

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monday January 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Borough Office

114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

PURPOSE: Meeting for reorganization.

Mayor Kitchko brought the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Swearing in of Newly Elected Officials.

Mayor Kitchko swore in the newly re-elected officials; Frank Jacobs, Louis Paul, Michael Radocha, & George Sabol.

Nominations for President and Vice-President

Mayor Kitchko opened the floor for nominations for President. Councilman Hawk was nominated for President and Councilwoman Fox was nominated for Vice-President by Councilman Jacobs with a second from Councilman Sabol. On the motion of Councilman Jacobs and Councilman Sabol, nominations for President and Vice-President were closed. All voted yes. Motion passed. Councilman Hawk accepted the nomination for President and Councilwoman Fox accepted the nomination for Vice-President.

Mayor Kitchko turned the meeting over to President Hawk.

Reappointment of the Borough Solicitor

Councilwoman Porembo moved and Councilwoman Fox seconded to reappoint Robert T. Yurchak as Borough Solicitor.

Councilman Sabol made the motion to table the reappointment of Robert Yurchak, Borough Solicitor, until they had the opportunity to consider a change.

President Hawk stated that if he would not appoint a Solicitor the Council would be without legal representation until they would be able to vote at their next regular meeting in January. He stated how they could make a motion at any meeting to advertise for a new Solicitor or appoint a new Solicitor. Councilman Sabol asked if there was anything critical (outstanding) that would require the Borough to have a Solicitor. President Hawk stated how they do not know what could transpire within the next three weeks. Councilman Sabol stated that if something would come up, they could table the issue until they had a Solicitor. President Hawk stated how it would depend on what happens.

The motion to table the reappointment for Borough Solicitor dies for the lack of a second.

All voted yes to reappoint Robert T. Yurchak, Borough Solicitor except Councilman Sabol who voted no. Motion passed.

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Reappointment of the Borough Engineer.

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilwoman Fox seconded to reappoint Carbon Engineering as the Borough Engineer.

Councilman Sabol moved and Councilman Paul seconded to table the reappointment of Carbon Engineering as the Borough Engineer, until they had the opportunity to discuss hiring a new Engineer.

President Hawk stated how the same situation would apply for the Borough Engineer, even though it might not be as critical with the Engineer that it would be with the Solicitor. Councilman Radocha stated how he felt that they need to get some pricing. Councilman Jacobs stated about making a motion at the regular meeting. Councilman Radocha stated how they could just get some quotes from Engineers. Councilman Paul asked if Carbon Engineering got paid by the hour. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated, "yes". Councilman Paul stated that if they would advertise, they would get an hourly price from other Engineering firms. Councilman Radocha stated how they would not have to advertise, they could just get quotes. Councilman Poremba said how they could put out a request for proposal, which they would get information on the work they would get from the companies. Councilwoman Fox stated how they need an Engineer for the Sewer Plant. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they need one for the Streets as well. Councilman Jacobs stated how they had voted to advertise for bids for Willow Lane. He stated that he did not know when the bids were supposed to be in by.

Councilman Paul stated how the Engineering firms would give the Borough a price per hour, just like any contractor. He stated how he thought that Carbon Engineering prices were high when he worked for the Borough. Councilman Paul stated how there was no harm in getting prices. He stated that if Carbon Engineering came in with the lowest prices, they would rehire them, but if another company comes in lower than them, they will go with the new company. Councilwoman Poremba stated that when they put out a request for proposal, they were letting them know what the Borough needed them for; sewer, roads, railroads, etc. Councilman Radocha stated that if Carbon Engineering was charging them by the hour . . . Councilwoman Poremba stated how they would have a list of what everybody would be charging in each category. Councilman Radocha asked how Carbon Engineering charged the Borough. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was hourly based on who worked on the project from their office. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they should get it in writing. Councilwoman Fox stated about making the same motion with the Engineer as they did with the Solicitor. She stated how they could change it at any time during the year. Councilwoman Fox stated that if they have an issue with the Sewer Plants within the month, she will need to get in touch with an engineer. President Hawk stated that if they did not hire Carbon Engineer that night, any projects that have been started (Willow Lane) could end up in limbo for a few months. Councilman Sabol stated how he was sure they could find a solution in an emergency. Councilman Paul stated that Carbon Engineering would work for the Borough until they would find somebody else.

Councilman Sabol and Councilman Paul withdrew their motion to table the reappointment of Carbon Engineering, Borough Engineer.

All voted yes to reappoint Carbon Engineering, Borough Engineer except Councilman Sabol who voted no. Motion passed.

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Reappointment of the Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Marshall.

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilman Radocha seconded to reappoint John McArdle as the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Marshall. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Reappointment of all the non-contractual employees.

(Not limited to) Zoning Officer, Janitor, Borough Office Clerks, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, Part-time Police Officers, Code-Enforcement Official and Crossing Guards.

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilman Radocha seconded to reappoint all non-contractual employees as listed, but not limited to, Zoning Officer (Gene Kennedy), Janitor, Borough Office Clerks, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, Part-time Police Officers, Crossing Guards and Code Enforcement Official (Barry Isett & Associates). All voted yes except Councilman Paul, who abstained from voting for the Zoning Officer (Brother-in-law). Motion passed.

Reappointment of the Sewage Enforcement Officer..

William Brior - Brior Environmental Services, Inc.

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilman Jacobs seconded to reappoint Sewage Enforcement Officer (William Brior). All voted yes. Motion passed.

Reappointment of Commission/Authority Members.

Water Authority – Gary Porembo

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilman Radocha seconded to reappoint Gary Porembo to the Nesquehoning Borough Authority. All voted yes with the exception of President Hawk who was not voting because of his involvement with the Nesquehoning Water Authority and Councilwoman Porembo who abstained from voting (husband). Motion passed.

Name the Borough depositories.

Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank & Mauch Chunk Trust

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilman Radocha seconded to retain the Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank and the Mauch Chunk Trust as the Borough depositories. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Reappointment of the Borough Auditor.

Kirk, Summa and Company, LLP

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilwoman Fox seconded to retain Kirk, Summa and Company, LLP as Borough Auditor. All voted yes. Motion passed.

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Schedule of Stated Monthly Meetings of Borough Council.

Fourth Wednesday with exception of November & December, which will be held on the third Wednesday.

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Poremba seconded to hold regular meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month with the exception of November & December, on which it will be held on the third Wednesday. All voted yes. Motion passed.

President Hawk handed out the updated Committee's list. He stated how they were changing the name of the Budget/Purchasing Committee to the Budget/ Finance Committee.

Councilman Paul asked about Carl Faust and if he was in or out. President Hawk stated how he was in until they do something about him. Mayor Kitchko stated how he was on his way out. Councilman Paul stated how he was not in favor of hiring him back. He stated that Mr. Faust had stopped a lot of progress in their town. Councilman Jacobs stated how they have to look for someone so they have a second choice for their Building Permits. President Hawk stated that if they come up with somebody else, they could replace him. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they still need to retain him until he finalizes the projects he has started. President Hawk stated that moving forward; all Building Code/Permits will be referred to Barry Isett. He stated how they will let Mr. Faust finish up what he had started.

Adjournment

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilwoman Poremba seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer