

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

The Meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m.; however, a quorum of Council was not present until 6:45 p.m.

An informational session was held in regards to the Electrical Co-op prior to having a quorum of Council.

PURPOSE: Committees/Workshop

1. STREETS DON DeMARCO, CHAIRMAN; DAVID DeMELFI, CO-CHAIRMAN;
GEORGE SABOL, III

President Hawk stated about the Facebook nonsense in regards to the snow plowing. Councilwoman Porembo asked if they had a list of people who were able to come out to help in the event the Borough Workers were on vacation. President Hawk stated how they do have a list of eligible people who could be called in the event of an emergency. He stated how nobody called them, but he was also not aware that Andy Staehle was out by himself. He stated that when he heard that Mr. Staehle was out by himself and saw what he did, he thought that Andy did a really good job. Councilman Jacobs stated how one of the employees had said that if it snows, he was going to come out. He stated how that person did not come out and also did not turn in his time off slip until after the fact.

Councilman Jacobs stated how he started to receive complaints, the day after, because they were pushing everything back. Councilwoman Porembo stated that she thought how he did a nice job the next day. Councilman Jacobs stated how Councilman DeMarco should talk to the employee and let him know that it could not happen again. Councilman Sabol stated how he had talked to the employee and the employee told him that he had called Councilman DeMarco and that Councilman DeMarco had told him that it was under control. He stated how he was not going to argue back and forth but he did take issue with the employee filling out the time off slip after the fact.

Councilman Jacobs stated how he received two complaints about parking on Park Avenue. Mayor Kitchko stated how there were no signs posted for no parking. President Hawk stated how the no parking would have to be listed in the ordinance. He stated how they would still have the Large Vehicle Ordinance to go by. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Large Vehicle Ordinance states about only being parked for 48 hours.

2. SEWER MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO-CHAIRMAN;
GEORGE SABOL, III

Councilman Jacobs stated how he was going to check with the union to see if they were able to give Rose Chapello a partial raise, due to the fact that she still needed to get her CDL. President Hawk stated how he did not see a problem as long as the union agreed. Councilwoman Porembo stated that if the union was going to file a grievance, they had to weigh out the cost of the legal fees. Councilman Jacobs stated that if the union was not in favor, then she would have to wait until all the requirements were met.

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Councilman Jacobs stated how he had received notification from Mr. Pilla that the compressor was shot at the sewer plant. He stated how Mr. Pilla had given the quotes to Councilwoman Fox. He stated how the cost of the air compressor, just the pump, was approximately \$380.00 - \$400.00.

Councilman Jacobs stated that Mr. Pilla had also informed him that there was a set/string of lights (10 lights) in the blower room, which the electrical ballasts were not working. He stated how it was getting harder to find the light bulbs for those lights. Councilman Jacobs stated how Mr. Pilla had looked into alternate LED lighting and they were approximately \$80.00 per light. Councilman Sabol stated how he did not have a problem with the compressor or the lights.

3. BUILDINGS GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID DeMELFI

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she sent an email out to all of Council concerning the furnace in the basement. She stated how she had contacted Councilman Sabol and he had been down to the office on Monday morning. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had contacted TIOGA – HVAC and between him and the Borough crew they had replaced the furnace at the Borough office. Councilman Sabol asked if TIOGA had submitted his bill yet. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she would expect to have it by next week.

4. PUBLIC DON DeMARCO, CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK, CO- CHAIRMAN; SAFETY ROSEMARY POREMBO

Councilman Jacobs stated how he had received complaints about 4 vehicles on Marconi Avenue. He stated how there was also a garage falling down on across the street from where the vehicles were located on Marconi Avenue. Councilman Jacobs stated how there were two vehicles on Willow Lane. President Hawk stated how they have the Ordinance concerning abandoned vehicles. Councilman Sabol asked about Denny Creitz property at the end of town. Councilman Jacobs stated how the garage was grandfathered. Councilman Sabol asked about his property across the street. President Hawk stated how it should not extend to across the street.

President Hawk stated how he had emailed Councilman DeMarco to get a meeting set up with the three fire chiefs concerning the Knox boxes. He stated how he wanted him to hold the meeting prior to their next Council meeting so that they had some information. Councilman Jacobs stated how they went over their budget by \$10,000.00 in the Fire Truck Fund and that they were not putting anything away in that fund. He stated how they were paying off three fire trucks and wanted to know what they had expected from the Borough. Councilman Sabol stated how he was opposed to the Knox boxes and how he was also opposed to the fire alarm system at the sewer plant. He stated how he did praise the volunteer fire fighters but they should not expect all of the bells and whistles. Councilman Sabol stated how he was opposed to the Knox box Ordinance. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Committee had to discuss the fire alarm systems for the sewer plant. He stated how the three of them did not believe that it was really needed.

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Councilman Jacobs stated how he was informed that the company, who took over for KME, was looking to get a meeting scheduled to get the monument removed and traffic changed at the intersection of Route 209 and 54. He stated how they were trying to set up a meeting with PennDOT. President Hawk stated how he would give them a suggestion to install curbing to only have one entry point into their parking lot, which would cut down on the traffic problems.

5. SANITATION DAVID DeMELFI, CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX, CO-CHAIRWOMAN DON DeMARCO

President Hawk stated how Mr. McLaughlin at 133 W. Ridge Street, has been placing carpet out for garbage during large item pick up. He stated how his business does not pay a garbage bill and he was transporting the carpet from his business to his resident for trash pickup. President Hawk stated how a letter should be sent to Mr. McLaughlin that he was not allowed to put his business garbage out at his residents address. Councilman Jacobs stated how he had told Mr. McLaughlin about all of the garbage that was piled up on the side of his building.

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

Councilman Jacobs stated how he had called the contractor to see when they were coming to install the units. He stated about the thermostat at the Recreation Center being turned up to 69 degrees. He stated about posting something so that it was turned back when the building was not in use.

Councilman Sabol stated about the bridge on Mermon Avenue. He stated how he would like to go after a grant for trail ways/greenways, but the bridge was not part of the Street and was need of some maintenance. Councilman Sabol stated how they had cleared out the weeds and trees last year from around the bridge, which opened it up nicely. He stated how he would like to go a little further and dress-up that area. Councilman Sabol stated how Mayor Kitchko was going to contact someone from the Conservation District to see what they could do to the Creek bank/bed area. He stated how a lot of the stuff has washed down the creek. Councilman Sabol asked if they could clean it up without getting into trouble with DEP and if they could get big rocks down there to keep down the weeds and the growth and to stop the erosion. He stated how he had talked to some contractors, who had some big rocks to get rid of and maybe they could have them placed in the creek bed area. Councilman Sabol stated how he had a sandblaster and air compressor. He stated about allowing the Borough Crew to use it to sand blast the metal rail. He stated about painting the concrete and getting aluminum piping installed to place flags on the bridge for Veterans Day or Memorial Day. Councilman Sabol stated about dressing up the area and getting more benches. He showed the Council members a memorial plaque. He stated how he had contacted the company and they refurbish plaques for approximately \$285.00. Councilman Sabol stated how he was going to talk to Mr. Ouly to see if they could utilize his property as a staging area for the rocks that they would use to line the creek bed. Mayor Kitchko stated how he had talked to Chris Storm from the Conservation District and it would depend on what they wanted to do, they might need permits and he would advise them as to what permits they would need. Councilman Jacobs stated how there was funding available for those kinds of projects. Councilman Sabol stated how he was going to get more serious in 2017 and go after grants.

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Councilman Sabol stated how the Borough has an easement on the west side of the creek. He stated how the other side was not their property. Councilman Jacobs stated how they have an easement because of the sewer line that goes through there. Councilman Sabol stated how they own a small section of property where the dumpsters were located. Councilman Jacobs stated how they own from the bridge down on the north side, which Kovatch had dedicated over to the Borough. Councilman Sabol stated how it does not show on the County maps. President Hawk stated how he thought that the Borough had taken that over. Mayor Kitchko stated that when the Conservation Club had wanted the State to come in to stock the stream, there had to be so much stream length open to the public and he was sure how that side of the creek was owned by the Borough.

Councilman Sabol stated how he would also like to approach the School District about donating two parking spots, so they can go after a grant. He stated how he would like to build it up and make a seating area and an access point down to the creek. He stated how he would even like to incorporate a handicap ramp down to the creek. Councilman Sabol stated how that might give them a spot for their School Bell as well. President Hawk stated how he should keep looking into things and letting the rest of Council know. Councilman Sabol stated how he would get some figures together.

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

Councilman Jacobs stated how they were getting hit with two big ones out of the General Fund, the furnace and the truck that was up getting repaired at Kovatch. Councilman Jacobs stated about the cost of repairs from Kovatch. President Hawk stated how they have to start looking to see where else they can take the Borough vehicles.

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

Councilwoman Porembo asked if everything was going well with the insurance. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how so far everything went smoothly. Councilman Jacobs stated about the online bill payment. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were on a little delay and it should be up and running before the end of the month. Councilwoman Porembo asked about the BCIU and how everything was progressing with them. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had talked to them and they would need a file from the County in order to administer the training. She stated to Councilman Jacobs how he had talked to them, but they were still in need of a file with the Borough's information on it. Councilman Jacobs stated about getting a letter drafted up and he would run it down to the County office.

Councilman Sabol stated how he wanted to back track concerning the bridge. He stated about contacting someone about the guide wires that he would like removed. He stated how he thought that there were enough Poles in the area that they should not need the wires. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she would contact someone to see what could be done. She stated how she would contact the same person she had talked to about the street lighting.

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Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they should pick one area to get the street lights change over to the LED. She stated how they could pick one area and get them started instead of trying to do the entire town at one time. She stated how they could start with the Estates or New Columbus. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how all she would need would be the pole numbers. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were looking to save money. He stated how they were looking to change to the lower lumination and asked what they were going to save. President Hawk stated that from what he could tell based on the two lights that were installed on Locust Street, he would think that they could go with the lower lumination. He stated that he did not know if they wanted to go with the lower lumination up in the Estates or in Hauto. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the lower wattage/lumination was pretty much all over town, except Catawissa Street. She stated how they were only concerned with the lights on Catawissa Street. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that if she would get the pole numbers for the lights that they were going to keep for the Avenues, they would be starting to save something, because the longer it takes to get the entire town done, they were not saving anything.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Members finished their meeting at 7:40 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer