

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Councilmen DeMelfi, Radocha and Sabol were absent.

PURPOSE: Committees/Workshop

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

Councilman Jacobs stated how the Borough crew had finished the LED lights at the Recreation Center and the Police Station with the exception of the smaller lights.

President Hawk asked Councilman Jacobs if they were able to do anything on Loggie Road that day he had called him. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were not able to do much because the trough it usually flows down was frozen over. Councilwoman Poremba stated how it had probably rectified itself.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they had picked up the bucket truck (van) last week. He stated how they wanted to use it to take the Christmas lights down already, but he had told them to wait another week.

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

Councilwoman Fox stated about the blower vents on the outside of the building for unit #2 had an offset and they had to get a different flange made for it, which was supposed to come the next day.

Councilwoman Fox stated about the thermal imaging camera for \$373.00, which hooks right up to the phone. She stated how Mr. Pilla had Martins do a thermal imagine on one of the main power sources and they had found that the rubber was burnt off of it. Councilwoman Fox stated how he would like to have the other two replaced, which the replacement would be with a simpler unit and a softer start at a cost of \$2,980.00 for both of them. She stated how they had changed the one for unit #3.

Councilwoman Fox stated how Martins tested the motor for the compressor and it was good. She stated how they think that the pulley was too small for the motor, which was making the motor turn faster than the pump was turning. She stated how they were replacing that.

Councilwoman Fox stated how the disconnect boxes at the blowers were Westinghouse and they could not get that brand anymore. She stated that Martins could replace just the inside of the boxes for \$600.00 for both of them. Councilwoman Fox stated how they had taken unit #2 apart to replace the stuff in unit #3 (third blower). She stated that once that would be completed, all of the blowers would basically be rebuilt.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

President Hawk stated about the request from PPL to run an overhead service line off of the Borough’s service line. He stated how they would be running it to the construction trailer. Councilman Jacobs stated how it would not interfere with anything.

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

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the conditions of the apartment. She stated about giving the tenants a 24 hour notice letter informing them that the Borough would be inspecting the apartment. She stated that according to their lease agreement, they have to give the 24 hour notice and that they also have to keep the apartment clean and sanitary. Councilman Jacobs asked if they were up to date on their rent. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were making payments and that they were up to date with their rent.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she would post the property on Friday to notify them that they would be having an inspection on Monday. She stated that she would like someone else from the Borough to accompany her on the inspection. Council members had a discussion concerning the inspection.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they had an issue with a frozen line at the Recreation Center. Mayor Kitchko stated about the heat at the Police Station as well. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was the blow-off that froze. He stated how it was right above the lady’s bathroom and that it had happened before. He stated how they had now left it open with an access panel in the event it would happen again. Mayor Kitchko stated how the heat was now working at the police department. He stated how the motor went because it was not able to keep up with the really cold weather. He stated how they were going to keep the new heaters over there in case it would happen again.

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the changes to the Burning Ordinances:

Article 2 – added the words – bonfire, open burning, operator, owner, portable outdoor fireplace, premises, public way, and recreational fire

Article 3 – new – prohibited open burning

Article 5, section b – changed wording – 30’ to 20’ for any dwelling and added the wording “20’ from public or private right-of-way”

Section 5c (2) was added

Section 5g – added new wording

Sections 5m through 5w were added

Article 6, section b was added

Article 8 – new – Extinguishment Authority

Article 10 – wording added – “hot ashes, cinders, smoldering coals or greasy or oily materials subject to spontaneous ignition shall not be deposited in a non-combustible receptacle or within ten (10) feet of other combustibles.”

Article 12 – Violations and Penalties – changed of wording.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

John McArdle stated how he had received an email from Councilman DeMelfi while he was on vacation concerning changes that he would like to see to the Burning Ordinance. He stated how Councilman DeMelfi wanted to have all of the information to be able to include it in the Lake's News Letter for April. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they would take a look at his remarks.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they will have to get another committee meeting scheduled to discuss Act 172. She stated how Mayor Kitchko had made mention that another municipality was going to donate additional funds to the fire company rather than adopt the Act 172.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they have to look at what their goal was. She stated that if their goal was to increase volunteers for the fire companies, she did not know if giving additional funding to the fire companies was going to help increase their volunteers. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she needed to reach out to the Fire Chiefs to find out what was important to the Fire Companies. Mr. McArdle stated that the purpose of the Act was to encourage people to volunteer. He stated that giving the funds to the fire company was not going to increase their volunteers.

Councilwoman Porembo stated that as they were looking at where their funds were with the taxes, it was getting harder and harder to maintain three fire companies. She stated how it was not a popular thing to say, but they had to look at reality. She stated how they have to look, going forward on either how to combine the fire companies or move forward with equipment and vehicles, because that will come to a head one day. Mr. McArdle asked how they were going to entice a younger person to do something. He stated how he really did not see anything that was out there for encouragement. Councilman Jacobs stated about getting numbers off of the Fire Companies. Mr. McArdle asked how they were going to track it. Councilwoman Porembo stated how that was left to the Fire Chiefs. Mr. McArdle stated how they would look to the Public Safety Committee for guidance. He stated how they also have to consider who all would be eligible for it. President Hawk stated how it would be good to schedule another meeting to come up with the frame work of what they would consider qualifications. He stated that once they determine what the qualifications were they could figure out how many individuals were qualified. President Hawk stated about getting sample ordinances that have been adopted in other municipalities.

Mr. McArdle stated how they have to schedule an appeal hearing because they had a request from 90 E. Catawissa Street (Nesquehoning School Apartments). He stated that in December, Council had directed him to contact Barry Isett & Associates concerning the matter, which he did. Mr. McArdle stated how he wanted the apartment placed on a Supervisory Mode, whereas if the alarm would go off, it would only go off at that apartment. He stated how it would not sound a general alarm until the fire increased or caused the sprinkler system to go off. Mr. McArdle stated how they had cited NFPA 72 ordinance, which states how it would not be permissible. He stated how they need to schedule a hearing. Mr. McArdle stated how he received a call from Kistler O'Brien asking what the hold was up on their permit. He stated how he had contacted Tim Dow, Barry Isett & Associates and there was some kind of mix-up because Carl Faust had picked up permit application. He stated that Barry Isett & Associates had washed their hands of it because it was now in the hands of Mr. Faust. Councilman Jacobs asked how Mr. Faust ended up with the permit application. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she was not aware that there was a permit application submitted, which was dated December 27, 2017.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that when the office receives an application, they forwarded to the Zoning Officer, Gene Kennedy, who reviews the application, signs off and returns it to the Borough Office. She stated that once it was returned to the Borough, it gets forwarded to the BCO (inspector). She stated how the application was earmarked to be forwarded to Carl Faust. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the person who submitted the application has the right to choose who they want to use as their inspector. She stated the how she did not know if it inspector was chosen or if not, that Mr. Kennedy had just forwarded to Mr. Faust because he was the primary inspector for the Borough. Mr. McArdle stated how he does know that Mr. Faust had dealt with the property from the start. President Hawk stated that if they had Barry Isett involved, it should go to Barry Isett. He stated that if they had started with Barry Isett that it should continue with them and not be jumping back and forth. President Hawk stated how they should contact the applicant to see if they had requested Mr. Faust and if they did, it was fine, but if they did not, they will need to contact Mr. Faust to get the application returned to the Borough. Councilwoman Fox asked who was going to contact the respective parties. Mr. McArdle stated how he was not going to call them. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she did not have the contact information. Mr. McArdle stated that he would get her the contact name and phone numbers.

Mr. McArdle stated how they have to move forward with scheduling a hearing with the Nesquehoning School House Apartments and Attorney Carol Walbert. He stated that they have had 9 avoidable alarms and their bill was \$17,500.00. He stated how he did not know if it reset in January, but they did not have any so far in 2018. Mr. McArdle stated how he had a second property owner who will be requesting a hearing from 1 W. Garibaldi Avenue, which they were at \$2,500.00. President Hawk stated how he would get in touch with Solicitor Yurchak to get a hearing scheduled. Mr. McArdle stated how they had requested a hearing in November 2017. President Hawk stated that according to Solicitor Yurchak's emails, they were willing to wait because of the pending alarm system issue. Mr. McArdle stated how Solicitor Yurchak had shared some emails with him and it looked as if they thought that the Borough was holding up their permit, which he did not even know that they had filed an application for a permit. President Hawk stated how they should at least get the hearing scheduled. Mr. McArdle stated how Solicitor Yurchak had given him some available dates. He stated that their common dates of availability were January 30th and February 7th. Mr. McArdle stated that he was asking Council not to let them get away scot-free.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had received some information that one of the police cruisers was sideswiped last Wednesday. She stated that as soon as she receives all of the information, she will be contacting the insurance company. She stated that they had received an estimate from Kovatch Collision Center. President Hawk stated how it was parked on the side of the road with Officer Wuttke still in the car. Mayor Kitchko stated how Lansford was handling the case and that they could call them to get a copy of the report.

5. SANITATION DAVID DeMELFI, CHAIRMAN; GEORGE SABOL, CO-CHAIRMAN, ROSEMARY POREMBO

No report.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Borough has not received any copies of the rental forms for the Recreation Center. She stated how they will be holding their meeting on February 5, 2018 and she will once again be bringing it to their attention. President Hawk stated how they bring it up at every meeting. Councilwoman Fox stated how the Borough was covering the insurance for the building as well as all of the utilities. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they should hand them a letter in regards to the insurance and the rentals. She asked what the big mystery was about the rentals.

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

Councilman Jacobs stated how they had voted last year to purchase a new truck, which the chassis should be delivered by the end of the month. He stated how they had talked about borrowing money from with Sanitation or Sewer. He stated how they would pay it back over 7 years at 1% interest, which was more than they were getting from the bank. Councilwoman Porembo asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner which fund would be better. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how either fund would be able to loan the General Fund the funds. Councilman Jacobs stated how there were CDs that they could use as well. Councilwoman Porembo asked if they will have to make that motion at the Regular Meeting. Councilman Jacobs stated how they might need to pay for it before the next meeting. President Hawk stated how the Budget/Purchasing Committee can figure it out and then they can ratify the actions at the next meeting if they have to.

Councilman Jacobs asked Mayor Kitchko why it was needed to purchase a new rifle for the police department and at what cost. Mayor Kitchko stated how it was not a rifle; it was for a shot gun. He stated how they had the money in the 2017 budget. Mayor Kitchko stated how it was a weapon that they use in a lot of the searches of the drug houses. Councilman Jacobs stated how they had purchased two new ones. Mayor Kitchko stated "rifles". He stated how that was a shot gun. Councilman Jacobs asked what the figure was on it. Mayor Kitchko stated how it was less than \$1,000.00.

Councilman Jacobs stated about the excess fire arms that were in the basement. Mayor Kitchko asked about the excess . . . Councilman Jacobs stated how there were two pistols, which were supposed to be in the storage room. He stated how they were Borough pistols that were never used. Mayor Kitchko asked if they were hand guns that they were using for duty. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were old hand guns. He stated that the chief had picked them up and was supposed to have somebody look at them. Councilman Jacobs asked if they were still at the police station or if they walked. Mayor Kitchko stated that he would contact the chief, but they should be at the police station. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were supposed to get some prices.

Councilman Jacobs stated about getting the gun cleaning area set up over at the police station to be able to free up space in the basement at the Borough office. Mayor Kitchko stated how the Borough crew was supposed to be bringing stuff over. Councilman Jacobs stated that when he had talked to them the other day, they knew nothing about it.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Mayor Kitchko stated that he did not tell them to do anything. He stated that Officer Breiner would appreciate being able to clean the firearms at the Police Department rather than dragging everything over to the Borough office.

Mayor Kitchko asked about the other hand guns. President Hawk stated how they were older guns. He stated that they had tried once or twice to sell them but they did not get bids on them. Councilman Jacobs stated that about 3 - 4 years ago, the chief had come back and told them that there was rust on them. He stated how he was asking what happened to the fire arms. Mayor Kitchko stated how he would check. President Hawk stated how they were Colt revolvers. Councilman Jacobs stated how one was in better shape. He stated how they were never used. Mayor Kitchko asked if they were confiscated. President Hawk stated "no". Councilman Jacobs stated how they were purchased by the Borough.

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated that they have a meeting scheduled for the police negotiations.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the rates they had received for the Life Insurance and STD/LTD Insurance. She stated that both rates they received were cheaper than what they were paying now. She stated about the rates that they were paying at the current time. President Hawk stated about the additional items that were included on the one quote that the Borough would not actually pay for.

Councilman Jacobs asked what the status was with the chief. Mayor Kitchko stated how he had an appointment scheduled. He stated how they were going to lose their Workers Compensation Insurance. Councilwoman Fox stated how it had happened to them once before. Councilman Jacobs stated about allowing the chief to come back on light duty. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that if they do it for one, they have to do it for all. Councilman Jacobs stated that if there was light duty available. President Hawk stated that in the chief's position, there was light duty available for an administrative chief. Councilwoman Porembo asked if they would have to add that into their contract. Councilman Jacobs stated about the lawsuit.

Councilman Jacobs asked about the part-time officers applications. Mayor Kitchko stated how they were working on the first background check. He stated how they had looked at the applications and picked the one that they thought would be the best candidate. Councilman Jacobs stated about getting the part-time officers involved in the code. Mayor Kitchko stated how he did not know if they wanted to hire someone for the summer time to handle code, grass and weeds.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilwoman Fox seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer