

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Councilman Sabol was absent and Councilman Radocha arrived late.

PURPOSE: Committee - Workshop

President Hawk stated how the last Council Meeting was a little hectic/disorganized, which he had observed and other people also mentioned it to him. He stated how he felt that the venue had a lot to do with it; large meeting room, 20' apart and hard to hear people. President Hawk stated that in the past, they had discussed following the agenda for their regular meeting and brain storming at their workshop meetings in order to cut down on the length of the meetings. He stated that they should try to stick to the agenda and hold their meetings in a more organized manner. President Hawk stated how he should step in more often when people were talking over each other. He stated how they will use their Workshop meetings as their brain storming meetings to bring issues up that need to be talked about more in depth or bring up new issues that might need to be investigated. President Hawk stated how they would follow the agenda for the regular meetings.

President Hawk stated how it would be nice if the committees would meet monthly prior to their meeting in order to come as a unified voice to the Council Meetings, which would allow them to get through the meetings faster. He stated how that would help when the committees give their reports. President Hawk stated how there were going to be important items that need attention, which come up between the workshop meeting and the regular meeting. He stated how some of those items can come up under new business on the agenda. President Hawk stated that if he would gavel more at the meeting, they should not be offended, because he did want to keep some order. He stated that if they did want to talk while someone else was talking, they should get his attention. He stated how they should also keep the conversations with their neighbors to a minimum.

Mayor Kitchko stated how he thought that they need a timer for visitors to keep them limited to three minutes. Councilman Jacobs stated how they had never made a motion for that. President Hawk stated how it had been brought up and discussed, but nothing was ever voted on. He stated that 75% of the visitors, who attend the meeting, usually say what they have to say and were done. President Hawk stated how they could make that an action for the upcoming meeting.

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

Councilman Paul stated how he was down on Willow Lane with the contractor and they were doing pretty good. He stated that the big issue they had was the curbing. Councilman Paul stated how he had contacted Chris Serfass and mended some fences. He stated how Mr. Serfass told him that the total curbing job that Bob Stempa did was a nightmare and how the Borough should press charges against him. Councilman Paul stated how the paving contractor was able to adjust to the curbing. He stated how the inlet that the Borough installed was a little crook it, but Mr. Serfass was able to straighten it out.

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Councilman Paul stated how he knew that it was the property owners were the ones who decided on who was going to install their curbing, but they should consider only hiring Mr. Serfass, because he was professional and experienced. He stated how he had to mend some fences because he had tangled with certain people. Councilman Paul stated how he thinks that everyone means well for the Borough, including the office workers. He stated how she does a great job with the bookwork, but she was not a contractor; she does not know how to put concrete in. He stated how he was not just talking about her, but the Borough workers too. Councilman Paul stated how they should have the chairperson of that committee meet with those people, so there was no conflict between a contractor and an office worker. He stated how he was not trying to throw stones, he was just trying to eliminate the confusion and make things run smoother.

Councilman Paul stated how he thought that everything the contractor was doing on Willow Lane was okay. He stated that if they did not do them, they should have done core samples, because he did not think that it was necessary to tear out the entire street. Councilman Paul stated that in the future if they would get a grant, they should look at doing several streets instead of just one. He stated how they could have gotten three streets milled off and paved (overlaid) rather than a total reconstruction on one street so they would not have to worry about curbing. Councilman Paul stated how they should also look into tar and chipping some of their streets. He stated that the only other street that he would think should be a total reconstruction would be E. Diaz Avenue. Councilman Paul stated how he thought that the Borough workers did a nice job with using the millings that they had received on the alleys.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they have it on the books that when the Borough was going to do a full reconstruction on a street, they were requiring the property owners to install curbing. He stated how they had an issue on Willow Lane, because they did not think Mr. Stempa was going to be able to do any of the curbing and that was why they had talked to Mr. Serfass about installing the curbing. Councilman Jacobs stated that when Mr. Stempa offered a price that was lower than Mr. Serfass the neighbors started talking and they mostly went with Mr. Stempa. He stated that since the property owner was supposed to be paying the contractor directly, they did not have to put it out on bid. Councilman Jacobs stated that if the Borough would put it out on bid, then the contractor would have to pay prevailing wages, which would only increase the cost of the curbing for the property owner. Councilman Paul stated how they were into an \$180,000.00 job and Mr. Stempa did not care about the people, just the money.

Councilman Jacobs stated how he did not like Mr. Stempa's attitude when it came to Allen Street. Councilman Paul stated how he did not know what happened with the phone calls, because he called Mr. Serfass and he returned his call immediately. Councilman Paul stated how he met Mr. Serfass down on Allen Street and he told him how he was treated badly. He stated how they were going to have to pay the fiddle, which was going to be higher than normal, but they had to get it done. Councilman Paul stated how he called President Hawk and Councilman Radocha and they agreed on the price. Councilman Jacobs asked what they were charging them a foot. Councilman Paul stated how he did not know what it was per foot, but he was charging them \$10,000.00 for both sides. He stated how it came down to roughly \$18.00 - \$19.00 per foot, which was just a few dollars more than what Mr. Stempa was charging. Councilman Paul stated how they had a little issue with the elevations and they had Mike Tirpak on site to get it straightened out.

Mayor Kitchko stated about the storm drain on the bottom of 11th Avenue. He stated how it looked like the bricks were falling. Councilman Radocha stated how he would stop and take a look at it.

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Councilman Paul stated how he received a call over the weekend about the inlet behind Kovatch's property; inlets at Holland Street and W. Mill Street. He stated how the inlet behind Kovatch's building was not their inlet and they could wash their hands of it. Councilman Paul stated how he was up there in the pouring down rain and he did not see any water overflowing those drains. Councilman Radocha stated how he was up there and she claimed that she cleaned off the drains. Councilman Paul stated how they should not be replacing any piping if it was not their drain. He stated how it needed to be addressed with Kovatch. Councilman Radocha stated how he did not think that she was getting flooded from that storm drain. Councilman Paul stated how he thought that it was coming from her own downspout. He stated how he cannot tell how water could run up hill to go down into her basement/garage. Councilman Paul stated about sending Kovatch a letter, unless Councilman Radocha wanted to talk to him.

2. SEWER

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how Mr. Pilla had been called out on Saturday for a sewage issue at 65 W. Catawissa Street. She stated how the fire company had been to the property twice in the last two months to pump out the basement. Councilwoman Fox stated how the lines were blocked from the property owner flushing wipes down the toilet. She stated how Mr. Pilla and Mr. Staehle were out and they had gotten the jetter stuck and had to leave the truck there. Councilwoman Fox stated that on Monday, Radocha Excavating had to dig up the street. Councilman Jacobs stated how Roto-Rooter was coming back but Mr. Pilla thought that the property still had a septic tank, because of the way the water was coming up. He stated how they had also hit a water line while they were there. Councilwoman Fox stated that the line from the bank and Lenygel ran down School Street and that the rest of that block ran east down Catawissa Street. She stated how Mr. Pilla was going to install a clean out by Corby's house, because of them being old clay lines and it would allow him access if something else were to happen.

Councilman Radocha stated how he had an issue with the Borough workers/Sewer operators being called out on a Saturday, when the property owners knew that they had an issue for the last two months. He stated how the Water Authority had the same issue with someone digging up the water line over the weekend at another property. Councilman Radocha stated how they need to get certificates of insurance and to stop these people from digging without PA One Calls. He stated that when they break a line, then the Borough workers have to come out on overtime and it was the Borough who was paying.

Councilman Radocha asked if anyone still had septic tanks within the Borough. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were not supposed to be. Councilman Jacobs stated that the only one he knew of was Joe Marendeo's house. He stated that the engineer had told them back when they were installing the sewer system that they could not force him to hook up, because he had a working system. Councilman Radocha stated how there was somebody digging across from Hydra Tech Pumps and they had a septic truck there. President Hawk stated that the blue house on Route 54 should be on the sewer system. Councilwoman Fox stated that when the sewer system was installed, the tanks were supposed to be filled in, remove or crushed. President Hawk stated how his old house was like that on Center Street; they had pumped out the tank and connected the line. He stated how the tank would eventually fill up and the sewage would flow throughout the tank; (line from the house to the tank, line from the top of the tank to the sewer).

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Councilman Radocha stated that if they were not put into the sewer system, they would have to pay a connection fee. Councilwoman Fox stated how they might have already paid it. Councilman Jacobs stated how some people paid but never hooked up. Councilman Radocha stated how Hydra Tech Pumps was on the sewer system, so he did not know why that house would not be on the system. President Hawk stated that if they determine that a property was no hooked up to the sewer systems correctly, they make the property owner hook up their sewer line the right way and then check to see if the hook up was paid previously.

Councilwoman Fox stated that at the end of the month they were going to clean out/transfer out of unit number two in order to check the paint job.

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Sewer Committee was meeting at 12:00 p.m. at the Sewer plant.

3. BUILDINGS GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA, CO-CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS

Councilman Jacobs stated how he had talked to Dawn Jacobs from the Recreation Commission and she was concerned as to how they were supposed to enforce the social gatherings when they had a rental at the Recreation Center. He stated how he had talked to Solicitor Yurchak and he told him that it was the responsibility of the renters to abide by the CDC rules with social gatherings, cleaning and sanitizing. Councilman Jacobs stated how Solicitor Yurchak suggested that they have a letter typed up releasing the Borough of any liability. President Hawk stated how the June rental was canceled but they had one scheduled for July. Councilwoman Fox stated how she agreed with not allowing the rental without a signed release. Councilwoman Porembo suggested that they impose a cleaning fee when someone was going to rent the Recreation Center. President Hawk stated how the Recreation Commission was having an issue with the cleaning person. He stated how the office and the Police department were also having issues with getting the offices cleaned properly.

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated how the Public Safety Committee met with Chief Smith to discuss the detective position. She stated how the Chief was going to work on a job description and he would like it to be a flex schedule. Councilwoman Porembo stated how long part of the discussion was on how the Police Department was over budget at that time. She stated how the Police Department had been training two part-time officers to be elevated to standalone status, which had been causing some overtime. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were giving Chief Smith until the end of July to create the job description/overview in the times allotted for the detective shift. She stated how they would assess the budget again at that time for salaries within the 2020 budget. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the 2020 budget did not support another full-time police officer.

Councilwoman Porembo stated that once a job description was written, they would have the Personnel Committee review it. She stated how they would have Solicitor Yurchak write a MOU (memorandum of understanding) between the Borough and the FOP. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the MOU was to make sure that everybody was agreeable in the FOP contract on who would be hired for the detective position. She stated how it would spell everything exactly out for the position.

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Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were not looking to give a salary increase at that time. She stated how they would just fall in line with the contract that was there. Councilwoman Porembo stated how Mayor Kitchko wanted them to go slow to make sure that the part-time police officers had their standalone status in order to be able to cover Officer Neikam's shifts. Mayor Kitchko stated how they wanted to make sure that Officer Neikam would be able to perform his duties as detective without having to cover his nightly shifts. He stated that the part-time officers work a total of 64 hours in a week, which would be more than enough to cover Officer Neikam's shifts. Mayor Kitchko stated how it would also allow them to go back to their 8 hour shifts, which would help eliminate some overtime for the full-time police officers. He stated how they do not want to spend any extra money on that program. Mayor Kitchko stated how it should also help with any overtime because of court. He stated how it might not eliminate all of the overtime from court hearings, but Officer Neikam would be the one handling all of the criminal cases. Mayor Kitchko stated how they wanted to try it for a few months to see how it all works out. He stated that if it did not work out, they would just go back to the way things were.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they could not depend on the part-time officers, because if they would get offered a full time position elsewhere, they were going to go. Mayor Kitchko stated how he would never stop anyone from getting a full time job. He stated how that was why they wanted to make sure that the description was flexible. President Hawk stated how they would evaluate it after the trial period, because it would not be etched in stone. Councilwoman Porembo stated how Chief Smith would like to have a three month trial period. Councilman Jacobs stated about the part-time officers having overtime. He stated how they had to stop that if they were going to keep within the budget. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were three weeks ahead in salaries for the police compared to where they should be.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had to bring closure for the Rules on Evidence and Property Management, which was from July 2019. She stated how they wanted to get it ready for a vote in August. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were asking for the procedures to be reviewed by the FOP and as soon as they can, they will email a copy out to everyone.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the sale of the officers old hand guns. She stated how they needed additional coordination with Mayor Kitchko, Chief Smith and Secretary/Treasurer Ahner. Mayor Kitchko stated that Secretary/Treasurer Ahner had wanted to get a dealer into the Borough office to have all the hand guns transferred at one time. He stated how he did not know if they were able to do that and that they might have to go to Ed's to get them transferred. Councilman Jacobs stated how that would require the police officers going over there with the person who had to sign for the Borough. Mayor Kitchko stated how they had to find out who was going to sign for the transfers. President Hawk stated how they might have to pass a resolution designating someone to sign. He stated how Chief Smith told them that there were a few officers who had to qualify with the new hand guns.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had two requests from Chief Smith; 1) for the Borough to purchase an additional Visual Alert system, which was the program to get into the computer, at a cost of \$1,200.00 and 2) for the Borough to purchase a computer for him to work from home. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the committee suggested for him to call S & O Computers to see about obtaining a used computer. She stated that the VFW might be making a donation to the Nesquehoning Police Department to upgrade and purchase new computers.

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Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had met with Tim Dow in regards to the AFAs at 90 E. Catawissa Street and 121 W. High Street. She stated that Mr. Dow had received all of the information and the summary reports from Carl Faust for 90 E. Catawissa Street. Councilwoman Porembo stated how Mr. Dow has a scheduled meeting for Thursday, June 11th with Dena at 90 E. Catawissa Street. She stated that everything was moving along that was on contingent from the appeal. She stated how he was working on complaints that were received for four apartments; 201, 205, 207 and 115, which he will inspect those apartments as well. Councilwoman Porembo stated that after his inspection, Mr. Dow was going to give them a report on the requested work that was completed. She stated that after they receive that report, the Council Members will have to hold an executive session to discuss the fees/settlement. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they also had a contingent appeal in progress for 121 W. High Street. She stated how he was going to review the inspection reports and compare them with the information from Mr. Faust. Councilwoman Porembo stated how Mr. Dow was going to reach out to someone from the Carbon County Housing Authority to do an inspection on that building.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had discussed the blight properties in Nesquehoning. She stated about Act 152 from 2016, DCED and CDBG. Councilwoman Porembo stated that in their Property Maintenance Ordinance, any structural damaged building, which could be a hazard . . . She stated how Mr. Dow could write a citation and they could determine that it would have to be demolished. Councilman Paul stated about three properties: High Street, E. Garibaldi Avenue and W. Columbus Avenue. Councilwoman Porembo stated how Mr. Dow was going to inspect those properties to see if they fall under the immediate possession of the Borough. She stated how they have to research about getting the funding for the demolition. Councilwoman Porembo stated about writing a letter to the County Commissioners about the County implementing the fee.

Councilman Jacobs stated that at their Regular Meeting two weeks ago, they heard about the grant, which would cost the Borough \$6,000.00. He stated that when the Budget Committee met last week, he found out that the grant was approved already. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she had brought it to the floor at the last meeting, because it was a first come, first serve. She stated how the Public Safety Committee thought that it was warranted and needed. Mayor Kitchko stated how the grant had come out around two weeks prior to the meeting. He stated how they were only funding the first 50 applicants.

5. SANITATION LOUIS PAUL, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIRWOMAN, MARY FOX

Councilwoman Fox asked if they wanted to send a letter to Tamaqua Transfer requesting a schedule with times for garbage pickup. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she agreed with sending a letter. She stated how they did receive a schedule, but not any times listed. Councilwoman Porembo stated how it took some time, but they finally received some confirmation as to where they were disposing of the recycling. Councilman Jacob stated how he has seen them in the Estates at 7:00 a.m. one week and 1:00 p.m. the following week. Councilman Paul asked if the truck was breaking down. Councilwoman Fox asked Susan Bamford if Tamaqua Transfer had ever called the office to tell them that a truck had broken down. Ms. Bamford stated “no”. Councilwoman Fox stated that if there was a problem, they should be notifying the office. Ms. Bamford stated how they only find out that there was an issue when they called to question garbage pickup. President Hawk stated how some weeks they were going to take longer than other weeks, depending on what was out, bulk week, but if there was a problem, they should be notifying the office.

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

Councilman Paul stated how Councilwoman Poremba had asked for a cost sheet for the project they were doing in the New Columbus Park. He stated how everyone was given a list of items that were needed to build the shed. Councilman Paul stated how it was not going to be a regular shed. He stated how. Councilman Sabol had the forms and he donated the metal. Councilman Paul stated how Councilman Sabol had a garage door and some windows. He stated how they have contractors in town who were willing to donate used materials. He stated how it was a huge cost-savings.

Councilman Paul stated how they were going to do it in three phases. He stated how they were going to get the Borough crew to help them pour the foundation. Councilman Paul stated how he and Councilman Sabol were going to build the building and then he was going to call PPL to get the power hooked up, which would be phase two. Councilman Paul stated how he was going to see if he could get a project with the students from CCTI and if not, they would have the Borough crew takes if they could run the electric. He stated how he would get an electrician to do the final hookups/connections. Councilman Paul stated how it would give them the building and the power for Christmas in the Park. He stated how everything would be controlled from inside that building. Councilman Paul stated how phase 3 would be lighting, so they would be able to hold other events in the Park. He stated that when they were done with the New Columbus Park, they were going to start on the Dog/Station Park. Councilman Paul stated how they were looking to build a pavilion and install sidewalks. He stated how they were going to get the Borough crew to make benches, since they had forms.

Councilman Paul stated how they were doing their best to save cost on material and labor. He stated that the rough total cost for both parks would be approximately \$5,000.00. Councilman Paul stated how they were going to approach the Recreation Commission to see if they would help with the projects. Councilman Jacobs stated how any money that they had budgeted for Recreation was already spent. He stated how they made a commitment towards Johnson Park. Councilman Jacobs stated how he did not know if they had money for the cost of the shed or the concrete. He stated how the budgets that they passed for 2020 were going to be really tight. Councilman Jacob stated how the Recreation Committee should ask the Recreation Commission for the money for the cost of the shed. Councilwoman Fox stated how they have to meet with the Recreation Commission.

Councilman Paul stated how the Borough just gave out all kind of big raises, which people deserve raises. He stated that out of the clear blue sky, the Borough gave \$50,000.00 for a new fire truck. Councilman Paul stated how the Borough has 10 fire trucks, but every time it comes down to Recreation to do something for the kids in the town, it was a flag. Councilman Jacobs stated that if they would not have started the project in Johnson Park, there would not be a problem. He stated that maybe they will not get it bid in 2020. Councilman Jacobs stated how they needed to check with the engineer about the fill for that project. Councilman Paul asked if they were taking the wall down. Councilman Jacobs stated how the back wall will come out, but the sidewalls will be built inside the existing walls. Councilman Paul stated how Councilman Sabol wanted some of the rocks from the wall.

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Councilman Paul stated how he has lived in Nesquehoning since 1978 and the only thing he has seen for the Recreation has been the gazebo. He stated how they spend money here in there, but when it comes down to Recreation for the kids, there was never any money for it. Councilman Paul stated that with doing the project themselves, they were saving tons of money. Councilman Jacobs stated that when it comes down to Parks and Recreation, that was why the Recreation Commission was formed. Councilman Paul asked if they were telling him that there was no money for that project at all. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they should not look at it that way. Councilman Paul asked if they should continue or should he tear the forms out and forget about the project. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were showing a \$-16,000.00 in their Recreation budget. She stated how she went through the 2018 audit and was waiting for the 2019 audit. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they have money in an unassigned account, like a reserve fund.

Councilwoman Porembo stated that when the Budget Committee meets, they need to look through it again. She stated how they have to look to see where they do have some money and maybe they could get phase 1 completed. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were not making any decisions that night. Councilman Paul stated how there were a lot of items that have been donated so far.

Councilman Paul stated how he was on Council before fighting for the same thing. He stated how they never do anything for the children. Councilman Paul stated how all the money goes for adult toys; police and fire companies, and the kids get nothing. Councilman Radocha stated how all of the grants they receive were for technology. He stated that once they get it, then there were updates, which keeps costing them more and more money. Councilman Radocha stated how they have to stop giving them stuff and go back to the basics. He stated about the fire companies and how it was not needed. Councilman Radocha stated they have to stop giving the \$100.00, \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 for the supposed it gifts, because it was costing them more money out of their budget.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how there was \$149,000.00, which was set aside for the Fire Truck Fund, which was not coming out of the General Fund. She stated how that money had already been earmarked and it was there. Councilman Radocha stated how it still came from the tax payers. Councilwoman Fox stated how there was a certain amount of money set aside for fire protection based on the millage. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she did not anyone complaining when they went down to Mill Street and spent \$1,400.00 to survey the property and to purchase it for another \$500.00. She stated how that was \$1,900.00 for piece of property.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were now trying to do a project at Johnson Park, which sounded like they did not want it. She asked what they were doing with their \$1,900.00 piece of property on W. Mill Street, because she had no idea what they were doing. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she had sent an email out to all of Recreation and included the Recreation Budget. She stated how they had a Budget/Finance Meeting and asked what was actually going on in the New Columbus Park. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the Borough Council needed to know what the costs/prices were. She stated how that was why they had brought it to the table now. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she was trying to bring it to the table to find out what they were doing and where they wanted to go with these Parks. Councilwoman Fox stated how they need to have long range plans. She stated how they cannot just come up with a plan and think that they have the money for it. Councilwoman Fox stated how these projects need to be planned out so they could budget the money the following year.

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Councilwoman Porembo stated how she was suggesting that the Budget Committee meet to see if they can find the funds for phase 1. Councilman Paul asked that if they had money put aside out of the millage for fire protection and they had money put aside for recreation all those years, where did it go. Councilman Jacobs stated how it pays for the insurance for the Recreation Center/play grounds, recreation utilities and upkeep on the building and parks. Councilman Paul asked how many mills. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was .3 mills. Councilman Paul stated about looking into increasing that millage. Councilman Jacobs stated how the police and highway take the biggest percentage of their budget. Councilwoman Porembo stated how all salaries take up the highest percentage of the budgets. President Hawk stated that if one of the Borough's long term goals was to build up the parks, then they have to consider increasing the millage for Recreation.

Councilman Paul stated how he was not against fire companies, but when he looks at it, they have 10 – 11 fire trucks; Lansford has 4 trucks, Summit Hill has 3 – 4 trucks and Coaldale has 3 trucks. He stated how he cannot see 10 fire trucks for one town. Councilwoman Fox stated how she thought that they should all go into one company. Councilman Paul stated how he agreed with that, but they were the suckers. He stated how they come to the Borough Council looking for a new fire truck, but how many more pumpers do they need. Councilman Paul stated how he would have rather seen Hauto get a tank truck for the lake, but they all have to have a pumper. He stated how they have to pick their priorities. Councilwoman Fox stated that to move on, the Budget/Finance Committee was going to look to see if they could find some funding for phase 1. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they will come back to the Council Members and let them know if they were able to come up with the funding or not. Councilman Paul stated how the Budget Committee should find him the funding to do phase 1.

Councilman Radocha stated how he would get him the concrete. He stated how he would also look into getting him the \$2,800.00, which they will be surprised as to where it comes from.

7. BUDGET/ FINANCE

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

Councilman Jacobs stated how he had talked to Secretary/Treasurer Ahner the other day and she told him that they had gotten a nice return on the property taxes from Patty Vito.

Councilman Jacobs stated how he also talked to Secretary/Treasurer Ahner about starting to look into the quotes for their health insurance. He stated about getting in touch with Joe Pilla to see what he would have to offer.

Councilman Jacobs stated to President Hawk about the Zoning changes and how he might want to appoint a committee to review all of the changes. He stated how there were a lot of different items on the list that Solicitor Yurchak had given them. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was not going to happen overnight. He stated how they were going to have to have several meetings in regards to the changes. President Hawk asked who would be interested in being on the committee. Councilman Paul stated how he did not like the way things were going with zoning, so he would be interested. Councilman Jacobs stated how he would sit on the committee. Councilwoman Fox stated how she would also go onto the committee.

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Councilman Jacobs stated about Symmetry and having a business in a residential area. Councilman Radocha asked what they could do about it. President Hawk stated how they never had a zoning hearing in regards to it. Councilwoman Fox stated about a variance and asked who goes after them. President Hawk stated how Gene Kennedy would have to send them a letter. Councilman Paul stated how they should let Mr. Kennedy look at it because he was their zoning officer.

Councilwoman Porembo asked if they were going to vote for a RFP (request for proposal) for the cleaning services. President Hawk stated how he did not know if they had to actually vote to get prices for cleaning. He stated how it would be for the Borough office, Police Department and Recreation Center. Councilman Paul stated how he knew that she cleaned her office. He asked if one of the office workers could run the vacuum in the meeting room once in a while. Councilman Paul stated how they could take out their own garbage and then they would not need a cleaning person for the Borough office. Councilwoman Fox stated that once they allowed the public back into the building, they had to make sure the counters were sanitized. Councilman Jacobs stated how the offices should be cleaned and sanitized before they open to the public. President Hawk stated how they will decide at the next meeting as to when they will open.

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated how she did not get anything back, but she was going to send another email to see if there were any concerns on the light duty, workers compensation or heart and lung policy.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how the police contract was up at the end of 2021.

Councilman Paul asked Councilwoman Porembo who would investigate a complaint against an employee. Councilwoman Porembo stated how it would come to the personnel committee. She asked Councilman Paul if he had a complaint. Councilman Paul stated “yes”.

Councilman Paul stated how he received a complaint concerning the employees’ phone ethics. He stated how he knew that it was not everybody and he was not going to say who it was so he was just going to go general (Police, Sewer, Borough crew, Office staff). Councilman Paul stated that when someone answers the phone, it should not be an angry “hello” or “what you want”. Councilman Paul stated how the tax payers pay their wages, no matter who it was, even them, because they were elected by the people. He stated that when they pick up a phone. “Nesquehoning Borough can I help you”; Sewer plant - “Nesquehoning Borough can I help you”; Police - “Nesquehoning Police can I help you”. Councilman Paul stated that when a contractor comes to the door to ask question, no matter how much of a miserable day that they were having, they should not say to the man “what you want”. He stated how it was totally uncalled for. Councilwoman Fox stated to Councilman Paul that whatever complaint he had received, he should give it to Councilwoman Porembo and the Personnel Committee could look into it. Councilman Paul stated how he was not going to single anybody out, because he has seen.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Paul stated how the same goes for them from employer to employee. He stated how employee should not be arguing with them over anything. Councilman Paul stated how they tell them what to do, they do not tell Council what to do. He stated that the chairperson of whatever committee should be involved. Councilman Paul stated how the person on the phone should not be making decisions for the elected officials, because that was where they were getting complaints from the contractors and the people on the streets. He stated how they have to take control of their employees, widespread. Councilman Paul stated how he comes into the office and hears Shawn Coniglio and Susan Bamford on the phone, very pleasant. He stated that he worked with the state for 25 years and if he had gave crap to someone on the phone, he got three days off.

Councilman Paul stated how taxpayers in the town should not have to take abuse. He stated how there were some individuals in town that they would like to kill, always bitching, but they were still paying everybody salary. Councilman Paul stated that he thinks a memo should be sent out for proper phone ethics to the taxpayers, contractors and whoever else was involved with the Nesquehoning Borough. He stated how he knew that they were going to get crap on a snow day or when the streets get swept. Councilman Paul stated that he thought that the two people who were the most pleasant were Ms. Bamford and Ms. Coniglio. He stated how he thought it was a little out of hand.

Councilman Paul stated how he did not think that someone on the streets should be telling a contractor what to do. He stated how Mr. Pilla at the sewer plant should not be making decisions for the Borough. Councilman Paul stated how he thought that when someone from the police department answers the phone, they should not tell how they were busy and not to bother them. He stated how those were the complaints that he has received; they have miserable people working for the Borough. He stated how he did not think that they do, because everybody has a bad day.

Councilman Paul stated that if an employee tries to tell a Borough Council Member what to do, they should be stopped. He stated how they should tell them that they tried to their advice, they will take their suggestions, and that they like their input, but when the final decision was made, it comes from Council, not anywhere else. Councilman Paul stated about the chain of command. He stated how the office staff or the Borough workers should not be telling the contractor when they should start a job. President Hawk stated how the Committees should send a message to the employees about the following the chain of command and maybe the Personnel Committee could come up with a memo regarding phone etiquette.

Councilman Radocha stated to Mayor Kitchko about meeting the newly hired police officers stated how he only gets to meet them if they have to stop in during a meeting. Councilwoman Fox stated how she did not know any of the new officers either.

Councilman Paul stated how they debate issues all of the time, but an employee should not be debating with them, even at a public meeting. He stated how they should not tell him what to do when they have never done it themselves. Councilman Paul stated he was the boss and they were the employees and Council were the ones who made the decisions. Councilman Radocha stated how Council give the employees the raises.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Mayor Kitchko stated how he received a call from Rubin Smith, who was the president of the Anthracite Little League. He stated how they were questioning if they were allowed to play Little League. Mayor Kitchko stated how Carbon County was going green on June 12th. He asked what he should tell them if he should receive another phone call. Councilman Radocha stated about calling their state representative. President Hawk stated how there was something in the paper about sports. Councilwoman Fox stated how she thought that it would be up to the Little League Association. President Hawk stated that if they were going to allow them to play, they would have to follow state or national Little League Association guidelines. He stated that as the Borough, he did not think that they were going to dictate what the Little League did, as long as they were following all the protocols by the state and their governing body.

Councilman Paul asked if they could get a copy of the regular meeting agenda a day or two before the meeting. President Hawk stated how she usually has them ready and in their bins on a Friday afternoon. Councilwoman Fox stated to Councilman Paul that she usually picks hers up on a Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilman Paul seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer