

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN JACOBS, PAUL, RADOCHA, SABOL III; COUNCILWOMEN FOX, POREMBO; PRESIDENT HAWK; & MAYOR KITCHKO

PURPOSE: General Purpose

- Matt Johnson – Reading/Blue Mountain Railroad

President Hawk stated how Matt Johnson and Taylor Haupt from Reading and Blue Mountain Railroad were present for the meeting. He stated that the reason Council had asked them to attend the meeting was because of the drainage issues they were having along the railroad, behind Kovatch's property, which was flooding Mill Street. President Hawk stated how they have had complaints from a resident who lives on Holland/Mill Street concerning her basement getting flooded. He stated how the Street department had the Borough crew place sandbags in a drainage swale, which was Railroad property, to prevent the water from continuing down the railroad to allow it to enter into an inlet, which was at a higher elevation than the swale. He stated that by damming it up, it would push the water into the inlet, which has had a positive effect on reducing the flooding for the resident. President Hawk stated how the Railroad has indicated that having sandbags there was not an acceptable long term solution. He stated how they had asked them to attend the meeting to discuss what else could be done to alleviate the flooding problem for the resident.

President Hawk stated how Councilman Paul had a suggestion and they wanted to see if it was an acceptable thing to try. Councilman Paul showed Mr. Johnson a video of the rainwater flowing down the swale. He showed him the three inlets at the intersection of Holland Street and W. Mill Street. Councilman Paul stated how they have placed 150' of 48" pipe on the other side of the railroad, a few years. He stated how they were concerned with doing anything with the inlet behind Kovatch property, because they did not know who owns what and did not want to be on Railroad property. Mr. Johnson stated how they did go on railroad property. He stated that they could have called him and asked him to place the sandbags there. He stated how he probably would have left them do it to get through the heavy rains. Mr. Johnson stated that if the owner would have driven by and saw the sandbags, but nobody ever called, which raises the first issue. Councilman Paul stated how they have been getting numerous calls from the resident, who was getting flooded. He stated how it was not a Borough storm drain, so they could have washed their hands of everything. He stated how Kovatch was willing to do something up there. Councilman Paul stated how they did not know how far they could come out, because it was Railroad property and they did not want to interfere with anything on Railroad property. He stated how they did not know how far Kovatch owned. Councilman Paul suggested a few ideas to install pipe to get the water into the inlet.

Councilman Radocha stated that at one point there was a concrete barrier where the sandbags were placed. He stated how he can see all of the chunks of concrete lying down next to the railroad. He stated how she had started getting water after it broke away. Councilman Radocha stated how he understood that they do not like sandbags, but they have to do something to get it banked up to make the water turn into the inlet. He stated how that inlet takes all of the water coming from Route 209/54. Councilman Radocha stated how the 16"/18" pipes coming from up further, which have full flows, were trying to flow into a 6" pipe. Mr. Johnson stated how they have to find a way to get the water from the swale into the inlet. Councilman Paul explained what he Mr. Kovatch had talked about doing.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Paul stated how they could all meet and put their heads together to see what they could come up with. Mr. Johnson asked if it only happens during the heavy rains. Michelle Hrinda – 357 W. Mill Street - stated how it was not just her basement, but her entire property got flooded. She stated how there should be police reports on the flooding as well, because she would call the Communications Center. She stated that when the officers would arrive, they would almost let their vehicles, because that was how deep the water would get on the road. Mr. Johnson asked if the inlets were covered. Ms. Hrinda stated “yes”. She stated how she has videos and pictures of what has been happening. Ms. Hrinda stated how she has measured the pipes; 15” pipe draining into a 6” pipe. Mr. Johnson asked what areas they were talking about. Councilman Paul stated how she was talking about the pipe at the inlet. Mr. Johnson asked if they would put a bigger piping, would it solve the problem. Councilman Paul stated how it might, but they did not want to work out there without permission from the Railroad. He stated about setting up a meeting. Mr. Johnson stated how they could meet.

Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Hrinda if she was getting flooded with the sandbags. Ms. Hrinda stated “no”. President Hawk stated that by creating the dam and forcing the water into the inlet, it was relieving the flooding problem. He stated how they were looking for a different way to get it into the inlet. Ms. Hrinda stated that if they were to remove sandbags and they got rain, she was going to get flooded. Mr. Johnson stated how it was tough to say what they could do without physically looking at it. He stated that if it would dam up and erode the shoulder of the railroad, they were going to have problems. Mr. Johnson stated how Andy Muller has been away for a few weeks and he was going to be back the next day. He stated how Mr. Muller was going to be riding the train and if he sees the sandbags, it was going to be an issue. Councilman Paul stated that they could tell him how they were working on it and that it was only going to be there temporarily. Mr. Johnson stated how he could certainly portray in that way, but ultimately he does not make that decision. He stated about setting up a meeting as soon as possible.

Mr. Johnson stated how he will talk to the owner and see if the sandbags could stay until they meet. Ms. Hrinda asked that if they would remove the sandbags, who would be responsible for her flooding/property damage. She stated how nobody wants to take responsibility. She stated how it was not her water nor her pipe. Ms. Hrinda stated how she and her family have lived there her whole life and they never got flooded. Mr. Johnson stated how he was going to relay all of the information to the owner. Councilman Paul stated how he thinks that the cement barrier broke apart and that was why she was now having the problem. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they were not asking for any money; they were just asking permission to get something done. She stated how they could all take responsibility and get it fixed.

Councilman Jacobs asked Mr. Johnson if they were going to replace the concrete at the railroad crossing on Mermon Avenue, because it was broken apart from the train derailment. Mr. Johnson stated “yes”. He stated how they have some grass work to do up there as well. Mr. Johnson stated how it was a process, because it was a concrete panel crossing. He stated how they were not able to patch them; they will have to pull the panels out and replace them, but they were not finished yet.

- Barry Isett & Associates – Johnson Park Project Presentation

Dan Wilusz & Tim Sisock (Barry Isett & Associates) stated about the project at Johnson Park (parking lot, ramp and steps). Mr. Wilusz stated how they met with Secretary/Treasurer Ahner and Councilman Sabol two years ago concerning plans for the upper section of the park. He stated how the Borough was looking to apply for a LSA grant for a parking area off of High Street (top end of Johnson Park).

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Mr. Wilusz stated how they did a quick sketch of the parking area to apply for the grant, which the Borough did get awarded some money. He stated how they had created the design and put it out for bid. Mr. Sisock stated how they would go through the drawings and then recap the bids. He showed Council drawings on the projector. Mr. Sisock stated how the side wall with the railing would remain, but the back wall was going to be demolished. He stated how the new wall varied between 5' – 6'. Councilman Sabol asked about the height at High Street. Mr. Wilusz stated how it was approximately 3'. He stated about it being higher at the back wall so everything would drain towards High Street. Councilman Jacobs asked about the distance from the new wall to the top of the other wall. Mr. Wilusz stated how their wall was going to be on the inside of the other wall with landscaping in between. Councilman Sabol asked if the existing side wall and wrought iron railing were staying. Mr. Wilusz stated "yes". He stated how the house was all tied into that wall and in order for them to remove the wall, they would have to do an analysis of that building.

Councilman Sabol stated how he did not like the fact that they were staying back because they were losing a parking space and they plan for a landscape area, which they did not have the manpower to maintain. He asked why they could not keep the wall in there . . . Councilman Sabol stated how he has asked from the beginning to keep the top stone and to get rid of the railing. He stated about pouring the new wall so it would overlay the old wall. Mr. Wilusz stated how they could change the landscaping; they just assumed it would be mulch. Councilman Sabol stated how they did not have to take the existing wall out; they could cap it with concrete. He stated how it was going to look like hell. Councilman Sabol stated how the whole thing was to improve the visual for people.

Councilman Sabol asked how much the grant was for. Mr. Wilusz stated "\$133,000.00". Councilman Radocha stated how they had to come up with 15% no matter what. Mr. Sisock stated how the low bid was \$171,000.00. Councilman Sabol asked what the total was for the project. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were going to have to come up with the difference. Councilman Paul, Councilwoman Fox, and Councilwoman Poremba were discussing the project cost and what portion would be at the Borough's expense. Mr. Wilusz was explaining about the wall, the ramp and the steps. Councilwoman Poremba stated how it should be called the Johnson Parking Project. Councilwoman Fox stated how it had nothing to do with recreation. She stated how she did not know anything about it until they put it out on bid. Councilman Sabol asked what they were using for fill. Mr. Wilusz stated how it was engineer fill.

Mr. Wilusz was explaining about the parking area, the wall and the railing around the parking area. Councilman Sabol stated how he wanted an elevation model from High Street to the top of the new wall. Councilman Paul stated how they should scratch everything and let Councilman Radocha do it. He stated how he would have it done within 3 – 4 days. Councilman Sabol stated about 4' for the sidewalks and 18' for the parking area. Mr. Sisock stated about a 2% grade. Councilman Sabol asked about the height. Mr. Wilusz stated how they need 3' of fill at High Street and approximately 6' of fill at the wall. Councilman Jacobs asked about the fencing going around the top of the wall. Councilman Sabol stated how it had made mention to guard rail on the plans. Mr. Sisock stated how it was guard rail but it was not a highway guide rail that they would see on the street. Councilman Jacobs asked if it was as strong as a guard rail. Mr. Wilusz stated how there would be a curb there also, which would act as a bumper blocker. Councilman Radocha stated about the ADA ramp. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was going to have steps also going down to the lower area. Mr. Sisock stated "yes". Mr. Wilusz stated how the parking spaces would be paved but the rest was concrete. Councilman Radocha asked if they were going to be pouring the walls. Mr. Sisock stated "yes".

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Sabol questioned the landscape area. Mr. Sisock stated about staying back off of the old wall because of the age and integrity of the old wall. Councilman Radocha stated about going right up against the wall. Mr. Wilusz stated how they wanted to stay away from the old walls because of movement. Councilwoman Fox stated how she was the Chairperson of Recreation last year and they never talked to her. She stated how she did not know what they were doing until they filed the grant application. Councilman Paul stated how he was not there, so he does not know. Councilwoman Poremba stated how it was supposed to be for the park. Councilwoman Fox stated how it had nothing to do with Recreation. Councilwoman Poremba stated how it was a parking lot. She stated how she was just learning about it. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was only a parking lot because of the parking problems on High Street. Mr. Wilusz stated about the ownership of the walls and permission to remove the wall on both sides. He stated that on the west side, the wall gets into and was below the house foundation. Mr. Wilusz stated that if they use that wall or go against it, they were pushing on the house foundation. Councilman Jacobs stated about their request for the survey, which would have cost the Borough an additional \$1,800.00. He stated how Council had turned it down. Councilman Jacobs stated how they do not know exactly where the property lines were.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she would vote not to accept the grant. Councilwoman Poremba asked if they could use the funds to start down below. Councilman Paul stated how people would think that they were nuts for spending that kind of money for a parking lot. He stated how they should use the money to tear down the property across the street. Councilman Sabol stated how they were losing a parking spot. Councilman Jacobs stated how he thought that they were only going to get seven spaces anyway. Councilwoman Fox stated to President Hawk that she would make a motion to give all the grant money back.

Councilwoman Poremba asked President Hawk what all they were actually going to do up there. President Hawk stated how that was what the engineers were talking about. Councilwoman Fox stated about something being done around the playground equipment. President Hawk stated how they were not doing anything down there that it was all at the upper end. Mr. Sisock stated how he was trying to figure out how much space they were losing. He stated how it did not look like there would be enough footage for an additional parking space. Councilman Sabol stated about going right against the wall and getting rid of the landscape area. Mr. Wilusz stated how they did not have to consider it "landscaping", they could just do anything there; like stone. Councilman Radocha stated how he felt that the bottom line was if they were in agreement with what they wanted to do. He asked if they were going to vote to do it or were they going to do something else.

Councilman Sabol asked how much time they had. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they had until June 2022 to have the project finalized. Councilman Sabol stated how \$171,000.00 was a lot of money. Mr. Wilusz stated that if they would wait two years, it would probably be more. Councilman Jacobs asked if the bids came in where they thought they would. Mr. Sisock stated how the bids came in under their estimated costs. He stated how they did get four reputable contractors to submit bids. Mr. Sisock stated how it was put out to bid at a good time because of COVID. He stated that if they were to rebid the project now, they would not get a better price. Councilman Jacobs asked if they would remove the sidewalks, would there be an added cost factor. Mr. Sisock stated how it would cost more, because they would be making up the 4'. Mr. Wilusz stated how it would cost them more to tie into the old walls.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Sabol stated how it was originally supposed to be that wide and asked who they met with to deviate from removing the walls. President Hawk and Councilman Radocha stated how Council did not want them to do it; they voted not to do it. Councilman Sabol stated how it was before that, who came up with the idea of not taking the sidewalls out. Mr. Wilusz stated that in order for them to do it, they had to establish the property lines. President Hawk stated how they had turned them down, so Council told them not to do. Mr. Sisock stated how it was their decision after Council decided not to go after the property lines.

Councilman Sabol asked how wide the landscape area was on each side. Mr. Sisock stated how it was 2' on each side. He stated how they could do anything with that area. Councilman Paul stated how the ramp was their biggest cost. He stated how it was a long ramp. Mr. Sisock stated how they had ramped it to the higher side of the property so they would not have to wind it around. Councilman Sabol asked about the fill; manufactured fill. Mr. Sisock stated how it was engineer fill. He stated how it was a tested fill that would support the pressure from the walls and parking area. Mr. Wilusz stated how it was a stone that would give a better compaction. Mr. Sisock stated how they inspect it to make sure that it was being compacted properly.

Councilman Radocha asked Mr. Wilusz, from start to finish what was their cost to the Borough. Mr. Wilusz stated how it was approximately \$26,000.00; bid design, advertising, contract to construction inspections. Councilwoman Poremba stated how the bid was \$171,000.00 and the Borough received a grant for \$133,000.00, which the Borough would owe the difference. She stated how they would also have to pay the engineering fees, which would come to a total of \$190,600.00. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the project was \$171,000.00 with engineering cost at \$26,000.00; approximately \$200,000.00 total. She stated that no matter the project cost, the Borough was responsible for 15%; however, the Borough received \$133,000.00, so they Borough expenses would be around \$67,000.00. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the grant application was for \$200,000.00, but they were only awarded \$133,000.00. She stated how it was asked if Council wanted to pass on the project, modify the project or just pay the difference, which Council decided to stay with the project and Council would come up with the extra money. Councilwoman Poremba stated how that was not explained in that manner. She stated how they only thing she remembered voting on was not taking the walls down.

Councilwoman Poremba stated how she thought that it was a park for kids and did not know it was a parking lot. Councilman Radocha stated how there was nothing recreational about it. Councilman Sabol stated how it should be used for people coming to use the park. He stated how other than that, it would be allowed for garbage days or snow parking. Councilwoman Poremba stated how the park seemed to be antiquated. She stated how the equipment needed to be removed, area graded and playground turf installed, which was what she thought they were working on. Councilwoman Poremba asked if there was another grant available that they could apply for. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were going to work on the park in three phases; parking area, basketball court, and then the playground area. Mr. Wilusz stated how they have two grant writers on staff and they reach out to municipalities when grants become available. Councilman Sabol stated how they expect the Borough to use them as their engineers. Mr. Wilusz stated how they did not have to, but that was their hope. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was usually easier, because they already knew everything about the project; instead of taking all of the information to another engineer. Councilman Paul stated to Secretary/Treasurer Ahner that he agreed with that.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilwoman Porembo stated how she was glad that they could talk the entire project out on how it would go. She stated how she wished that they would get into the habit of talking about projects right from the beginning before they got to where they were at now. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they would be able to look at the funds available. She stated how they never had that discussion since she had been sitting there. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she would like that for every project that they were doing, because it was very informative. She stated that as a voting Council member, she would like to know where they were headed. Councilwoman Fox stated how it should have been discussed way back when. Councilman Sabol stated how he had asked for a meeting 2 months ago. Councilman Jacobs stated how the second phase would have to be for the other retaining wall, which needed to come down. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was a whole lot of money for a parking lot. Councilman Sabol stated how they should table it for 2 more weeks.

Councilman Radocha asked if they had any money in the budget to pay for the project. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they had over budgeted Recreation, which they were going to do the same thing next year, because of the project. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were showing Recreation in the red. Councilman Radocha stated how he felt that they all needed to meet on site to see if there was a different route that they could go. He stated how they were talking about three different phases of the project and there might be a difference direction that they have to go to keep it moving forward. Councilwoman Fox stated how she would rather see a basketball court than a parking lot. Councilman Sabol asked if they turned the grant back, would there be any charge for the engineering with replies of "yes". Councilman Radocha stated how it would cost approximately \$18,000.00. Councilman Sabol stated how the Borough was \$18,000.00 in the hole, because the engineers did not want to meet on site 2 months ago, which was bullshit. Councilman Radocha asked if they could meet on site. Mr. Sisock stated "yes".

There was a discussion as to holding the bid for 60 days, rebidding the project and changing the design of the project. President Hawk asked if the grant covered anything they wanted to do with the park. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the grant was submitted for what was bid. President Hawk stated how Council wanted to come up with something to alleviate the parking for winter plowing, which was why they came up with the parking idea. Councilman Sabol stated how everything was done in good faith and it was a good idea, but the cost was not what he expected. Councilman Paul stated how he was not there when they started. Councilwoman Fox stated how it never came before the Recreation Committee. She stated how Councilwoman Porembo had said that when they have a project like that, they should lay it all out so they could vote on it. Councilman Radocha asked Mr. Wilusz if there were able to change it to angle parking. Councilman Sabol stated how they should table it until their next meeting. He stated how they could meet on site within the next week or two. Councilman Radocha stated how they might be able to change some things without rebidding by just doing some change orders.

Nicholas Helina – 143 W. Columbus Avenue – stated how he has lived there since 2016. He stated how he filed a complaint on his neighboring property, 151 W. Columbus Avenue. Mr. Helina stated how there were three piles of rubbish in the yard for the past 10 years, according to his wife's ex-husband. He stated how he was tired of rodents peeking through his fence and would like something done about it. Councilman Jacobs asked if he filed a complaint. Mr. Helina stated "yes". He stated how his wife call the Borough office and she was told that it was a neighbor issue not an issue with the Borough. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the complaint was turned over to Tim Dow. She stated how the Borough handled the high grass complaint and had the grass cut.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the conditions of the property/house was being handled by Mr. Dow, who she had not seen yet that week and did not see the week before because she was on vacation. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she forwarded an email to Mr. Dow explaining what was going on with the property and he was supposed to be stopping in the office the next day.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that when the call came into the office, the caller complained that there was garbage leaning against her fence and she wanted to replace her fence. She stated how the caller was informed that if there was garbage against her fence, to push it off. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they were under the impression that the person was complaining about garbage not wood. She stated that when the caller had given them additional information, she was told that they would look into it. Councilman Paul stated how everyone knew that he was hot to traught to tear these buildings down. He stated how he walks past that property every day. Councilman Paul asked Mr. Helina if the Borough would tear that building down for \$9,000.00, would he pay the Borough \$9,000.00 to purchase the property. Mr. Helina asked if it would be graded/leveled and some kind of stone put down. Councilman Radocha stated how it would cost approximately \$9,000.00 to tear the house down, because there was nothing in it. Mr. Helina stated that for \$8,000.00 - \$9,000.00 he would possibly buy it. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the property was up for tax sale.

Councilman Paul stated how he wanted action. He stated how he wants these properties torn down. Mr. Helina stated how he just wanted the three piles of junk removed. President Hawk stated how they cannot just have Councilman Radocha go up and tear the house down. He stated how the Borough will continue to work on it. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was the legal process that take so long. Councilman Jacobs stated how they have \$12,000.00 tied up in Sparich's property that they cannot get \$5,000.00 for. Councilman Paul stated how he knows a guy who would have bought it. President Hawk stated how it has been listed for sale for years. Councilman Paul stated how there was a gentleman who would buy the property if they would tear it down. He stated how there was a guy on Garibaldi Avenue who would do the same thing. Councilman Paul stated how they should tear it down and he would pay the cost. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the property at 151 W. Columbus Avenue was up for tax sale. She stated how the gentleman could purchase the property and have a contractor tear it down, which would leave the Borough out of the middle. Councilman Paul stated how he did not want to buy the property the way it was.

Councilman Radocha asked if Mr. Dow could push it because it was uninhabitable. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they could force the property owner to tear down the house. She stated that if the property owner does not demolish it and the Borough does, the Borough was not guaranteed to get the money back because they still did not own the property. Councilman Paul stated how they did it before with Sparich's property. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how that took over a year to take ownership of the property.

- Joe Pilla – Workers Comp. Insurance – Broker

Joe Pilla stated how the Borough's workers compensation policy was renewing on September 1, 2020. He stated how they had brought the company (McConkey Insurance out of York) in last year through a broker, broker agreement. He stated how they were now changing their affiliation to Ensured partners out of Wilkes-Barre. Mr. Pilla stated how Secretary/Treasurer Ahner felt that it would be best if Council would approve the broker change. He stated how it had nothing to do with the policy or the servicing. Mr. Pilla stated how they still have to get the new premium yet.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilwoman Fox if there was a reason for the change. Mr. Pilla stated how there were not any problems and no service issues. He stated how it was usually compensation based. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were still with the same carrier; they were just changing brokers.

Councilman Paul moved and Councilman Sabol seconded to change the Workers compensation policy broker of record to Ensure Partners. All voted yes. Motion passed.

1. STREETS

**MICHAEL RADOCHA, CHAIRMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN;
GEORGE SABOL**

Councilman Sabol stated how someone called DEP for sandblasting that they were doing on the bridge. He stated how there was a discussion to cut the rails out to sandblast them up in the yard. Councilman Sabol stated how they could weld or bolt them back on. Councilman Radocha stated how the fish and game commission was there twice. He stated how he did not think that anyone wanted to walk the plank on the other side. Councilman Sabol stated how he had talked to Mr. Degiglio and he was not aware that the beams were so close together. Councilman Radocha stated how they have to tarp it. Councilman Sabol stated how they have to patch the concrete lip. Councilman Radocha stated how that was one of the things that they had to do. Councilman Sabol stated how they were going to finish three sections on the first side and then they will decide what they want to do on the other side.

President Hawk asked if they cut them, were they creating more places to rust. Councilman Sabol stated how they could weld it. Councilman Paul stated how he would not weld it. He stated how he would plate underneath and bolt them. Councilman Sabol stated how he did not want to give them permission without all of Council's permission. President Hawk asked if the bridge would continue to pass inspection with the railings bolted. Councilman Sabol asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner if she could get in touch with PennDOT to see if someone could meet them at the bridge. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was not PennDOT who does the inspections. She stated how it was an engineering firm. Councilman Paul stated how Mike Tirpak used to do the inspections. Councilman Sabol asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner to call the company that did the inspections.

Councilwoman Fox asked of the Street Committee had a plan on getting the bridge repaired in regards to the inspection reports. Councilman Sabol stated how they did not have a plan. He stated how they were trying to do one bridge at a time. Councilwoman Poremba asked if sandblasting the rails was part of the repairs needed to be done according to the inspection report. Councilman Sabol stated that if they got rid of all of the rust, yes. Councilman Paul stated how they have to do some stuff underneath as well. President Hawk stated that if they were going to cut them out, just make sure that it was approved by the inspector.

2. SEWER

**MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO-CHAIRMAN;
MICHAEL RADOCHA**

Councilwoman Fox stated how they have not heard anything back about the paint from unit number two down at the plant.

Councilwoman Fox stated how there was an issue with the sewer line on Center Street, trust between the ETA building and Lengyel's. She stated how they had started working on it, but then just covered it with the board. She stated how they have received complaints about it being covered with the board.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilwoman Fox stated how it was a property owner's problem, not a Borough problem. Councilman Radocha stated how it has been an ongoing problem. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was all terra-cotta line.

3. BUILDINGS **GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA, CO-CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS**

No report.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY **ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; LOUIS PAUL CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the questions that were asked concerning part-time officers and if the Borough would owe them health benefits. She stated how it was all answered by Solicitor Yurchak's memo. Councilwoman Porembo stated how Solicitor Yurchak had recommended that any part-time officer should not be working in excess of 30 hours per week, because they would possibly have to bring them on full time, which was something that the Borough could not afford. She stated about the affordable care act mandating healthcare.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the NFPA Life Safety Code Ordinance, which would have to be voted on at their next meeting. She stated how John McArdle had requested a copy of the codebook for \$109.00. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they might be able to get a copy through their inspection company

Councilwoman Porembo stated how the Carbon County Commissioners were looking for a letter of support for their next phase in their emergency project.

Councilwoman Porembo moved and Councilman Jacobs seconded to send a letter of support to the Carbon County Commissioners for phase 1B, which was underway. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how there is a request from the Jim Thorpe Police Department for Fire Police. She asked Mayor Kitchko if he would take care of it.

Councilwoman Porembo asked about the sale of firearms. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she was waiting for confirmation that all of the officers had qualified with the new guns.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about responding to the Hauto Fire Company in regards to the payment schedule. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she did not respond; she just printed out the paperwork. Councilwoman Porembo asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner to let them know when they would be making the first payment. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked how much and when they would like to make a payment. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should make them wait 3 months for a payment. Councilwoman Porembo stated how it did not matter when they sent them a payment, but they should respond to the email.

Councilman Sabol asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner if the Chief was aware that they were waiting on the officers to qualify. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she would assume that he knew.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had discussed it with him at their meeting. President Hawk stated how the Chief did know about.

Mayor Kitchko stated about the last regular meeting where they had two hearing of visitors concerning the burning ordinance. He stated how he did not know what they could do about smoke, because smoke was smoke. Mayor Kitchko stated how he did not know the answers they were looking for. President Hawk stated how they had questions on the distance. Councilman Sabol stated how he heard that it was more of a neighbor dispute. President Hawk stated how they just have to enforce what was in the ordinance.

5. SANITATION LOUIS PAUL, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIRWOMAN, MARY FOX

Councilman Paul stated how he received a few complaints that he had called Larry Wittig. He stated that Mr. Wittig was going to do what he could to correct the issues. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were not emptying the garbage cans.

6. RECREATION GEORGE SABOL III, CHAIRMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX

Councilman Sabol stated how they were still waiting for an answer about funding for a shed in the New Columbus Park. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they came up with \$3,000.00. She stated how they discussed \$1,700.00 for the shed and \$1,300.00 for the electrical. Councilman Paul stated how they were working on donations as well. Councilman stated how he wanted to thank Councilman Radocha for donating the concrete.

Councilman Paul stated how he would like the Budget Committee to increase the millage for Recreation. He stated how they would have funds for more than just the building/lightning. Councilman Paul stated about improving their parks; new swings, painting, benches, etc. He stated how Recreation should be for the people, not a building. Councilman Paul stated how he would like to see a report on Recreation on their budget like they have for Sewage and Sanitation. He stated how he would also like to see that for the Police. Councilman Paul stated how everything goes into the General Fund. He stated he would like to see how much they get for Recreation and Police. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Sports Complex Fund was their Recreational fund. Councilman Paul stated that was the case, they had \$56,000 in that fund. Councilwoman Porembo stated how that money was set aside for Johnson Park. Councilman Paul stated how they would use it for Johnson Park.

Councilman Paul stated how he would like to see the same thing for the Police. Councilman Jacobs stated how they get a print out of the budget every month. He stated that when they were talking about Sanitation or Sewage, it was a separate fee. Councilman Paul stated how he would like to see an account for the Police, because they would be able to see how much they were bringing in. He stated how that money, instead of going into the General Fund, the Police could use that money to purchase what they needed. Councilman Sabol stated how there should be a budget for Recreation and for the Police. He stated how the Police were making money and it should go into their budget. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how all of that money was in the budget. Councilman Paul stated how it was not. He stated how it was in the General Fund. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was in the General Fund under the Police.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Sabol stated how they should change it. He stated that just because it has been that way for 20 years did not mean that they could not change it. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that if they would only go with what they were bringing in from fines . . . Councilman Sabol stated how he was not saying how they should just go with that. He yelled at Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asking if she was on Council. Councilman Sable stated how they have to beg for every nickel, for \$3,000.00. He stated how they were saving \$50,000.00 on Daniel Staehle salary, \$7,000.00 for not cleaning the streets and \$20,000.00 on lights and asked why they had to beg for a lousy \$2,800.00, which was bullshit.

Councilwoman Poremba stated how they wanted to take a look at the budget. She stated how they keep coming back to the questions where the money was going and where it was at. Councilwoman Poremba stated how the Budget Committee should give a presentation of their budget. She stated how they wanted to try and show how things come in and how they were separated between the two government entities. Councilwoman Poremba stated how the Committee would like to get the presentation so they have a better idea. She stated that when they have a project, they should start out with where they were headed; see how much they could get from a grant, so they knew what they were doing. Councilwoman Poremba stated how she would like to help with their presentation out as they take the next 4 to 5 months to build the budget. She stated how they could all sit down calmly in order to prioritize the money. Councilman Paul stated how they were always juggling funds. He stated that he will look at the funds one week and the sanitation fund was doing well. Councilman Paul stated how he would look at the Sports Complex Fund and there was \$2.00 in the fund and the following week there was \$56,000.00 in the fund.

Councilman Paul stated that if they have a Police budget and they have a Recreation budget, when they look at the Police budget, they will be able to tell if the police were doing their job because they will be able to see how much fine money they received, \$10,000.00. He stated how that money now goes into the General Fund and nobody even knows. Councilman Paul stated that when the Police come to Council asking for \$6,000.00, they do not have it. He stated how it was the same with Recreation.

Councilwoman Fox stated how everyone received a copy of the plans for the kitchen at the Recreation Center. Councilman Paul stated how the cost was between \$2,000.00 and \$8,000.00. Councilwoman Fox stated how they got prices from two different places for cabinets. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they will need a building permit. Councilman Paul stated how they do not need a building permit. Councilwoman Fox asked why they needed a building permit. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was a public building; commercial building. Councilwoman Fox stated how they might have to comply with ADA specifications. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they will also need a permit for the shed. Councilman Paul stated how he will get one. Councilwoman Fox asked what they needed. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they would have to talk to Mr. Dow to see what was required. She stated how they had already talked to Gene Kennedy. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how there were not be exceeded the Borough, but there would be an inspection fee. She stated how they would need an electrical inspection. She stated how they needed an electrical inspection when they change the lights in the meeting room.

Councilman Sabol asked if they were requesting new appliances. President Hawk stated how he did not think that they were requesting any major appliances. Councilwoman Fox stated about electrical, lighting, sink, flooring and ceiling fan. President Hawk stated about them doing what they needed to do. Councilman Radocha asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner if that pertained to Labor and Industry. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated "yes".

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Sable

Councilman Sabol moved and Councilman Paul seconded to allow the Recreation Commission to move forward with their Kitchen project.

Councilwoman Fox stated how labor was not included and would be an extra cost. Councilwoman Porembo asked if they could get that cost by the end of the month. Councilman Sabol stated that he wanted to wait until they have a labor cost.

Councilman Sabol and Councilman Paul withdrew their motion.

7. BUDGET/ FINANCE

**FRANK JACOBS, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-
CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Porembo stated how the Committee would meet and they will come up with ideas on how to present the budget to all of Council.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she wanted to jump back to Sewer. She stated about the contract with Emory (Water Mechanics). She stated how his current contract will expire August 31, 2020. Councilwoman Fox stated how it will be on the agenda for a vote at their next meeting. Councilman Paul stated how he thought that it was only temporary. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were going to discontinue his services when they had hired Rose Richelo. She stated that when she left, they kept Emory for backup. She stated how they were not paying a full-time employee. Councilman Sabol stated how they had to have a full time employee back at the time. He stated how they were now not replacing her. Councilman Paul stated that since they were shorthanded, he and Councilman Radocha knew of the person who would make a good employee. He stated how they could bring him on as a street worker, used as a floater, instead of hiring another guy. Councilman Paul stated how they originally had four borough workers. He stated how two guys could go one place and the other two guys could go another place; they could get more done.

8. PERSONNEL/ SAFETY

**ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; MARY FOX, CO-
CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS**

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they met with Joe Pilla regards to health care and they will be meeting with him again on August 27th. She stated how they were going to conduct a survey of the employees to get the best healthcare and see about streamlining the insurance.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had met with Grace Whildin and conveyed the Borough's needs. She stated how they purchased a new vacuum. She stated how she has not received any complaints.

Councilwoman Porembo asked if they had gotten any response on the Zoning Hearing Solicitor. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated "not yet".

Mayor Kitchko asked if anyone heard anything from the school. He stated how he has heard that they were tentatively opening on September 8th. Mayor Kitchko stated how he lost one crossing guard in another crossing guard was having some health issues. He stated how did not know if they should try to look for someone for crossing guard duties.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Paul asked where they were going to need crossing guards. Mayor Kitchko stated how it would be in New Columbus and Coal Street. Councilman Paul stated how they were talking about eliminating the stop in New Columbus. He stated that nothing has been confirmed yet. Councilwoman Porembo stated about contracting the school to see what was going on. Mayor Kitchko asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner if she would contact Jessie Walck to see about the starting date for the school. Councilwoman Porembo stated about checking into the start date, bus stops and times.

Councilman Sabol asked what was up with Mr. Staehle. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she knew that he had his other hand done, but nothing more than that. Councilman Sabol stated about contacting his doctors. Councilman Jacobs stated how he was not on Workers Comp. Councilwoman Fox stated that with the Hipa Laws, they would not tell the Borough anything.

Councilwoman Fox asked about opening the office. She stated how they were going to open the church on Sunday. Councilwoman Fox stated how they went to watch a presentation for a sprayer/sanitizer. Councilwoman Porembo stated that when they had talked to Ms. Whildin, they were meeting the requirements with cleaning the tables before and after meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Sabol moved and Councilman Paul seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer