakeslee offered to write a letter to Netcong Heights. The Mayor asked if Ms. Amico knows what areas she would like to have tested. The Mayor asked if they had water during the last dry summer. Councilman Still thought it was ground water. Mr. Canfield said it was runoff. Ms. Amico repeated that she wanted a test to prove the water is coming from the heights. She wanted to know if this water was running in the road what would the Borough do. Councilman Still stated there are many areas in town like that. We cannot dig on another person's property to put in a drain. There is further discussion on this issue. Mr. Bucco asked if the neighbors are getting water as well. She replied "yes." Councilman Still asked if it would be possible that one of the other houses has done something to cause the water to drain on her property. Councilman Still suggested that Mr. Blakeslee write a letter to Netcong Heights. Mr. Blakeslee will investigate and follow-up. Lengthy discussion continued so the Council could get specific details from Ms. Amico.

Ms. Amico asked for an update on the Railroad Ave. street project. Mr. Blakeslee explained there was an issue with paperwork with the contractor for Railroad Ave. Phase I. For Phase 2, they are waiting for a DOT grant. The Borough needs to wait on DOT before going out to bid. The Mayor said the project should be done this summer.

The Mayor reviewed all the action items to be worked on moving forward.

With no others requesting to speak, Councilman Koster mad a Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public. Councilman Sylvester seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SID BUDGET

No one from the public wished to speak.

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

Resolution #2017- 48- Authorizing the Adoption of the 2017 Budget of the Netcong Community Partnership Special Improvement District.

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

Roll Call: 4 Yes No: Councilman Laureys

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

1. **Ordinance 2017-3** – Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

A Motion to Read Ordinance 2017-3 by Title Only on Second Reading and a Hearing Held Thereon was made By Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

No one from the public stepped forward to comment.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2017-3 was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

BOROUGH AUDITOR TO ADDRESS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Ms. Valerie Dolan, auditor, presented the status of the Budget and Audit. She reviewed the audit procedure. There will be no changes to the budget. She provided some of the numbers and predictions of the budget increases and decreases in the future.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2017 BUDGET

There was no comment from the public.

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Resolution 2017- 49 - To Read the 2017 Budget by Title Only.

A Motion to read the 2017 Budget by Title Only was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

Resolution 2017–50 - To Adopt the 2017 Budget.

A motion to adopt the 2017 Budget was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

The Mayor thanked all who were involved with the Budget process.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence presented at this meeting.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Blakeslee provided an update on the library issue. There will be no change with MAIN policy. He recommended that the Borough notifies the Mt. Olive library that Netcong will not be renewing the shared service. He confirmed the Sussex County library would be \$50.00 per card with full service. We can also use the Morris County Library. It is disappointing that we will not be able to use the good services provided by the Mt. Olive library.

The Mayor explained his issue with MAIN. He feels it is the freeholders saving face by cutting off the funds for this to make it appear as though they are lowering taxes. Councilman Laureys asked how long it will take before Netcong can be set up with the Sussex County Library.

Mr. Blakeslee stated he did compose an OPRA request and got a response today that they would like an extension and are asking what our intent was. Councilman Still asked if Mr. Bucco could send the OPRA request. Mr. Blakeslee felt that the MAIN does not understand OPRA. Mr. Bucco stated there are negotiations with the Freeholders. Mr. Bucco will look at the OPRA request Mr. Blakeslee submitted and he will review and write a letter.

The Progressive Property issue was discussed. Mr. Blakeslee noted that there is a copy of the letter from the Netcong engineer in response to the concerns brought to light at last week's meeting. The Mayor suggested that the Council should ask for the additional bond. Mr. Blakeslee asked Mr. Bucco if the Council could approve the extension tonight with a condition. Mr. Bucco provided options and noted that if there is no extension, there could be a shut down. There is further discussion on this issue. Mr. Bucco suggested the Council approves the resolution with added information about the additional bond. Councilman Hathaway expressed concern that this project is going to improve some portions of the road that the developer was supposed to improve. There is discussion on regarding Councilman Hathaway's comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance: E. Still J. Sylvester

In the month of March of 2017 the Borough had total income in the amount \$109,501.60 as compared to the previous year of \$64,730.39.

For the month of March 2017:

Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated (MRNA)

In 2017 the Borough received \$1,178.19 vs. \$8,373.50 in 2016

Other Licenses/Borough Clerks Fees:

In 2017 the Borough received \$9,376.80 vs. \$8,507.80 in 2016.

State Aid

No state aid was received in March of 2017.

Grants in Aid

The Borough received \$2,317.25 from the State of New Jersey, Fire Safety Funds in March. In 2016 the Borough received \$1,060.75 in grant funding (Highway Safety Program).

Taxes Collected

In 2017 the Borough collected \$109,501.60 vs. \$64,730.39 in 2016

Income Total Year to Date:

Total income to date in 2017 was \$2,204,614.11 opposed \$2,098,853.98 in 2016.

Economic Development: R. Hathaway E. Still

Councilman Hathaway reported that the Quirk Development had a meeting on the 29th. There will be another pre application with the DEP. A Labor Day start is on the timeline.

Councilman Hathaway noted that there are no new developments with the Pocketbook Factory.

Public Safety: J. Sylvester E. Koster
(Police, Fire, Rescue)

Netcong Fire Department:

- Total Calls: 8
- Drills: 7
- Meetings: 7
- Other: 2
- Total Fire Fighters: 53
- Total Involvements: 24
- Total Man Hours: 465.1

Ambulance Corp

- Total Calls: 55, 4 out of town
- Patients: 33
- Trips to the Hospital: 32
- Miles Travelled: 974
- Hours Volunteered: 436 hours, 30 Minutes

Police Report

- Total Calls: 263
- Local Warrants: 1
- Motor Vehicle Summons: 109
- \$2,600 grant for click it or ticket

Councilman Sylvester explained we can afford another patrolman to be phased in over 1 year. Chief Blesson thanked the Council.

Dept. of Public
Works & Utilities:

E. Koster

R. Hathaway

D.P.W. Monthly Report April 2017

Road Department: Repaired a storm drain on Dell Ave near Allen St....Repaired pot holes through town....Town wide road sweeping is scheduled for the first week of May.... Performed oil changes and inspections on DPW vehicles...

Water Department: Loosened and anti seized all hydrant steamers for April hydrant flushingNetcong Heights installed 3 new water main valves on their system which will assist in quicker shut downs during leaks....performed an emergency water shut off for repairs at 19 Stoll St....Installed new radio water meters at Dowel Assoc and 34 Old Ledgewood Ave

Buildings & Grounds: Started scraping and painting Welcome to Netcong signs....Install new storage racks at the DPW garage....Cut back brush at the reservoir for upcoming repairsRepaired a broken down spout and sidewalk at Boro Hall

Parks & Recreation: Installed new suspension bridge at the playground of DiRenzo Park. ...

Snow: Performed night time snow removal for the downtown area after large snow storm....

Other: DPW attended a workplace violence and conduct prevention class in Mt. Olive....Torn Mendel attended the annual county recycling meeting ... DPW attended the quarterly safety meeting with our JIF....Delivered meals for Wendy during her vacation

The Mayor thanked the DPW for putting the wall at the tennis courts at no cost to the taxpayers

Recreation:

P. Butler

T. Laureys

The Mayor said there are about 12 people doing the tai chi and everyone he has talked to are very pleased. He thanked Sharon Still for setting this up.

1. The Town wide garage sale will be held on Saturday May 6th. We are still accepting applications.
2. Our Tai Chi classes have begun with an excellent turnout. The past 2 weeks we have been at Boro Hall due to weather, but this Saturday we will be able to enjoy the outdoors at DiRenzo Park. All are welcome!

3. Our next bus trip will be Saturday 7/29 -the show is School of Rock, tickets are \$85 and bus will leave the train station promptly at 10:30 am. We are working on the possibility of an early October trip to Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty and then another Broadway Show (Get on your feet) in early November.

Public Services:
(Human Services
Recycling & Solid
Waste Disposal

T. Laureys

P. Butler

Dial a Ride for March:
Days of Service: 16
Miles: 853
Number of Stops: 76
Nutrition for 2 people: 9
Food shopping for 22 people: 43
Number of meals on wheels: 11
Medical Appointments: 18
Other Appointments: 43
People using services: 42
Cancels: 22
Denials: 2
Units: 270
Hours: 81.25

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Sean Holl as a Firefighter for Fire Co. No. 2
Carried to May 4th meeting
2. Appointment of Brandon Reis as a Firefighter for Fire Co. No. 2
Carried to May 4th meeting
3. Appointment of Nicholas Leader as a Firefighter for Fire Co. No. 2
Carried to May 4th meeting

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO THE COUNCIL

President Sylvester reminded everyone about the 200 club honoring two Netcong patrolmen on April 27th. Cindy Eckert, Borough Clerk was invited to attend.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

None

RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Resolution #2017- 46** – Authorizing the Acceptance and Execution of an Extension Agreement with Progressive Properties, Inc. to Complete All Improvements Pertaining to the Major Subdivision Approval of Block 8, Lot 36 in the Borough of Netcong

A motion was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still to approve this resolution with the addition to paragraph one done by the Borough Attorney.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 2. Resolution #2017- 51** – To Redeem Tax Sale Certificate 16-00007

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 3. Resolution #2017-52- 2017 Salary Resolution**

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 4. Resolution #2017-53- 2017** – To Appoint Christie Stachnick as Interim Part Time Qualified Purchasing Agent with addition of no benefits statement (done by borough attorney)

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

- 5. Resolution #2017-54** – Authorizing the Sale of Municipal Surplus Property

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

Roll Call: 5 Yes

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Bond Ordinance 2017-4**-To Authorize the Making of Various Public Improvements and the Acquisition of New, Additional or Replacement Equipment and Machinery 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 \$60,000.00 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 Bond Ordinance #2017-4 and Read by Title Only was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Bond Ordinance #2017-4 on First Reading was made by Councilman Laureys and seconded by Councilman Koster.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

2. **Capital Ordinance 2017-5**- Authorizing the Acquisition of a Dump Body In, By and For the Sewer Utility of the Borough, Appropriating Therefor the Sum of \$15,000.00 and Providing that Such Sum So Appropriated Shall Be Raised from the Sewer Utility Capital Improvement Fund

A Motion to Introduce Capital Ordinance #2017-5 and Read by Title only was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

A Motion to Pass Capital Ordinance #2017-5 on First Reading was made by Councilman Koster and seconded by Councilman Hathaway.

Roll Call: 5 Yes

3. **Ordinance 2017-6**-Amending Chapter 276, Water of the Code of the Borough of Netcong, Morris County, New Jersey

The Council discussed a motion to table the ordinance as Mr. Bucco suggested the Council update this section of the ordinance before introducing

Councilman Still asked for an explanation for why we need to change the pipe size requiring these yearly calibrations. Mr. Blakeslee explained these are the larger water users and without testing these meters Netcong could be losing money if the meters are not working properly. The Mayor stated that this is unreasonable to charge our highest water users with this additional cost. There is discussion by the Council regarding the necessity to test every year.

A Motion to Table Ordinance #2017-6 and Read by Title only was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Still.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

REPORTS

A Motion to Incorporate All Reports into the Minutes was made by Councilman Hathaway and seconded by Councilman Koster.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

BILLS

A Motion to Pay All Bills When Funds are Available was made by Councilman Still and seconded by Councilman Sylvester.
Roll Call: 5 Yes

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Councilman Still at 9:03 PM, seconded by Councilman Hathaway and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Eckert, Borough Clerk