

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
Councilmen DeMelfi and Sabol were absent.

PURPOSE: General Purposes

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

Councilman Radocha stated how the trucks took a beating during the last snow storm. He stated how most of them were down and in need of repair. Councilman Radocha stated that they were talking about staggering/switching the start times for the snow storms. Councilwoman Fox stated that Councilman Radocha did a good job on changing their start time on the first storm they had. Councilman Jacobs stated how they have to discuss in executive session about the teamster's contract negotiations. Mayor Kitchko stated that he only had two comments regarding the snow plowing and they both told him that the Borough crew did an excellent job. Councilman Jacobs stated that they did a good job on the day of the snow storm, but that was because a lot of people did move their cars. He stated that people did not move the next day and the Borough crew was not able to get things cleaned up as well. Secretary/ Treasurer Ahner stated that they were pushing back in the areas that they could, but with the trucks being down, they were just trying to get to the problem areas in town. Councilman Jacobs stated that by the insurance company on Catawissa Street, it was a mess. President Hawk stated that none of the cars moved.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the police had ticketed several cars during the last snow storm. She stated how that might have contributed to people moving during the snow storm. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the most recent storm might not have complied with their snow ordinance (plowable snow of 3" or more) to prompt some of the people to move the next day. She stated that the time for the people to move their vehicles was also from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Councilman Radocha stated about how the trucks were down. There was discussion about damages to the Borough vehicles and having vehicle logs. Councilwoman Fox stated about the pre-trip inspections. Councilwoman Porembo stated how that was something that they had talked to the Teamster representative about at a previous meeting.

Councilman Jacobs stated about purchasing a new pickup truck for the Borough crew. He stated how the Chevy was 15 years old. Councilman Jacobs stated about maintaining the equipment. Councilwoman Fox stated that when they do their pre-trip inspections, they would notice that there was something wrong with the vehicle prior to taking it out on the road. Councilman Jacobs stated about the amount of time that they were out when they were plowing snow. Councilman Radocha stated how they were taking full advantage of the overtime during the snow storms. He stated how he had also told them to fix the issues that were damaging the plows. Councilman Jacobs stated that they were looking at approximately \$40,000.00 for a new truck.

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Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked who shoveled the sidewalks at the Recreation Center. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Recreation Commission should hire someone to clean off the sidewalks at the Recreation Center. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked why the Commission had to get someone to clean the sidewalks. Councilman Jacobs stated that the Commission purchased the snow blower. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that it would then belong to the Borough and the Borough should be able to use it. She stated about utilizing the part-timers that they hired to shovel the sidewalks off at Borough properties. Councilwoman Fox stated that they should not have to use part-timers if they have 5 Borough workers who were capable of doing it.

Councilman Jacobs asked if they wanted to look into purchasing a pickup truck. Councilwoman Poremba stated how it was the management of what they needed. She stated that they have to consider the goal of the purchase of the truck. Councilwoman Poremba stated that if they would need a new pickup truck in order to plow and maintain some of the streets that they were not able to do with the larger trucks. She stated that they need to design something that was going to work on those streets. Councilwoman Poremba stated that if the budget was not going to allow them to purchase a new pickup truck, then they might look into something used. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she and Councilman Jacobs had gone over some figures and they should be able to come up with enough to purchase a new pickup truck. Councilman Jacobs stated that they could put both of the vehicles up for sale on Municibid. President Hawk stated that if they need a truck, they need a truck.

Councilwoman Poremba stated about the blighted property on High Street. She asked if they would condemn the property and take possession, would they have the funds to demolish it. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she had heard that they were in the process of trying to sell the property. She stated that they could get in touch with the realtor to see what was going on with the property. Councilwoman Poremba stated that she would still like to get information about blighted properties and keep up with it.

Councilwoman Fox asked if they could give them a schedule as to where they should be starting and where they should be plowing. She stated that the driver in Hauto, should be plowing the Hauto Fire Company; the driver in town, should be plowing the Nesquehoning Fire Company; and the driver in New Columbus, should be plowing the New Columbus Fire Company. Councilwoman Fox stated that if they were given directives and they do not follow them. . . President Hawk stated that when they tell them, they say that they already know it and that was what they do. Councilwoman Poremba stated that it might be better that they all see it in writing. She stated that even if the Borough crew should tell them that they know that it has to be done, Council will also know what was supposed to be done. Councilwoman Fox stated that if they were not doing what they were supposed to be doing, then they should be reprimanded.

Councilman Jacobs stated about the damage that was done to the Chevy pickup truck's plow and with it being so old, they decided not to get it fixed. Councilwoman Fox asked why there were not being reprimanded when something like that was happening. Councilwoman Poremba asked if there was a policy in place concerning accidents with Borough vehicles and having to get tested. Councilman Jacobs stated "yes". Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that usually for accidents, yes they were supposed to go for a test. Councilwoman Poremba asked if they were not going. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that if they were not reporting the incidents, they were not able to send them. Councilman Jacobs stated that nobody was sent for a test when the pole was smashed. Councilman Radocha stated that nobody was sent for a test when they hit the gate.

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Councilman Jacobs stated that they will have to figure out who they will be sending to the training of the street sweeper once they get the date.

2. SEWER

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

Councilwoman Fox stated that they were redoing the discharge hose on the back of the Vac Truck rather than taking it to the garage. She stated about the tanks on the Vac Truck. Councilman Radocha stated that they should be able to find someone to line those tanks. He stated that they will look into it himself.

Councilwoman Fox stated that Martins was in to remove the gear box with the crane. She stated that she would like to talk to Mike Tirpak to see what had to be done before Eastern Environmental starts working down at the Sewer Plant again on April 15th. Councilwoman Fox stated that they might have to meet with the contractor prior to April 15th to inform them of what they found with the repairs that were done in 2018 that will have to be re-done in 2019.

Councilwoman Fox stated that they had an issue with a tank on a property on Railroad Street. She stated that it was a double house and the one half was being sold. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that from her understanding, the toilets were going into a tank, but everything else was going into the sewer system. Councilwoman Fox stated that Mr. Pilla was going to talk to the property owner that was selling the house.

Councilman Jacobs asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner about the printout for the adjustments for the Sewer/Sanitation. He asked if the certified letters that were being mailed out were increasing or decreasing. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the certifies that were mailed in February were less than the amount sent out in January. She stated how they fluctuate from month to month. Councilwoman Fox asked if the auditors were requesting that printout. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated "yes".

Councilwoman Fox stated about the amendment ordinances for the payments for Sewer and Sanitation. She stated about it being paid in the office on the last business day of the month. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that payments need to be in the office on the last business day of the month; however, they will still have the option to pay online until the last day of the month. Councilwoman Fox stated that she would call Solicitor Yurchak to get the wording changed.

3. BUILDINGS

**GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; DAVID DeMELFI,
CO-CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA**

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she was having a small problem with heat in her office and then throughout the building. She stated that they have gotten it all straightened out.

Councilwoman Fox stated about the quote for the carpet in the apartment. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she had not received anything yet.

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4. PUBLIC SAFETY

**ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID DeMELFI
CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Porembo stated that the Committee would be meeting on Thursday, February 21st at 5:30 p.m. She stated about calling all of the fire companies to be in attendance that night.

5. SANITATION

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated about Councilwoman Fox taking care of the changes with Solicitor Yurchak on the wording for the amendment ordinance.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if they had heard anything back from the gentleman who gave the presentation at the COG Meeting. Councilwoman Fox stated that she had not heard anything from him yet. She stated that she would try to get in touch with him.

6. RECREATION

**MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; GEORGE SABOL III, CO-CHAIRMAN;
DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Fox stated that the committee had met that afternoon. She stated that they were looking for the latest by-laws. Councilwoman Fox stated that she wanted to get an agenda in order to meet again with the committee so that they could schedule a meeting with the commission. Councilman Jacobs stated about getting copies of the rental forms. He stated that he was told that the Recreation Center was booked for every weekend in March.

Mayor Kitchko stated that there would be a representative attending the February's Regular Meeting from the Anthracite Little League to ask about the backstops at the Sports Complex Field. President Hawk stated that he did not know which field they were planning on using them. He stated that they wanted to know who put them there and who paid for them. Councilman Jacobs stated that he did not know if they received a grant for those backstops. Mayor Kitchko stated that there was grant funds involved. Councilman Jacobs stated that they should submit something in writing.

7. BUDGET/ PURCHASING

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

No report.

8. PERSONNEL/ SAFETY

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated that they have a new Workers Compensation Physician's list that will need to be approved at their next meeting.

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Councilwoman Porembo stated about the revision to the Light Duty – Restricted Duty Policy.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she had a meeting with Greg Guldin from their insurance company and he was going to have someone also take a look at the policy to make sure that it did not restrict the Borough in any way.

Councilwoman Porembo stated that they were looking to hold a Personnel Safety Committee Meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Councilman Jacobs stated about the American Cancer Society Collection so that they could vote on that at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. for personnel reasons. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Porembo seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer