

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN JACOBS, SABOL III; COUNCILWOMEN FOX, POREMBO; & PRESIDENT HAWK

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

PURPOSE: Committees/Workshop

President Hawk stated that they will be holding an Executive Session at the end of the meeting for personnel matters.

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

Council discussed the streetlights. Councilwoman Fox stated about getting copies to the Council Members of the streetlights from Center Street, Railroad Street, Ridge Street, etc. Councilwoman Fox had a list of streetlights that should be removed from Coal Street, Rhume Street, Willow Lane, Mill Street and New Columbus. She stated about the streetlights at the railroad tracks on Mermon Avenue and asked if they wanted to eliminate one of them. Councilwoman Fox stated about a streetlight at the corner of W. Diaz Avenue and Padua Avenue. President Hawk stated about getting streetlights added at the intersections of Little Flower Avenue and W. Diaz Avenue. Councilwoman Fox stated about moving the streetlights by Arieta's building on E. Diaz Avenue. She stated how they have to determine what streetlights they want to remove from Catawissa Street. Councilman Jacobs stated that from the gas station heading west into town, they could probably eliminate every other streetlight. Councilwoman Fox stated how they needed to get out and look at them and asked how Little Flower Avenue was at the top. President Hawk stated how he did not think that there was a streetlight up there. Councilwoman Fox stated how they wanted to make sure that the intersections were lit up/had streetlights.

Councilman Jacobs stated about the first block of E. Diaz Avenue. Councilman Sabol stated how that was submitted for CDBG. Councilman Jacobs stated how they need to look at the storm drains on E. Diaz Avenue. He stated how they should have \$180,000 for streets in 2019. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should look at overlaying some streets. Councilman Sabol stated about the second block of E. Diaz Avenue. Councilman Jacobs stated how there was a lot of work to be done on the second block. President Hawk stated how they would be looking at curbing for that area as well. Councilman Jacobs stated how they have to make their decisions soon, in order to get the specifications ready for advertising for bids. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they should remember that they were going to have expenses for the storm drains/inlets on Willow Lane. Councilman Sabol stated how Willow Lane was a long stretch (two blocks) and there were two blocks of E. Diaz Avenue. Councilwoman Porembo stated about Chestnut Street and how they wanted to reconstruct that street. Councilman Jacobs stated about getting a contract to do the work, but the borough would purchase the material. President Hawk stated how Chestnut Street would require some inlets and the curbing would have to be replaced. He stated how they also had the complaint from E. Mussmano Avenue that they would need to look into.

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2. SEWER

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Committee, Sewer operators and Mike Tirpak met with Eastern Environmental concerning #2 unit. She stated that their liquidated damages started October 23, 2018, but they still did not complete the project. Councilwoman Fox stated that the work was not able to be done because of the cold weather, but there was some stuff that they could finish. She stated that they were supposed to halt progress on December 21, 2018, which was when the liquidated would also stop. Councilwoman Fox stated how they would resume working on the project on April 15, 2019. She stated how they should have the project completed by May 3, 2019, which was when liquidated damages would continue.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they were supposed to give them a cost estimate to pull the gear box out to have the seal repaired, but they never received a quote. She stated how Mr. Pilla got a quote from Martins to pull the gear box out. Councilman Jacobs stated that they have to get a crane to lift the shaft out. He stated that they were going to remove the bearing and replace it all with a new seal. Councilman Jacobs stated that they were looking at between \$10,000 and \$12,000. He stated about which way they wanted to go; getting in touch with Mike Tirpak and let him argue with Eastern Environmental or just have Martins pull the shaft out to repair.

Councilwoman Porembo asked if it was part of the contract for the project or was it something different. Councilman Jacobs stated that it was not included in the original bid/project. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was going to be a change order. Councilman Jacobs stated how they had found out that the seal was leaking when there were doing the work. Councilwoman Porembo asked if Eastern Environmental was supposed to be doing the work, if it was wise to wait for them to give the Borough a quote. She asked if they were not satisfied with them with where they were at with the project. Councilman Jacobs stated that he was afraid to give them any additional work. Councilwoman Fox stated that they had taken too much work on for the season. She stated that they also could not give them a quote to pull the shaft for repair because they were not able to do the work, they would have to send it out. She stated that they gave them a quote for a new one, which was \$44,000.

Councilwoman Fox stated that if Eastern was going to give them a quote for the repair, Mike Tirpak was going to work out a deal for the work in lieu of the liquidated damages. She stated how they never gave them a quote. Councilwoman Fox stated that the liquidated damages were up to \$24,300.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they had discussed the project on Willow Lane and how they had received a \$150,000 grant for the Sewer part of the project. She stated that once they tear up the street for the sewer lines, they might as well replace the storm drains right away. Councilwoman Fox stated that Mike Tirpak was going to get the specifications/bid packages together for advertisement. She stated that way the contractor would come in, get the job done and get out. Councilman Jacobs stated that if the bids would come in super high, then they would reconsider on how they wanted to do the project.

Councilman Sabol asked where the sewer line ran on Willow Lane. Councilman Jacobs stated how it ran on the south side of the street. Councilman Sabol asked how much of the roadway the sewer would be responsible for replacing. President Hawk stated about 1/3 – 1/2. Councilman Sabol asked if they knew how many storm drains had to be installed.

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President Hawk asked if they would be repaired or new storm drains. Councilman Jacobs stated how there were no inlets on the south side. President Hawk asked if they were going to pipe them under the roadway; across to the other side. Councilman Jacobs stated that from what he understood, they were going to tie into the ones on the north side. President Hawk stated that they would be tearing up pretty much half of the street. Councilman Sabol asked when they were going to contact the residents about installing curbing. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they would probably be installing curbing in 2020. President Hawk stated how they will have to see if the Water Authority needed to do anything with the water lines on Willow Lane.

Councilwoman Fox stated about the pumps at Lake Hauto and at Maple Shade/Locust Street. She stated that the pump at Maple Shade was a 3-phase. She stated that the pumps at the pumping stations on Rhododendron Drive and at the beach were only 2-phase, but they were going to change the boxes over to 3-phase and installing new pumps. Councilwoman Fox stated that they will need 7 pumps. Councilman Jacobs stated that they will have two pumps at each station and one extra. Councilwoman Fox stated that Martins, who was now certified as a COSTAR supplier, will be giving them a quote on the pumps.

Councilwoman Fox stated that they were looking, for sometime in the future, to replace the line coming from New Columbus and dumping it into that pumping station.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they were having a slight problem with unit #3. She stated that if it would go down, they have no place to pump the sewage because unit #2 was ripped apart. Councilwoman Fox stated that Mike Tirpak told her that they might be able to run on one unit, if they did not get much rain.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they were trying to look at comparing a Chevy truck with a Ford truck. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were not able to get an 8' bed in a Chevy truck until the summer. Councilwoman Fox stated that they would have to go with the Ford truck.

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

Councilman Sabol stated about getting Jim Thorpe Flooring to give them an estimate to replace the carpet in the apartment. Councilwoman Porembo asked if they always have to go with carpeting for a rental unit. President Hawk stated how they could go with linoleum. Councilman Sabol stated how they could go with the lick and stick squares. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they could take the carpet out and paint the floor. She stated how they could just put in an area carpet.

Councilman Jacobs stated how he was going to get someone to look at the skirting around the table. Councilman Sabol stated how he was going to look into getting some base molding installed. He stated that he would also like to get some kind of podium for people to stand at when they were speaking. Councilman Sabol stated that he could build one for the cost of material.

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated that they had a Public Safety meeting and the one thing that they were looking into was recruiting for part-time police officers. She stated that they wanted to review the hourly rates for the part-time police officers.

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Councilwoman Porembo stated about eliminating the polygraph for anyone applying for part-time if they were working full-time for another police department. She stated that Mayor Kitchko was going to see about discussing regional part-time police officers at the COG Meeting. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the local departments would be able to share part-time police officers. She stated how they could schedule them for a month to lure more part-time officers to the department. Councilwoman Porembo stated how Mayor Kitchko was going to see if there was something with a monthly schedule and getting them health benefits. She stated how each department would be responsible for a portion of the health insurance. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the other thing that they discussed was specialized-training.

Councilwoman Porembo stated that they had discussed the amount of overtime for court/hearings. She stated about getting a court schedule. She stated that Solicitor Yurchak was going to talk to the District Magistrate to see if they could hold court at 8:00 a.m. She stated about also talking to the County Judges to better schedule their court time for the Nesquehoning Police Force.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they have to get an equipment and inventory list for returned items for when an officer retires or leaves. She stated that from the returned items, they might be able to help out some of the part-time officers with uniforms. Councilwoman Porembo stated that they were still thinking about hiring a part-time secretary for the police department and to reorganize the department with a detective. She stated how they would name other officers to other kinds of work. She stated that with the part-time secretary, they could take care of scheduling, receiving payments and miscellaneous items in order to free up the full-time officers.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the Resolution for the Nesquehoning Ambulance Corp for their Regular Meeting on January 23rd. She stated about getting in touch with Mr. McArdle to have him contact the members of the Ambulance Corp to have them attend the meeting.

Councilwoman Porembo stated that they have adopted the Act 172 Ordinance, but was not sure how they wanted to get it implemented at the Fire Companies. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the Committee might want to meet with the Fire Chiefs to get the paperwork and review on how it would need to be submitted at the end of the year. Councilwoman Fox asked if they had forms that they would be filling out for the Act 172. Councilwoman Porembo stated "yes" and asked if they had received them from Solicitor Yurchak. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she had not received any forms.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the agreement for the Lake Hauto Club, the Borough and the three Fire Companies. She stated how they will have to accept that agreement that the regular meeting on January 23rd.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had mentioned about the part-time police officer wages. She stated that when they initially start, they get paid \$12.00 per hour until they get their MOPEC. She stated that once they have their MOPEC and can be on their own, they jump up to \$17.00 per hour and then after one year, they bump up to \$19.00 per hour. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about how they had discussed a higher starting amount. She stated that the part-time officers should get an annual pay rate, but not necessarily the same raise as what the full-time officers would be receiving. Councilman Jacobs stated that they ride around with the full-time officers before they were able to be on their own. Councilwoman Fox stated that they were comparable with other towns with their rates for part-time officers.

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Councilwoman Porembo stated how Mayor Kitchko was going to talk to the COG to see about making that regional. She stated that their goal was to have a part-time force of 4 -5 officers. She stated that they felt that it would push down the overtime. Councilwoman Fox asked why it takes them so long to get their MOPEC. She stated how it should not take 6 months to get them out on their own. Councilwoman Porembo stated about talking to the police department to see if they could compress the training schedule.

President Hawk stated that the part-time officer that they hired, N. Grecco, was going to need a psychological exam and asked if the Borough was going to pay for the exam. Councilwoman Fox asked if they would normally pay for the part-time officer exam. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they had never paid for them in the past for part-time officers. Councilman Jacobs asked what it cost. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that it was around \$150.00. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they could offer to pay half.

President Hawk stated how both he and the Mayor received letters about people parking on the sidewalks. He stated how Mayor Kitchko told them at the Public Safety meeting that they were working on it. Councilman Jacobs stated that they have to stick to it, not do it one day and then again 15 days later. President Hawk stated how he thought that they were turning it over to Officer Marouchoc.

Councilwoman Fox stated about the High Street fire. She stated that there were cats and animals going into the property. Councilwoman Fox asked if they could push the property owners to do anything. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they did not know what they could do. Councilwoman Porembo stated how there were grants for blighted properties. Councilman Sabol stated that they need some legislation on the state level for property owners having to have fire insurance.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how she had asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner to explain the Nesquehoning Hose Company project and the engineering bill. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she had talked to Mike Tirpak and the Nesquehoning Hose Company had changed the scope of the project for approximately \$100,000. She stated that Mr. Tirpak met with the Fire Company and he informed them that it was going to be more expensive and their response was that they had the money to pay for it. Councilman Sabol asked what was changed with the project. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the grant they were talking about was for the wall. She stated that the original plan was to remove the embankment and take the fill off site. She stated how they now want to utilize the fill on the property, which requires them to apply for a NPDES Permit. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how applying for the permit was a timely process. Councilwoman Fox asked if it was the Fire Company that changed the project. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that it was the Fire Company that changed the scope of the project. President Hawk stated that if it was going to require them to apply for a NPDES Permit, it was going to be extremely expensive. He stated that there was a lot of engineering that went into that application.

Councilwoman Fox asked if there was any money coming out of the Fire Truck Fund for that project. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that when they first initially applied for the application, the Borough paid the engineering cost for the estimate that was needed to submit the application. She stated that anything else has been reimbursed for the expenses. She stated that there was only \$2,000 left in the grant for engineering fees. President Hawk stated that they should get the reimbursement for the funds that remain, but they would have to pay the remainder of it.

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Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that when they had applied for the grant for the Nesquehoning Conservation Club, the Club would pay the bills, submit them to the Borough for reimbursement and the Borough would cut them a check when the funds were received from the State/grant. She stated how that was not the process they were doing with the Fire Company. She stated that they were paying the bills and then requesting reimbursement. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the only thing that she found in the minutes, Council had approved to submit the grant application and to allow the Fire Company to utilize the Borough Engineer. Councilwoman Fox asked if it was at the cost of the Borough. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that there was nothing else with the motion regarding who was going to pay the engineer. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should submit the bill to the Fire Company. President Hawk stated that if they had changed the scope of the project and will be incurring additional cost, it should not be up to the Borough to pay for it. Councilwoman Poremba stated that they should check with the auditors to see how the funds should be handled. President Hawk stated that if it was done the right way in the past, they should follow the same procedures in the future.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they had requested a form for the Fire Companies when they have to condemn a property. President Hawk stated that he would have her add a line for the contractor's state number.

President Hawk stated that when the railroad was there last month, they had talked about the crossing at the Estates that was removed. He stated that they will have to get something in writing to the railroad. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were very adamant about LCJWA getting adequate water to the hydrants at Lake Hauto, but there was only one fire hydrant in the Estates that was able to be used during a fire. Councilwoman Poremba stated that they should be bringing it up at the Nesquehoning Water Authority. Councilwoman Fox stated that they were paying water bills at the Lake but the system has not been upgraded. President Hawk stated how it was a similar situation.

Councilwoman Poremba stated how she thought that they had two AFA appeals outstanding yet; 90 E. Catawissa Street and 121 High Street. President Hawk stated that the last he had heard about the Catawissa Street, they were trying to satisfy Carl Faust requirements/concerns. He stated that he does now know if they did them yet. President Hawk stated that the High Street was supposed to supply some information to Mr. McArdle. He stated how he thinks that they did supply the requested material.

5. SANITATION GEORGE SABOL III, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIR, MARY FOX

Councilman Sabol stated that it had been quiet the last few weeks. Councilman Sabol stated about setting up a meeting to review their contract for garbage collections and to also review their options with curbside recycling or dumpsters. Councilman Jacobs stated that there was not money in recycling. Councilwoman Poremba stated that there were people who wanted the recycling. President Hawk stated that there have been several residents that voiced their concern about getting the recycling back.

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how she would like to set up a Committee meeting to see where they want to go with some of their issues. She stated how they would all be on the same page with the issues.

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Councilwoman Fox stated that the next Recreation Commission meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Councilwoman Fox asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner about the bi-laws that were drafted up several years ago and if they were ever adopted. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she does remember them coming to Council but does not know if they were ever adopted. Councilwoman Fox stated that she does not think that they were ever formally adopted. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that when they meet as a Committee, they might want to look at the Rules and Regulations wording for the signs that they want to post at the parks.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the DCNR cost estimate for the basketball court in New Columbus. She stated that she was just looking to get the court repaved. She stated that they will have to go a different route to get it done.

Councilman Sabol stated about the triangular piece of property on W. Mill Street. He stated how he had talked to Mike Kafkalas about the survey and subdivision plans. He stated that Mr. Kafkalas was willing to do the whole thing for under \$2,000. Councilman Sabol stated that the property owner wanted \$500 for the property. He stated that he wanted to put it up for a motion at the Regular Meeting to proceed with the purchase of the property.

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 Secretary/Treasurer Ahner was going to close the loop with Tim Growler from Teamsters regarding the contract. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she had sent him an email, but have not heard back from him yet. Councilwoman Porembo stated that she will send Solicitor Yurchak the concerns the employees had for the light and restricted duty policy. She stated how they will have to see if they want to address it when they go to negotiations with the Teamsters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. for personnel reasons. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Porembo seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer