

# **MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office  
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

President Hawk stated that they would be holding an executive session before they adjourn the meeting.

**PURPOSE:** Committees/Workshop

**1. STREETS** MICHAEL RADOCHA, CHAIRMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN;  
GEORGE SABOL

Councilman Paul stated how he had talked to Mr. Staehle, because he was the supervisor and what he said goes. He stated that if anything were to happen, he was to come to him instead of arguing with anybody. Councilman Paul stated how he had sat down with Mr. Staehle and discussed the seasonal schedule. He stated how Mr. Staehle had enjoyed that, because he liked having the schedule before. Councilman Paul stated how Mr. Staehle did not like that he get started on a project, but then gets numerous calls to check on something or to do something else. He stated that if they would stick to a schedule, they could go off of that schedule. Councilman Paul stated that when Mr. Staehle would get a call to do something, he will let them know that he was working on something and would get to it when he was done, unless it was an emergency. Councilman Paul stated how they were able to keep track of what they were doing and then could not blame them for their confusion.

Councilman Paul stated how at that time of the year, they should have their winter equipment up and running. He stated about building repairs and if they were not on winter maintenance, they could be doing repairs. Councilman Paul stated how they could also be out sealing the cracks in the roadways. Councilman Radocha stated how they should seal all of the newer paving's first. Councilman Paul stated how there was no use on wasting money on streets that were in need of paving. Councilman Radocha stated how they have some bridge maintenance that they will need to fit into the schedule. He stated that he did not know if they were able to continue sealing, because they were getting the material right from the plant. Councilman Paul stated how they should really start in the last quarter of the year. Councilman Radocha stated how they could be doing maintenance on their yard equipment.

Councilman Paul stated about the sweeper and about getting it scheduled. Councilman Radocha stated that they would have to get in touch with the COG. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if they were going to use the COG's sweeper again that year. Councilman Radocha stated how they needed a little more training/supervision. Mayor Kitchko stated how the COG was looking for a driver/operator. He stated how the price may increase, but it would include a driver. Councilman Radocha stated about getting it scheduled for the second week in May. Councilwoman Porembo stated about the COG having an additional training session. Mayor Kitchko stated how they were looking into that also, if they were mostly talking about an operator. He stated how one Township, has two men in the sweeper when they were sweeping their streets. Councilman Paul stated that since Councilman Radocha was employed full-time, either he or Councilman Sabol would be watching them when they were sweeping the streets. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should pick up the piles of cinders at the corners, before they sweep streets. President Hawk stated how there were so many cinders on the streets.

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Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Borough crew had talked to her about purchasing a ¾" air hose. Councilman Sabol stated how they were not getting enough air to get the lug nuts off the truck. He stated how they had to take the truck to Kovatch. Mayor Kitchko asked if they had a ½" hose. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated "yes". Mayor Kitchko stated how they did not have enough air pressure. Councilman Radocha asked if they wanted a new gun. Councilman Paul stated how they had the one from the garbage truck and it worked fine. Councilman Radocha stated how that was a big hose. He stated how he would talk to Mr. Staehle.

Councilman Paul stated about the phone service at the Borough garage. He asked about the Internet at the garage. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they have a phone at the garage, but not Internet. Councilman Paul asked about a computer and an email for Mr. Staehle. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how that was up to all of Council. She stated about their cell phones. The Council members discussed the borough issued cell phones.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked about the County call out list. Councilman Radocha stated how Mr. Staehle should be first. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if Councilman Radocha should be called second and President Hawk would be called third. Councilman Sabol stated that when the Borough crew was called out and they only needed one worker, it was always Mr. Staehle. He asked if they should be rotating workers for callouts. President Hawk stated how it was based on seniority. Councilwoman Fox stated how the Communication Center calls them out, but they do not know if only one guy or if three guys were needed. She stated how someone on the committee should make that determination. Councilman Radocha stated how it almost seemed like Mr. Degiglio should be called first. He stated how the Communications Center calls Mr. Staehle and he calls the other two workers, whereas, then they were paying for all three workers, when they might only have needed one. Councilman Radocha asked if they mandated the chief to live in Nesquehoning. President Hawk stated how they did it one time, but did not believe that it was still in his contract.

Councilman Sabol asked about the fill behind the curb on Willow Lane and who was responsible for it. Councilman Radocha stated how the contractor, Bobby Stempa, was supposed to get it filled in on the Borough side (street side). He stated that whoever the property owner hired was the person who should fill in behind the curb. Councilman Sabol stated about the Borough crew plowing Willow Lane. Councilman Radocha stated how the Borough crew was not supposed to plow anywhere near the curb. He stated how they were also not supposed to put any salt on Willow Lane. Councilman Paul asked when it was going to be paved. Councilman Radocha stated how they were bidding it out early so they could get the best price. Councilman Jacobs stated how they wanted to pave it in early spring.

### **2. SEWER**

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how they finally received their new pickup truck. Councilman Radocha stated how it was better equipped than an ambulance. Councilwoman Fox stated how there was a mix-up with the pink color and Kovatch was charging them \$2,950.00 to paint the truck. She stated how they had met and negotiated the final price of the truck at \$51,000.00, which the original price was \$49,663.00. Councilwoman Fox stated how the inspection was due April 2020 for the new truck. Councilman Radocha asked if Kovatch was going to inspect it for free.

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Councilman Jacobs stated how the chassis was ordered in January 2019 and it was delivered in March. He stated how it was sitting at SMF waiting for a body. Councilwoman Fox asked if it was paid off in 2019. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they had picked up the truck on December 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated how they might have to ratify the actions at a regular meeting of the difference in the price for the truck.

Councilwoman Fox asked what they wanted to do with the old pickup truck. She stated how they had it at SNG and it was some kind of module, which would cost around \$700.00. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were looking to sell the trucks on municibid. She asked if they wanted to get it fixed or sell it "as-is". Councilman Jacobs stated that he felt that they should get it fixed. Councilwoman Fox asked about the mileage. Councilman Jacobs stated how there was 70,000+ miles on the truck. He stated how the truck was worth between \$9,000.00 - \$10,000.00. Councilman Radocha stated that if they get over \$6,000.00 for the truck, he would give them \$1,000.00.

Councilman Paul asked about giving it to the Street Department. Councilman Jacobs stated how they did not need anymore. He stated how they should get rid of all the old trucks. Councilman Sable stated how they liked having the old Chevy to haul things around. Councilman Radocha asked if the truck worked without that part. Councilwoman Fox stated how the check engine light was on. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they should look at the trucks and keep the best of the three. She stated how it was cheaper to put a few dollars into a truck every year, than it was to buy a new one. Councilman Radocha stated how the sewer truck would not pass inspection. Councilwoman Fox stated about rust on the rear of the truck. Councilman Paul asked if the Chevy would pass inspection. Councilwoman Fox asked what happened to the white truck for the Borough. Councilman Jacobs stated how the transfer case was bad. Councilman Paul stated how the Chevy was great for plowing snow. Councilman Radocha asked if they wanted to keep the best of the three trucks and get rid of the other two. Council members discussed the trucks and how they would take a look at the three of them.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they do not have any projects scheduled or sewer for 2020. She stated how she had talked to Mr. Pilla regards to infiltration/smoke testing. She stated how they would be able to borrow equipment from PA Rural Water. Councilman Jacobs stated how they would need 3 - 4 workers to help. Councilman Paul stated about doing it in the middle of summer. He stated about Keith Gogal helping. Councilwoman Fox stated how they would look at scheduling it the last two weeks in June.

### **3. BUILDINGS**

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

Councilman Sabol stated about the police station and waiting until spring to have the work done with vertical siding. He stated how there were a few things that he wanted to do in the meeting room, but he would probably do them himself. Councilman Jacobs stated about spackling in the apartment. Councilman Sabol stated how he did not think that they wanted to rent the apartment out. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were not in a hurry to rent it. Councilman Paul stated how it was time to do the building maintenance, according to the schedule.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they needed a new weather strip between the front doors. Councilman Sabol stated how he would look at it. Councilwoman Fox stated about building a vestibule. President Hawk asked if there was enough room for something like that. Councilman Jacobs stated how they did not need the double doors.

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Councilman Paul stated how the roof was leaking at the garage. Councilman Jacobs stated how he thought that they had fixed it. Councilman Paul stated how it was leaking in the office at the desk. Councilman Sabol stated how he would look at it. There was discussion about Kovatch (Rev Group) property on W. Mill Street.

### **4. PUBLIC SAFETY**

**ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; LOUIS PAUL  
CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they still have to look at what was suggested by the Chief for the part-time officers' uniforms, equipment and overtime pay.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were still working with the Fire Companies in regards to fuel credit cards. She stated how they had told them that they would not pay for their fuel but they might be able to help them with a fuel card; whereas, they would pay the Borough back for the fuel.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about sending a letter to the Fire Chiefs in regards to the Act 172. She stated about the verifications for the volunteers who met the requirements for 2019, along with their new list of volunteers for 2020.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they also had to get a letter to Carl Faust in regards to 90 E. Catawissa St. and 121 W. High St. She stated how they need to close out those files.

Councilman Radocha asked what the rate was for a part-time police officer. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were at \$19.00 an hour. Councilwoman Porembo stated how it depended on their years of service. She stated how they get raises periodically based on their time. Mayor Kitchko stated how Weatherly was at \$22.00 per hour. Councilwoman Porembo asked if Weatherly was getting applications for part-time officers. Mayor Kitchko stated how he did not know.

Councilman Radocha stated how they have to end the fact of the Nesquehoning Borough Police Department handling the calls that the prison. Councilman Sabol stated how he was going to try to set up a meeting between the Commissioners, the Prison Board and the Borough to get it straightened out. Councilman Radocha asked what the Sheriff's departments did. President Hawk stated how they did not do anything. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Public Safety, along with the Mayor should be meeting with the Commissioners. President Hawk stated how they were waiting until after the New Year for the new Commission Members to take office. Councilman Sabol stated how he had looked into it and mostly the DA handles the prison issues and other Counties. He stated how he would get some information to try and set up a meeting. Councilwoman Fox asked why Carbon County could not have the Sheriff's Department handles calls. President Hawk stated about getting a meeting to let them know how the Borough would stop responding to calls at the prison, because it was a County problem. He stated how they were not financially able to keep handling the calls of the prison.

### **5. SANITATION**

**LOUIS PAUL, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO,  
CO-CHAIRWOMAN, MARY FOX**

Councilman Sabol stated about the garbage and the recycling. President Hawk stated how they had increased the rate for sanitation, but they have to make sure that the Borough was getting what they were paying for. He stated that if Tamaqua Transfer was not abiding by the contract . . .

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Councilman Sabol stated how they were claiming that the recycling was contaminated and then just taking it all to the landfill. Councilwoman Poremba stated how Mr. Wittig might be holding it over their head that he was making money when he really was not. She stated how they have to make sure that they were transferring the recyclables to the proper facility. Councilwoman Poremba stated about the Borough driving up the recycling, plus they would still need proof as to where he was taking it. President Hawk stated how the Solicitor was looking to see what they could do legally, based on the contract. Councilman Paul stated that at one time, they were able to get grant money through recycling. Councilwoman Poremba stated how she had to look into it.

### **6. RECREATION    GEORGE SABOL III, CHAIRMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX**

Councilwoman Fox stated how they have to get the By-laws approved for the Recreation Commission. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Recreation Commission meeting was scheduled for the first Monday in February. President Hawk stated how they have to accept the By-laws at their next meeting. The Recreation Committee scheduled a committee meeting for Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Councilman Paul stated that the one reason he ran for Council was because of all of the junk he would see when driving around town. He stated how he took Councilman Sabol for a ride around town to show him what he was talking about. Councilman Paul stated how some of the people in town were pigs. He stated about getting addresses of some of the properties so that Secretary/Treasurer Ahner could send them letter telling them to clean up their property and if they did not get it cleaned up, they would go after them. Councilman Paul stated how he could not see somebody who lived 30+ years in a half double home to get some bum moving into the other half and loading up the yard with junk. He stated how the good people of the town were moving out because of the people who were moving in next to them. President Hawk stated about the property on E. Railroad Street. Councilman Jacobs stated about the old barber shop across the street from the Borough office. President Hawk stated how the maintenance/code had been a little lax over the years.

President Hawk stated how he had met with Matt Johnson from the Railroad. He stated that Mr. Johnson had made mention that there were a few spots in Nesquehoning to put a train station; if they could have the room for a station and a parking lot. He stated how the Railroad could run their trains out of Nesquehoning.

Councilman Sabol asked about the millage rate for the Recreation Center. President Hawk stated how the majority of the funding goes towards the building expenses for the Recreation Center.

President Hawk stated that during their Public Safety Meeting, Chief Smith had made mention that he would like to get tree lighting in the New Columbus Park. He stated that if they wanted to do something like that, they were going to have to get power in the park.

Councilman Sabol asked about removing part of the rock wall in the Johnson Park. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Engineer was going to get her a proposal for the engineering cost for the grant/project. She stated that once the Borough approves their proposal, they could get started with bidding out the project. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she did not think that the Borough should touch anything with that project until they have the plans drawn up.

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### 7. BUDGET/ FINANCE

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

Councilman Jacobs stated how they were going to ask for the budget vs. actual every month so they could keep better track of the expenditures. He stated that if they see a red flag pop up, they could discuss it with the respective committee.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about a meeting with the actuary and the police pension plan representative. She stated about looking ahead to where they were going to be in the next five years.

Councilwoman Porembo asked about the CD rates. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that JTNB had given her a rate of 1.25%. She stated that she was waiting on CD rates from MCT.

Councilman Jacobs stated about the Committee discussing the two loans that the Borough has. He stated how they might be able to get some better rates.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the purchasing policy. She asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner to get Councilman Paul a copy of the policy. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if they were following the policy since they did not adopt it yet. Councilwoman Porembo stated how it was supposed to be included in the handbook. She stated how they were supposed to get an updated copy of the handbook to adopt at their January Meeting.

### 8. PERSONNEL/ SAFETY

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had to get the final draft of the Teamster Contract signed, since it was already approved. She stated how they had started negotiations with the office personnel.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked President Hawk if he would appoint a committee to meet with Gene Kennedy to review their Zoning Ordinance. President Hawk stated how he would get something set up.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. for personnel reasons. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilman Radocha seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**

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RoniSue Ahner  
Secretary/Treasurer