

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 5:30 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

President Hawk stated that they would be holding a brief Executive Session at the end of the meeting for personnel matters.

PURPOSE: Committees/Workshop

1. STREETS FRANK JACOBS, CHAIRMAN; GEORGE SABOL III, CO-
CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA

Councilman Jacobs stated how they would be starting Tippetts Road on Monday. He stated how they were going to lay scratch coat down the middle of the street, where it was really bad. Councilman Jacobs stated how they have to do some milling at the railroad. He stated how he will talk to the representatives from the Railroad at the meeting at Ametek. President Hawk stated how the representative could place a line of the road where they were allowed to mill up to.

Councilman Jacobs stated that the curbing letters were sent out in regards to Rhume Street. He stated how he had asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner to contact Mr. Stempa about doing the job were if not, Mr. Serfass. Council Jacobs stated that they would like to get the curbing installed in order to get the base laid before winter.

Council Jacobs stated how he had finally received the final figures on the truck \$165,888.00 and with the \$70,000.00 down payment it would cost approximately \$14,000.00 a year for seven years.

Councilman Jacobs stated about picking a day to finish the street lights.

Councilman Sabol asked if they had to post the streets for “no parking”, whose responsibility was it to post that street. President Hawk asked what the purpose of posting the street was. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the residents across the street had asked for no parking because they were going to have contractor coming to work at their property and wanted to make sure that there was a place to park. President Hawk stated that they have always done it. He stated how the Borough crew had the signs and the tools to post the “no parking” signs. Councilman Sabol stated how he had received a call that they were requesting that they post the street and that it was not their job.

7. BUDGET/ FRANK JACOBS, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-
PURCHASING CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID HAWK

Dale Kirk was present to review the figures in the 2016 Financial Statement/Audit. Mr. Kirk stated how he wanted to thank them for the opportunity to prepare their financial statements. He stated how the Borough had received a qualified opinion and a clean bill of health. He stated how they did not have any issues with the audit nor did they have any control issues.

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Mr. Kirk stated that on page 7; at the end of the year, counting the proprietary funds, the Borough had almost \$2 million in cash and over half of \$1 million in CDs. He stated that they were adequately funded at the end of 2016. Mr. Kirk stated about the Capital Assets, buildings and equipment, which they did not purchase any new equipment in 2016. He stated that the total assets that the Borough has totals \$8.5 million. Mr. Kirk stated that on page 8 shows them the liabilities, with bills payable around \$37,000.00 and total current liabilities of \$313,840.00, which was good for a municipality of their size. Mr. Kirk stated that the total long term debt was \$1.369 million for the end of 2016, which decreased \$113,000.00 from 2015. Mr. Kirk stated that in the deferred inflow refers to the pension liability. He stated how their pension was well funded. Mr. Kirk stated about the total net position, which was the profit from all of the years; collected taxes, accumulated fixed assets, etc.; was \$6.5 million. Mr. Kirk stated that according to the balance sheet, the Borough had a lot of assets and not a lot of debt in relation to the assets.

Mr. Kirk stated that pages 8 & 9 were based on the accrual basis. He stated that the change in the net position for the governmental activities was \$150,000.00 and for the proprietary activities it was \$347,348.00, which created a net profit of just under half of \$1 million. Mr. Kirk stated that page 10 was as the Borough keeps the records not based on an accrual accounting. He stated how that was just the governmental funds. Mr. Kirk stated that on page 12 was where they would see the increase in the changes in the fund balance (\$113,000.00).

Mr. Kirks stated that on page 14, it was a breakdown of their proprietary funds. He stated about the \$1.394 million in cash and just under half of \$1 million in CDs, which were based on the accrual accounting. Mr. Kirk stated that page 15 were the liabilities, which had just over \$5 million in the net position. He stated how all of the funds were all very healthy. Mr. Kirk stated how page 16 shows the income from 2016, which was \$1.3 million and between page 16 and 17 the expenses, which totaled just a little over \$1 million, which included the depreciation of \$217,000.00. Mr. Kirk stated that on page 18, it shows the net increase in cash and cash equivalents, which was \$579,000.00.

Mr. Kirk stated that in the Borough's pension they held in trust \$1.656 million. He stated that the contributions for 2016 were \$157,000.00 and the market gained \$67,000.00, which with the deductions there was a net gain in position of approximately \$170,000.00. Mr. Kirk stated that on page 44 was their budget versus actual. He stated how their revenue exceeded the budget by \$108,494.00 and their expenses were \$43,505.00 less than budgeted. Councilwoman Fox stated how she would like to thank the Budget Committee for holding them on line. Mr. Kirk stated how they have approximately 36 municipalities and some of them were really challenging with what they were doing. He stated how Secretary/Treasurer Ahner does know how to make the entries and understands what was in there; whereas 10 of the 36 would not know if there were errors or if money was being stolen. He stated how they were good people, but they did not know a clue as to what was going on. Mr. Kirk stated how they were lucky to have someone who knew what they were doing.

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4. PUBLIC SAFETY

**ROSEMARY POREMBO CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK
CO-CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX**

Councilwoman Porembo stated that they needed a generator at the New Columbus Fire Company because the Borough had classified them as an Emergency Shelter. She stated how they had told them that they would be doing it in two parts when they had met prior. She stated that generator had been purchased and placed at a cost of \$7,200.00 (\$6,700.00 insurance & \$500.00 Borough). Councilwoman Porembo stated that phase 2 was the extra tank and the line, which they wanted changed. She stated how they had look to see if it could be done in a different manner other than what Dulcey Electric had proposed.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how Dulcey Electric quoted one extra 120 gallon tank and to change the gas lines to stainless steel at a cost of \$1,185.00. She stated how they had gotten a quote from Fegley the two 120 gallon tanks were needed, filled, and hooked up to the existing line (adding lines to the generator to the new tanks) at a cost of \$1,750.00. Jim Nardozzi asked why they were installing two new tanks and removing the old tank. Councilwoman Porembo stated how Fegley had noted that they would need two additional tanks for the size of the generator. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was something with the flow in the pressure to make the generator work properly. Mr. Nardozzi stated how that was the problem with the first generator. Councilman Jacobs stated how they have three at the Recreation Center and four at the Police Station. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she was told by Fegley and Liberty that if they did not have an adequate supply of propane, when the generator would need to run; it would freeze up because it would not be able to vaporize fast enough.

Mr. Nardozzi stated how Dulcey's tank was \$535.00 compared to Fegley's tank at \$800.00. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if Dulcey was going to fill the tanks. Mr. Nardozzi stated "no". Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Fegley's tank would be filled. She stated that she did not know how much it would cost to fill the tank. Mr. Nardozzi stated that they could call anybody to fill the tank. Councilwoman Porembo stated that would be the same with Fegley's tanks, but they would initially be filled by Fegley. Mr. Nardozzi stated how Dulcey had wanted a stainless steel line. Councilwoman Porembo stated that Fegley had told her that everything that was there was fine. Mr. Nardozzi stated how he did not know if it was a warranty issue with getting corrosion from an iron pipe. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how both vendors had told her that copper line pipe was fine. Councilman Jacobs stated that neither of their generators have a stainless steel line.

Joe Folk stated that he would think that carbon steel would give off contaminants were as a stainless steel had a higher purity with the gas running through it. He stated how carbon steel could corrode on the inside and flake, which would get into the gas stream; whereas, stainless steel was not going to do that, it would give them a much higher purity flow. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they could ask them to change it, if it was needed. Mr. Nardozzi stated how Dulcey could add another tank. There was a discussion concerning prices, the fittings and a trap on the line.

Mr. Folk stated how he was going to play devil's advocate. He stated that tended 12 years ago, the Borough had a generator installed at the New Columbus Fire Company. He stated that since that time, all of the servicing and propane had been handled by the Fire Company.

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Mr. Folk stated how the generator was fried by Mother Nature, which their insurance covered \$6,700.00 with the Borough paying \$500.00. He stated how they were now in negotiations with who should hook up the new tank or run the lines. He stated that since the Fire Company handled it since its inception and they pay for everything. He asked if they could assume that since the Borough went to bid to get who the Borough wants to install the tanks and run the lines that the Borough was going to pay for the servicing of the generator and the filling of the tanks when needed; instead of letting the Fire Company go with who they feel should install it, because they had taken care of it for the last several years.

Councilwoman Fox asked if the generator was ever used for any other reason. Mr. Folk stated how it was only run on routine maintenance. Councilwoman Fox asked if it was ever used for something other than a power outage. Mr. Folk stated how it has not been used for a power outage, unless they were up there and the power went out. He stated how the Borough has never activated it as an emergency shelter for it to be online and people stay at the Fire Station. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Borough probably never discussed it with the Fire Company as to who was going to be responsible for the maintenance. Councilwoman Fox stated that if the Borough would decide who they were going to get . . . She asked if the generator was serviced once a year. Mr. Nardozzi stated how it was serviced once a year unless something happen in the mean time. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Borough crew services their generators at the recreation Center and the Police Station. Councilwoman Fox stated how they could do the same thing at the Fire Company.

Councilman Sabol asked Mr. Nardozzi if he knew how much it cost to have it serviced and to keep the tanks full for a year. Mr. Nardozzi stated that if there was no power outage, they would not have to fill the tanks. Councilman Jacobs asked if they pay a flat fee for their present supplier of propane. Mr. Nardozzi stated how they have a contract. There was a discussion about who fills the tanks, how often and what the cost was to have them filled. Councilwoman Poremba stated how she had agreed with Councilwoman Fox, that if it was the Borough saying that they needed a generator for an emergency shelter, then it should be the Borough paying to maintain it. She stated how they need to decide which direction they want to go. President Hawk stated about looking to see what it would cost from Fegley to install the line and they could check to see what it would cost to fill the tank. He stated how they could go with the better deal. He stated how they would then look at who would be responsible for the maintenance.

Councilman Sabol asked if it was a lighting strike that hit their generator. Mr. Nardozzi stated how it was a power surge. Councilman Sabol stated that if they were going to take over the responsibility, were they going to be responsible for the insurance. Mr. Nardozzi stated how he had Dulcey install a spike and surge protector on the unit. Mr. Folk stated that in regards to the insurance, he would think that everything would stay the same. He stated how they would just turn over the service bills to the Borough.

Councilwoman Poremba stated how they were going to look toward Mr. McArdle to help revise the Burning Ordinance. She stated how they had taken some complaints about their current ordinance, which were some of things that they might need to change. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they did receive a copy of Hazleton's Burning Ordinance.

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Mr. McArdle stated how Councilman DeMelfi had brought up about multiple burning pits on one property. He stated how some of the complaints were in regards to smoke and time. Mr. McArdle stated how they just had people burning whenever/whatever they wanted. He stated how they had witnessed a property owner throwing petroleum onto the fire to enhance the burning. Mr. McArdle stated how one thing was education. He stated how some of the police officers were trying to get an understanding of the enforcement part of it and the residents did not understand what had to be done. Mr. McArdle stated how there were things that they could enhance; such as bond fires and/or propane furnaces. He stated how he had prepared some points, which would cut apart the present ordinance.

Mr. McArdle stated that his suggestion to Council was to keep the Ordinance as it was until the end of the year. He stated that until they would prepare and advertise the ordinance, they would be at that point anyway. Mr. McArdle stated how he would also like to see a full run just to see what other problems they would come up with. He stated how they still have the leaves to encounter, which were not allowed to be burned under the current ordinance. Mr. McArdle stated about Public Safety meeting to start working on the revised ordinance in order to have it ready to go by January. Councilwoman Poremba stated how it sounded good to let it go through a cycle to see what other issues they might encounter. There was a brief discussion concerning property owners vs. property, what could/could not be burned, distances from structures and roadways and outdoor furnaces. Mr. McArdle stated how they have two different areas, wooded and residential. He stated about a happy medium for both. Councilwoman Fox stated that the Public Safety would work with Mr. McArdle to get everything worked out. Councilman DeMelfi stated how there were people making pathways through the woods and starting bond fires. Councilwoman Poremba stated how the Public Safety will meet to review all of the complaints and create a packet to have Solicitor Yurchak review to see what would need to be done/changed. She stated about making sure that there was something in the ordinance to make sure that the Police were able to do their job.

Mr. McArdle stated how they were sending out their first letter in regards to the Avoidable Alarm Ordinance.

Mr. McArdle gave an update on the ladder truck.

President Hawk stated about the meeting scheduled at Ametek for 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

2. SEWER MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO- CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA

Councilwoman Fox stated how all of the Sewer projects for the Summer had been completed. Councilwoman Poremba asked how it was working out for the Sokol Club and tying into the Sewer main. Councilwoman Fox stated how they have not tied into the main line yet. She stated how they were not having any sewer problems at that time. President Hawk stated how they had reconnected the four properties and everything was flowing fine.

Councilman Jacobs stated how he received a call on Saturday about a sink hole at 113 E. Railroad Street. He stated how they feel that it was a sewer line problem and were going to take care of it by the end of the week.

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3. BUILDINGS

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

Councilman Sabol stated about the lights for the meeting room. He stated how they had time to order the lights once all the projects and grass cutting were done for the season. Councilman Sabol stated about the lights quotes from Friedman Electric and from Lowes. He stated how they were also going to check with Home Depot to see what they had as well.

Councilman Sabol stated how Mayor Kitchko had some bench ends that they were going to clean up to get placed at the front of the building.

5. SANITATION

**GEORGE SABOL, CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX, CO-CHAIRWOMAN
ROSEMARY POREMBO**

Councilman Sabol stated about the dumpsters on Locust Street and how they were not emptied until Friday last week. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the bins were not emptied until 4:30 p.m. on Friday. She stated how she noticed a Bio-Haz box truck backing up to the bins. She stated how he had filled two of the dumpsters with card board and 2.5 gallon buckets. Councilwoman Fox stated how Bio-Haz should be notified about filling the dumpsters and how industries should have their own dumpsters. Councilman Jacobs stated how Nesquehoning True Value also uses the dumpsters.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they should send letters to the businesses that the dumpsters were for residential use only. She stated about posting the dumpsters as well. She stated that if they were to see that the businesses were using the dumpsters then the Police would be citing them. Councilwoman Porembo stated about a written policy regarding the use of the dumpsters. Councilman Jacobs asked how they were supposed to regulate it. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they should get some cameras posted to be able to catch who was dumping.

Councilman DeMelfi stated how they had also talked about removing them all together. Councilman Jacobs stated that if Solomon would send a renewal contract, did they want to sign it or did they want to just let it go. He stated how they know how much some of the businesses were putting in the bins. He stated how he felt that some of the others were coming from out of town. Councilwoman Porembo asked when the bins were placed there years ago, what was the goal. She asked if they had too much garbage in the town. President Hawk stated that the County had initially placed the recycle bins on Locust Street. He stated how they had kept it going to keep the tonnage down. President Hawk stated how people still had wanted to do it, because it was helping the environment.

President Hawk stated about the tipping fees that the Borough had to pay. He stated how they do not have to worry about them under the current contract. He stated how it could impact the Borough the next time they need to bid for a contract. Councilman Sabol stated how there were three ways to go with the recycling. He stated how they could leave it the way it was and deal with all the nonsense. He stated about checking to see if it was worth all of the aggravation. Councilman Sabol stated that they could do away with it all together. He stated how they might be able to relocate the bins up by the Borough garage, where there were already cameras in place.

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Councilman Sabol stated about looking into other options before putting money out for chain link fencing or other camera. Councilman Jacobs stated about the east end of the garage. Mayor Kitchko stated how they could eliminate the recycling of cardboard. He stated how that was most of their problem. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if they would restrict the recycling to just residential, would they end up with more garbage. President Hawk stated that if they were putting out more than they were allotted, the business might have to get a dumpster. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they should get a letter out to every business restricting the use of the recycling bins.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the cameras that they were getting in Summit Hill for the ball park. She stated how it was costing them a little over \$3,000.00 for the camera system. Councilman Sabol stated how they could gate it off and restrict the times. President Hawk stated how that could be an inconvenience to the residents. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they had also received a quote from Cougles Recycling. President Hawk stated how they would have to talk to Solicitor Yurchak to see if they would have to pass something in order to cite the businesses for dumping their recycling.

Councilwoman Poremba asked if they were going to have another electronics recycling event in October/November. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she could contact them to get something scheduled.

6. RECREATION MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; GEORGE SABOL III, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

Bill Santore stated how he was the Borough’s representative to the Dimmick Memorial Library. He stated that he wanted to ask them to consider increasing the amount that they were contributing to at least \$2,000.00. Mr. Santore stated how it was an embarrassment sitting on the board when they were waiting for the Borough’s \$500.00 donation. He stated how individuals were donating \$500.00. Councilman Sabol stated how they would discuss it. Mr. Santore stated that he would appreciate it. He stated how they did not receive the donation yet for 2017.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Recreation Commission had canceled their meeting for August. She stated that their next meeting would be held in October.

Councilman Sabol asked if they were going to consider donating money to the Christmas lights. He stated that they did not have to decide then, but he wanted them to consider it. Councilman Sabol read a copy of the letter that the Christmas lighting committee was sending to the business owners requesting the donations. He stated how they had plans to sit up at Rednar’s and to also sit at the Fireman Picnic. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should concentrate on one side of the street. He stated how they were going to set up a meeting with the sales man.

8. PERSONNEL/ SAFETY ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; MARY FOX, CO-CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS

No report.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. for personnel reasons. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilman Radocha seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer